



The PILGRIM

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July - August 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

Dearest Lord, We thank You for the gift of Your Mother, the Mystical Rose of Love for her children. We lift up our hearts to You in gratitude for this day's happiness, and the for the joy of living in Your light of grace.



Keep us from losing ourselves in the joys of the earth or the sorrows of everyday life that have nothing to do with the purer joys of Heaven. Let our worldly heart's desires be converted into Eternal desires to praise and worship You.

Lord give us all the virtues, that we may live in holiness. Cast from us all weaknesses that cause us to further ourselves from you and to enter into sin. You are the God of Mercy from whom all good comes. You teach in wisdom, and bring us into a more perfect love, and a stronger faith. Make us more constant in our Love.

AMEN

PLEASE USE YOUR DONATION ENVELOPES

We have had few of the donation envelopes we insert in every issue of **"The PILGRIM"** returned to help us with the tremendous cost of operating the **PFMC**. This has required us to go bi monthly with **"The PILGRIM"** and we are now in danger of publishing only every 3-4 months. If support does not increase then we will be forced to stop publishing and bulk mailing **"The PILGRIM"** completely.

The enclosed donation envelope is the primary means of donation support solicitation that we make. We need regular donation support for our operations particularly publishing **"The PILGRIM"** and maintenance of the **PFMC** spaces in the building at 61 Cooper Road in Voorhees, NJ. We ask that if you enjoy **"The PILGRIM"** that you slip this

envelope in with your monthly bills, and send us a donation, even if it's only a few dollars. We count on your help.

The summer months are even worse as no one thinks that we still have to pay our bills, and they forget us. So, please, this month and all other months, send us what you can. It is important to get this form of evangelization out to as many as possible.

WE COUNT ON YOUR HELP!!!! THANK YOU

PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE via LONDON 10/26/06-11/3/06

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 **Package Donation** and **Single Supplement** if that is desired.

PLEASE NOTE THAT, DUE TO LACK OF RESPONSE BEFORE THE **90 DAY** CUT-OFF, THE **IRELAND** EXTENSION HAS BEEN CANCELLED. Every effort will be made to find pilgrimages to **Ireland** for those who indicated their desire for this type of pilgrimage.

Father John O'Leary, Pastor, still plans to be the **Spiritual Director** for the **Medjugorje** pilgrimage. **Keith Werner** will be the **PFMC Pilgrimage Coordinator**. Plan to be with us as we meet Our Lady bringing us to her Son, Jesus, in **Medjugorje**. **Father John** has a charismatic joy that will permeate this pilgrimage with prayer, healing, and laughter. We continue to take reservations for the **Medjugorje** portion of this pilgrimage with full payment.

Please get your reservation in as soon as possible if you would like to join us on this pilgrimage. Those who have made a pilgrimage with **PFMC** coordination have found that their pilgrimage was a

The **June** and **July** MESSAGES, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, are presented beginning on page **14** (centerfold page) with **REFLECTIONS**.

"The PILGRIM" for **July - August 2006** is dedicated to **"Our Lady, Mystical Rose."** See page **3** for **Table of Contents** or **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."**

great joy. Our accommodations are within a few blocks of the **Medjugorje** parish church of **Saint James**.

Father O'Leary was very disappointed that only a few, currently **3**, of the more than **30** pilgrims who showed early interest in his parish were able to complete their registration forms by the **90 day** cut-off point. Since we have pilgrims from other parishes interested in the **Medjugorje** only portion, we continue to take reservations for this pilgrimage with **full payment** for the **Medjugorje** only portion.

Our travel arrangers are in need 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 **PPMC**.

CARDINAL SAYS COMMISSION TO REVIEW ALLEGED APPARITIONS AT MEDJUGORJE

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, announced a commission would be formed to review the alleged Marian apparitions at Medjugorje and pastoral provisions for the thousands of pilgrims who visit the town each year.

"The commission members have not been named yet," Cardinal Puljic told Catholic News Service in a July 24 telephone interview. "I am awaiting suggestions from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith" on theologians to appoint.

"But this commission will be under the (Bosnian) bishops' conference" as is the usual practice with alleged apparitions, he said.

The cardinal said he did not expect the commission to be established until sometime in September because of the summer holidays.

He said the primary task of the commission would be to review a 1991 report from the region's bishops that concluded, "It cannot be affirmed that these matters concern supernatural apparitions or revelations."

In addition, he said, the commission would be asked to review pastoral provisions that forbid official

diocesan and parish pilgrimages to Medjugorje, while at the same time allowing priests to accompany groups of Catholics in order to provide the sacraments and spiritual guidance.

When asked if the new commission was the idea of the doctrinal congregation or of the bishops' conference, Cardinal Puljic said, "I would rather not answer that question."

Cardinal Puljic announced the future formation of the commission during the bishops' July 12-14 meeting in Banja Luka.

On June 25, thousands of pilgrims converged on Medjugorje to mark the 25th anniversary of the first alleged apparition to six young people.

The Vatican continues to monitor events at Medjugorje, where the apparitions allegedly continue, but it has not taken a formal position other than to support the bishops' ban on official pilgrimages.

An official of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith confirmed July 25 that the commission would operate under the auspices of the Bosnian bishops' conference, although the congregation would suggest the names of some commission members.

<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0604177.htm> by Cindy Wooden inspired by the great work of Ana Shawl from Medjugorje and her husband Steve at home in Illinois. The following translation was sent along with the original Croatian to CNS by Keith Werner in an effort to get CNS to report on this news.)

TRANSLATION of CROATIAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE on NEW COMMISSION for MEDJUGORJE.

Anyway, here you go with this translation that was taken from the newspaper **Vecernji list** which is one of the largest if not the largest newspaper in **Croatia** and **Hercegovina**.

God Bless you, Ana [Shawl]

Request from the Vatican

The Church has decided to studiously review the events at Medjugorje and a new Commission will decide.

The Catholic Church is starting a new commission

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the **PPMC** 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 **PPMC** 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.

that will look into the Medjugorje events. This sums up what Cardinal Vinko Puljic, president of the Bosnia and Hercegovina Bishops Conference and Archbishop of Sarajevo, said to reporters at the end of the Bishops conference held July 12-14, 2006 in Banja Luka. This announcement surprised many, because Medjugorje was not even one of the topics discussed at the meeting. On top of that, it is well known that the Church will not take a definite position about the Medjugorje phenomenon while it is still going on, and even more well known is the position of the bishop of Mostar, who time and again has claimed that there are no apparitions of the Mother of God in his diocese.

The request from the Vatican for a new commission will reanalyze the position of the bishops taken in the 1991 Zadar declaration, by which "it cannot be determined that anything supernatural is happening there"? It cannot ignore what is happening in Medjugorje and has been insisting for over a half a year that something be done.

The Medjugorje phenomenon has had effects all over the world, there are more and more pilgrims from the entire world coming in throngs to the small village in Hercegovina and are praying to the Mother of God. The commission will be put together by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, even though the normal practice is for this kind of commission to be established by the local bishop. But, because of the negative position of Bishop Ratko Peric, the commission will be international in order for it to be completely objective and neutral. It will probably consist of two teams that will have clear jurisdiction and orders.

Holy Place

The Holy See has decided to take Medjugorje into its own hands and finally decide whether Medjugorje is an official shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary where people come not only privately but with the official recommendation of the Church, or a "normal" place of prayer in which nothing supernatural has occurred.

"I was very happy to hear the news that Cardinal Vinko Puljic announced," said Father Petar Ljubicic, who is the priest that will announce the secrets of Medjugorje when the time comes. "We have been expecting this for a long time. The Cardinal said that the Holy See, that is the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, will name a new commission that will analyze and look into what has already been happening in Medjugorje for 25 years. Since I was a priest in Medjugorje and have followed the events since the beginning, I am very happy that it will now be looked into more seriously."

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

A PRAYER, PLEASE USE YOUR DONATION ENVELOPES, PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE via London 10/26/06-11/3/06	1
CARDINAL SAYS COMMISSION TO REVIEW ALLEGED APPARITIONS AT MEDJUGORJE, TRANSLATION of CROATIAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE on NEW COMMISSION for MEDJUGORJE.....	2
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, KIDNEY DONOR NEEDED, 2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE - DO YOU WANT YOUTH TRACK?, PLEASE MARK YOUR 2006 CALENDARS for PFMC EVENTS.....	4
PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LANDS of ISRAEL and JORDAN and EGYPT - DVD AVAILABILITY, IN MEMORIAM, VATICAN OFFICIAL: KNEELING EXPRESSES MEETING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST	5
IS YOUR HUT ON FIRE?, HANSON FAMILY SINGERS VISIT NEW YORK, HODL-AY-DEE-HOOO! ELMIRA LAD CAN YODEL WITH THE BEST — IN FACT, HE IS THE BEST	6
PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE AND STAY ON THE BULK MAILING	7
THE EUCHARIST - THE MARK OF CHRIST'S CHURCH - PAR EXCELLENCE	8
PRAY to END PORNOGRAPHY	9
HELPING the SPIRITUALLY BLIND, THE REAL PRESENCE 10 WAYS TO INCREASE YOUR DEVOTION TO THE EUCHARIST.....	11
PRAYER for the SPREAD of EUCHARISTIC ADORATION, "THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM AND IN HIM" GOD IS MY FATHER	12
PRAYER to HONOUR the WOUNDS, ENCLOSED ITEMS, PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS.....	13
MESSAGE of 6/25/2006 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti, MESSAGE of 7/25/2006 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti, REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 6/25/2006	14
ANOTHER Reflection on the MESSAGE of 6/25/2006	15
REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 7/25/06	16
ANOTHER Reflection on the MESSAGE of 7/25/2006, MEDJUGORJE: OUR LADY'S MESSAGES 1984-2005 ORGANIZED BY SUBJECT.....	17
PRESS BULLETIN - NOW SELECTED "NEWS ARTICLES" ... 18 VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT,	
MONSIGNOR HUGH J. PHILLIPS - GOD REST HIS SOUL	20
MONSIGNOR HUGH J. PHILLIPS - REST IN PEACE!	21
MOTHER TERESA'S ROSARY	23
THE LIGHT SHE LIT IS STILL BURNING, BORN OF WOMAN	24
22-24 SEPTEMBER 2006, LADIES RETREAT, PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)	26
BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS, CONFERENCE CORNER, POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS for July 2006.....	27
CALENDARS:, AROUND the PFMC AREA, POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS for August 2006	28

Serious study

Father Petar said, "As for the previous commissions that looked into the events I can say that some members were open and serious theologians, who were specialists in spirituality and had studied mystical experiences, but there were also other individuals who were not serious about the events and never actually came to Medjugorje. I ask myself how they could give an opinion of up until now, they can not be certain of anything supernatural? Some on the council rejected even that apparitions were possible at

all. That greatly confused me. The need was felt a long time ago for the Holy See to take the whole matter in its own hands.

(by Ana Shawl in e-mail to Internet International Prayer Group (IIPG) Thursday, July 20, 2006 1:10 PM. For further discussion of this commission, see <http://www.spiritdaily.com/medjcommission.htm>.)

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Dear **PFMC**,

I recently returned from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje to again experience the deep love and peace of Our Blessed Mother! I had visited there with you 16 years ago, before the war, and was amazed at the changes there. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to visit there again. In the past I have received your monthly periodical and would appreciate your sending it to read and meditate on her monthly messages. Thank you so much.

