



The PILGRIM

Vol. 17, No. 5 - 6

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

May - June 2006

The PILGRIM is a periodical from **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)**. The **PFMC** is a ministry of lay Catholic evangelization and healing through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

A PRAYER

Lord Jesus, open our eyes to see you present in all of creation around us. You are the Center of all life. Bless us and heal us as You manifest Your image in each of us.



Deliver us from the bondages of sin, and bring us into the fullness of life in the Holy Spirit. The grace of the Holy Spirit will heal all memories and all our sinful actions that did not reflect the goodness of God.

Lord, we desire happiness and joy, and You can turn our sinfulness into a hunger for Your love and Mercy. Heal us from all corrupted thought, gluttony and lustful actions, thoughts, and memories. Purify our hearts and fill us with Holy longings.

AMEN

PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE via LONDON 10/26/06-11/3/06 (7 nights) with EXTENSION for IRELAND 11/2/06-11/8/06 (6 nights)

Please review the enclosed **yellow** information sheet, complete the **REGISTRATION APPLICATION and DONATIONS** sheet (page 3 of 4) and send it to the **PFMC** with your **Deposit Donation and Single Supplement** if that is desired. Please circle the desired destination and dates at the top of the form.

As indicated on the **yellow** information sheet this pilgrimage is in celebration of the **50th Anniversary** of the founding of **Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Cape May Court House, NJ**. **Father John O'Leary, Pastor**, will be the **Spiritual Director**. **Kathleen and Keith Werner** are the **PFMC Pilgrimage Coordinators**. We plan to meet Our

The **April and May MESSAGES**, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, are presented beginning on page **20** (centerfold page) with **REFLECTIONS**.

Lady bringing us to her Son, Jesus, in both Medjugorje, and the shrines of Ireland, particularly **Knock**, in the "**green**" of **County Mayo**. **Father John** has a charismatic joy that will permeate this pilgrimage with prayer, healing, and laughter.

Our travel arrangers are in needs of names to go along with deposits already made to airlines, land agents, and hotels. Please call us at **(856) 768-9228** for any information not found on the **yellow** information sheet. You may use your **Discover, MasterCard, or Visa** to charge your donations to the **PFMC**.

WHAT a GREAT PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LANDS of ISRAEL and JORDAN and EGYPT

Keith and Kathleen along with **Father Tino** and all pilgrims had a great pilgrimage. We saw many holy places, prayed, and spent quality time learning of the **Footsteps of Jesus and Moses** in the **Holy Lands of Israel and Jordan, 17-30 April 2006** as well as the **1 day** extension for an excursion to **Mount Sinai in Egypt on 29 April 2006** with return to the U.S. on **1 May 2006**. **Father Tino** has hosted some sharing sessions with photo and movie sharing within his parish and with many of the pilgrims.

For those pilgrims who do not have digital cameras or computers on which to display digital pictures, we are putting together sets of digital video discs (DVDs) showing the digital pictures taken during this pilgrimage (2 DVDs) and the extension (1 DVD). These are personal pictures taken by pilgrims and are for the enjoyment of the pilgrims themselves. If you were a pilgrim on this pilgrimage and would like a set of DVDs which can be shown using a normal DVD player and TV, please send your request including name and address along with a minimum donation of **\$10** per DVD desired to the **PFMC**. There will also

"The PILGRIM" for **May - June 2006** is dedicated to **"Mary, Mother of Joy."** See page 3 for the **Table of Contents** or **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."**

be a DVD of the 5/27/06 presentation. This DVD is available for non-pilgrims. If you wish a copy of this DVD, please send your request including name and address along with a donation of \$10 to the **PFMC**.

WHAT a BLESSING WAS the BRIDE of CHRIST COMMUNITY RETREAT, MAY 9 – 11, 2006

Father Marty Jones, Pastor of *Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Middletown, CT*, was at the Epiphany House of the **PFMC** to give this **Bride of Christ Community Retreat** or “bridal party” for those who attended. We had a great deal of sharing on the **Liturgy of the Hours** or **Divine Office** and prayed it with **Father Marty** at all hours of the day.

Anyone who wants additional information on the **Bride of Christ Community** or on the **Liturgy of the Hours** or **Divine Office** should contact the **PFMC** at (856) 768-9228.

There was discussion of another retreat at the **PFMC** and we will look into scheduling one again next **May**. Because of his duties as **Pastor, Father Marty** can only conduct these retreats during the mid-week timeframe. Let us know if you wish to attend and your best time availability.

Those who attended asked about support for parish groups wanting to learn more about the **Liturgy of the Hours** or **Divine Office**. **Keith and Kathleen** offered to schedule training sessions in parish or prayer group settings. Call if you want group training on the **Liturgy of the Hours** or **Divine Office**.

2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE / YOUTH TRACK in the PLANNING PROCESS

Father Bing Arrellano will be back for **2007 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** but is only available for **17 and 18 February 2007**. We have reserved the *Clarion Hotel* for the weekend of **16-18 February 2007**. Please work with your prayer groups and parishes to avoid scheduling other conflicting activities on this the third weekend in **February 2007**. This will be the last weekend before **Lent** as **Ash**

Wednesday is on **21 February 2007**. It is the weekend before **President's Day** on **Monday, 19 February 2007**.

Please pray for us because we did not make our room block quota again in **2006** and had to pay **\$2500** as a penalty which goes toward the cost for the use of the public space. We reduced the registration rates for the **2006 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** to **\$50** per person and **\$95** for a married couple in hopes of better attendance at both the **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** and **YOUTH TRACK**. Walk-in registration was good but not enough to off-set our costs. The *Clarion Hotel Windsor Ballroom* can accommodate up to **800** people. Please let us know in advance if you can come next year, **2007**, so we can have some confidence in setting up another **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE**. Do you want another **YOUTH TRACK** for just **\$25** per youth? The **ALLIANCE of the TWO HEARTS BROTHERS** and **SISTERS** are currently available for that weekend.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
Jules LaRocca, 10 May 2006

Please send us death notices, prayer cards, etc. so we can pray for the deceased. We are considering having a special Holy Mass for all the deceased friends of the **PFMC**. We need those death notices or prayer cards.

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2006 CALENDARS FOR PFMC EVENTS

See **Conference Corner** on *page 27* as well as **Bulletin** and **Other Notices** on *pages 26 and 27*. Most **PFMC** area events will be preceded by their own information sheets with reservation forms.

June 2006

Sunday-Tuesday, 18-20 June 2006: Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol will speak on **Inner Healing** through **Transformation** during **40 Hours Devotions** at *Saint Mary's Church, 32 Carrol Avenue, Williamstown, NJ 08094, (856) 629-6142*. There

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the **PFMC** recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the alleged 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 Benedict XVI**.

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.

will be laying-on of hands after each talk: **Sunday, 7-8 PM, Monday, 1-2 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM, Tuesday, 1-2 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM.**

July 2006

There will not be a **July** issue of **"The PILGRIM"** due to vacations for **PFMC** volunteers. The **June** messages will appear in a **July August** issue of **"The PILGRIM"** put out early in **August 2006**.

Sunday-Saturday, 16-22 July 2006: Father Joseph Bill, V.C., M.A., will conduct a **Silent Retreat** at **Mary Immaculate Center, Northhampton, PA.** Contact (610) 395-8376 or (214) 495-0571 or visit <http://www.frbillretreat.com>.

August 2006

Friday-Sunday, 4-6 August 2006: Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Diocese of Scranton, PA Conference, University of Scranton. **Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: REJOICE. (Phil 4:4).** Father Benedict Groeschel, Father Trevor Nathasingh, Deacon Alex Jones, Maria Vadia, Father Richard Loch, and Bob Valiante, M.C.

Sunday, 20 August 2006: The annual **PFMC Business Meeting** will take place after **Prayer** at 3 **PM** in the midst of a **PFMC Pot Luck Picnic**.

October 2006

Friday-Sunday, 6-8 October 2006: Catholic Unity Conference, Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. www.inhissign.com or (610) 527-2906. Father Andrew Apostoli and Father Pablo Straub.

Friday-Sunday, 13-15 October 2006: Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Diocese of Camden, Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ. Monsignor William John Lewis, Father Bill McCarthy, Bob Canton, Linda Schubert, Bob Valiante, M.C. (609) 522-5010. We have been invited to provide the book, pamphlet, and religious article displays for this event. Pray that the negotiations currently in progress will benefit all parties involved.

Thursday- Friday, 26 October to 3 November 2006: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje via London with an extension for a Pilgrimage to Ireland **Thursday-Wednesday, 2-8 November 2006**. See enclosed **yellow** information sheet. We need completed registration forms for all those who have indicated an interest. Please circle the **Destination: Medjugorje** via **London** and dates **26 October to 3 November 2006** on the **RESERVATION APPLICATION** and **DONATIONS** form and send it in with your donation

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as soon as possible. Full payment is due with applications after **26 July 2006**.

November 2006

Thursday-Wednesday, 2-8 November 2006: Pilgrimage to Ireland. See enclosed **yellow** information sheet. We need registration forms for all those who have indicated an interest. Please circle the **Destination: Medjugorje** and **Ireland** and dates **26 October to 8 November 2006** on the **RESERVATION APPLICATION** and **DONATIONS** form and send it in with your donation as soon as possible. Full payment is due with applications after **26 July 2006**.

LONGING for HOLINESS



"Mary Most Holy, Mother of all Nations"
by William Hart McNichols S.J

This stirring of the Spirit initiates a profound response within the soul of every baptized person and...drives the soul to a more perfect charity in love and in service to the people of God.

Pope John Paul II's prayer for the Charismatic Renewal on Pentecost of 2004 was that the spirituality of Pentecost would spread in the church. Not only is it to spread in the church but also it is to be an incentive to holiness. "But you are enthroned as the Holy One, the One whom Israel praises" (Ps. 22:3). The psalmist makes this proclamation to the Lord God whom he depends upon and loves. It is this same proclamation that goes on through the ages through the lips of our beloved and belated John Paul II and every follower of Jesus as we endeavor to be holy as he is holy.

Adam and Eve as they shared in the divine intimacy with God "were in the grace of original holiness" (CCC #375). This was the divine plan of God before man sinned. Throughout the Old Testament to be holy meant to be separated from the secular or profane. It was also a sign of dedication to God's service. God was holy and he identified his separation from all evil. His creatures were holy in relation to him. The people of Israel were holy because they were the people of God.

In the New Testament, Jesus calls us to perfection. "You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt. 5:48). The universal call to holiness is not a recommendation but a commandment of Jesus. God's own perfection is a model for us to follow primarily in love and mercy. God expects his followers to live lives of exemplary holiness. "It is therefore quite clear that all Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love, and by this holiness a more human manner of life is fostered also in earthly society" (Lumen Gentium 40).

This holiness calls us to a greater worship. Saint Paul tells us, "I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (Romans 12: 1). The call to holiness is a call to be consecrated to the worship of God. This means we are set apart for worship. All our activities are sanctified throughout the day because

Jesus is our worship. Jesus is on our mind and in our heart. He is included in our activities from the rising of the sun to its setting. His name is on our tongue ready to speak. "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Col. 3:17). We see our daily activities as an occasion to join ourselves to God, in fulfilling his will and in serving others so as to lead them to communion with God.

The spirituality of Pentecost is undoubtedly a spirituality of holiness. When the disciples were "filled with the Holy Spirit" at Pentecost, they were filled with the holiness of God. The Spirit of God is holy and he is the agent of our holiness. He is the source and giver of all holiness. By living in us he makes us into holy temples of God. His work is our sanctification. His breath is life to our souls. It is then we begin to mirror God and share in his divine life. "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" (Saint Basil, *De Spiritu Sancto*, 15, 36: PG 32, 132).

