



The PILGRIM

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November 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

*My Jesus, You are the food on my tongue.
You are the wine, the sweetness of fruit
that opens my heart. You are the light of my soul.
You make the mountain of my life melt like wax
before You.*



*I thank You for coming daily in Eucharist. I thank
You for your eternal presence. My life is Yours, and
You are the control of all that I do and am daily.*

*Give me the strength of surrender, of loving from
my whole being, of reaching out to all in need, to be
Your hands and voice, Your smile, Your strength.*

*My Jesus, I thank You for Your protection of this
frail and humbled body. You walk with me, talk
with me, and are always with me. AMEN*

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This **November** issue of **"The PILGRIM"** is being mailed a bit late because of the pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** via **London**.

We hope all our readers have a very **Happy Thanksgiving** and are able to join with their loved ones in prayer at this wonderful time of the year.

We need to prepare ourselves and our loved ones for the celebration of Christ's birth at **Christmas**. The church has set aside the season of **Advent** to assist us with this preparation.

As part of the **Werner Family Thanksgiving** and **Advent** preparation, **Kathleen** has arranged for timesharing in **Puerto Vallarta, Mexico** from **11/18/06** through **12/2/06** for the whole family plus a priest who is close to the family. For this reason, the **December** issue of **"The PILGRIM"** will probably see similar delays as **November**.

The **October MESSAGE**, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, is presented on page **18** (centerfold page) with **REFLECTIONS**.

If your **December** issue of **"The PILGRIM"** is somehow delayed in the mail, we take this opportunity **NOW** to wish you a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. We know you will do well in both areas if you pay attention to your **Advent** preparations. **God Bless!**

PLEASE PLAN to JOIN US 16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007 and MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW

Reservations are now coming in for our **PFMC 2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC)**. This **RC** fast approaches on the last weekend before **Ash Wednesday 2007**. It will be held at the **CLARION HOTEL, Cherry Hill, NJ** from **Friday, 16 February 2007** through **Sunday, 18 February 2007**.

It is looking like it will be one that you will never forget. The speakers have all been arranged and the topics under the theme **"BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE."** **Matthew 6:13 [NAB]** are ones you would not want to miss. We have finally found the lost. **Father Michael Semana** wants to be with us again and has graciously agreed to serve as our **Master of Ceremonies (MC)**. He will offer his gift of song in support of the **World of Hope Foundation** in between talks. He will also celebrate **Holy Mass** on **Saturday** before lunch.

Bishop Gallante of **Camden Diocese** has approved this **PFMC 2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC)** to be held in the **CLARION HOTEL** and to provide Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Praise and Worship, Confessions, and Speaker Presentations in the hotel setting. All speakers have been cleared by the diocese to teach and minister at this **PFMC 2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC)** in the **CLARION HOTEL**.

"The PILGRIM" for **November 2006** is dedicated to **"Our Lady, Protector of Holy Souls."** See page **3** for **Table of Contents** or **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."**

We have put together a program to teach you about **SPIRITUAL WARFARE, HEALING AND DELIVERANCE MINISTRY**. Bring a friend or an entire prayer group. We encourage all to come for a full self contained weekend in the **CLARION HOTEL**.

Father Halbing and Francine Schmatz, Neil Lozano, Robert Able, and Moira Noonan will do extensive teachings on **Healing the Wounded Person and Ministry to the Wounded**.

Please review the **blue** information packet inserted in this issue of "**The PILGRIM**" and sign up both with the **PFMC** and the **CLARION HOTEL** now, as **PFMC** seats will be limited to **800**, and we anticipate a full house using all the rooms in the hotel.

We are now processing reservation applications for attendance at the **2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC)**. Fill in at least one of the reservation forms in the **blue** information packet enclosed and mail it in to us at **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043**.

Call **(856) 428-2300** or FAX **(856) 354-7662** to make your own room reservations at the **CLARION HOTEL**. This is a "**must do**" as rooms go fast and you wouldn't want to have to stay outside and commute to this wonderful three day experience.

If you would like to distribute some of the **blue** information packets to your prayer group, family, or parish, please contact us at **856 768 9228** from **10 AM to 5 PM Monday – Friday** and we will be glad to provide you with as many as you need. Parishes can be provided with enough flyers for bulletins.