Gratefully in Christ, Carole Hendrick

KIDNEY DONOR NEEDED

Debbie Wallace, a member of **Saint Joseph's Parish, Somers Point, NJ**, and a pilgrim to **Medjugorje** on four occasions needs a kidney transplant. She has **blood type A positive** and is suffering from polycystic kidney disease. Her sisters have both been tested and are unable to donate. She is appealing for others to make themselves available for donor screening. Call her at **(609) 601-1489**, the **University of Pennsylvania** at **(800) 789-PENN [7366]** or visit www.pennhealth.com.

2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE

We have reserved the **Clarion Hotel** for the weekend of **16-18 February 2007** for the **2007 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE**. **Father Bill Halbing** will return for **Holy Mass**, homilies, and talks throughout the weekend. He brings with him **Francine Schmatz**, who is a very gifted speaker. **Refuge** will return with their music. **Neal Lozano**, author of **"UNBOUND: A Practical Guide to Deliverance from Evil Spirits"** (256 pages, Paperback, \$13.99, ISBN: 0-8007-9328-5), will be the featured speaker on **Saturday night**. He will lead a **Healing Service** with interview guided deliverance on **Saturday night**. **Robert Abel**, author of **"The Catholic Warrior"** (139 pages, Paperback, \$8.99, ISBN 978-0-9711536-0-8), **"The HEALING**

POWER of Jesus" (89 pages, Paperback, \$6.99, ISBN 978-0-9711536-6-0), and **"HEALING POWER for the Heart"** (65 pages, Paperback, \$5.99, ISBN 978-0-9711536-9-1), will show how his books can help in **Spiritual Warfare**. **Moirá Noonan** author of **"Ransomed from Darkness: The New Age, Christian Faith and the Battle for Souls"** (176 pages, Paperback, \$15, ISBN 0-9749098-7-4), will help with **New Age** and **Spiritual Warfare** discernment and information. For background see <http://www.ewtn.com/library/NEWAGE/BRAINWA S.TXT> or <http://www.spiritdaily.org/Spiritual-War-Angels/newageandchurch.htm>

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**.

The registration rates for the **2007 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** will remain at **\$50** per person and **\$95** for a married couple. Walk-in registration should be available but advance registration with the **PFMC** is preferred. The **Clarion Hotel Windsor Ballroom** can accommodate up to **800** people. Plan to come next year, **2007**, and respond to the **PFMC** registration form which will go out with the **September** issue of **"The PILGRIM"** and reserve your room at the **Clarion Hotel** so we can have some confidence in meeting our room block for the **2007 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE**.

The **Brothers** and **Sisters** from the **Alliance of the Two Hearts** have notified us that they are **NOT** available this year. Without their support, we cannot host **Father Bing Arrellano**. After much prayer we decided that we are **NOT** having a **YOUTH TRACK** this year. We will be concentrating on adult education with attention to **Spiritual Warfare** through **Intercessory, Healing, and Deliverance Prayer** as well as **obedience to Spiritual Direction**.

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2006 CALENDARS FOR PFMC EVENTS

See **Conference Corner** on **page 27** as well as **S Bulletin** and other **Notices** on **pages 26** and **27**.

August 2006

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**. All readers and members are invited to attend.

September 2006

Friday-Sunday, 22-24 September 2006: The Dominican Retreat House, Elkins Park, PA will hold a Ladies Retreat from *about 5 PM, Friday, through about 2 PM, Sunday*. The Theme is "Courage, It is I" from Mark 6:50. Contact Fran Huntsinger (856) 428-2893 or Fran Calzaretto (856) 663-4290.

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, CFR, Father Pablo Straub, CSSR, Susan Tassone, Father John McFadden, Kathleen McCarthy, Bob Valiante.

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

PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LANDS of ISRAEL and JORDAN and EGYPT – DVD AVAILABILITY

For those pilgrims who do not have digital cameras or computers on which to display digital pictures, we put together sets of digital video discs (DVDs) showing the digital pictures taken during this pilgrimage (2 DVDs – Israel and Jordan) and the extension (1 DVD - Egypt). 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 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**.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Jose , 17 July 2006,

Monsignor Hugh Phillips, 11 July 2004

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.

VATICAN OFFICIAL: KNEELING EXPRESSES MEETING JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Kneeling during the consecration at Mass is the most appropriate way to express the fact that in the Eucharist one meets Jesus, who was bowed down by the weight of human sin, said an article by a Vatican official. "The Lord lowered himself to the point of death on the cross in order to encounter sinful man, freeing him from sin," said the brief article published in "Notitiae," the bulletin of the Congregation for Divine Worship and

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Murphy, Father John McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA,

Father John Hampsch, CMF, Father Brendan Williams, as well as

many of **Mary's** other beloved priests from the Philadelphia and

Newark and New York Archdioceses as well as the Allentown,

Brooklyn, Camden, Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich, Pittsburgh,

Rockville Center, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses.

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

the Sacraments. “If the Eucharist represents the sacramental memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord, it seems appropriate that those for whom the Lord bowed himself down would bow down before this supreme mystery of love,” said the article by Msgr. Stephan Hunseler, a congregation official from Germany. The late-July article said that Christ’s self-emptying “reaches its climax when the lord Jesus Christ takes on himself, as the Lamb of God, all the sins of the world.”

(<http://www.catholicnews.com/data/briefs/cns/20060725.htm>)

IS YOUR HUT ON FIRE?

The only survivor of a shipwreck was washed up on a small, uninhabited island. He prayed feverishly for GOD to rescue him, and every day he scanned the horizon for help, but none seemed forthcoming.

Exhausted, he eventually managed to build a little hut out of driftwood to protect himself from the elements, and to store his few possessions.

One day, after scavenging for food, he arrived home to find his little hut in flames, with smoke rolling up to the sky. The worst had happened, and every thing was lost. He was stunned with disbelief, grief, and anger. “GOD, how could you do this to me? He cried.

Early the next day he was awakened by the sound of a ship that was approaching the island.

It had come to rescue him “How did you know I was her?” asked the weary man of his rescuers. “We saw your smoke signal,” they replied. It’s easy to get discouraged when things are going bad, but we shouldn’t lose heart, because GOD is at work in our lives, even in the midst of pain, and suffering.

Remember that, the next time your little hut seems to be burning to the ground. It just may be a smoke signal that summons the grace of GOD.

You May Want To Consider Passing This On, because You Never Know Who Feels Like Their Hut Is On Fire Today....

“How pleasing to our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is the short quarter of an hour that we steal from our occupations, from something of no use, to come and pray to him, to visit him, to console him.”

Saint John Vianney

(From Medjugorje News-September, 2005)

HANSON FAMILY SINGERS VISIT NEW YORK

Kathleen, Keith, and Father Tino had the distinct pleasure of personal association with the **Hanson Family Singers**, www.hansonfamilysingers.com/, during their brief visit to **New York** in response to an invitation for the **McDonalds Gospel Music Fest 2006** at the **City Theatre** on **6/15/06**. They actually sang in our van during transport from **Newark** to **LaGuardia** to change hotels and then to downtown **New York** as if they were on stage. They just love to sing and later gave an impromptu performance at the hotel swimming pool.

We now carry all of their compact disc (CD) recordings. Those CDs from **Seraphim** produced by their choir director, **David Philips**, www.gentlespiritmusic.com/main/ like “**O God of Loveliness**” and “**God Is Our Friend**” have been in and out of our inventory for some time. We would highly recommend their CDs for gifts to those who love family based Catholic music. Their Christmas album “**Treasures of Christmas**” is great.

The article below captures the essence of this great family even though it seems to focus on young **Daniel** and his yodeling.

This family is a true example of Catholic family life and a real testimony to home schooling.

Please support their work by acquiring some of their CDs for yourself or for gifts. Other titles include: “**A Song in My Heart**” and “**Catholic Traditions.**”

HODL-AY-DEE-HOOO! ELMIRA LAD CAN YODEL with the BEST — IN FACT, HE IS THE BEST

By Serena Markstrom

The Register-Guard, Elmira, Oregon

Published: **Thursday, December 15, 2005**

ELMIRA - On a recent trip to Zion National Park, members of the Hanson family hiked a trail as 11-year-old Daniel’s yodels echoed in a canyon.

“Someone was waiting for us at the end of the trail,” Wayne Hanson, Daniel’s dad, said. “We didn’t know anyone else was listening.”

The two families chatted for a while, and the strangers on the path ended up leaving the Utah park with a Hanson Family Singers CD.

The Hanson family of Elmira was on a road trip for three of the seven Hanson siblings to compete in the

Western Music Association festival in Albuquerque, N.M., and sightseeing along the way.

Everywhere they go, the Hansons make music. Sometimes they get paid to do so, as with their 25 to 40 bookings during the holidays. But the parents said the main drive behind the music is the joy it can bring to them and others.

Daniel has been singing since he was 3, and began yodeling several years later when someone gave the family an audiocassette: "How to Yodel the Cowboy Way" by yodeler Shirley Field. The youngest Hanson kids sat for hours mimicking the yodel patterns and practicing.

"The kids did it on their own," Wayne Hanson said. "It started with a simple song."

Over the years, Daniel and his older sisters, Lisa and Theresa, have taken home prizes for singing and yodeling in local competitions, such as the state and county fairs.

He's earned recognition in two recent national competitions with his version of "Cowboy Yodel" - a song about an unlucky cowboy who gets bucked from a horse and lands on a cactus.

At first Daniel took to yodeling because it was fun. He said it's still fun, but he also appreciates it for being unique - he calls it a lost art. For him, it's also hard work.

To fit the role for his Western yodeling routines, the family's always on the lookout for dressy cowboy wear. They've become regular customers at a formal wear store in Portland, where they get good deals on discontinued tuxedos. They also frequent second-hand shops.

Lately Daniel has emerged as a crowd favorite during the family's performances, Wayne Hanson said.

During the holiday season, the Hanson family performs Christmas music during teas at the Campbell House Inn as well as at Oakway Center, where they stroll and carol.

"He's just a charming young man, and his yodeling is wonderful," said Lydia Lindsay, the Campbell House general manager. "(Audiences) always find it fascinating, I think. They come for the caroling, and they are just a little flabbergasted by the yodeling. He's very poised, and he's got a great voice for what he does. People get quite a kick out of it."

At the 17th annual Western Music Association festival in November, Daniel beat out six other competitors, including sisters Theresa, 14, and Lisa, 16, to become the Youth International Yodeling Champion.

"Daniel, he stepped up to the contest," event emcee Janet McBride said. She earlier coached country star LeAnn Rimes, who is still known to yodel on occasion. "He had a little routine all worked out. Daniel had more variation. He just was cool. He did a wonderful job. He worked hard to present his thing. He just was the best. He was like a little adult."

During the USA World Showcase this October in Las Vegas, he was among 170 - out of 43,000 singers, comedians, models, actors and dancers who applied - to advance to perform at the MGM Grand hotel. Daniel won his division to become a finalist in the overall competition. Those performances will be broadcast Jan. 2 on the PAX network. The TV audience will choose who will take home a cash prize and make future television appearances.

While he sometimes gets nervous, Daniel said his attitude toward performing is relaxed.

"Usually you do your best and it's fun to see how it turns out," said Daniel, a slender boy with dimples that show when he sings.

His parents said they never tire of his "Cowboy Yodel" or of hearing his voice. In fact, Wayne Hanson often urges Daniel to yodel for people. On a recent shopping trip, his dad told a clerk they were heading to New Mexico for a yodeling competition.