Let us look at the first disciple and our model. Mary became a living tabernacle of holiness. She was consecrated for this purpose. As the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary so we too can be vessels ready to receive the Holy Spirit. As Jesus was formed in the holy womb of Mary, so we are formed in the holy womb of the Church. Mary shows us the disposition we need before God. We must both empty out and become humble before our Creator. We must be attentive to the voice of God and respond as Mary did, "I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1 :38). We also need to live a life of prayer as Mary did in preparation for being a receptive vessel of God. To live in the spirituality of Pentecost we must be available and ready witnesses to the Spirit of God, actively prepared for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Prayer draws us to the heart of God. On February 14, 1981, as a teenager I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I was at home, at the kitchen table. I was with my foreign exchange sister, my mother, aunt and two sisters. That event changed my life. I was drawn to the heart of God through prayer especially prayer in tongues. Through that prayer I was led to intercession. I began to see God at work answering prayer, healing hearts that were broken and rescuing my friends from the clutches of despair. God continued to draw me to his heart. My whole focus changed because I was focused on God. I was drawn

to holiness and the holiness of God. Through prayer, God gave me an insatiable thirst for him (Psalm 63).

Prayer leads us into a longing for holiness-the insatiable thirst for God. In prayer we see God and we desire to be like him. God is pouring out a gift of profound holiness especially in this present generation. Holiness is defined as the perfection of charity. In *Christifideles Laid*, John Paul II says, "The call to holiness is rooted in Baptism and proposed anew in the other sacraments principally in the Eucharist. Since Christians are re-clothed in Christ Jesus and refreshed by his Spirit, they are 'holy.' They therefore have the ability to manifest this holiness and the responsibility to bear witness to it in all that they do. The apostle Paul never tires of admonishing all Christians to live 'as is fitting among saints'" (Eph. 5:3).

Pope John Paul II continues, "Life according to the Spirit, whose fruit is holiness (Rom. 6:22; Gal. 5:22), stirs up every baptized person and requires each to follow and imitate Jesus Christ, in embracing the beatitudes, in listening and meditating on the Word of God, in conscious and active participation in the liturgical and sacramental life of the church, in personal prayer, in family or in community, in the hunger and thirst for justice, in the practice of the commandment of love in all circumstances of life and service to the brethren, especially the least, the poor and the suffering." This stirring of the Spirit initiates a profound response within the soul of every baptized person and draws upon the personal relationship with Jesus in prayer. It drives the soul to a more perfect charity in love and in service to the people of God.

On Pentecost eve of 2004, Pope John Paul II said that the ecclesial movements and the new communities are a "providential response," given by the Holy Spirit, to today's demand for the new evangelization. Living the spirituality of Pentecost, may our striving for holiness awaken others to the saving love of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Mary shows us the disposition we need before God.

We must both empty out and become humble before our Creator.

We must be attentive to the voice of God and respond as Mary did.

We also need to live a life of prayer as Mary did in preparation for being a receptive vessel of God.

We must be available and ready witnesses to the Spirit of God, actively prepared for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Mother Lucy Lukasiewicz is the Superior of the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, a Charismatic

Franciscan Religious Congregation. Before she came to the Disciples, she was involved in the Charismatic Renewal in Nebraska. She resides in Prayer Town, Texas along with the foundress Mother John Marie Stewart and Sisters. The Congregation lives a life of prayer and is active in the apostolate of Evangelization.

(from "PENTECOST Today"
January/February/March 2006)



PRAYER of LIGHT

O Holy Spirit of God, take me as Thy disciple.

Guide me, illuminate me, sanctify me.

Bind my hands that they may do no evil.

Cover my eyes that they may see it no more.

Sanctify my heart that evil may not dwell within me.

Be Thou my God. Be Thou my Guide.

Whithersoever Thou leadest me I will go.

Whatsoever Thou forbiddest me I will renounce.

And whatsoever Thou commandest me, in Thy strength I will do.

Lead me then unto the fullness of Thy truth. Amen.

(Cardinal Manning – A Prayer Card)



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

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

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. 08043-4963

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

DISTRIBUTION: To more than 1800 addresses in most of the 50 United States (U.S.), U.S. territories and many foreign countries.

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

MEET the REAL DAN BROWN – THE TRUTH about “THE DA VINCI CODE”

I was recently browsing Dan Brown’s web site to gather information in preparation for the one thousand theater protests against *The Da Vinci Code* movie, planned by the American TFP. Since I hope to organize several protests, I felt obliged to get to know the real Dan Brown. I wanted to hear, from his own mouth, why he wrote *The Da Vinci Code* and whether he believes the information contained in it.

As I was clicking around, I came across a section containing TV and radio interviews that utterly shocked me. While the articles I had read, left it rather dubious whether or not Dan Brown considered his book historically correct, here he clearly claimed that the theories set forth in *The Da Vinci Code* are accurate. Whereas former articles suggested that he was Christian and somewhat ambivalent to the Catholic Church, here he demonstrated a clearly anti-Catholic bias.

As I listened to these interviews, I was filled with the desire to spread the information I was gathering to the hundreds of protest organizers across the country, so I transcribed the more useful quotes in this article.¹ Thus, I hope it will help these organizers tackle some of the more difficult questions they may encounter.

History or Fiction?

One argument protest organizers are certain to come across states that *The Da Vinci Code* is fiction and therefore harmless. Common responses to this argument include showing that even a novel can be harmful or explaining that fiction does not give one the right to slander or blaspheme

However, such a line of reasoning presupposes that Dan Brown’s book was intended as fiction. This is a presupposition that he, himself, refutes

In the book, Dan Brown leaves the historicity of *The Da Vinci Code* ambiguous. Although the book is termed a “novel” on the cover, the first page informs readers that: “All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.”²

However, Dan Brown is not nearly so restrained in later interviews. When appearing on “The Today Show,” host Matt Lauer asked him, “How much of this is based on reality in terms of things that actually occurred?” Dan Brown responded: “Absolutely all of it. Obviously, there are - Robert Langdon is fictional, but all of the art, architecture, secret rituals, secret societies, all of that is historical fact.”³

Similarly, in an interview with “Good Morning America” when asked: “if you were writing it as a nonfiction book, how would it have been different?” Dan Brown responded: “I don’t think it would have. I began the research for *The Da Vinci Code* as a skeptic. I entirely expected, as I researched the book, to disprove this theory, and after numerous trips to Europe and two years of research, I really became a believer.

In the same interview, Dan Brown strove to substantiate his theory about Our Lord and Saint Mary Magdalene being married. He claimed: “The people who ask me how much is true need to realize that this theory about Mary Magdalene has been around for centuries. It’s not my theory. This has been presented, really over the last 2000 years, and it has persisted.”⁴

In another interview labeled “Chronicle,” Dan Brown claims that he wanted his book to be more than just entertaining, but educational as well: “I wanted to write a book that while it entertained at the same time, you close that last page and go ‘Wow, do you know how much I just learned? That’s fascinating.’ That is really what I set out to do.”

In that interview he reiterates his belief in the book’s historic value: “When I started researching *Da Vinci Code*, I really was skeptical and I expected on some level to disprove all this history that is unearthed in the book and after three trips to Paris and a lot of interviews, I became a believer...”⁵

Finally, there is a *Time* magazine article republished on Dan Brown’s web site calling *The Da Vinci Code* a “historical” thriller, “purporting to expose a centuries-old Vatican conspiracy to conceal the marriage and offspring of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene.”⁶

It is therefore clear that Dan Brown considers the religious heresies expounded in *The Da Vinci Code* to be the Gospel truth and not just fiction.

Catholic Bashing

I have also heard Dan Brown described as Christian. However, the extent to which he truly believes in Christ, or any absolute truth, is called into question by a lecture he gave to the New Hampshire Writers Project. He said:

We were born into a culture. We worship the gods of our fathers. I humbly submit that if all of us in this room had been born in Tibet, probably a lot of us would be Buddhists. I think the chances are pretty good and I also think that we would hold on to all that Buddhist philosophy with all the passion that some of us might hold on to our Christian ideals.

He reaffirmed this viewpoint later in the lecture, saying: "Again, we worship the gods of our fathers. It is truly that simple."⁷

Some believe that Dan Brown is ambivalent to Catholicism. However, twice in this lecture he made statements, critical of the Church. The first one lashed out against the Catholic belief in the infallibility of Church doctrine: "The world is a big place and now more than ever, there is enormous danger in believing we are infallible. That our version of the truth is absolute."

Ironically, Dan Brown is not so relativistic in his own opinions. His opinion of Catholic doctrine on women priests is rather absolute. Later in this same lecture, he stated in a pontifical tone:

Prior to 2000 years ago, we lived in world of gods and goddesses. Today we live in a world solely of gods. Women in most cultures have been stripped of their spiritual power and our male-dominated philosophies of absolutism have a long history of violence and bloodshed, which continues to this day...the fact remains, in the major religions of the world, women remain second-class citizens. Why can't there be women priests? Why is this even an issue?

The Real Dan Brown

After hearing the real Dan Brown in his own words, I saw clearly something that the media are not telling us. Dan Brown is not an innocent fiction writer with an overactive imagination. He is a man with an agenda. He is committed to harm the Church and promote his Gnostic and neo-pagan religious beliefs. He wants to persuade others to accept his false view of history.

That is why, as faithful Catholics, we must reject The Da Vinci Code. We must confront the growing tide of blasphemy and send a strong message that Catholics will not stand by while the Faith is dragged through the mud. We must make it clear that we will resist this attack on the Faith with the absolute certainty that the Church, our immortal Mother, will weather this storm unsullied.

Perhaps Dan Brown knows this as well. During of his lecture to the New Hampshire Writer's Project, he finished by cynically quoting a British priest who said: "Christian theology has survived the writings of Galileo and the writings of Darwin, surely it will survive the writings of some novelist from New Hampshire."

At least I can say that on this matter, Dan Brown and I see eye to eye

¹ The interviews themselves can be viewed at http://www.danbrown.com/novels/davinci_code/breakingnews.html

² Dan Brown, The Da Vinci Code, Doubleday, New York, 2003.

³

http://www.danbrown.com/media/multimedia/final/larger/today_show2.mov

⁴

http://www.danbrown.com/media/multimedia/final/larger/gma_c_bds.mov

⁵

http://www.danbrown.com/media/multimedia/chronicle/large/chronicle_edited.mov

⁶ <http://www.danbrown.com/media/morenews/time041505.htm>

⁷ http://www.danbrown.com/media/audio/DVC_NH_talk.mov

(by Michael Whitcraft sent to us by Moira Noonan)

VATICAN'S CHIEF EXORCIST REPEATS CONDEMNATION of HARRY POTTER NOVELS

The Vatican's chief exorcist, Rev. Gabriele Amorth, is reported to have repeated his condemnations of the Harry Potter novels yesterday. According to press reports, Father Amorth, said of the books, "You start off with Harry Potter, who comes across as a likeable wizard, but you end up with the Devil. There is no doubt that the signature of the Prince of Darkness is clearly within these books."

By reading Harry Potter a young child will be drawn into magic and from there it is a simple step to Satanism and the Devil," he said.

The news will come as no surprise to LifeSiteNews.com readers who recall that Father Amorth made very similar remarks in 2002 which went misreported in the North American media, until LifeSiteNews.com clarified the matter

In a 2002 interview with the Italian ANSA news agency, Rev. Amorth said "Behind Harry Potter hides the signature of the king of the darkness, the devil." The exorcist, with his decades of experience in directly combating evil, explained that J.K. Rowling's books contain innumerable positive references to magic, "the satanic art". He noted that the books attempt to make a false distinction between black and white magic, when in fact, the distinction "does not exist, because magic is always a turn to the devil." <http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2002/jan/02010202.html>.

At the time, however, North American coverage of Rev. Amorth's warnings about Potter significantly downplayed the warnings. The New York Times coverage by Melinda Henneberger, which was carried in Canada's National Post, the San Francisco Chronicle and on Yahoo Daily News left out most of

the information in the European coverage, only quoting Rev. Amorth as saying that "If children can see the movie with their parents, it's not all bad."

North America's most prominent Harry Potter critic, Michael O'Brien, has told LifeSiteNews.com that the movie version has significantly cleaned up Harry's image, making it far less troublesome than the books.

Another condemnation of Harry Potter coming from Rome was not widely reported until LifeSiteNews.com's intervention. When in 2003, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger allowed his comments against the novels to be aired publicly, the news was reported in Europe, but not in America. However, when in 2005 LifeSiteNews.com published Ratzinger's letter concerning Potter online, the international media exploded with the news that the new Pope opposed Harry Potter. (coverage: Writing to Germany's best known Potter critic Gabriele Kuby, the man who was to become Pope Benedict XVI wrote, "It is good that you enlighten people about Harry Potter, because those are subtle seductions, which act unnoticed and by this deeply distort Christianity in the soul, before it can grow properly.")

(by Michael Whitcraft, March 1, 2006,
LifeSiteNews.com)

PRAYER of ABANDONMENT



Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will. Whatever you may do I thank you: I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul: I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands, without reserve, and with boundless confidence, for you are my Father.

(Brother Charles de Foucauld- a prayer card)

JOHAN'S TESTIMONY

Dear Paul,

My name is Johan and I receive the Medjugorje News and enjoy reading it very much. The reason why I write to you is what happened to me on my first visit

to Medjugorje. I was going to go to Holland with my twin sister, who lives in Tauranga, to see our Dutch family and to celebrate our 72nd birthday. But I intended to go to Medjugorje during our trip. I said we could arrange the trip to Medjugorje from Holland hoping there would be an arranged pilgrimage. But when we got there, none was available during March (our birthday is on 17 March, St Patrick day). So we decided to go to Split and find our way to Medjugorje from there. But first we had to get our plane bookings. There was a time limit as we had to be back before March 17.. When we asked the travel agent if there was a seat for us one week before our birthday she said no seats were available. So I sent a quick message up to the Lord and you should have seen the surprised look on the girl's face when she said that there were indeed two seats available where there were none before. I call this a miracle.

When we arrived in Frankfurt we were wondering how to get to Medjugorje from Split. Then I saw a priest wandering around the airport while we were waiting for our plane. So I went up to him and asked if he spoke English and he informed me that he was a Canadian with a group of pilgrims. When I asked his advise how to get to Medjugorje, he said "Oh don't worry about that. We've got a big bus with plenty of room for both of you (free of charge too)" When we were in the bus we were wondering if we could get accommodation. There was a room for us in the pension where the Canadians were staying. So you can see how the Gospa was looking after us?

I hope you've got plenty of time to read this letter because I am not finished yet..

On one of our visits to Saint James Church we saw that statue of the Risen Christ at the back of the church. We saw the terrible wound and noticed a fluid dripping out of that wound. Now that is a miracle and I can't understand why nobody talks about it. So I bought a syringe from the chemist and a small bottle and collected quite a bit of that fluid. I have had that for about 2 years now and I collected some more on my second visit. Now I am wondering if I should get it tested to show people that it is not just water. Personally I don't doubt that it is genuine but can't prove it to the others. What is your opinion? Sorry about the length of this letter and please excuse me for any spelling mistakes. You must be a very busy man and might not have the time to worry about me. Whatever I thought I had to tell you about it, my friend Annette Watts, who has a daughter working as a music therapist at the Mother's Village in Medjugorje, advised me to write to you about it.

God bless, Johan.

Dear Johan,

I am sorry to disappoint you there is no “miracle” attached to the water seeping out of the right knee of the Risen Christ. The explanation is perfectly natural. When the nights are cold in Medjugorje, the water condenses inside the statue, and water runs down. There is a crack in the place where it emerges, and, depending on the amount of dew during the night, it seeps out of that crack.

If you get that water analyzed, you will find that it is only water with possible some oxidation from the bronze statue is made of.

I was there last year and noticed that if the night was warm, there was no inside condensation in the morning, and therefore no seepage.

My advice to you is to get this water blessed and use it as such.

Editor (**Paul Farge, New Zealand**)

(from “Medjugorje News” September 2005)

DISCERNMENT of SPIRITS

The protection of faith

We evaluate the authenticity of any gift by the fruit it produces, not by how flashy it is.

Though often humble in its overt expression, discernment in general, is one of the most important spiritual gifts. For without discernment we often confuse or abuse other gifts of the spirit. Discernment in general is supported by three practical rules.

Jesus says that, “By their fruits you will know them.” We must learn to be good “fruit inspectors” and not bruise the fruit.

Evil cannot long endure on the face of the earth. The devil is in a hurry. God has all eternity. “He is never in a hurry, but neither is he ever late,” as Tommy Tyson used to remind us.

A word from God always builds up and edifies the Body, the Church.

The Charismatic gift, discernment of spirits (diakrisis pneumatou), empowers Christians with the ability to tell the difference between gifts of the Holy Spirit and those alleged gifts that may come from some other source. Paul, in the Corinthian text (1 Cor. 12:7) was particularly interested in recognizing the experiences coming from the Holy Spirit of God, the third person of the Blessed Trinity. He didn’t want anything attributed to the Holy Spirit that was only human, angelic or demonic in origin.

Careful observation of scriptures and other Church writings show that early Christians employed the charismatic gift of discernment in three ways. The first, discernment of spirits, empowered Christians with the ability to discern the presence of the risen Lord Jesus Christ in the worshiping assembly—principally in the Eucharist (1 Cor. 11:29). In 1 Cor. 11:29, Paul uses the same Greek word (diakrisis), “For all who eat and drink without discerning,” as he later uses it in 1 Cor. 12: 10, when he writes about discernment of spirits. This suggests that the first usage of the gift of discernment is to recognize and invite the presence of the risen Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit into the Eucharistic worship and Christian community.

The second way early Christians used discernment of spirits was to recognize and invite the presence of angels and saints into their worship and other prayer forms. A special place was given to Mary in both Eastern and Western Churches, but always in relationship with Jesus. When Paul writes about speaking in tongues of mortals and of angels (1 Cor. 12:1), he is writing to people who have a common knowledge of angels and saints by experience. This recognition is another function of the gift of discernment.

A third way the discernment of spirits was used among Christians was to recognize an evil spirit, confront it and it, and then get back to worshipping the risen Lord Jesus (To help appropriate the gift of discernment and to perfect this gift once it is received, Father Edward O’Connor, C.S.C. couple of articles for New Covenant in the early days « Renewal that I have found quite helpful. He presents suggestions under two headings, subjective and objective, criteria, for what he considers helpful in prudential judgment.

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE AND STAY ON THE BULK MAILING

Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery address is incorrect. We do need to hear from you in writing **at least once a year** in order to keep you on our mailing list. Please respond now.

In Christian charity we do not want delivery to incorrect addresses and wasting of God’s precious resources. There is no “subscription” fee. We do ask for free will donations to support **“The PILGRIM”** and the operations of the **PFMC**.

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

Subjective Criteria

Usage of a charismatic gift must first of all bear good fruit in the life of the person exercising it, and then in the lives of those receiving ministry.

To be an authentic charismatic one must be a person of prayer. No pray, no prophet!

Ethics. A person who would speak God's Word, must live it out in their life.

The life and practice of a charismatic must exalt Jesus Christ.

The life and practice of a charismatic person should manifest the fruits of the Spirit.

An authentic prophet of charismatic will be the occasion for good happenings. They are the founders of religious orders, charismatic movements or groups and important religious events.

Objective Criteria

Pastoral authority. Be under some kind of pastoral covering.

Public revelation. It's contained in Sacred Scripture.

Solid teaching. Paul's admonition to both Timothy and Titus, "Make sure your teaching is orthodox."

State in Life. Stay where you are when you receive God's call.

Community. Salvation always comes in through and to community.

Spiritual Director. He or she can be ordained or lay.

Journal. Keep record of your soul.

Grace builds on nature. If something is true on the psychological level, it is also true in an analogous way both on the spiritual and physical level.

These are just a few suggestions about the charismatic discernment of spirits. May my sharing be helpful to YOU may we pray for one another. ""



Abbot David Geraets OSB is Abbot of The Monastery of the Risen Christ in San Luis Obispo, California. He has been actively involved giving retreats, counseling, spiritual direction and evangelization on a worldwide basis in the Charismatic

Renewal since 1967.

(by Abbot David Geraets, OSB, from "PENTECOST Today" January/February/March 2006)

PRAYER CARD

Lord Jesus Christ
Whom ever the wind and sea obey;
this past season we have seen
winds and water that seem to
overwhelm us.

We cry out, with all who were in the
path of recent hurricanes,
for your Presence and your Peace
to all who suffer from these storms
and their effects.

Father of Life,
pour our your Holy Spirit
to calm the storms that so trouble us.
May this be a time of grace and
healing for all our nation.

May Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe
and the Immaculate Conception,
wrap her mantle of care around us to
remind us of your victory over
destruction, sin and death.

Jesus Christ, you are the
Resurrection and the Life;
in your Name we pray.

Amen

**(from "PENTECOST Today"
January/February/March 2006)**

THE BUILDING BLOCKS of JOY

One Christmas Eve morning, as a young pastor preparing to preach that night on the joy of Christmas, I had a revelation that sent me into the workshop. Using a chain saw, I cut three large square blocks from a section of six-by-six timber. I then painted them to look like my young son's lettered building blocks. As I began my sermon, I stacked these one upon the other on the pulpit in the order "YOJ" and asked, "How do you spell joy?"

In the beginnings of the spiritual life, each of us has JOY spelled backwards: Our first priority is ourselves (Yourself); second, others; and maybe, if we are believers, third, Jesus. Some of us, the more altruistic "brotherhood of humanity types," may have progressed to spelling joy "OYJ," and these types can be very loving, caring, and giving. But the spiritual writers, following Jesus' lead, call us to recognize that apart from him we can do nothing. He is to move from the bottom of the list to the top, the center, the

pinnacle. By grace, we surrender our will and begin to experience the purgation of the attachments of our lives. In this process, our spelling of joy shifts, maybe to “YJO,” still with ourselves first, or to “OJY,” with ourselves last. The first spelling leads to a very inward, isolationist Christianity, the second, to a Christianity that is imbalanced and demeaning. The world is full of these sincerely motivated though pathologically impotent quests for joy, where seemingly faithful believers put first either their own needs or the perceived needs of others as the criterion for interpreting “What would Jesus do?”

Conversion and the movement of the spiritual life is a journey, and hopefully, the Spirit ultimately works within our hearts to bring about what is called the “passive purgation of the senses,” in which joy is more closely, though still inadequately, spelled “JYO.” Jesus is first, and we are being purged, filled, and perfected. Out of this flows the love and joy of God to others.

Obviously, this is not the end, for as we continue along the spiritual path, we may experience what is called the “passive purgation of the spirit,” in which not only our senses have been purged of their inappropriate attachments, but also, our very soul, and in this we receive the fullness of Christ’s joy, “JOY” This is what Jesus outlined in the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount, for how else can one “rejoice and be glad” in the midst of persecution? This true joy is the gift-the fruit-of being “poor in spirit,” of “mourning” over our sinfulness, of being “meek” and humble, of “hungering and thirsting after righteousness,” of being “merciful,” of being “pure in heart,” and of being a “peacemaker.” Is this not the fullness of what Jesus meant when he said we are to love the Lord God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves?

Have you experienced this great joy that Jesus promised? Have you experienced its fullness? Then consider, right now, at this stage in your spiritual journey, how do you spell joy?

Marcus Grodi is host of the popular EWTN program The Journey Home and president of the Coming Home Network International an organization that provides support for Christians from other traditions who are interested in converting to the Catholic Church. For more information about the Coming Home Network, please visit www.chnetwork.org.

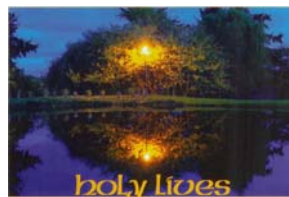
(“Building Blocks of Joy”, by Marcus Grodi, Laywitness, September/October, 2005 page 23).

SPIRITUAL ENERGIZER

It is the vocation of every Christian; not only of a few elect, to belong to God in love’s free surrender and to serve Him. Whether man or woman; whether consecrated or not; each one is called to imitation of Christ. The further the individual continues on this path; the more Christ-like he will become. Christ embodies the ideal of human perfection: in Him bias and defects are removed; and masculine and feminine virtues are united and their weaknesses redeemed therefore; His true followers will be progressively exalted over their natural limitations. That is why we see in holy men a womanly tenderness and a truly maternal solicitude for the souls entrusted to them while in holy women there is a manly boldness! Proficiency and determination.