On his dad's prompt, Daniel yodeled in the middle of Fred Meyer on West 11th Avenue, and the clerk put him on the loudspeaker.

His mom, Leslie Hanson, said while she enjoys comments from people saying her son has a future in singing, she appreciates that he stays humble, with more typical interests such as playing sports with friends and building with Legos.

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“The thing I like is he turns back into a little boy” after performing, she said.

Other parents have asked the Hansons, who home-school their kids, how their children have time to cultivate so many interests. The Hansons sing in the choir at Saint Mary Catholic Church in Eugene. They also dance, play 10 instruments and act in plays. The main reason they have time, they said, is that the children don’t watch television. But they attribute some of their talent to what they called old-fashioned ideals of focusing on the family and spending time together.

As for seeing Daniel’s television debut?

“We’ll go watch his show someplace else,” Leslie Hanson said.

(<http://www.registerguard.com/news/2005/12/15/a1.danielhanson.1215.p1.php?section=cityregion>)

THE EUCHARIST - THE MARK of CHRIST’S CHURCH - PAR EXCELLENCE

We often speak of the four marks of the Church: One, holy, catholic and apostolic. Yet during our apologetic endeavors, it would be a missed opportunity to not bring the argument to a climax by unveiling the Eucharist as the mark of Christ’s Church *par excellence*.

The Eucharist is the ultimate mark of Christ’s Church, for the Eucharist not only is a visible sign of each mark but has the power to maintain the essence of what each mark represents. Thus the Eucharist is the mark of the Church *par excellence*.

The Church Is One through the Eucharist

In October 2004, John Paul II graced the Year of the Eucharist with the apostolic letter *Mane Nobiscum Domine*. In it, the Holy Father recounts several instances in Scripture where Christ was leading his disciples to an understanding of a Church united in him through the Eucharist. In John 6:55, Jesus says, “My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.” This was shocking to those who heard it, so much so that many left. Jesus asked the twelve if they too would go away. Peter, speaking for the twelve, said, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” In other words, those who understood, while shocked by the reality of the words just spoken, refused to abandon Christ’s teaching because they would be abandoning Christ himself.

Saint Cyril of Alexandria understood the Eucharist’s ability to unite us with Christ. He said, “As two

pieces of wax fused together make one, so he who receives Holy Communion is so united with Christ that Christ is in him and he is in Christ.”

The Eucharist is, therefore, the sign and cause of unity because the Eucharist is Christ. It was instituted by Christ as a means of drawing us to himself. The Eucharist expresses our unity and also brings it about when we receive him worthily. The fact that we share the same body and blood makes us sisters and brothers in Christ. Even at the natural level we realize that sharing the same blood forms a family bond. Those who are too ill to participate in the Eucharistic celebration are often brought the Eucharist both as a sign of unity and to provide them with spiritual food. Blessed Theophane Venard wrote of the Eucharist: “When the body is deprived of food it languishes and dies; and it is the same with the soul, without the Bread that sustains life.”

By receiving this spiritual nourishment we, Christ’s body, are equipped to give of ourselves to each other and to him in a more perfect way. The visible structure of the Church maintains the succession of priests who can offer the sacrifice of the Mass and consecrate bread and wine into Christ’s body and blood. ‘Just as the Church ‘makes the Eucharist’ so the Eucharist builds up the Church” (*Dominicae Cenae* 4).

The Eucharist also unites heaven and earth. Many who have lost a loved one may experience closeness to that person after receiving Communion or while in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. These feelings may be a result of a deep theological awareness that those who died in grace are alive in Christ; thus our nearness to Christ in the Eucharist brings us nearer to them as well.

Another way of seeing this fusion of heaven and earth is to realize that when Christ instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper, its sacrificial dimension was revealed. Throughout history, Christ offers himself for the salvation of all mankind-but why? So we can live with him eternally. As one family we, who share the same divine body and blood, will share in the heavenly banquet together-perfected in love and united in that love.

Augustine said of the Eucharist: “O sacrament of love! O sign of unity! O bond of charity! He who would have life finds here indeed a life to live and a life to live by.”

The Church Is Holy through the Eucharist

The greatest commandments are to love God and neighbor, and the greatest expression of this love is found in the Eucharist. The Eucharist is Christ, and it recalls to us the love he has for us-a love so great that

he was willing to become one of us, suffer incredible physical and spiritual pain, and die a human death. Consuming Christ in the Eucharist has the capacity to make us more like him-and thus more holy. "For the partaking of the body and blood of Christ has no less an effect than to change us into what we receive" (*Eucharisticum Mysterium* 7).

Such thoughts help us to understand Saint Teresa of Avila's words that "Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out, yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now."

The Church Is Catholic through the Eucharist

Christ's presence in the Church makes it catholic, or universal. He is wherever the Church is, and wherever the Church is, there is the Eucharist.

As a universal Church, we have the responsibility of being Christ to others. This means that we not only must say what he said; we must do what he did. Jesus admonished sinners, showed mercy, asked for repentance, and demonstrated compassion and forgiveness. He also fed the hungry, healed the sick, and encouraged the poor. He did not deny anyone because of their race, sex, age, or state in life. Just as we are to be Christ to others, so we must see Christ in others. He can be found in everyone. When we see Christ in others, we find ourselves. In this way, the Church is also universal.

By participating in the Eucharistic celebration, we are reminded that the loving sacrifice that he made for us he also made for everyone. All activities of the Church to spread the kingdom of God are linked with the Eucharist and are directed back to it. Saint Peter Chrysologus said, "The Eucharist is the link that binds the Christian family together. Take away the Eucharist and you have no brotherliness left

The Church Is Apostolic through the Eucharist

The Church is apostolic because her mission in and to the world is a continuation of the work of the first apostles, a mission given to them by Christ. Because this mission will go on until the end of time, the apostles had to make provisions for others to succeed them. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the bishops, who are the successors to the apostles, continue to teach and guide the Church today. All the members of the mystical body of Christ share in this mission and are called to activities that further God's kingdom. This means that they are to spread the gospel of Christ through works of love in their state of life. "But charity, drawn from the Eucharist above all, is always

'as it were, the soul of the whole apostolate'" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 864).

The Church is governed by spiritual fathers representing God. Throughout the Old Testament, genealogies had great importance because they identified individuals as part of a succession of people who shared the same blood and, thus, were part of the same family. Christ continued this linkage by appointing apostles to succeed him, and he gave us the Eucharist so we could all share in the same blood that our brothers and sister in faith also shared.

God's Presence within Us

The Eucharist both symbolizes the oneness of Christ's Church and causes and sustains it. Christ is God, who alone is perfectly holy. Christ is present within the Church for which he dies, making it holy. The Church has been entrusted with the Eucharist, and therefore it has the means to make men holy by partaking in Christ. Christ's Church is universal because he died for each and every one of us wherever we are, whoever we are, and whenever we lived

Saint John de Brebeuf, a Jesuit who was martyred bringing the Catholic faith to the natives of North America, contemplated the mystery of the Eucharist's universality, saying: The only external sign of our holy religion that we have is the Blessed Sacrament of the altar. . . . It seems, moreover, that God supplies what we lack and rewards us with grace for having transported the Holy Sacrament beyond so many seas and having found an abode for it in these poor cabins.

By bringing the Eucharist to the New World, continents were spiritually united. The Eucharist is a

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.

memorial of Christ's sacrifice for all men, and it keeps in our mind the dignity of all men because of Christ's love for them.

The Church's ability to trace its roots to the apostles assures us that the successors to Peter are part of our family tree and that it is the true Church. The power to consecrate bread and wine has been passed on within the family as our spiritual treasure that keeps the Church's four marks present and its identity authentic.

The reason, therefore, that the Eucharist is the ultimate mark of Christ's Church, the mark *par excellence*, is because the Eucharist is Christ, who remains in the Church, sustains it, and, through its members, draws others to himself. Because of the Eucharist, the Church maintains its marks and grows in unity, holiness, catholicity, and apostolic works. The Eucharist was instituted because of the Church, and the Church is sustained and grows because of the Eucharist.

Articulating this truth to non-Catholic Christians would resonate in many hearts and draw them into this great mystery of our faith: Christ's Real Presence among us. John Henry Cardinal Newman said, "A true Christian may almost be defined as one who has a ruling / sense of God's presence within him." How much more within us can he be than through the partaking of the Eucharist?

(By Jan Wake/in is director of radio and TV at Catholic Answers. She lives in Poway, California, with her husband, John. From THIS ROCK Catholic Apologetics and Evangelization, March 2006)

HELPING the SPIRITUALLY BLIND

Anthony Tyler and his wife, Mary, live in a beautiful old house in Kemsing, Kent, near the shrine of Saint Edith, daughter of one of England's Saxon kings. Every year, on Saint Edith's feast day, they organize prayers at Saint Edith's Well in the village, followed by Benediction and a traditional English tea in their garden. Kemsing lies on one of the old pilgrim routes to Canterbury, and this whole corner of England is rich in fascinating history.

For the Tylers, this is home after a lifetime of **traveling**: They met in Australia, at Melbourne University, and spent some years serving with Britain's Diplomatic Service, including a stint at the British Embassy in Senegal. Antony converted to the Catholic faith in 1985 and has written-under the pen

name Antony Matthew-a guide for converts, *Pearl of Great Price*, aimed specifically at the modern convert functioning in the post-Vatican II Church. He worked for some years with the Department of the Treasury, and later the Department of Education and Employment in London, and retired in 1996, being awarded the OBE (Order of the British Empire). In 1991 he and Mary-also by then a convert-founded Fisher Press with the idea of publishing classics of Christendom with authors such as John Henry Newman, G. K. Chesterton, Coventry Patmore, and Francis Thompson. Many of the books are illustrated with Mary's beautiful pen-and ink sketches. All are of unusual charm, the aim of Fisher Press being to produce "paperback books of hardback quality."

If living in a quiet English village and publishing pleasant books sounds like a program for quiet serenity, then a few moments spent chatting to the Tylers swiftly dispels that impression. One is instantly conscious of a tremendous sense of energy-there are projects on the go, another scheme under way, things to be done. Antony succeeded Catholic novelist Piers Paul Read as master of the Catholic Writers' Guild, and under his leadership the guild took on the challenge of rescuing London's Catholic Central Library, which had been due for closure. At the specific request of Basil Cardinal Hume, then archbishop of Westminster, a team was formed to work out a future for this unique collection of books and materials that might otherwise have been lost to history. As we sit in a noisy coffee shop in London's busy Holborn neighborhood, traffic roaring past outside, Antony is full of news about the progress of the project, which has involved a number of people, including fellow converts such as former government minister John Gummer, MP, and Catholic writers and broadcasters such as Lord (David) Alton. Another project on the go is the annual Festival of Catholic Culture at Westminster Cathedral Hall-Antony was one of the founding team that initiated the venture, and Fisher Press always runs a successful bookstall at the event. The annual weekend conference of the writers' guild is also a topic of conversation-this year's was at Downside and followed successful ventures at Winchester, Canterbury, and the Isle of Wight, among other places, and now there are plans to take the group to France.

(By Joanna Bogle from This Rock Catholic Apologetics and Evangelization, March Issue, 2006)

THE REAL PRESENCE

Ah! If we had the eyes of angels with which to see Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is here present on

this altar, and who is looking at us, how we should love Him! We should never more wish to part from Him. We should wish to remain always at His feet; it would be a foretaste of Heaven: all else would become insipid to us.