Collected Works of Edith Stein (Vol. 2) From Celebrate Life March –April Issue 2006)

HOLY LIVES



How blest are the poor in spirit; the reign of God is theirs.” Happiness and holiness come to us through Jesus the Lord and our total dependence on God, not merely on ourselves nor on the power of material things. We need to place our lives in his hands and to surrender to Jesus, our Savior. With God all things are possible, so let us entrust our lives and our journey of

PRAY to END PORNOGRAPHY

Groups of praying individuals have asked that others join them in praying as many “Our Father” prayers as possible each day with the specific intention of ending the use of pornography throughout the world.

Information is available that places one of the largest pornography operations in downtown Philadelphia. We urgently ask for prayers from everyone in the greater Philadelphia area.

Pray as often as you can:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

faith to Jesus Christ. Saint Isaac Jogues tells us: “We must give ourselves to the work and be faithful to

God, and not spoil God's work by our shortcomings." Thomas Merton tells us: "We become saints or holy people not by violently overcoming our own weakness, but letting the Lord give us the strength and purity of God's Spirit in exchange for our weakness and misery." Our call to holiness is our call to be saints. Remember: you are God's creation, fashioned first with his heart-the Sacred Heart of Jesus-and then with his hands. God rejoices and celebrates with his chosen ones because of our talents, our gifts or charisms, and the abilities that are ours and just for us. Let us thank God for each other, let us thank God for our many and abundant blessings. "The Lord your God is with you; he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing" (Zephaniah 3: 17).

Holiness is a gift from God helping us to live a closer relationship with Jesus the Lord. Through the scriptures, our own personal prayer life and the sacramental life of the church, we are blessed, and we are able to walk humbly before God, thus enabling us to have a closer and more intimate relationship with Jesus, our Savior and our friend. Holiness is a task. We have to work at it with all our heart and our entire mind. We need to enter again and again into a deeper relationship with Jesus. We want to become holy women and men. We pray that with passage of time we will become more Christ-like in our daily journey as we walk along life's weary way with our sisters and brothers. "Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy with kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Forgive, as he Lord has forgiven you" (Col. 3:12-13).

Pope John. Paul II of happy memory exhorted us in this way, "The time has come to re-propose wholeheartedly to everyone this high standard of ordinary Christian living." The Holy Father has called for "a genuine training in holiness," a holiness that leads us to a deep inner peace, a deeper relationship with Christ and a willingness to help others grow in God's grace. God has blessed all of us with many gifts and God wants us to share our blessings with others for the common good of our faith community, our prayer group and with our fellow parishioners in our local parish. Let us share our blessings "for a blessing is no blessing until it is shared." Allow God to help each and all of us to be his disciples and his ambassadors. "This makes us ambassadors for Christ, God as it were appealing to us" (2 Cor. 2:20).

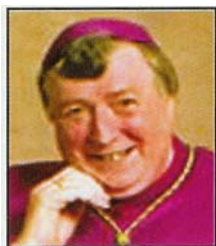
We are the temples of the Holy Spirit. Our call to holiness is not just for some select people or groups; rather the call to holiness of life is God calling each

one of us to a life of personal holiness. The call is to all ages, to all nations and for all times. A reporter said to Mother Teresa, "some people say you are a saint," And she replied, "We are all in the process of becoming saints, you in your way and I, in my way. Our mission in life is to grow in holiness." Our task is to use all the means available to us to do the ordinary things in an extraordinary way. Saints are ordinary men and women like any one of us, doing God's will, in the spirit of the Gospel of John, Jesus said to Thomas "I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but through me." (John 14:6).

Jesus is our model. Mary is our protector and she guides us always to her Divine Son Jesus Christ. In Jesus we will find life, love, joy, hope, goodness and kindness, and through Jesus we grow in personal holiness of life. We become brothers of Christ" to our family, friends and to all people that we encounter in daily life.

Mary is the Mother of hope; to her we turn in prayer and praise. Mary lived in hope that God's promises would be kept, even at the foot of the cross. Mary is an example and beacon of hope, so let us put our trust in God as we pray: *Mother of Divine Hope, pray for us.* Mary encourages us to live toward the future for which we hope as we grow through life that is filled with sadness, misfortune, disappointments and despair. We are a people who live in the resurrection light and when we look at the face of Jesus we too, like Mary, are uplifted, encouraged, affirmed and we are given a ray of sunshine. Our hearts are filled with hope and we are renewed through the power of the Holy Spirit. We pray that God will renew our holiness in the present and in the future and shed his light on us so as to dispel the darkness of a broken world with the light of Christ. "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matt. 5:13-14). Alighted torch has been given to each one of us, to be the salt of the earth, and to be that shining light of faith, hope and love to all people that we encounter in our daily life.

Mary keeps saying to us today what she said to the waiters at Cana in Galilee, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Let us have an opened mind, a loving and listening heart, so that we can hear truly the gentle voice of the master saying again and again to his followers, *Come to me. Come follow me. I need your hands and your feet. I need you in this moment of history.* This is our hour of rededication of our life to Jesus, when we say loud and clear. *Here am I Lord. I have come to do your will. Lord, I am truly your humble and faithful servant.*



Bishop Tom Flanagan is an auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio, Texas. He has been archdiocesan director/liaison of the Charismatic Renewal since 1985. He is a member of the US Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Catholic Charismatic Renewal.

(Excerpts from a talk given at the National Leaders' Conference in Chicago, 2005 from "PENTECOST Today" January/February/March 2006)

ENCLOSED ITEMS

In this *May - June* issue of "**The PILGRIM**" are the following:

A **yellow** information sheet for the **Pilgrimage to Medjugorje and London, Thursday, 26 October 2006, thru Friday, 3 November 2006, \$1699** with optional extension and excursion to **Ireland, Thursday, 2 November 2006, thru Wednesday, 8 November 2006, \$2999**. The Spiritual Director for this pilgrimage is **Father John O'Leary, Pastor, Our Lady of the Angels, Cape May Court House, NJ**. Call (856) 768-9228 for a yellow information packet with registration form or print it from: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06PPM10InfoPacket.pdf. This pilgrimage is further discussed on pages **1, 2, 3, 17, and 35**.

The usual **PFMC** envelope and the new donation coupon explained in the **July 2004 special financial support appeal letter** for the **PFMC**. Please respond if you are able. We need to hear from readers that their addresses are still correct and would love to receive a donation from each reader on a regular basis.

POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS for MAY 2006

VATICAN CITY, MAR 1, 2006 (VIS) - The Holy Father's general prayer intention for **May** is: "**That the abundance of the gifts the Holy Spirit bestows on the Church may contribute to the growth of peace and justice in the world.**"

His mission intention is: "**That in mission countries those responsible for public institutions may, with suitable laws, promote and defend human life from its conception to its natural termination.**"

(<http://www.apostlesofprayer.org/Catalog.htm>)

PFMC DISPLAYS AND / OR PRESENTATIONS



Kathleen and **Keith** are available to participate in parish or 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 and her Son in this time of manifestation of Our Lord's mercy and graces are shared at no cost. Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value posted on each article on display. Displays may be set up without a presentation.

We are willing and have offered to set up displays in parishes for all the weekend Holy Masses. We'll come on Saturday afternoon in time (about 2 hours) to set up before the first vigil Holy Mass and stay through Sunday afternoon or evening until after the last Sunday Holy Mass (Volunteer staff pending).

Displays in parishes are particularly beneficial when good Catholic religious goods or book stores are not convenient to the parishioners.

Ask your pastor if he would allow the **PFMC** to set up a display in the basement, school cafeteria, or gymnasium, or wherever we could have about 20 large tables with display material on them.

MEDJUGORJE: OUR LADY'S MESSAGES 1984-2005 ORGANIZED BY SUBJECT

This is the title of an excellently crafted booklet published by **Vincent Murray** that was made available to the **PFMC** and displayed at the **February 2006 RETREAT CONFERENCE**.

Many took advantage of this availability and donated **\$20** for their own copy of this fine work. It really must be seen and reviewed to be appreciated for its prayerful organization.

There are still copies available from the **PFMC** and from **Vincent Murray**. He plans to keep updating his files and will publish future issues probably on an annual basis.

Call the **PFMC** (856) 768-9228 or **Vincent Murray** at (914) 342-9177 for a copy.

MESSAGE of 4/25/2006 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

Dear children! Also today I call you to have more trust in me and my Son. He has conquered by His death and resurrection and, through me, calls you to be a part of His joy. You do not see God, little children, but if you pray you will feel His nearness. I am with you and intercede before God for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.

MESSAGE of 5/25/2006 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

Dear children! Also today I call you to put into praxis and to live my messages that I am giving you. Decide for holiness, little children, and think of heaven. Only in this way, will you have peace in your heart that no one will be able to destroy. Peace is a gift, which God gives you in prayer. Little children, seek and work with all your strength for peace to win in your hearts and in the world. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(The **PFMC** upholds the final decision of the **Magisterium** of the **Roman Catholic Church** led by the **Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI**, as to the authenticity of messages to alleged visionaries from **Medjugorje**.)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 4/25/2006

I INVITE YOU TO HAVE MORE TRUST

In this message the Queen of Peace invites us to have more trust in Her and Her Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. We know how important trust is in life. Life on earth is unimaginable without trusting other people. We can only imagine what it would be like if we went through life doubting everyone and everything. Lack of trust closes us off from other people. Without trust we are defensive towards everyone. Without faith life is endangered. The opposite of faith and trust is not faithlessness and atheism but fear. When fearful a man feels endangered, as if he is being attacked by everyone. When fearful he feels he must defend himself, attack and insult others to preserve his own life. In this way he endangers not only interpersonal relationships with others but also destroys himself.

Fear paralyses man, while faith sets him free and brings with it security, peace and freedom. A child cannot live without trusting its parents. A child has trust in its parents and therefore can count on them and so grow and remain living. Jesus sets before us a picture of a child saying: "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18, 3). Many times Jesus said: "Your faith has saved you" (Mark 5, 34); "just believe, do not fear" (Luke 8, 50); "all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9, 23).

It is our lack of childlike faith in God which gives rise to our tenseness, frustration, anxiety, nervousness. There are fewer and fewer moments in our lives in

which we feel the true and intensive presence of God. We feel torn apart and tired, while God waits. Jesus through the intercession of his Mother calls us even today and throughout these 25 years of apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

And Mary as our Mother, in this her message, places Jesus before us, crucified and resurrected, Jesus the victor over all that destroys human life.

Jesus Christ is alive, he is not a deceased Jesus but alive. Even today through his mother He would like to tell us: "Believe my mother, love her as I have loved her, do all that she tells you so that you may be part of my Resurrected joy and victory." A mother cannot be parted from her child. So too Mary cannot be separated from Jesus.

Mary tells us - "You do not see God but if you pray you will feel His closeness". God is the Spirit and we have a spirit and spiritual capabilities with which we can feel, experience and come together. We have the capability to believe, love and hope. The path to an encounter with God is prayer. No other path or means exists. If anyone should tell you there is another way, do not believe them. God is waiting for us through Mary. He is waiting for us to finally trust and begin living. Mary is our intercessor, mediator and defender before God. She is tireless with us and does not let us fall asleep. She does not count her apparitions, Her messages. She does not live in mathematics but in love. It is not numbers but us that are important to Her. True love does not know numbers but is infinite. Let us begin believing and loving so that we may get to know and encounter God and in doing so get to know and encounter ourselves and each other.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.4.2006,
(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr>)

ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 4/25/2006

During these days, as we contemplate the real meaning of another Easter season, it seems that Our Lady's message of April 25, 2006 is most appropriate. As we experience the immediate days and weeks following Easter, we are called to continue to nourish our faith. Are we ready to embrace Jesus' resurrection within our lives? What does Easter mean to us? Do we understand that Jesus is calling us by name to Himself as He called Saint Mary Magdalene at the tomb on that first Easter morning? Also, we must remember that Jesus is proclaiming, "*peace be with you*," to us as He did to the apostles as He appeared to them after rising from the dead. Most importantly, have we accepted the peace of Jesus in a personal way? All of these questions are very significant for us to reflect upon. However, I wonder if we are ready to allow the meaning of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection to make a serious impact in who we are and in who we wish to become. Some may ask where do I begin? It seems that the first sentence of Our Lady's message of April 25, 2006 is a good place to start.

"Dear children! Also today I call you to have more trust in me and my Son." Balancing a life of faith with the trials and tribulations of daily living can be a very serious challenge for any believer. Many try to be successful in this endeavor by becoming dependent upon themselves and their personal abilities. On the other hand, Our Lady is calling us to have more trust in Her and in Jesus. Where does the self-sacrificing, unconditional love of Jesus and Mary fit into our lives? Have we accepted the opportunity placed before us to be more humble? Reflect upon the way in which Jesus reacted to the abuse and pain that He endured during His passion and crucifixion. As His cross was up righted He said, "*Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" (Luke 23:24) Becoming like Jesus is the way to embrace peace. We must reject those inclinations that cause us to be arrogant, selfish, and full of pride. Do our own wants and desires overcome us on a continual basis? This reality can be conquered if we embrace the way of Jesus and Our Lady.

"He has conquered by His death and resurrection and, through me, calls you to be a part of His joy." With this second sentence of Her message of April 25, 2006, Our Lady encourages us to believe that Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection has conquered sin and spiritual death. Our souls have been redeemed by the "*blood of the*

Lamb of God" and we only have to say yes to Him and His love and mercy. Each believer is called to take this step in his or her life, and Our Lady can lead us through this process. As we embrace the cross of Jesus, we can definitely **"be part of His joy."**

"You do not see God, little children, but if you pray you will feel his nearness." During these days, may we make a concerted effort to pray more. Also, as we listen to many readings during the Easter season from the Acts of the Apostles, may we be inspired by the zeal of the apostles as they proclaimed the faith. They carried Jesus' cross courageously, while enduring much persecution; and in a beautiful way, they exuded the joy and peace of Jesus. Through prayer, worship, and sacrifice, we can also be very connected to the Lord. However, we must continue to strengthen and nourish our faith. In that way our connection with Jesus will remain strong, especially when we allow Our dear Blessed Mother to lead us to Her Son.

"I am with you and intercede before God for each of you." With this sentence, we truly can perceive Our Lady's unconditional love for us. She constantly prays for us and brings us to our loving God. Let us reflect often upon Her motherly love. With the innocence of a little child, may we give ourselves to Our Lady. In that way, through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, we begin to be prepared in a profound spiritual way for Jesus and God the Father.

I hope you are well. Also, I hope that you had a wonderful Holy Week and a beautiful Easter. Give my best to all of your families. Be loving, be strong, be one with the Lord. In our day, may we become another Saint Peter, Saint John, or Saint Paul. For the sake of Jesus, let us be holy. May we find the courage to make that choice for Jesus. That is our call. May it also be our personal desire. May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you, forever and ever. Amen.

God's love and prayers always,

Father Ed

(HEdwardChalmers@aol.com, Friday, 4/28/2006)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 5/25/06

PEACE IS the GIFT GOD GIVES to YOU

In many messages the Blessed Virgin Mary cautions us of the importance of her words which she has

imparted to us through years of apparitions. She has said: "Dear children! You are not conscious of every message which I am giving you" (15. 11 1984). "I call you to live and accept my messages!" (21.3.1985). "Live in humility all the messages which I am giving you." (20.9.1985). "Renew the messages which I am giving you." (26.9.1985). "If you live the messages, you are living the seed of holiness" (10.10.1985). "Dear children! My invitation that you live the messages which I am giving you is a daily one, specially, little children, because I want to draw you closer to the Heart of Jesus." (25.10.1988). "Therefore, little children, every day read the messages that I have given you and transform them into life." (25.12.1989). "Live my messages and put into life every word that I am giving you." (25.6.2002).

Our Lady's messages are nothing less than the Gospel spoken in simpler words and with a mother's heart. These words can be understood by all. It is certain that Mary is serious; she does not intend to play with our lives.

Holiness is what Mother Mary wants us to achieve and live daily in our lives. A mother always wants what's best for her children. In her message on the 25.5.1987 she says: I want each one of you to be happy here on earth and to be with me in Heaven." Certainly she has not come to take something from us or take away the joys of life. She knows well that only with God may we truly be happy here on earth. She is filled with mercy because she is filled with the Lord who she gives to us and to whom she leads us.

Saint Paul tells us: "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phl 3, 20). In this message our Heavenly Mother Mary wants to direct our hearts by telling us to think about paradise. It is today that we enter paradise and heaven, here on earth we decide to which side we will go. It is here that we decide whether we will trust in God and surrender all our troubles to Him or whether we will carry our burdens on our own.

Experience tells us that there is much that robs man of peace. There are many causes of anxiety. Worries, haste, intemperance, nonacceptance of ourselves and life situations are only some of the causes of anxiety. Mary knows our fears, anxieties and anxious worries well. It is because of this that she approaches us with this message as a mother.

"Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring [it] to pass." (Ps 37, 5).

This is the path to peace given to us by Jesus. He tells us: And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider

the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin... for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things." (Matthew 6). We must certainly do everything in our power and then filled with trust surrender to God. Mary has spoken about it so many times and the entire Christian tradition speaks of ways to achieve peace. They are prayer and fasting. They serve not for us to appear good before others. The purpose of prayer and fasting is to find a place inside where man can be alone with God. In this place anxious worries disappear. When I come to peace, to God in my own heart then I do not have to worry about whether I will fulfil the demands of others. People with their expectations and judgements do not have access to this place in which God resides in us. God is the true liberation of man's worries. Let the words of Our Lady's message even today lead us to experience peace and union with God.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.5.2006,
<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr>

ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 5/25/2006

"Dear children! Also today I call you to put into practice and live my messages that I am giving you. Decide for holiness, little children, and think of heaven." With these first two sentences of Her message of May 25, 2006, Our Lady sets a beautiful tone for us as we prepare to celebrate Pentecost in a few days, and in a few weeks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of Our Lady's apparitions to the visionaries of Medjugorje.

As one contemplates the opportunity to live out the requests of Our Lady found in these monthly messages, it seems that Her call to prayer and to conversion are so prevalent. Many have accepted Our Lady's call to prayer with much devotion. However, we must constantly challenge ourselves to stay focused upon this request. It is so easy to be satisfied with praying only when it is convenient. We convince ourselves that we are busy doing many things. Thus, the opportunity to pray is neglected although for most the time is available, but one must make a choice for prayer.

Constantly, in these messages, Our Lady has requested families to pray together. I wonder if that really is happening. To accomplish this request much fervent prayer, fasting and sacrifice is needed from those family members who wish to pray together for those who do not. This endeavor involves much

patience, time and effort. Unfortunately, people are reluctant to make the necessary changes.

This is when the need for conversion seems to hit us right between the eyes. For all human beings, the necessity for conversion is never a one-time reality. It is an ongoing process that must become a prominent part of who we are. We must never forget that we are sinners; and the influence of the evil one and his cohorts is most apparent to anyone who opens his or her eyes to what is happening in this world. Thus, fervent prayer from the heart, with a profound devotion to the Eucharist, with a willingness to read the Holy Bible while reflecting upon what is read, and the acceptance of fasting with monthly confession can lead one to embrace a spirit of conversion. Then as we become more aware of God's presence within our life, we want to be holy, we want to be Christ-like, and we want God's love to be the essence of who we are.

In this message of May 25, 2006, Our Lady is encouraging us to, ***"Decide for holiness, little children, and think of heaven."*** I wonder, do we spend much time contemplating the reality of heaven? Are we attempting through prayer to connect with the saints? Most importantly are we seeking out the sanctification of the Holy Spirit? Will we spend any special time praying to the Holy Spirit on Pentecost? For most, the reality of going to the beach or the ballgame, or the afternoon cookout is more important. These are beautiful activities, but there will be plenty of opportunity to do these things during the summer.

Maybe this is the year that we should gather with family and friends on Pentecost to pray to the Holy Spirit for our own salvation and the salvation of others. Imagine the positive spiritual impact on people that could result if all Christians in this country embraced the opportunity to pray to the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

This is what Our Lady is challenging us to do. Are we listening? Will we reject our own selfish desires and accept the call to do God's work? On the first Pentecost, the apostles filled with the Holy Spirit began to proclaim the message of Jesus. With the presence and power of the Triune God, they brought immense numbers of people to the faith. This is also our call. If we will embrace conversion while becoming holy, we can begin to destroy the power of the evil one, and that horrendous influence he is having on the lives of God's children.

"Only in this way, will you have peace in your heart that no one will be able to destroy. Peace is a gift, which God gives

you in prayer. Little children, seek and work with all your strength for peace to win in your hearts and in the world." With the remaining sentences of Our Lady's message of May 25, 2006 one can perceive the importance of attaining the reality of God's peace in his/her life. Again, it is only through prayer, holiness, and the sanctity of heaven that this peace can be attained. We will never acquire God's peace in the materialism and self-love of the world. During these days, in a very personal way may we make the choice for God. Let us pray that Our Lady will be with us as we attempt to come to God with all of our strength.

I hope you are well. Give my best to all of your families. Stay close to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and may God's peace reign in your hearts. May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever and ever. Amen.

God's love and prayers always,

Father Ed

HEdwardChalmers@aol.com, Thursday, 6/1/2006

PRESS BULLETIN – NOW SELECTED “NEWS ARTICLES”

Last Press Bulletin was 217, 12/25/05

We will post selected “NEWS ARTICLES” from the **Medjugorje Web Site** maintained in **Saint James Parish, Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**.

Bishop Komarica concerning Medjugorje

On the 25th of April 2006, Monsignor Franjo Komarica, Bishop of Banja Luka, stated in the Večernji list (Zagreb daily newspaper, Croatia):

“Before the war, I paid several official visits to Medjugorje. For a considerable time now, Medjugorje is a world phenomenon that has outgrown the limits of the local diocese. Responsibility for the judgement of the Medjugorje phenomenon must rest with the Holy See, while the local bishop has the right and the duty to take care of the correct liturgical and pastoral life of his diocese as a whole, which includes the parish of Medjugorje.” (Večernji list, 25.04.2006) [5/23/06]

Statistics for January, February, March and April 2006

Holy Communions distributed: 251,500.

Priests concelebrating: 5,122.[5/22/06]

The first group to visit Medjugorje from Shanghai (China)



Ella Poon from Hong Kong, living and working for 6 years now in Shanghai, came to Medjugorje in May 2006, with a group of friends currently

living and working in Shanghai.

This is her testimony. "I came to Medjugorje for the first time in May 2001, and I stayed here for two weeks. I felt a deep inner conversion before returning to China, where I was at that time head of an advertising agency. While here, I began to appreciate Our Lady as a person who is so loving and gentle, and I just wanted to spend more time here and get to know even more about her.

During my first stay, I learned very much about Jesus through Mary. I felt a deep love for Our Lady, and I had a strong desire to come again, to stay longer and to learn more. Since then, I came once or twice each year, seeking the food to satisfy my spiritual hunger. Every time I come to Medjugorje, I feel as though I am in intensive training! Wherever there is a lesson or a lecture, I go and listen. Last May I received the grace of both a physical and a deep inner healing here in Medjugorje. It happened on the mountain, at the time of the apparition. I experienced a dramatic return of my energy.

Over lunch or during dinner, whenever I met my friends from Hong Kong or Macau who also work in Shanghai, I would tell them about my own experience in Medjugorje, together with what I had heard from others there. They were quite impressed and they said: "The next time you go, can we join you?" They did not know anything about Medjugorje, but they had the courage to come without knowing what to expect. Originally I wanted to come with a cozy group of about 10 friends. However, others joined in, and I couldn't refuse them. Finally, we numbered 23 from Shanghai, but that swelled to a total of 32 when their relatives and friends from overseas were counted. This wasn't an organized pilgrimage as such, but a mere consequence of prevailing circumstances!

Here, they have started to pray the Rosary and they really like it. After being here for a few days and having heard the testimony, one adolescent who lives in Canada told his parents that he wants to be baptized.