We are poor blind people; we have a mist before our eyes. Faith alone can dispel this mist. Presently, my children, when I shall hold Our Lord in my hands, when the good God blesses you, ask Him then to open the eyes of your heart; say to Him like the blind man of Jericho, "O Lord, make me to see!" you will certainly obtain what you desire, because He wishes nothing but your happiness. He has His hands full of graces, seeking to whom to distribute them; alas! And no one will have them". Oh, indifference! Oh, ingratitude! My children, we are most unhappy that we do not understand these things! We shall understand them well one day; but it will then be too late!

The Cure of Ars, St John Vianney
(From Medjugorje News-September, 2005)

WAYS to INCREASE YOUR DEVOTION to the EUCHARIST

Always demonstrate the utmost respect and reverence when receiving the Eucharist. Take time after receiving communion for a few moments of private prayer and thanksgiving.

Carry the Eucharist in your heart when you leave the church as an instrument of Christ's love. Share with others the many ways in which the Eucharist touches your life.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is "a priceless treasure" and a "wellspring of grace." It prolongs and increases the fruits of our communion. It provides an opportunity to express our gratitude and love.

Observation of the one-hour fast before receiving communion is a preparation for reception of the sacrament. Before Mass, contemplate with awe and wonder the mystery that will unfold in the Eucharist.

Participate in the Mass by listening carefully to the words during the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, by responding enthusiastically, and by singing with the congregation.

The Pope encourages us "to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the Sacrament of the Eucharist." The practice of "spiritual communion," in which you ask the Lord to enter your heart, is an opportunity for union with God at times when you cannot receive the sacrament. It is not a substitute, however.

How can we demonstrate our genuine love and adoration for "The bread of life and the chalice of everlasting salvation?"

Here are a few ways to show Reverence for the Eucharist:

Demonstrate by our behavior in the church that we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. When entering and upon leaving the church, we face the Tabernacle where Jesus is reposed and genuflect. (Those prohibited by poor health may bow to the Tabernacle as a mark of reverence. We also genuflect when passing in front of the Altar when the Body and Blood of Christ remain on it. Kneeling is an apt sign of reverence for the Blessed Sacrament. Our modest and fitting dress (avoiding shorts and indecent apparel) signifies our belief in and worship for the Holy Eucharist. Dressing as if we think it's a "big deal" to approach the presence of the Messiah in the Tabernacle illustrates adoration for Jesus' Body and Blood. We avoid chewing gum in the church as a testimony to the unparalleled splendor of the Blessed Sacrament, thereby giving witness that we are near *Emmanuel*-*"God-with-us."*

Enjoy the silence to which the Holy Eucharist beckons us. Grandiose or plain - a majestic, ornate basilica or a sparsely appointed prison chapel, any space that houses the Blessed Sacrament is special and unique from other locations. There we act differently than in another place. We maintain a respectful decorum before the Holy Eucharist. Before, during and after Mass, we avoid useless talking in the presence of the Tabernacle so as to worship and focus our attention on the Risen Lord Jesus. Christ is summoning each of us to reflect quietly before His Body and Blood. "Who is He?" "Who does God want me to become?" Unnecessary chattering in the hallowed presence of the Holy Eucharist spoils the golden opportunity to learn much at the Masters Feet. There is a time for opening our mouths: responding to the prayers, singing, greeting our neighbors before and after Mass outside of the church and in the church's vestibule. But when in the *church proper* we love and adore the Eucharist Jesus by opening our hearts and ears and closing our mouths so to listen to His "pearls of wisdom." Silence helps us to bask in the Blessed Sacrament's indescribable glory.

(From Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin Summer 2005)

PRAYER for the SPREAD of EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son, Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins. We need Your peace in our hearts and among nations. We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness. May we obtain this through prayer and our union with the Eucharistic Lord. Please send down the Holy Spirit upon all peoples to give them love, courage, strength and willingness to respond to the invitation to Eucharistic Adoration. We beseech You to spread exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament in parishes around the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

JESUS WILL BLESS YOU, YOUR FAMILY AND
THE WHOLE WORLD FOR THIS HOUR OF
FAITH YOU SPEND WITH HIM IN THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

Blessed are they who do not see and yet believe..."
Faith can move mountains..." "What is needed is
trust..." "Behold I come to make all things new."

(Jn 20:29; Mk 11:23; Mk 5:36; Rev. 21:5)

EACH HOUR I SPEND WITH JESUS WILL
DEEPEN HIS DIVINE PEACE WITHIN MY
HEART

Come to Me all of you who are weary and find life
burdensome and I will refresh you..." "Cast all of
your anxieties upon the Lord, who cares for you."

(Mt 11:28; 1 Pt 5:7)

(from Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin Summer 2005)

"THROUGH HIM, WITH HIM AND IN HIM" GOD IS MY FATHER



Father in Heaven, how sweet it is
to know that You are my Father
and that I am Your

Child! Especially when the skies
of my soul are cloudy and my
cross weighs more heavily, I feel
the need to repeat to You: Father,
I believe in Your love for me!

Yes, I believe that You are a
Father to me at every moment of
my life, and that I am Your child!

I believe that You love me with an infinite love!

I believe that You are watching over me night and
day and that not a hair falls from my head without
Your permission!

I believe that, in Your infinite Wisdom, You know
better than I what is good for me.

I believe that, in your infinite power, You can bring
good even out of evil.

I believe that, in Your infinite goodness, You make
everything to the advantage of those who love You;
even under the hands of those who strike me I kiss
Your hand which heals!

I believe, but increase in me faith, hope and love!

Teach me always to see Your love as my guide in
every event of my life.

Teach me to surrender myself to You like a baby in
its mother's arms.

Father, you know everything, You see everything,
you know me better than I know myself;

You can do everything, and You love me!

My Father, since it is Your wish that we should
always turn to You, I come with confidence to ask
You, together with Jesus and Mary (here request the
favor that you desire).

For this intention, and uniting myself to their Most
Sacred Hearts, I offer You all my prayers, my
sacrifices and mortifications, all my actions, and
greater faithfulness to my duties (1).

Give me the light, the grace and the power of the
Holy Spirit!

Strengthen me in this Spirit, that I may never lose
Him, never sadden Him and never allow Him to
become weaker in me.

My Father, I ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son!
And You, Jesus, open Your Heart and place it in my
own, and together with Mary's, offer it to our divine
Father! Obtain for me the grace that I need!

Divine Father, call all men to Yourself. Let all the
world proclaim

Your fatherly goodness and Your divine mercy.

Be a tender Father to me and protect me wherever I
am, like the apple of Your eye.

Make me always a worthy son/daughter; have mercy
on me!

Divine Father, sweet hope of our souls, may You be
known, honored and loved by all men!

Divine Father, infinite goodness poured out on all
peoples, may You be known, honored and loved by
all men!

Divine Father, beneficent dew of humanity, may You be known, honored and loved by all men!

Mother Eugenia

If this prayer is to be recited as a novena, add: "I promise to be more generous, especially during these nine days, in a given circumstance, to such and such a person ..."
Partial indulgence, + GIRARD, Vicar Apostolic of Cairo, 9 October 1935, + JEAN, Cardinal VERDIER (From Signs and Wonders for Our Times, Spring 2005)

PRAYER to HONOR the WOUNDS

In mid-January, after watching the tsunami on TV, and hearing of some small earthquakes in Wellington, I was traveling alone through the Manawatu Gorge, remembering the massive slips in the previous February's floods, when a dreadful fear overtook me, so I started praying a prayer I had made up in my own words about three months before, and often said before a crucifix, and then started saying the Rosary. A beautiful perfume filled my car, and I knew Jesus and His dear Mother were with me and the fear left me. I was so happy, I felt like crying with joy. I promised Jesus I would write down this prayer and give it around to many people, and then I finished the Rosary. This is my prayer, truly said from my heart:

Dear Jesus,

I honor all the wounds of your crucifixion.

I honor the wounds around your head from the crown of thorns which should have been a crown of the purest gold and finest jewels,

I honor and kiss the wound on your shoulder from carrying the heavy cross for all humanity,

I honor the wounds on your back where you were so cruelly scourged

I honor the wounds on your hands where you were nailed to the cross,

I honor the wound in your side where you were pierced with the sword,

I honor the cuts and bruising of your knees when you fell on the hard jagged stones from the weight of the cross,

I honor and kiss the wounds on your feet where you were nailed to the cross. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on those who turn away from you because they don't truly know what you did for them. Amen.

(From a reader in Palmerston North in Medjugorje News, -September, 2005)

ENCLOSED ITEMS

In this *July - August* 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**. 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 packet with registration form or print it from: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06PPM10InfoPacket.pdf.

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.

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.

MESSAGE of 6/25/2006 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

Dear children! With great joy in my heart I thank you for all the prayers that, in these days, you offered for my intentions. Know, little children, that you will not regret it, neither you nor your children. God will reward you with great graces and you will earn eternal life. I am near you and thank all those who, through these years, have accepted my messages, have poured them into their life and decided for holiness and peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.

MESSAGE of 7/25/2006 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

Dear children! At this time, do not only think of rest for your body but, little children, seek time also for the soul. In silence may the Holy Spirit speak to you and permit Him to convert and change you. I am with you and before God I intercede for each of you. 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 6/25/2006

OUR LADY THANKS US

It has been twenty-five years now since the apparitions of Our Lady began, and with it the closeness to and love of the Virgin Mary. It has been twenty-five years of grace and the open sky at this place. The cry of Saint Elizabeth is spontaneously raised in our hearts: "But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

In her previous messages Our Lady says: "God has permitted me to be with you for so long." "I will be with you as long as the Almighty permits me." "I have come to help you as you cannot on your own." A mother wants to help her children. She does not only call upon us for conversion. She calls upon us so that she herself, the Mother, may bring us closer to Jesus, the source of redemption.

To love the Virgin Mary, to believe in her means to return to the foot of the cross of her Son. It means to reach the source of grace and redemption. It means to experience and live the truth of the words of Jesus: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me! Let him drink who believes in me." As Sacred Scripture says: "Streams of living water will flow from within him!" (John 7: 37-38). Here in Medjugorje streams of living water have flown from Jesus' heart and washed many a penitent heart in the Sacrament of the Holy Confession and Eucharist. For all the graces we are to thank the Lord, and Mary who is coming to us.

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of her apparitions, the Blessed Virgin Mary is coming to us with a great joy

in her heart. She is coming from her glory and the fullness of life to which she wants to lead us as a mother. The Mother is thankful for all the prayers to all the people who have believed in her and accepted her as their Mother and a mediator on the path of life.

"You will never regret it." – Mary speaks to us. She has never deceived anybody nor has anybody who has believed in her or has turned to her full of trust in time of need ever remained disillusioned. She has not come to deceive us nor to deprive us of the joys of life. Only with God can we truly experience the fullness and the joy of life. God has never remained beholden to anybody. He will reward us not only after our death, but today as well, here on Earth.