I believe that they all are happy to be here, and that they are also ready to share the benefit of their own good experience with others." [5/16/06]

The world media are showing more and more interest in Medjugorje

In May 2006, several TV and Radio crews, as well as journalists, visited Medjugorje, because their houses are interested in the Medjugorje phenomenon that will soon celebrate its 25th anniversary: Australian TV, RTBF (Belgian television broadcasting in French) and journalists from BBC Radio and from a Scottish daily newspaper.

A crew from KTO (French Catholic television) visited Medjugorje in March, and a journalist from "The Irish Catholic" newspaper visited in April. [5/13/06]

The Order of Malta returns again to Medjugorje

On May 1st, 2006, the staff of the First Aid Station of the Order of Malta from Cologne (Germany) and their associated volunteers have resumed their annual service in Medjugorje. They will be at the service of the pilgrims and the parishioners until November 1st of this year. On Saturday the 20th of May, they will attend Holy Mass for the German speaking pilgrims.

The Order of Malta invite any volunteers who wish to be involved in this service to contact them. (See: <http://www.malteser.de>) [5/6/06]

Interview: Sister Isabel Bettwy, Steubenville, Ohio (USA)



Sister Isabel Bettwy is both founder and director of the Merciful Mother Association, an association devoted to giving honor to Mary through prayer and education. One activity of the association was the arranging of pilgrimages to places of Marian devotion throughout the world, the main one being Medjugorje. Sister

Isabel came to Medjugorje the first time in October 1983 and began bringing pilgrims to Medjugorje in 1984 while fulfilling the obligations of Director of Franciscan University Journeys. Even when Sister Bettwy was the Director of the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy and the John Paul II Institute of Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, MA, she brought pilgrims to Medjugorje. Sister is now retired, but continues to

accompany pilgrims to Medjugorje. (See: <http://www.mercifulmotherassociation.org>)

In April 2006, during her 73rd visit, Sister Isabel spoke in Medjugorje with Lidija Paris.

Being a part of the history of Medjugorje, especially for the Americans, would you be so kind as to give us a short overview of your friendship with Medjugorje and with Our Lady?

I always loved Our Lady. I grew up in a Marian parish. As a child, we went to church frequently for the devotions and the novenas. When I first heard of Medjugorje in January 1983, I believed. Why shouldn't I believe that Our Lady would be appearing now? But I had no thought of coming to Medjugorje.

My responsibilities at that time did not involve travel. I was working at the Franciscan University of Steubenville. I had been the director of the Conference Office where we were running conferences in the summer time, when the students were not there. I had just moved to the development office, doing financial aid for the students, and I was developing that area.

I heard about Medjugorje and I believed, and I felt that I should go there. I did not know how to get here because nobody was coming! But when the Lord wants something, he makes sure it happens. The Karminsky family was coming, and they were bringing Father Joseph Pelletier who since has died, who wrote books in a popular style about Marian apparitions. Therefore, I had the opportunity to be with him when he interviewed everybody. When I first came, I was hesitant because I thought that everything would be "Mary, Mary, Mary." However, for three days I never heard the word "Gospa." Everything was "Jesus." To me, that was right. I knew that I was at the right place. I was at home. Mary leads us to Jesus.

I also made a personal re-conversion, I know something was going to change in my life, but I did not know what. As part of work at the Franciscan university, we began to do a travel program, and because I had been to Medjugorje, we said that we would do one trip a year to Medjugorje, along with one other pilgrimage. Then, people started wanting to come. We began then to do ten trips a year to Medjugorje. We brought hundreds of pilgrims from the USA.

What attracted them?

I believe it was the Blessed Mother who attracted them truthfully. We all grew up with Fatima. We all knew the Fatima story and we believed it. We believed in Lourdes and Our Lady of Guadalupe.

After Vatican II, Our Lady was put in the background, but not in people's hearts. They prayed to Our Lady. When the word about Medjugorje spread, it just struck a resonant cord in people's hearts, and they wanted to come. To bring them was a great privilege. For five years, I came ten times a year!

How was Medjugorje at that time?

It was a challenge for Americans, because we were not used to live without running water, bathrooms, shower, restaurant... those things were not available. As far as spiritual life, that was all here! And that really hasn't changed. We had a daily Mass in English. Those days, it was at 9 am. Most of the time, we brought a priest with us. We always went to church for the evening program even though we couldn't understand the homily.

How was the prayer program at that time?

It was very similar to the church program now. Father Tomislav Pervan was the pastor, Father Slavko Barbaric was here, and the program began to develop very quickly. The pattern is very similar to the pattern today. What we did not have in the earliest days were the adorations after the Mass on certain days, or at nighttime.

You used to meet the visionaries?

We did not have the conferences with the visionaries that we have now. With my group, we got to know Ivan very well. My guide was always Dragan Zovko, we actually trained him to be our guide. He spoke English, he spent his summers in Medjugorje, and he could make the contacts and arrangements for us. He would pick up Ivan and take him to a forest – in the direction of Mother's village - and there he would speak to our group. He was very good. He gave Our Lady's messages very simply. People could relate to that. Dragan was translating. Occasionally, we would meet Marija at her home, or Vicka. People were giving them petitions. Jakov is speaking much better now that he is older! Today they are more clear. They say: this is the message that Our Lady gave to ME. This is the most important, and that is what I can tell YOU. They do not pretend to know everything.

Are there other differences between those days and today?

The priests sometimes would give after the evening Mass a summary of what had happened during the day, or during the apparition. In those days, before the Thursday messages and before the monthly messages, Father Slavko would usually come out and give us a summary. The priests used to talk in the church in the afternoon in different languages, they would tell the story of Medjugorje and explain the messages. During

my first visit, the apparitions were in the little room next to the sanctuary. Later they were in the rectory, then in the balcony, and then in the visionaries' homes, when the visionaries were no longer allowed to have them in the church. We always used to see the visionaries come in and out. In a way I am glad that it has changed, because people were pushing and trying to enter to be present for the apparition – some were chosen and some not...

Were you the first person who established the contact between the USA and Medjugorje?

Not the first, but in the first group. I also spoke at different conferences about Medjugorje. I was working at the University of Steubenville, and people could call me directly. I was also given a credit card to call Medjugorje as often as I wanted to receive the latest news. I used to call two or three times a week during the war. When the war started, people stopped coming. I did not come for several years. Medjugorje is just beginning to pick up again in the USA.

Is Medjugorje known in America?

Of course! Just by word of mouth. We also have Medjugorje conferences, Medjugorje Magazine, the Internet... the message is published on the Internet, and I publish it also on my web site, and I write a reflection every month. There are many avenues...

What about the relationship between the Medjugorje circles and the Bishops?

The Church in the United States takes the same position as the Vatican has taken: Medjugorje is a place of pilgrimage, priests can go there but they do not organize the trips – the trips are always organized by somebody else, like me... The priest is invited to be the spiritual director, to take care of the spiritual needs of the people, and that is fine. We have brought many priests here. They are convinced about the authenticity of these apparitions, but like all of us, they take the position "wait and see."

One time, my bishop wanted to talk to the president of the Franciscan University, Father Michael Scanlan who came here even before me, because many other bishops were asking him: "How can you let the University take all these trips?" I went to talk to our bishop. He asked me many, many questions. He asked me: "Isabel, what are you going to do if the Church says 'NO' to Medjugorje?" I said: If the Church says "NO" to Medjugorje, we will not take another trip to Medjugorje, we will not publish anything about Medjugorje, we will not sell any books (I was publishing Father Slavko's books at that time). We will obey the Church. But no matter what the Church says, nothing can change what I have experienced in Medjugorje. I have experienced first of all a personal

conversion, a deeper love for Our Lady and the Lord. I have taken people there who have been away from the Church. They did not even know why they were coming. They just knew they had to come. And while they were in Medjugorje, they made a good confession; they came back to the Church. And they are still in the Church. I have seen marriages restored. I have seen families that were not speaking – brother to brother, and so on – reconciling with each other and coming back together as a family. I have seen personal conversions here. I have seen a lot of spiritual healing.

According to you, what is the worst illness of our time?

I would say, a false sense of security. Our security is in the material things around us and not in the Lord.

What do you think about the fact that Our Lady has chosen this place, this country, this Franciscan order?

She always seems to pick a place difficult to get to! She seems to like children... She said that she found faith here... Franciscans love Our Lady and so it doesn't surprise me when I find that they are present in places of the apparitions.

According to you, what are the criteria that confirm the authenticity of these apparitions?

I am not a theologian, but I would say consistency with the teaching of the Church, and with the message of Fatima and Lourdes, approved apparition sites. The visionaries themselves, their own lives. As far as the lives of the people who have come here, God honors the faith of the individual. He will honor that faith, even if the apparitions were not authentic.

Do the visionaries have to be perfect? Without fault?

No, they are like the rest of us, subject to the original sin. They all have failings. If we look at the saints, they were saying: "I am the worst of all sinners!" They had failings, and yet, grace operates in everybody.

Our bishop does not believe in these apparitions. The Franciscans are however doing everything to be obedient to all that he is asking from them in the administration of this parish. How do you see this situation?

Obedience is the key. For me, the most important thing is to obey the Church. I see this situation as a part of the purification. As long as the Franciscans are as obedient as they can be, God is going to bless them. If they are not obedient, there will not be blessings. It is a very big challenge; it has been a challenge from the very beginning, even with the

former bishop. But I have to say this: I never have heard the people of Medjugorje criticizing their bishop. When I ask them about him, they say: "He is our bishop, we pray for him." That is all. They respect the fact that he is their bishop. To me, that is very important.

Your desires and propositions?

When the weather permits it, the Mass more often outside. Also, sometimes it is difficult to find a priest for Confession... Each place has a special grace. The special grace of Medjugorje is a good Confession. It brings peace. [4/29/06]

(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr/Main.aspx?mv=6&qq=Mzox>)

THAT SECRET LIFE of POST-ABORTIVE MOTHERS and HOW CAN WE HELP THEM

In the spring of 2004, approximately 150 women from around the United States were motivated to seek help for post-abortion healing by attending a Rachel's Vineyard retreat. This group bravely volunteered to participate in my research study that examined why they sought psychological help through the retreat.

A post-abortion weekend retreat allows the mother (and/or father) to get away from the daily pressures of work and family and identify all the ways an abortion may have affected her. The retreat takes place in a supportive and non-judgmental environment and it includes a number of exercises which permit the individual to work through the grief and sorrow she may feel as the result of an abortion. The retreat further helps individuals to accept forgiveness. Typically, four to 18 adults may attend the retreat which is offered almost every weekend in different cities throughout the U.S. and several countries around the world.

The women who volunteered for this study ranged from 22 to 73 years of age, with an average age of 41.5. The majority was highly educated (83 percent with some college or advanced degree). Fewer than one third (30 percent) reported over half (54.1 percent) who identified themselves as Catholic at the time of their first abortion. Considering the Church's pro-life doctrine, the latter number is rather stunning.

Post-abortive mothers can be motivated to seek psychological help for different reasons. One third of the ladies attended the retreat based on their emotions. They admitted connecting the consequences of their abortion decision to their negative personal feelings.

Apparently they imagined a positive outcome to the retreats and were willing to take a risk in seeking psychological treatment. This also suggests that pastors, counselors, teachers, spouses, family members and friends who become aware of women with post-abortion emotional distress, may want to encourage and direct these women to seek help through post-abortion retreats. The second highest motivational factor was spiritual

Post-abortive mothers indicated an intrinsic desire to return to God. This corresponds with other findings in the study showing that the women's religious beliefs had changed. Approximately 20 percent of women admitted to having no religious beliefs at the time of their abortion as compared to only three percent at the time of the retreat. It suggests that religious environments can nourish a post-abortive woman's desire to reconcile with God.

Psychological motivations equaled 7.6 percent of women's responses. Some women identified relationship conflict and marital distress as key motivators for seeking help. In fact, the majority of women were married at the time of the retreat (56.2 percent) as compared to being single at the time of their abortions (66.4 percent). As noted earlier, most women reported that they only told a few people about their abortion history; and of those less than one quarter had told their husbands.

In short, results from this study suggest that the majority of women motivated to attend one of the surveyed post-abortion retreats are Catholic in their religious beliefs (68.1%); pro-life leaning (71.3%); highly educated (83.8%); married (56.2%); and intrinsically motivated to seek help for psychological healing from their abortions through the retreats (64.5%).