The Virgin Mary gives thanks to all the people that have accepted her messages. It means to all those who have listened to what she has been telling us. Unfortunately, we sometimes hear a word but fail to pour it into life. It is as if we have a seed but fail to sow it leaving it in our pocket. The same happens with the words of Jesus. We hear them, but we do not pour them into life. It is the reason why in many of her messages Mary tells us the following: "Live my messages; witness them with your life; put them into practice; pour them into life." If this does not happen, then we are similar to the man Jesus is talking about in the Gospel. "Everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the stream rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." (Matthew 7: 26 – 27). The same is with the words of the Virgin Mary addressed to us here. And her messages are a gospel told in simple words from a motherly heart. Let us come closer to Mary with our

faith and love, so that the house of our life is built on the rock.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.6.2006,
(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr>)

ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 6/25/2006

During this time, a few days after the twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of the apparitions to the visionaries of Medjugorje, may we reflect upon the immensity of this profound gift from God the Father to the world. I am sure that those folks who have been in Medjugorje for this twenty-fifth anniversary were showered with many heavenly gifts. May we praise and thank God for these precious gifts; but most importantly let us continue on the road to holiness, using these special graces to give our loving God the honor, love, and glory that He so richly deserves.

“Dear children! With great joy in my heart I thank you for all the prayers that, in these days, you offered for my intentions.” With much motherly love and tenderness, Our Lady begins this message of June 25, 2006 by thanking all of her children who have become her prayer warriors. When we offer prayers to God for Our Lady’s intentions, we can instantly connect in a profound spiritual way with her: who is the daughter of the Father, the mother of the Son and the Spouse of the Holy Spirit. In this process, we can be one with the sanctifying love of the Holy Spirit who leads us to the sacrificial redemptive love of Jesus and the paternal love of the Father.

May we spend a few moments reflecting upon the reality of Our Lady bringing us to Our Triune God. Since Our Lady has accepted God’s love in a very humble and complete way, she can help us to understand the reality of God’s love. God’s love is everywhere except in the fires of hell. It is in our happiness and joy, but also in our sadness, sorrow, and suffering. God’s love touches our hearts in all the routines of daily life especially on those occasions when we love others as God has loved us. By thanking all of her little children for their prayers, Our Lady is challenging her sons and daughters to be grateful to God for all His gracious gifts especially His love. May we believe that the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one, and through the unity of that love, we have been called to embrace the words of these messages of Our Lady: the treasure of God’s creation.

“Know, little children, that you will not regret it, neither you nor your children. God will reward you with great graces and you will earn eternal life.” With these next two sentences of her message of June 25, 2006, Our Lady is challenging us to persevere in prayer. In this way, we can acquire the strength to embrace conversion while attaining the reality of being holy. We must become more aware of preparing our souls for God while helping others to do the same.

In a profound manner, let us reflect upon the reality of being in the Kingdom of Heaven with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and Our Lady. There is nothing in this world that can compare to being with God and Our Lady in heaven. Imagine being able to praise and glorify God with all of the angels and saints. However, this does happen at each celebration of the Eucharist. It has been written by Saint Catherine of Sienna that the angels and saints are present at each Mass during the Eucharistic prayer. We must never forget that through the celebration of the Mass by the priest, we are already glorifying God with the saints and angels. Thus, we must never become complacent. The reality of our salvation and the salvation of others is far too important. May we reject sin and all of its ugliness while encouraging others both family and friends to do likewise.

“I am near you and thank all those who, through these years have accepted my messages, have poured them into their life and decided for holiness and peace.” With her unconditional motherly love, Our Lady again thanks all of her little children who have answered her call. As we reflect upon these beautiful words of Our Lady, may we remember that Our Lady has given us the way to change ourselves and then the world. Let us again consider her words on the Medjugorje prayer card. *“If you knew how much I love you, you’d cry of joy. Dear children, I invite you for your individual conversion. This time is for you! Without you God’s plan cannot be realized. Dear children grow day by day closer to God through prayer. I give you the weapon against your Goliath, here are your little stones: prayer with the heart: the rosary, the Eucharist, the Holy Bible, fasting, monthly confession.”* Our Lady knows we have the ability to accept her requests found in these messages. She has confidence in us. She has encouraged us and now the challenge is there for us to live out her messages in a most complete way.

I hope you are well. Enjoy the summer months and accept these days as a loving gift from God. For those who were in Medjugorje for the twenty-fifth anniversary, I am sure you had a glorious time. Treasure those days as a profound gift from God and

Our Lady. For those who have never been to Medjugorje, I would encourage you to make a pilgrimage there. It will be the best days of your life if you open your heart to Our Lady and her motherly love. For those who have been there before, in the name of the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Our Lady, I invite you back. This is a tough world to live in and we constantly need to be renewed. There is no better place in the world to renew one's faith than Medjugorje. Again, be well and may God's peace always fill your heart. 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, 6/28/2006)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 7/25/06 from Father Jozo

In the human nature God also created a need for rest. During creation, the Lord Himself created a day of rest and named it the Lord's Day. It is the day in which the Church places the Eucharist as a sign of a meeting with the Risen Lord. It is the day in which our body rests and the soul gets filled with grace. It is wisdom to harmonize the rest of the body and the renewal of the spirit. After the first missionary journey, Jesus sent His disciples to rest. The Apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to Him everything they did and taught. He said to them; "You must come away to some lonely place ... and rest for a while." (Mk 6, 30)

In human nature there is a need to find a harmony between the body and the soul. Even pagans said: "a healthy spirit in a healthy body" Care for the body is necessary, it is from God. However, anguished and excessive concern for the body is a deviation and develops into an unhealthy state. Today, the culture of the body and of what is physical is over exaggerated. Physical pleasure has become a goal. The promotion and the cult of the body has become the content of television programs, newspapers, films and other media. Man has lost his security and feels attacked because he has lost the harmony. It looks as if the truth in man has fallen, stumbled and disappeared. Unfortunately priority is given to error which gains ever more space and suppresses the truth.

What is this truth? It is a virtue to protect the soul. It is a virtue to find time to rest our soul, as Our Lady calls us to in this message. It is vacation time which is a time to renew the physical and spiritual strength.

With leaving our home and our Parish we must not leave behind our faith, prayer and spiritual life. We must not become the same as those who identify their rest with a repulsive life, entertainment and the like. Unfortunately, many Christians spend their rest in vain, without Holy Mass and without prayer. Today, the tourist centers, unfortunately, try to bring new content to the summer programs such as new forms of entertainment and uninhibited activities. In this way, during summer, holidays many fall to the very bottom in a moral and Christian sense. Instead of returning home with a rested body and soul, they return with wounded hearts and devastated spirit, marriage and life.

In a Motherly way, Our Lady calls us to every day find time to dedicate to our soul every day. Therefore, I must reflect on how this is possible. Here are several practical suggestions. I need to go to my rest with the following: with the Bible, with my family Rosary, with a book of Christian content, with a decision to regularly go to Holy Mass, with a decision to resist and avoid un-Christian programs I come across, with a decision to begin each day with prayer and to end it with prayer. On vacation it is necessary to strengthen our family unity by taking walks together and speaking with our children and friends.

We must know how to seek silence. It is the Holy Spirit who wondrously speaks in silence. We need to become open to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit who changes and enables us. If we were just to look at a sunset and the wonderful colors created in the sky. Such wonderful experience of what is beautiful frees us from our burdens and frustrations. Rest is wonderful and beneficial when the Holy Spirit gives it to us. Then there is no frustration or overburdening and our soul is rested and free. As the prophet said: "Only in God is your rest my soul."

What is Our Heavenly Mother saying to us and what is she teaching us? She is telling us that rest must build us and help us grow in faith, peace and love. She teaches us not to lose face and our soul on vacation, instead to use it for a benefit and the good of both our soul and body. It is her desire that rest be an occasion for our growth and for our moral, intellectual and spiritual enrichment.

This month we will pray for the following intentions:

For all the youth who have accepted their vacation as an opportunity for sin and pleasure; For Christian families to know how to educate their children and to lead them to the mysteries of faith and the Christian life; and For all the poor who do not have a possibility of going on vacation. That they may not be overcome by hatred and jealousy.

Dear brothers and sisters, I pray for all of you who do not have a possibility of going to rest and for all those of you who do. May the Queen of Peace accompany you all and protect you with her blessing

I pray for you and warmly greet you, Yours sincerely,

Fr. Jozo Zovko, O.F.M.

(e-mail to IIPG Sat 7/29/2006 1:01 PM)

ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 7/25/2006

“Dear children! At this time, do not only think of rest for your body but, little children, seek time also for the soul.” With the coming of the summer months, folks look forward to taking a vacation. During this time routines change. Children are out of school and families will go away for rest and relaxation. In the first sentence of her message of July 25, 2006, Our Lady acknowledges this reality. However, we are being challenged by our dear Blessed Mother to, ***“seek time also for the soul.”***

During the summer it is very easy to neglect our spiritual needs. Are we praying? Are we attending Mass on a regular basis? Are we reading spiritual books such as the Bible, or those trashy novels and magazines that seem to be so popular to many? Are we offering sacrifices to Jesus such as fasting for the spiritual welfare of others? Have we continued to receive the Sacrament of Penance monthly? The reflection upon and contemplation of these questions can help any believer to begin the process of nourishing one's soul.

“In silence, may the Holy Spirit speak to you and permit Him to convert and change you.” With this second sentence of her message of July 25, 2006, Our Lady is showing us the way to ***“seek time also for the soul.”*** We must believe that the Holy Spirit dwells within our souls, speaking to us in the silence of our hearts. Unfortunately, many never slow down enough nor do they take the time to listen to the whisperings of the Holy Spirit within their inner beings. The Holy Spirit, the personification of the love that God the Father and Jesus have for each other is our sanctifier. It is the Holy Spirit along with His well beloved Spouse, the Blessed Virgin Mary, who brings us to Jesus. By praying to the Holy Spirit while asking for His gifts and the virtues that come from those gifts, one can begin to understand and accept the reality of Jesus' Paschal Mystery.

We must accept or fully believe that the basis of our faith is found in the real meaning of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. Christianity is not

about looking for the easy way through life. It is about carrying the cross of Jesus for our own purification and for the salvation of souls. For many believers, this is where the dilemma lies. They cannot or will not make a full commitment to Jesus. Being as human as we are, we want Jesus' glory, but not His cross. We want His resurrection without His passion and death. Since we are affected spiritually by the influence of original sin, this is not possible.

However, it is through the grace of the Holy Spirit that a believer can accept and embrace the sacrifice of Jesus. Through this spiritual process, one can believe that Jesus' passion and death finds its completion and real meaning only in His resurrection. The apostles believed this, they lived it, and they taught it to whomever would listen.

If we will only give the Holy Spirit the chance, He can work miracles in our lives. In your personal prayer and contemplation, seek out the Holy Spirit. He will speak to your heart. Through His grace, we can acquire the courage to be Jesus' devoted servant. Then, we will begin to change and that beautiful process of conversion needed by all of us will become part of who we are.

“I am with you and before God I intercede for each of you.” These beautiful words of Our Lady should inspire us to embrace her motherly love. As we reflect upon Jesus' gift of His mother to us, let us be forever grateful to our dear loving Savior. We have been blessed. The presence of our loving God through His grace leads us through the trials and tribulations of life. Without it, we would be forever lost, but with it, we can change the world. May we let Our Lady lead us on the way.

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** for a copy.

I hope you are well. Continue to enjoy the summer, but please do not forget about God. We need Him. With much exuberance, may we open our hearts to His love through prayer, worship and sacrifice. This is the way of God and Our Lady. It is the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and 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, 7/29/2006)

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 May and June 2006

May 2006:

Holy Communions distributed: 141.500
Priests concelebrating: 3.152

June 2006:

Holy Communions distributed: 200.000
Priests concelebrating: 4.503[7/1/06]



Italian Deaf and Dumb Pilgrims

From July 2 to 5, 2006, a group of 30 deaf and dumb pilgrims from Italy (Rome, Abruzzo,

Marche) came to Medjugorje. Four other pilgrims came with them, as well as Fr. Vincenzo Di Blasio, their chaplain and interpreter, who belongs to the “Little mission for the deaf and dumb”, which was founded in the 19th century by Don Giuseppe Gualandi. Fr. Di Blasio says that persons with this severe handicap are very open to all that has to do with sight - hence also the phenomenon of the apparitions - and this is why he already went with them on pilgrimages to Lourdes and to Fatima. This is his second pilgrimage to Medjugorje, where he is discovering Our Lady from another perspective.

Quoting Helen Keller, who was blind, deaf and dumb, he says, “The impossibility to see separates a person from things, and the impossibility to hear and to speak separates from people, and this is why deafness and dumbness is more severe than blindness.” This is why Fr. Di Blasio always tries to take on pilgrimage, together with the deaf and dumb, some pilgrims without this handicap. He says that, in this way, their experience is double: they meet God and man.

This pilgrimage was organised by “Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi”, the agency for pilgrimages of the Roman Vicariate, which is directly subject to the Pontifical Cardinal Vicar. (See: <http://www.orpnet.org>) [7/4/06]

25th Anniversary of Our Lady's Apparitions in Medjugorje



The 25th Anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Medjugorje was solemnly celebrated in the spirit of gratitude for all the graces received.

Spiritual preparation - Novena

The spiritual preparation for the Anniversary was the Novena, which was prayed on Apparition Hill by the parishioners and the pilgrims from all over the world. From June 15 to 23, great crowds flocked towards Podbrdo at any time of day or night. Every day at 4 pm, they prayed the Rosary together with the

Franciscans, and the visionaries also climbed the hill to pray there with the faithful.

During the Novena, the evening Masses were presided over by both Franciscan provincials from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Fr. Slavko Soldo, provincial of the Herzegovinian province of the Assumption of Mary, and Fr. Mijo Džolan, provincial of Bosnia; three former parish priests in Medjugorje: Fr. Tomislav Pervan, Fr. Ivan Landeka and Fr. Branko Radoš, as well as three Franciscans born in Medjugorje: Fr. Jozo Vasilj, Fr. Mate Dragičević and Fr. Miro Šego.

On Thursday, June 22, the evening Mass was presided over by the Franciscan provincial of Bosnia, Fr. Mijo Džolan from Sarajevo, and musically accompanied by the choir “Libertas” from Dubrovnik.

The Novena ended on Friday, June 23, with the solemn evening Mass at 7 pm, which was presided over by Fr. Branimir Musa in concelebration with Fr. Slavko Soldo, Herzegovinian Franciscan provincial, Fr. Ivan Sesar, parish priest of Medjugorje, and 160 priests. During Mass, the children’s choir “Little Doves of Peace” sang.

Throughout the Novena, at the end of each evening Mass, Ivan Dragičević and Marija Pavlović-Lunetti prayed Our Lady’s Magnificat.

Peace March

The traditional Peace March from the Franciscan monastery in Humac (Ljubuški) to the parish church in Medjugorje took place on June 24, the Solemnity of Saint John the Baptist. This is a penitential prayer for peace that has been taking place since 1992. It started at 6 am with prayer and blessing of about 3.000 pilgrims in front of the Franciscan monastery in Humac. After four hours walk behind the Cross while praying the rosary and singing, all under a powerful sun, the participants arrived in Medjugorje at about 10 am. They gathered in front of the parish church for a short prayer, which ended with Benediction. The Peace March was led by Fr. Ljubo Kurtović and Fr. Bože Milić, and the final blessing was given by the parish priest, Fr. Ivan Sesar.

Vigil

Numerous foreign pilgrims continued to arrive in Medjugorje during the week. Large numbers of local pilgrims joined them in the days that immediately preceded the great celebration. On June 24, more than 25.000 pilgrims attended the evening Mass and the evening programme, which lasted from 6 pm to midnight. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Dr. Fr. Ivan Dugandžić, OFM, professor of the Faculty of Theology in Zagreb, and concelebrated by 252 priests.

After Mass, from 9 to 10 pm, a solemn prayer of thanksgiving took place, in which the visionaries Ivanka Ivanković-Elez, Jakov Čolo, Mirjana Dragičević-Soldo, Marija Pavlović-Lunetti and Ivan Dragičević, participated, along with the two parish choirs: the choir of the Queen of Peace and the children’s choir “Little Doves of Peace”, under the direction of Sister Slavica Kožul.

From 10 pm to midnight there was Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, led by Fr. Ljubo Kurtović. At midnight, after Benediction, the Blessed Sacrament was taken from the outside altar to the altar inside the church, and exposed throughout the night until the first morning Mass.

During the night, thousands of local pilgrims, who traditionally come on foot, continued to arrive from Herzegovina and from Croatia.

Anniversary

On June 24 and 25, dozens of priests tirelessly heard confessions throughout each day, in the confessionals and in the meadow beside the church.

On June 25, 2006, the 25th anniversary of the apparitions, Holy Masses in Croatian were celebrated at 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 am, and at 4 pm. During the morning, Holy Masses were also celebrated in 16 foreign languages. The evening prayer programme was simultaneously translated into English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Hungarian, Korean, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese and Czech. Adoration was also translated into Chinese, Dutch, Romanian, Russian and Slovakian.

The solemn evening thanksgiving Mass was presided over by Prof. Dr. Tomislav Ivančić, member of the Chapter of the Diocese of Zagreb and professor at the Faculty of Theology in Zagreb. Four bishops and three Franciscan provincials concelebrated: Mons. Geevarghese Mar Divannasios Ottathengil, Malankarese Bishop of the Diocese of Battery (Kerala, India), Mons. Roger Louis Kaffer, Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Joliet (Illinois, USA), Mons. Brendan Oliver Comiskey, SS.CC., Bishop Emeritus of Ferns (Ireland), Mons. Jérôme Gapangwa Nteziryayo, Bishop Emeritus of Uvira (Congo), Fr. Slavko Soldo, provincial of the Herzegovinian province of the Assumption of Mary (Mostar, Herzegovina), Dr. Fr. Željko Tolić, provincial of the Franciscan province of the Most Holy Redeemer (Split, Croatia), and Dr. Fr. Josip Sopta, provincial of the Franciscan province of Saint Jerome (Zadar, Croatia). Three hundred and twenty two priests concelebrated with them. After Mass, there was the same solemn prayer of thanksgiving as the preceding evening.

On June 24 and 25, more than 50.000 Holy Communion were distributed. About 70 local priests, as well as numerous foreign priests who came together with the pilgrims, heard confessions.

Visionaries

Ivanka Ivanković-Elez had her annual apparition on the day of the Anniversary. Jakov Čolo continues to have his annual apparition on Christmas Day, Mirjana Soldo annually on March 18 as well as each 2nd of the month, and daily apparitions are still experienced by Ivan Dragičević, Vicka Ivanković and Marija Pavlović-Lunetti, through whom Our Lady is giving her monthly message.

We thank Our Lady for the 25 years of her fidelity, we thank God for countless graces that He is pouring into the whole world through Medjugorje, and we remain united in prayer. [6/26/06]

Regular Annual Apparition to Ivanka



The visionary Ivanka Ivanković-Elez had her regular annual apparition on June 25th 2006. According to the visionaries, Vicka, Marija and Ivan continue to have daily apparitions, and Mirjana, Ivanka and Jakov have an annual apparition.

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

Our Lady gave the following message:

Dear children, thank you for having responded to my call. Pray, pray, pray.

Our Lady was joyful and spoke about the seventh secret. [6/25/06]

The Seventh International Seminar for Married Couples

The seventh International Seminar for Married Couples will be held from the 1st to the 4th November 2006. The theme of the seminar is: **“The family called to forgiveness and holiness”** (“...I invite all of you, little children, that before all else forgive in the family...let your family be a place where holiness

is birthed...” from Our Lady’s message from 25th January 1996 and 24th of July 1986)

Bring with you: a small FM radio with headphones (for simultaneous translation) and a Bible.

Participation per couple: 40 Euro (€). You may make reservations by e-mail: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr, or by fax +387-36-651-999. The number of participants is limited because of the available space in the Hall, so we ask you to send your registration as soon as possible, latest by the end of September. All the participants are invited to individually provide their accommodation in Medjugorje. [More information and the program is available on-line <http://212.39.96.6/brpar%20eng06.htm> or from the **PPMC**.]

(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr/News.aspx>)

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.

MONSIGNOR HUGH J. PHILLIPS – GOD REST HIS SOUL

For many years, our records show 1997 through 2000, we received generous donations and letters of encouragement from a **Monsignor Hugh J. Phillips** with a return address of **National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Mount Saint Mary College, Emmitsburg, MD**.

Kathleen and **Keith** had always intended to visit him and see this wonderful shrine and college responsible for so many of **Our Lady’s Beloved Priests**, including **Father Scott Courtney** from **Omaha, Nebraska**, their hometown, and a priest from the **Diocese of Lincoln**, as well as a great number of **Bishops** as shown from the following article.

An opportunity was presented in **June** of **2006** but we were saddened to hear that **Monsignor Phillips** had passed away on **11 July 2004**.

It was not until this **June 2006** visit that we realized who this **Monsignor Phillips** was. The article below which outlines his life and should foster vocations to the Holy Priesthood.

MONSIGNOR HUGH J PHILLIPS - REST IN PEACE!



man?

Bishop Malooly wrote to the priests of the Baltimore Archdiocese regarding Monsignor Phillips: "He was born on February 23, 1907 at Providence Hospital in Washington, D.C. The youngest of six children of William Thomas Phillips and Margaret Hurney Phillips. He was baptized a month later at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish in Washington. Tragedy struck the Phillips' family almost immediately. His father died very suddenly of a heart attack shortly after Hughie's birth. His mother, after a painful battle with lung disease died of pneumonia when Hughie was about five years old. He spent time with various relatives receiving his First Communion and Confirmation at St Patrick's Church in Washington.

In 1920 Hugh Phillips visited Emmitsburg and Mount St Mary's for the first time. In September of 1921 he would enter into seventh grade on Mt. St Mary's campus and he would spend his entire life affiliated with the Mount. In 1923 he graduated from the grade school and in 1927 from the then Mt St Mary's high school.

Hughie became the 19th president of Mt St Mary's College in 1967 and remained so until 1971. In the years after ordination leading up to the presidency he was involved as a professor at St Joseph's College, the school of nursing at Catholic University of America and of course Mt St Mary's College and Seminary. He was librarian of the College from 1935 until 1967. For his many contributions to the Church he was named a Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor by His Holiness Pope Paul VI in April, 1965.

He was appointed Director of the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes in 1958 and would remain until June 21, 2001, when he was named Chaplain Emeritus. He would spend his energy and enthusiasm doing all that he could to promote that special and holy Place. On December 8, 1965, Cardinal Shehan

proclaimed the Grotto a Public Oratory. Hughie was proud that the Shrine at the Grotto was the oldest dedicated in the country dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary dating back to 1808. During this time he completely refurbished the Shrine, opening it to the public..."

Monsignor was buried Friday, July 16 at a Mass celebrated by his good friend, Archbishop Harry Flynn.