The information gathered suggests the need for an awareness campaign aimed at married couples within the Catholic Church. This wouldn't be an easy task as couples need to feel connected to the people and the mission of the campaign; which means it's possible, only if post-abortive couples think they'll be able to identify with other couples like themselves.

Furthermore, the findings suggest that special consideration must be given to husbands of post-abortive women who may be unaware they belong to a post abortive couple. Of course, some women may be married unknowingly to post-abortive fathers as well. The campaign, therefore should be presented to couples in non-threatening manner, with support system referrals such a retreats; marriage counsel on priests trained in post-abortion healing, etc., readily available to help strengthen the couples during the healing process.

In light of all these findings, would seem appropriate that post-abortion healing campaign begin with the Catholic Church raising awareness to its married members. Marriage encounter weekends (retreat for married couples), retrouvaille (retreat for troubled marriages), and natural family planning classes would be fitting venues. Pre-cana conferences (weekend retreats before marriage) could also take part in the campaign. These events might incorporate the testimonies (of married couples who are post-abortive, or at least speakers who raise the subject, so that all post-abortive Catholics and Catholic couples are offered the opportunity of healing and true happiness.

Doctor Christina Lynch is a clinical Psychology resident. For more information on her study, write to Doctor Lynch at Chest, House Cottage, 43 B Chester Street, Front Royal, VA 22630 or e-mail her at DrChrisPsyD@earthlink.net. See more about Rachel's Vineyard retreats online at www.RachelsVineyard.org.

(by Christina P. Lynch "Celebrate Life" March-April 2006)

SURVIVING RAPE - GOD'S MERCY KNOWS

High school is supposed to be a time of growth and learning and that turned out to be especially true for me. In fact, I've written this article with the hope of sparing other teenagers the pain of what became my most important lesson. I've also written it so that parents and grandparents can help their children and grandchildren avoid the pain of rape. I know the fear that comes with an unplanned pregnancy, but I more vividly know the pain of losing children-and I would beseech other women please do not suffer both.

I was raised in a good Catholic home. As a Catholic, I was entirely devoted to remaining a virgin until marriage. Nevertheless, like too many teenagers, I got caught up in popular culture.

My senior year in high school seemed like the best year of my life. I was preparing for college and enjoying my friendships, but all that began to unravel when my heart was broken by a longtime boyfriend.

As the school year was coming to a close, there was a party almost every night. I was tired of these parties, but one night I needed a break from study when my friend Ashley called and convinced me to go to a party with her. As usual, the parents were away and

people were everywhere. Once Ashley and I walked in, we split up.

Introduction to danger

My ex-boyfriend Robert was there with his older friend Matt. Still heartbroken, I thought I'd make Robert jealous by drinking beer with Matt, who put his arm around me. However, Matt had other intentions and I became increasingly more uneasy as he pressured me for sex - so as soon as I saw another friend I ran away from him.

Eventually, I went upstairs in search of a restroom. Matt was upstairs and he pushed me into a dark room. I couldn't see anything and the next thing I knew, he had thrown me to some surface like a couch or a bed then he was on top of me. I screamed at him and yelled for help, but the music was so loud that no one heard. I tried to fight him off, but he had just finished basic military training and easily held me down. I screamed again; then he hit me on the head and told me to stop, but I was so dazed from the blow that all I remember is pain and the faint awareness that I was losing consciousness.

Once I awoke all the pain returned. As I sat up, I noticed a rip in my shirt and bruises all over my stomach and chest. I looked at my arms and noticed hand-shaped bruises. It hurt just to sit because my body ached inside and out. I slowly stood up and walked downstairs to look for someone.

It was morning and a few people were passed out on couches and floors. I couldn't find Ashley, but I found my purse, pulled out my almost-dead cell phone and called her. She was at home asleep. I told her that I was still at the party and needed her to come get me right away. I didn't see anyone else awake, but I was terrified that Matt would walk around a corner or wake up from under a blanket. I went to the porch, sat on the swing and jumped at every noise until Ashley arrived.

When Ashley picked me up, she asked why I looked so bad and I swore her to secrecy then told her what happened. Deep in a state of shock, I couldn't really think what to do next. I should've gone to the hospital emergency room, but I was afraid. I also felt ashamed and dirty and that would haunt me for months. Instead asking for help, when we got to Ashley's house I called my mom to say that I had fallen asleep there and wouldn't be home for the rest of the day. Hours later Ashley took me home where I decided not to tell my parents.

The aftermath

Before long I found out I was pregnant. Because I hadn't gone to the hospital or reported Matt to the

police, I didn't know what to do. Of course I loved children and wanted to have a houseful once I got married, but I was not ready for this yet and didn't know how I'd get through it, except to say that abortion was out of the question because I believe that every child is infinitely valuable no matter how he is conceived.

Weeks later an ultrasound test revealed that I was having twins. I tried to sort out all the details regarding how I'd finish senior year and then go to college. I thought about adoption and realized this was probably the best idea, although I knew it would be almost impossible to give up my own babies.

At last I had to tell my parents the news because I couldn't bear for them to hear it from someone else. In order to protect them from heartbreak, I didn't tell them that I had been raped. Consequently, they were terribly disappointed in me and I felt guilty for having brought them shame. In my sorrow for them, I became so upset that I was constantly sick-risking not only my life, but the life of my babies. It also denied my parents the opportunity to help me to the fullest extent.

Shock, mercy and justice

When the babies were five months along, Matt called me. Just the sound of his voice paralyzed me with fear and anger. He had found out I was pregnant and wanted me to have an abortion. I told him abortion was out of the question. He said he understood and wanted to meet and talk about what we would do. Since he was the father, I thought I should be fair so I agreed to meet him in an open public place. We talked for a little while and the conversation ended as he pretended to reach for the babies in my stomach, then drew back and punched me. I fell backwards. He kept hitting and kicking me. Again I screamed and tried to fight, but I was weak and disoriented, unable to defend myself. At some point he left me and our babies there to die.

After Matt left, I was able to call a friend who came and took me to the hospital. A doctor told me I had serious internal injuries that would take many months to heal with treatment. Then the doctor said my babies had no heartbeat and I just gave up. I had lost my twin girls.

Although I cannot remember much about this period, I do know that the constant prayers of my family and close friends got me through that time. In answer to those prayers, Matt was arrested for other crimes and he's in prison for a long, long time.

Now I have recovered physically, but still I suffer emotional pain. I fear I may carry it for the rest of my life. Some nights I wonder what my little girls

would've been like. Sometimes memories return with a rush of pain and sadness. Some moments I feel ashamed and dirty and violated, but during those moments I am able to thank God that I am still alive, healing and getting stronger.

My sorrow isn't so much about what happened to me, but because I lost my children. When I mourn, at least I can thank God for the hope of seeing my beautiful daughters in heaven. And while I still have a lot of anger towards Matt, I have forgiven him and hope that his years in prison will bring him to contrition for all the agony he caused.

Although I'd never have chosen to be violated and I don't want to suffer it again, I have come to realize that God bestows grace and blessings especially during the worst trials.

My heart goes out to every woman, man and child who has ever suffered the pain of sexual assault and I pray that no one will ever have to face it again. Nonetheless, perhaps this was permitted so I could tell you how God, in His infinite mercy, can bring peace to the most troubled souls.

From this I understand how teenage girls feel when they become pregnant. Please give every child a chance. I know the fear that comes with an unplanned pregnancy, but I more vividly know the pain of losing children - and I would beseech other women please do not suffer both. After all, every child is wanted by wonderful adoptive parents and of course, by God.

All names have been changed.

(from "Celebrate Life" March-April 2006)

CARROTS, EGGS and COFFEE

You will never look at a cup of coffee the "same way again."

A young woman went to her mother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her. She did not know how she was going to make it and wanted to give 'up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her mother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil, without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl.

Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl. Turning to her daughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see?"

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied.

Her mother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The mother then asked the daughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard boiled egg. Finally, the mother asked the daughter to sip the coffee. The daughter smiled as she inhaled its rich aroma. The daughter then asked, "What does this mean, mother?"

Her mother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity, boiling water. Each reached differently. The carrot went in strong, hard, and unrelenting. However, after-being subjected to boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, they had changed in the water.

"Which are you? Carrot, an egg or a coffee bean? Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity do I wilt and become soft? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat? Did I have a fluid spirit, but after a death, a break-up, a financial hardship or some other trial, have I become hardened and stiff? Does my shell look the same, but on the inside am I bitter and tough with a stiff spirit and hardened heart?

Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings the pain. When the water gets hot it releases fragrance and flavour. If you are like a bean, when things are at their worst, you get better and change the situation around you. When the hour is the darkest and trials are their greatest, do you elevate yourself to another level? How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean?

(from Medjugorje News - September, 2005)

SPIRITUAL ENERGIZER

[O]ur Lord's death on the Cross is the culmination of that turning of God against Himself in which He gives Himself in order to raise man up and save him. This is love in its most radical form. By contemplating the pierced side of Christ we can understand the starting point of this encyclical letter: "God is Love" (I John 4:8). It is there that this truth can be contemplated.

(Pope Benedict XVI "God is Love" No. 12)

PERFECT LOVE

Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical helps our understanding of sacramental marriage

The foundation for Christian marriage and the family that flows from it are discussed in Pope Benedict XVI's recent encyclical, *God Is Love* (*Deus Caritas Est*). As the title suggests, the pope offers a serious philosophical and theological basis for a proper understanding of charity and love in our lives.

Because we are made up of body and soul, mere physical stimulation and fulfillment is never true love. The yearning of the human spirit for something beyond life as we know it points to the deeper meaning of two persons joined in love and affection. True love must unite the physical and spiritual dimensions of the human person. This truth is critical at a time when there is much confusion regarding sexual attraction, emotional infatuation, casual friendship and the lasting love that becomes an expression of true charity.

In the light of *God Is Love*, we can identify marriage as an objective reality which men and women discover when they are joined in the sacrament of matrimony. The vocation to marriage is written in the very nature of man and woman as they come from the hand of the Creator. This is not a purely human institution, but God's own plan for human happiness and procreation. Husband and wife are God's partners in the work of procreation. In this sense, human sexuality will always remain mysterious because it is a share in God's power of creation. Sex is not casual pleasure but a human activity that has a spiritual purpose. Because it is of God's design, human sexuality is holy and should be sanctifying for husband and wife.

The Church insists on restricting sexual activity to the married state not to make rules that control us, but because of the nature of sexual activity and sexual pleasure. These realities have a purpose beyond themselves because they allow a couple to become partners with God in his plan for human happiness and the continuation of the human race.

Jesus Christ is God's definitive intervention in a world broken by sin and bearing the marks of sickness and death. In his passion, death and resurrection, Christ overcame the consequences of sin and death. Marriage, God's primary plan for human happiness and the continuation of our race, is only fully fruitful and faithful when it is in Christ. The ultimate aim of God's plan of creation and redemption, of the whole Christian religion and our whole lives, is a spiritual marriage with God. Human marriage is an image, a

sign and sacrament of that union so perfectly present in Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

We are faced with two attributes of married love: It is marked by fidelity and it cannot be dissolved by man. Nothing could be more counter cultural today. The high incidence of divorce and Church annulments, and their ready acceptance by many Catholics, indicate the current misunderstanding of this vocation and how it is possible for a couple to live faithfully with the grace that comes through the sacrament of marriage.

As Benedict XVI teaches, the truest test of love is giving. The most authentic meaning of love is found in losing oneself in the needs of the beloved. "Sacrifice is usually difficult and irksome. Only love can make it easy; only perfect love can make it a joy." This phrase from the old Rite of Marriage sums it up.



Dominican Father Gabriel B. O'Donnell is director of the Order's Catholic Information Service and postulator for the cause of sainthood of the Servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney.

(from COLUMBIA, APRIL 2006)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

If you need vocation information and you do not find it in your local parish or diocese offices, please call **(856) 768-9228**. We will do our best to locate the information you need and send it to you.