I recently saw a book title, entitled, "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants," about advances made by great men and women. The title is catchy, and, you must admit, we do that—"stand on the shoulders of giants," whether they be athletes, artists or angelic people. Catholics believe some of these "giants" are saints. When I talk to people at the Grotto, people refer to Monsignor as a "saint," or a "holy man." So many have been privileged to know and love him. He will be truly missed. But: let us learn from God, by tracing the graces given to this humble man...

Rags to Riches: Monsignor came, more or less, orphan-like, to Mary's Mountain. In childhood he lost his parents, his family, his home. Then the Mystical Body helped him. He then began his "second home" here at the Mount. (Now, we pray and trust, he is in his third home, Heaven!) Despite all his troubles, challenges, Monsignor became a successful student, then priest and even president of this beautiful College-University! Think about it: Monsignor overcame so many obstacles with great faith and fortitude! He didn't let anything keep him down... So: How can you, despite all your trials and challenges, difficult family issues, overcome all and cling to the King, Jesus Christ, as Monsignor did? How can you seek the favor of the Blessed Virgin? Also: how can you help others, who are orphaned or wandering in any way thru life? Their next encounter-with you, perhaps-can be a changing point, a conversion to Christ because of your compassion and how much God has graced you. "I can do all things thru Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

Babes and the Real Baby: Monsignor met three kinds of babies in his long lifetime: the tender babies brought to him for blessings; Babe Ruth and the Baby Jesus. A graduate of the Mount seminary, Fr Farmer recently described Monsignor's relationship with Babe Ruth. One time "the Babe" came to the Mount and he hit fly balls from the seminary over the gymnasium, impressing all. Monsignor mentioned one time to some seminarians how he was good friends with "the Babe". The seminarians must have thought Monsignor was telling another good story. Then he said, "Wait here." Monsignor went to his room and brought back a large picture of "the Babe"

to the guys; they were astounded and impressed. But, let's think: Monsignor's real "Babe-Friend" was the Baby Jesus. He celebrated daily Mass, talked to Jesus thru his prayer books and the statues he placed tenderly in the Grotto. Of all the persons Monsignor was privileged to meet, it was Jesus Who was important in His life. St Paul said: "I consider everything a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus My Lord" (Phil 3:8). Can you say the same? How can you make Jesus more the center of your life as this "giant," Monsignor did? Daily?

Pupil, Priest, President. Monsignor was all of these, who gained in knowledge of created and heavenly things as a young boy. He eventually took theology classes and learned more about God. He held many posts and duties here at the College. His most important post, though, was at the Altar of Christ. Faithfully, for sixty-nine years, Monsignor celebrated the Mass, even up until his invalid time at Carol Manor in Washington. Jesus Christ, His Divine and Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist and Mass was everything to him. Monsignor celebrated Mass outdoors at the Grotto itself, in the lovely "Glass Chapel" on the Hill; he promoted Eucharistic adoration and prayer before Jesus. Thru the Great High Priest, Jesus re-presenting Himself in Mass, Monsignor Phillips, an earthly priest, became not only saintly, but intimate friends with Jesus, Who says: "Whoever eats my Flesh and drinks My Blood will abide in Me and I in him" (Jn. 6:56). How can you be more faithful and fervent to the Lord in the Eucharist, as Monsignor was? On the shoulders of giants you can! Sixty-nine years!

Host: Monsignor often remembered most people who would make a return visit to the Grotto. He knew their names and often prayed over people, concluding, with a gentle nudge on his blessing-hand to the forehead: "The Lord never says 'No' to His Blessed Mother." At the Grotto, where nearly a quarter million pilgrims visit, Monsignor welcomed the ill and elderly, the happy and sad, the dying and desperate of the world. The Grotto was a haven, a refuge from the world. Recently a couple came to the Grotto, mentioned Monsignor's passing, their sadness, and their love for him. The lady-pilgrim then announced some news: "I just got engaged at the Grotto!" They were holding hands, swinging them, like bubblegum friends. The couple was aged 75 yrs old! She then asked, innocently and truly: "Fr. do you think we have to take the Pre-Cana marriage course?" We all had a half a laugh. Then the guy said: "Just for a good laugh, we'll sign up for Natural Family Planning class!" Their names? Joseph and Mary. I thought of Monsignor-he would have loved it. He met people

like this all the time, giving blessings, and, of course, receiving them. The whole Mystical Body working together in love. Like this giant, Monsignor Phillips, become more attuned to, and enchained in the Mystical Body of Christ. Remember as Jesus says: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt. 25: 35).

Phillip's Folly? When Monsignor began the "development" of the Grotto - from a quiet, little-visited or known place into what we know it today, he was made fun of. When he presented the idea of the Belltower, people called all this "Phillips Folly." Anyway, the Pangborn Belltower went up - 120 feet high, with the beautiful gold-leaf statue of Mary at the top (25 ft. - gently smiling, hands open to all). There is an old picture of Monsignor in black biretta, tenderly looking upon the Mary-face of the statue just before it was hoisted high by a giant crane: Mother and son together. He loved the Virgin Mary and persevered with her help. How can you? Pray the Rosary: "Hail Mary, full of Grace..." (Lk. 1:28).

StoryTeller: Monsignor was, of course, great at this. He told stories of God, the Virgin, the Grotto and Mt St Mary's. One of his most infamous ones was when he almost went over the Grotto parking lot embankment in his car, barely surviving the mysterious accident, which no one knows the full details. But, he concluded and said so often, "Mary saved me". The "scene" is right below Mary's statue-with her looking at souls passing by below...How can you talk about God, holy things and events more? The "giants" of our Church teach us to relate everything to God.

One pilgrim recently said: "He spoke to Mary as like a child. Not childish, but child-like." Though Monsignor received many titles and honors, met many famous people and wielded tremendous influence in his time, he always had a tender devotion to Mary. Carol Spoonhour, his assistant-secretary for 29yrs, said, of Monsignor: "He considered himself Mary's son." How beautiful. How can you allow yourself to be Mary's son or daughter? The Rosary, a beautiful statue of Mary and, most of all, a tender heart for her, will help.

Human relationships: Though he was a "famous person" and a priest. Monsignor related so well to laity-everyone. We may think especially of his secretary-assistant Carol. When making preparations for his burial, I was amazed several times when Carol would say: "Monsignor would want it this way," or: "Monsignor liked this or that." Because of their long work together Carol knew him well-and loved him much. She was dedicated to him and gave her time and talents to him to help him minister at the Grotto. So did so many others, and among special friends at

the end, Michael Allen, who faithfully drove Monsignor up to the Grotto voluminous times, took care of his physical needs and life at Carol Manor in his retirement, and was with him at his death. Also dedicated to him were Bill Rohr, Bob Knapik and Jay Meyer-and so many others. We can learn from this: we priests need the laity and laity need priests. Just as these folks helped Monsignor in a holy, orthodox way, how can you help your priests be orthodox, holy, healthy, happy? You can, so keep trying!

Some other faith-finds:

Monsignor liked the Healing service after Mass on Sunday for the sick. Sometimes 200-300 people came to seek the Lord's healing thru this holy and wholesome man: How can you seek healing and peace thru prayer and the sacraments? ...Monsignor insisted on walking up to the Grotto once every day when he was active here. When he couldn't walk up one time, his friend, got a wheel chair and then brought Monsignor to "his Lady" to visit the Grotto, and Monsignor fulfilled his wish. So: Let's help each other out-to get up the "Mountain of Holiness"!... Though Monsignor, "Hughie," was a "giant" of a man, he was, as we know, actually a human being-who became saintly!

"May the Angels lead you into paradise; may the Martyrs come to greet you, and take you to the Holy City, the New and Eternal Jerusalem."



Monsignor, we love you! Pray for us!

(by Rev. John J. Lombardi, Chaplain,
National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of
Lourdes, Emmitsburg, MD. Phone: 301-
447-5318, FAX: 301-447-5917, Email:
grotto@msmary.ed)

Father John Joseph Lombardi was born in Baltimore in 1960. He attended Towson Saint University and then Seminary at Theological College at the Catholic University of America. He was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Baltimore in 1988 and has served in various parishes and assignments. His parents and three brother and one sister are living in Baltimore and elsewhere.

He loves to offer daily Mass, enjoys sacred prayer and meditation time, doing spiritual reading and studies of the Saints, and likes hiking and biking, swimming and the outdoors. He grew to love the Blessed Mother and her Holy Rosary by praying with people after Mass and after a trip to Calcutta and learning from Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity.

He loves children, chocolates, and cheery families and friends. He is most thankful to be here, to pray for you and to emulate and continue Monsignor Phillips' ministry of priestly presence at this sacred shrine. If he can help you in any way let him or the Grotto Office know.

MOTHER TERESA'S ROSARY

Jim Castle was tired when he boarded his plane in Cincinnati, Ohio, that night in 1981. The 45-year-old management consultant had put in a week-long

series of business meetings and seminars, and now he sank gratefully into his seat ready for the flight home to Kansas City. As more passengers entered the plane hummed with conversation, mixed with the sound of bags being stowed.

Then, suddenly, people fell silent. The quiet moved slowly up the aisle like an invisible wake behind a boat. Jim craned his head to see what was happening, and his mouth dropped open. Walking up the aisle were two nuns clad in simple white habits bordered in blue. He recognized the familiar face of one at once, the wrinkled skin, and the eyes warmly intent. This was a face he'd seen in newscasts and on the cover of TIME. The two nuns halted, and Jim realized that his seat companion was going to be Mother Teresa!

As the last few passengers settled in, Mother Teresa and her companion pulled out rosaries. Each decade of the beads was a different color, Jim noticed. The decades represented various areas of the world, Mother Teresa told him later, and added, "I pray for the poor and dying on each continent" The airplane taxied to the runway, and the two women began to pray, their voices a low murmur. Though Jim considered himself not a very religious Catholic, who went to church mostly out of habit, inexplicably he found himself joining in. By the time they murmured the final prayer, the plane had reached cruising altitude. Mother Teresa turned toward him. For the first time in his life, Jim understood what people meant when they spoke of a person possessing an "aura". As she gazed at him, a sense of peace filled him; he could no more see it than he could see the wind, but he felt it, just as surely as he felt a warm summer breeze. "Young man," she inquired, "do you say the rosary often?"

"No, not really," he admitted. She took his hand, while her eyes probed his. Then she smiled. "Well, you will now." And she dropped her rosary into his palm.

An hour later, Jim entered the Kansas City airport, where he was met by his wife, Ruth. "What in the world?" Ruth asked when she noticed the rosary in his hand. They kissed and Jim described his encounter. Driving home, he said. "I feel as if I met a true sister of God."

Nine months later Jim and Ruth visited Connie, a friend of theirs for several years. Connie confessed that she'd been told she had ovarian cancer. "The doctor says it's a tough case," said Connie, "but I'm going to fight it I won't give up." Jim clasped her hand. Then, after reaching into his pocket, he gently twined Mother Teresa's rosary around her fingers. He told her the story and said, "Keep it with you Connie. It may help".

Although Connie wasn't Catholic, her hand closed willingly around the small plastic beads. "Thank you," she whispered. "I hope I can return it." More than a year passed before Jim saw Connie again. This time, face glowing, she hurried toward him and handed him the rosary "I carried it with me all year," she said. "I've had surgery and have been on chemotherapy, too. Last month, the doctors did a second-look surgery, and the tumor's gone completely!" Her eyes met Jim's. "I knew it was time to give the rosary back."