PRAYERS for HOLY PRIESTS

My Dear Jesus, Thou desirest that we pray the Lord of the harvest that He send zealous laborers into His harvest. Deign to raise up in Thy Church, and especially in this diocese, numerous and holy priests who, taking Thy Divine Heart as their Model, will, in the exercise of their holy priesthood, promote the glory of Thy heavenly Father and the salvation of those souls whom thou hast redeemed with Thy Precious Blood. Give us truly holy priests who, inflamed with the fire of Thy divine love, seek nothing but Thy greater glory and the salvation of souls.

O Mary, Queen of the clergy, pray for us; obtain for us a number of holy priests.

(From Our Lady of The Rosary Library, 4016 Preston Hwy, Louisville, KY 40213, a prayer card)

THANKS for YOUR PRAYERS

Thanks for your prayers for **Kathleen** and our son, **Kurt**, and his girl friend, **Merissa**, as her grandmother, **Nellie McCartney** passed away in **February**. There are a lot of issues in this extended part of our family and we pray for their resolution.

FRIENDS or RELATIVES NOT RECEIVING "**THE PILGRIM**"

We have received several notes from people concerned about why they have stopped getting regular bulk mailings of "**The PILGRIM**."

Please tell all your friends and relatives who wish to receive "**The PILGRIM**" again to review the information in the block "**PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING**" in their past issues.

We do need to hear from someone at each address **in writing at least once a year** in order to keep them on our bulk mailing list. Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery name or address is incorrect.

There is no "subscription" fee. However, we do ask for free will donations monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually to support "**The PILGRIM**" and the other activities and operations of the **PFMC**.

With increasing costs for production and mailing as well as declining numbers and levels of donations we have been forced to watch the bulk mailing list very closely and remove those names and addresses where there has been **no written contact in the last year**.

HOLY MASS TIMES

Don't let **SUMMER VACATION** cause you to miss your **SUNDAY HOLY MASS OBLIGATION!** If you ever think you will miss Sunday or daily Holy Mass because you don't know the times of Holy Mass or the locations of churches in the area that you are currently located, please call **1-410-676-6000** and follow the prompts.

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 and print maps to churches in addition to the times of Holy Mass and other Roman Catholic activities.

PILGRIMS OF FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

The **PFMC** is not a church, store or travel agency but has aspects of all three. The **PFMC** operates as a non-profit, with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, religious association and ministry whose volunteers are lay persons professing a belief in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, as the Only Begotten Son of God the Father, Creator of the Universe.

Most **PFMC** volunteers profess that faith through the apostolic and universal teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Those volunteers who are practicing Roman Catholics profess allegiance to the Magisterium of the Church founded upon the Rock (Kephas / Cephas or Petros depending on original or translation) of Simon bar Jonah and led by his apostolic successor **Pope Benedict XVI**.

The **PFMC** was established in the home of **Keith and Kathleen Werner** based on pilgrimages to **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, and other holy places or shrines worthy of pilgrimage. Books, pamphlets, and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and acquire for themselves based on donations. Our displays and inventory bins are quite extensive.

The **PFMC** is directed and operated by volunteers who monitor the donations made for all activities. These activities include coordination of pilgrimages to holy places and shrines, retreats in local retreat centers or hotels, and days of recollection at the **PFMC** as well as the displays, library, and inventory management described in this article.

Operating for many years on a cash only basis, the **PFMC** now accepts **DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (CIRRUS) and VISA (PLUS)** for all transactions requiring donations to the **PFMC**. This includes for books and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, seminars, "**The PILGRIM**," or any of the various funds. We ask that those who use credit cards assist us with the costs associated with their use, about 3%.

The **PFMC** is NOT a store and does not sell anything. We strongly support the use of Catholic stores wherever they are convenient to our readers. For books, pamphlets, and religious articles, the **PFMC** operates like a church pamphlet or book rack where selections are made and donations offered based on value posted or received. Most of the other

outlets are operating on a for profit basis. Your gifts from the **PFMC** may be a tax break for you.

The **PFMC** has items from inventory on display at **Epiphany House**. The inventory management volunteers, currently **Vince and Livia Nocella**, are always happy to find something for you.

We need volunteers to help us get the entire inventory available for production of order forms. We eventually want to take pictures and load up a shopping cart program so that Internet users can see our Inventory on-line. If you have inventory or computer skills we would love to have your help.

If you wish to order, please determine what you want with as much description as possible. 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. If you have an order form, complete it, make out a check or complete the information for use of a credit card, i.e. card type, number, expiration date, and name on card, sign, and mail everything to the **PFMC** at the address shown on the last page.

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

BULLETIN NOTICES FOR PFMC AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out the following BULLETIN NOTICES and take them to your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator? Ask them to publish any portion of the notices to support **PFMC** events for which you have an interest.

Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages.

Ask your pastor to allow information materials to be put out in church.

Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his representative.

We are trying to network with other ministries in support of bringing people to Jesus either directly, through Mary, or through her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

Thanks in advance for acting on this special request for Bulletin Notice support.

**26 OCTOBER to 3 NOVEMBER 2006
PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE via
LONDON with an extension to
IRELAND 2 to 8 NOVEMBER 2006**

The Double Occupancy Package Price is \$1699 for MEDJUGORJE and LONDON with Single Supplement of \$250 with the extension for IRELAND the Double Occupancy Package Price is \$2999 with Single Supplement of \$550.

Father John O'Leary, Pastor, Our Lady of Angels, Cape May Court House, NJ is Spiritual Director.

Call (856) 768-9228 for a yellow information packet with registration form or print it from: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06PPM10InfoPacket.pdf.

Thanks again for anything you can do to post notices in parish bulletins and with local prayer groups.

CONFERENCE CORNER

We need conference or meeting notices no later than the **25th of the month** before the event. The earlier the better so we can make space for it.

Sunday-Tuesday, 18-20 June 2006: Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol will speak on Inner Healing through Transformation during **40 Hours Devotions** at **Saint Mary's Church, 32 Carrol Avenue, Williamstown, NJ 08094, (856) 629-6142**. There will be laying-on of hands after each talk: **Sunday, 7-8 PM, Monday, 1-2 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM, Tuesday, 1-2 PM and 7:30-8:30 PM**.

Sunday-Saturday, 16-22 July 2006: Father Joseph Bill, V.C., M.A., will conduct a Silent Retreat at **Mary Immaculate Center, Northhampton, PA**. Contact (610) 395-8376 or (214) 495-0571 or visit <http://www.frbillretreat.com>.

Friday-Sunday, 4-6 August 2006: Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Diocese of Scranton, PA Conference, University of Scranton. **Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: REJOICE. (Phil 4:4).** Father Benedict Groeschel, Father Trevor Nathasingh, Deacon Alex Jones, Maria Vadia, Father Richard Loch, and Bob Valiante.

Friday-Sunday, September 15-17, 2006 - Marian/Eucharistic Conference "Mary, Queen of the Angels." Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, 2233 Ventura Street, Fresno CA 93721. Speakers: Father Stan Fortuna, Father Donald

Callaway, Father Andrew Apostoli and Rosalind Moss. For More Information Contact: Ben or Christy Villas (559) 271-1246, Kathleen Lucas (559) 434-4378, Florisse Raypon (559) 432-8218, Alice Gustin (559) 227-2634, Inez Castro (559) 790-7476 or visit <http://medjugorje.org/medconf.htm>.

Friday-Sunday, 6-8 October 2006: Catholic Unity Conference, Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. www.inhissign.com or (610) 527-2906. Father Andrew Apostoli and Father Pablo Straub.

Friday-Sunday, 13-15 October 2006: Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Diocese of Camden, Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ. Monsignor William John Lewis, Father Bill McCarthy, Bob Canton, Linda Schubert, Bob Valiante, M.C. (609) 522-5010.

CATHOLIC RADIO

J. P. Kasperowicz, who has been coordinator of **Youth Track** events at the **PFMC Retreat Conference** and the **IHS Unity Conference**, will be on the air from **6-9 PM** on **Tuesday** on www.CatholicInternetRadio.com.

(from: johnpaul@single-hearted.com 1/23/06)

OUR LADY PICTURES or JESUSMOSAICS CREATIONS

Please support the **PFMC** and **JesusMosaics**. Order from the **PFMC** at (856) 768-9228 or our web site: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

A color information sheet was sent out with the **November 2005** issue of **"The PILGRIM."** Copies of are still available at the **PFMC** as well as from: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/ImmaculateConceptionJM.pdf>.

Please consider ordering this beautiful **JesusMosaics** creation or the underlying **Frank Bear** picture of **Our Lady** for yourself or as present to others.



Frank Bear of **JesusMosaics** has gone through most of his **JesusMosaics** creations and made the base picture available where he could as a picture without the **JesusMosaics** included. We can show you how to see both the picture and the **JesusMosaics** creation. Call (856) 768-9228 and ask for Colleen or Keith.

CALENDARS:

In **June** the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **HOLY TRINITY (11)**, **CORPUS CHRISTI (18)**, **SACRED HEART (23)** and **BIRTH of SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST (24)** and **SAINTS PETER and PAUL (29)**, the Memorials of **Saints Barnabas, Apostle (11)**, **Anthony of Padua (13)**, **Aloysius Gonzaga (21)**, and **Irenaeus (28)**, and the Optional Memorials of **Saints Ephrem of Syria (9)**, **Romuald (19)**, **Paulinus of Nola (22)**, **John Fisher and Thomas More (22)**, **Cyril of Alexandria (27)**, **The First Martyrs of the Church of Rome (30)**, and **The Immaculate Heart of Mary (24)**. The Church calendar recognizes **Fathers Day (18)**.

In **July** the Church celebrates the Feasts of **Saints Thomas, Apostle (3)**, and **James, Apostle (25)**, the Memorials of **Saints Benedict, Abbot (11)**, **Bonaventure (15)**, **Mary Magdalene (22)**, **Joachim and Ann (26)**, **Martha (29)**, and **Ignatius of Loyola (31)** and **Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (14)**, and the Optional Memorials of **Saints Elizabeth of Portugal (4)**, **Anthony Mary Zaccaria (5)**, **Maria Goretti (6)**, **Henry (13)**, **Apollinaris (20)**, **Lawrence of Brindisi (21)**, and **Blessed Junipero Serra (1)** and **Camillus de Lellis (18)**. The Church calendar recognizes **Independence Day (4)**.

In **August**, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the **ASSUMPTION (15)**, the Feasts of the **Transfiguration (6)**, **Saints Lawrence (10)** and **Bartholomew, Apostle (24)**, the Memorials of **Saints Alphonsus Liguori (1)**, **John Mary Vianney (4)**, **Dominic (8)**, **Clare (11)**, **Maximilian Mary Kolbe (14)**, **Pope Pius X (21)**, and **Augustine (28)** and the Optional Memorials of **Saints Eusebius of Vercelli (2)**, **Peter Julian Eymard (2)**, **Cajetan (7)**, **Pope Sixtus II and Companions (7)**, **Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (9)**, **Stephen of Hungary (16)**, **Jane Frances de Chantal (18)**, **John Eudes (19)**, **Rose of Lima (23)**, **Louis of France (25)**, and **Joseph Calasanz (25)**, as well as the **Dedication of Saint Mary Major (5)**, **Queenship of Mary (22)** and the **Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist (29)**.

AROUND THE **PFMC** AREA

Please review the announcements on **pages 1** through **4**, and on **pages 26** and **27** particularly in **Bulletin Notices** and **Conference Corner**.

Thank you for your support in all we try to do for Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, and His Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary. Visit our web pages for more information. Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Pray for us.

Ask your pastor to post bulletin notices and allow information sheets to be put out in church. Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his official and authorized representative.

POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR *June 2006*

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of **June** is: "That Christian families may lovingly welcome every child who comes into existence and surround the sick and the aged with affection."

His mission intention is: "That the Pastors and the Christian faithful may consider inter-religious dialogue and the work of inculturation of the Gospel as a daily service to promote the cause of the evangelization of Peoples."

<http://www.apostlesofprayer.org/Catalog.htm>

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

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

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

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

**PRIORITY DATED
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PLEASE DO NOT 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 recipient 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 generous donations of those who can afford to support us. **PRIESTS!** Please note that great HOMILY ideas have come from articles in "**The PILGRIM!**" Pray to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