In the fall of 1987, Ruth's sister, Liz, fell into a deep depression after her divorce. She asked Jim if she could borrow the rosary, and when he sent it, she hung it over her bedpost in a small velvet bag. "At night I held on to it, just physically held on. I was so lonely and afraid," she says, "yet when I gripped that rosary, I felt as if I held a loving hand." Gradually, Liz pulled her life together, and she mailed the rosary back. "Someone else may need it," she said.

Then one night in 1988, a stranger telephoned Ruth. She'd heard about the rosary from a neighbor and asked if she could borrow it to take to the hospital where her mother lay in a coma. The family hoped the rosary might help their mother die peacefully. A few days later, the woman returned the beads. "The nurses told me a coma patient can still hear," she said, "so I explained to my mother that I had Mother Teresa's rosary and that when I gave it to her she could let go; it would be all right then I put the rosary in her hand. Right away, we saw her face relax.

The lines smoothed out until she looked so peaceful, so young." The woman's voice caught. "A few minutes later she was gone." Fervently, she gripped Ruth's hands. "Thank you."

Is there special power in those humble beads? Or is the power of the human spirit simply renewed in each person who borrows the rosary? Jim only knows that requests continue to come often unexpectedly. He always responds though, whenever he lends the rosary. He says, "When you're through needing it, send it back. Someone else may need it"

Jim's own life has changed, too, since his unexpected meeting on the airplane. When he realized Mother Teresa carries everything she owns in a small bag, he made an effort to simplify his own life.

"I try to remember what really counts - not money or titles or possessions, but the way we love others," he says

(from Medjugorje News-September, 2005)

THE LIGHT SHE LIT IS STILL BURNING

Mother Teresa gives us a beautiful example of a man who was brought out of the darkness into the light. One day in Melbourne, she visited a poor man whom nobody knew existed. The room in which he was living was in a terrible state of untidiness and neglect. There was no light in the room. The man hardly ever opened the blinds. He hadn't a friend in the world. She stated to clean and tidy the room. At first he protested saying, "Leave it alone. It's all right as it is." But she went ahead anyway. Under a pile of rubbish she found a beautiful oil lamp but it was covered with dirt. She cleaned and polished it. Then she asked him, "How come you never light the lamp?" "Why should I light it" he replied "No one ever comes to see me. I never see any body." "Will you promise to light it if one of my sisters comes to see you?" "Yes", he replied. "If I hear a human voice I'll light the lamp." Two of Mother Teresa's nuns began to visit him on a regular basis. Things gradually improved for him. Then one day he said to the nuns, "Sisters, I'll be able to manage on my own from now on. But do me a favor. Tell the first sister who came to see me that the light she lit in my life is still burning."

(Floor McCarthy in 'New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies', from Medjugorje News-September, 2005)

BORN OF WOMAN

Love is the particular intuition of women, their particular genius, as the Pope says. "Perhaps we can say that it is her charism, the work of the Spirit who is Love. "The moral and spiritual strength of a woman is joined to her awareness that God *entrusts the human being to her in a special way.*" Woman strives to make Christ present to others both through her own imitation of him, and in her nurturing love for them. This is true in a special way for Mary, who not only ("makes Christ present" in her witness of faith and love, but in whom Christ was really and truly *made present* for the life of world.

While it is true that God sent his Son to the whole world, at the same time, Christ was given first and most interiorly in the unrepeatable relationship of mother and child. "It is not just a matter here of God's words revealed through the prophets; rather with this response [*Mary's fiat*], 'the Word is truly made flesh.' Hence, Mary attains a union with God that exceeds all the expectations of the human spirit." This gift is unique to the one woman who is truly the Mother of Jesus and hence the Mother of God; but it

is also shared, in a way, with feminine humanity as a whole. Since women share with her in either motherhood or virginity, they consequently share the glory with which God has blessed those states through their perfection in the Virgin Mother.

The Son of God could have come to us in many ways, for the power of God is no less infinite than his creativity. He could have formed a body for himself out of the slime of the earth, as he did when creating Adam; he could have simply decreed that a fully mature body come to be *ex nihilo*. He chose, in his wisdom and love, to become man through the path of human birth; he chose to be the Son of Mary, *Filius Mariae*. This was, however, no ordinary conception and birth, but miraculous, taking place in and from a virgin. In the one person of Mary, motherhood and virginity are united, each in its full glory, indicating the convergence of these two exemplary forms of womanly service. Each of these vocations is essentially both a gift of self, and the entrusting of others to the woman's care, through physical or spiritual brotherhood (or both). Mary, as the archetypal woman, shows us the true meaning of woman's vocation "to give birth, to nurture and protect life."

Mary's humble response "Let it be done to me according to thy word" is the mirror image of Christ's obedience in Gethsemane: "Not my will, but Thy Will be done." Mother and Son have a common aspiration: sacrifice and service, taking the last place, remaining small and humble, for love of God and neighbor. "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. . . It shall not be so among you; but whoever would be first among you must be your servant; even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve" (Matt. 20:25-28). Mary had every reason to be proud, as the mother of the long-awaited Messiah, just as Christ could have openly proclaimed his kingship and received the adulation of the crowds. She was content to be a "mere" housewife, and he to be known for a time as "the carpenter's son." But if God dwells in the Christian home, in the midst of the family, in the temple of the body, in the little children who are close to the kingdom of heaven, then to be a housewife is nothing other than to serve the Lord of majesty in his house, on his holy mountain; and well might the divine carpenter rejoice to build and repair such a house.

Mary is the Mother of God, the one who brought Christ into the world, who gave *him* to us. This is the vocation of each Christian, according to the gifts of the Spirit; but for women it takes the form of birth, nurturing and prayer, striving to bring forth "the

hidden man of the heart" (cf. 1 Pet. 3:4). God entrusted the whole human race to the maid of Galilee; he entrusted himself to her in the Incarnation. What a wonderful love must she have had, if the Almighty would make all heaven and earth hang upon the words of her lips, the prayer of her soul! Can we not say that this mystery and miracle is distantly reflected in every new child created by God; in every birth, whether physical or spiritual; in each lesson at a mother's knee, each prayer of intercession? For not only is each soul entrusted to a mother who thus reduplicates Mary's love (and thus expresses God's love for the child), but each soul bears within it an actual or potential likeness of Christ. "Whoever receives one of these little ones in My Name, receives Me." Could not *this* be the intuition behind the universal love of a woman's heart?

At the same time, note that Mary's role of offering Christ to the world is only possible because she first gave herself as an unconditional offering to God. Since she was fully at God's disposal, the Holy Spirit was able to dwell within her superabundantly: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." Presupposed to any lasting fruit is self-sacrifice. "Amen,

I say to you, unless the grain of wheat falling to the ground die, itself remaineth alone. But if it die it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it and he that hateth his life in this world keepeth it unto life everlasting" (John 12:24-25). The fiat of the Virgin, her complete abandonment to the will of God, was the act of humility that crushed the serpent's head, just as the submission of Christ to the will of the Father, "even unto death," was the act of love that freed man from his slavery and raised him up to share in the divine life. By offering herself without reserve, without limit, without hesitation, the Virgin became the "helpmate" necessary for the new Adam, the great High Priest, to offer the one sacrifice for all: his Body and Blood. It is in this supreme sacrifice of love, perpetuated in the Holy Eucharist, that man and God, men and women, achieve true unity and abiding peace.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him *to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross*. And you, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him,

provided that you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast. (Col. 1:17-23).

(Dr. Peter Kwasniewski teaches philosophy and theology at the International Theological Institute in Gaming, Austria, about twenty miles from Vienna. He received his B.A. from Thomas Aquinas College and his Ph.D. in philosophy from The Catholic University of America. He lives in Gaming with his wife Clarissa and their children Julian and Rose. His last article in HPR appeared in October 2003.)

(Edited from The Mother of God and the Dignity of Woman, by Dr. Peter Kwasniewski, Homiletic and Pastoral Review, February 2005, pages 25-27)

22-24 SEPTEMBER 2006, LADIES RETREAT

The **Dominican Retreat House, Elkins Park, PA** will hold a **Ladies Retreat** from *about 5 PM, Friday, 22 September 2006 through about 2 PM, Sunday, 24 September 2006*. The Theme is “**Courage, It is I**” from **Mark 6:50**. Contact **Fran Huntsinger (856) 428-2893** or **Fran Calzaretto (856) 663-4290**. The cost of this **Ladies Retreat** is **\$200** with lodging and 6 meals included. A deposit check of **\$75** made out to **Dominican Retreat House** with name and address should be sent to **Fran Huntsinger, 118 Ridge Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002-3022**. Private accommodations are very limited with some rooms accommodating 4-6 people. Please indicate desires for roommates, if known.

Transportation from **Queen of Heaven Parish Parking Lot, NJ 70 and Connecticut, Cherry Hill, NJ** is being arranged for those who might need it *about 4:30 PM on Friday* to return *about 3 PM on Sunday*. Drivers with vans or other multiple passenger vehicles who would be willing to drive on **Friday** and **Sunday** are requested to make contact.

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

The Double Occupancy Package Price is \$1699 for MEDJUGORJE and LONDON with Single Supplement of \$250. Father John O'Leary, Pastor, Our Lady of Angels, Cape May Court House, NJ is Spiritual Director. Call (856) 768-9228. See: 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.

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. The **PFMC** will be the book and religious article display for this event.

Friday-Sunday, 16-18 February 2007: **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE**, "but deliver us from the evil one." Clarion Hotel, NJ 70 and I-295, Cherry Hill, NJ. Father Bill Halbing, Francine Schmatz, Neal Lozano, Robert Abel, Moira Noonan, Refuge. See article on *page 4*.

Call (856) 768-9228 for an information packet with registration forms. Reserve rooms with **Clarion Hotel** at (856) 428-2300.

POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR *July 2006*

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of *July* is: "That all those in prison, especially young people, may receive the necessary support from society to help them rediscover the meaning of their existence."

His mission intention is: "That in missionary territories different ethnic and religious groups may live in peace and together build a society inspired by human and spiritual values."

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

CALENDARS:

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 Dominic** (8), **Clare** (11), **Maximilian Mary Kolbe** (14), **Pope Pius X** (21), and **Augustine** (28) and the Optional Memorials of **Saints 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).

In **September**, the Church celebrates the Feasts of the **Birth of Mary** (8), the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross** (14) and **Saints Matthew, Apostle** (21) and **Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels** (29), and the Memorials of **Saints Peter Claver** (9), **John Chrysostom** (13), **Pope Cornelius and Cyprian** (16), **Januarius** (19), **Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions** (20), **Pio of Pietrelcina** (23), **Vincent de Paul** (27), and **Jerome** (30) as well as **Our Lady of Sorrows** (15) and the Optional Memorials of the **Most Holy Name of Mary** (12), and **Saints Cosmas and Damian** (26), **Wenceslaus** (28), **Lawrence Ruiz and Companions** (28). Church calendars show **Labor Day** (4).

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. Visit us for the required corporation **Annual Meeting, Sunday, 8/20/06, 3 PM**, with a **Pot Luck Picnic**. 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 *August 2006*

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of **August** is: "That orphans may not lack the care necessary for their human and Christian formation."

His mission intention is: "That the Christian faithful may be aware of their own missionary vocation in every place and circumstance."

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

Page 28

The PILGRIM, Volume 17, Number 7 - 8 - July - August 2006

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

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

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