WHY USE YOUR DONATION ENVELOPES? DON'T PASS OVER READING THIS ARTICLE.

Our periodical "**The PILGRIM**" is in danger of being cancelled, because of lack of funds to print and mail it out. We have put in every newsletter sent out, an envelope for you to place with your monthly bills, and to send us what you can. Unfortunately, only a handful of these envelopes get returned, and they hardly pay for the printing.

We need your support in this form of evangelization. There is a tremendous cost to producing "**The PILGRIM**" and to maintaining the **PFMC** Center building at **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ**. We

operate on your donations. All our volunteers are all non paid volunteers. Neither **Keith** nor **Kathleen** have ever taken a salary. We all work here in the love of our Blessed Mother, Queen of Peace.

Many cannot afford nor take the time to read a lot of magazines to help them with their prayer life or spirituality. But we try to provide just "enough" to read for the month to help. Support us this month and every month with a generous donation. Without further support, we will have to cease our work through this method, and will have to close the **61 Cooper Road** building from which we operate.

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.

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.

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2006 / 2007 CALENDARS FOR PFMC EVENTS

See Conference Corner as well as Bulletin and Other Notices on **page 35**.

February 2007

16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007: PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. Theme: "**but deliver us from the evil one.**" (**Matthew 6:13**)[NAB]. Location: **Clarion Hotel, NJ 70 and I-295, Cherry Hill, NJ**. Speakers: **Father Bill Halbing, Francine Schmatz, Neal Lozano, Robert Abel, Moira Noonan, Father John Tino**. Music: **REFUGE**. Donation: **\$50 Meal Plan: \$60**. Call **(856) 768-9228** for extra copies of the information packet printed on **blue** paper. Visit the following, review, and print form: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET2.pdf fill-out, and mail registration form to **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963**.

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the **PFMC** recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the alleged apparitions, locutions and related messages at, and to the recipients from, **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, as well as all other private revelations, rests with the **Holy See**, to whose judgment we willingly submit. We give total allegiance to our **One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church** and its **Magisterium**, particularly **Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI**.

While those presenters who work with the **PFMC** are selected for their personal qualifications and commitment to the Church, their comments and presentations are those of individual **Catholics** and no endorsement by ecclesiastical authority is to be presumed.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Brother Simon Rooney, a friend of the **PFMC**.

Rev. Jim Elliott, OFM Conv, a confessor at the **RC**.

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.

WE ARE PLANNING ANOTHER PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE



If you are interested in going with us, we are planning a spring **2007** pilgrimage to **Medjugorje**. Please call **(856) 768-9228** and give us your name and information so we may keep in contact with you. You

may indicate the days in **April** or **May** that are best for your pilgrimage. We will try to plan this pilgrimage to utilize a maximum number of days, at least 7, and yet still keep the price affordable. The price will include all air fare, housing, breakfasts and suppers, guides, and transfers. After having to cancel the pilgrimage to **Ireland** from **11/2/06 – 11/8/06**, we now have at least 7 pilgrims committed to sign up for this kind of pilgrimage if we can arrange it. Send us your names and best times to make a pilgrimage.



If you have never been to **Medjugorje** and have wanted to go, this will be the time to sign up. We would love to fill a plane. **Keith** was on pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** via **London**

10/26/06 – 11/3/06. We are sure that the pilgrims, shown in pictures above taken in front of the statue of the **Immaculate Conception** in the **Church of Saint Elijah, Tihaljina, BH**, and at **Mother's Village, Medjugorje, BH**, in front of the statue of **Father Slavko Barbaric**, were filled with a new spirit of faith and prayer. **Our Lady** calls you now.

WE THANK the LEGIONARIES of CHRIST

The enclosed pamphlet, on the mysteries of the rosary and the instructions on how to say the rosary, was donated to us by the **Legionaries of Christ**. If you are so inclined, remember them with a **Christmas** donation as a thank you. Send to **P. O. Box 1122, Cheshire, CT 06410-9727**. You may order more of

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

A PRAYER, HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!, PLEASE PLAN to JOIN US 16 TO 18 FEBRUARY 2007 and MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW	1
WHY USE YOUR DONATION ENVELOPES? DON'T PASS OVER READING THIS ARTICLE, PLEASE MARK YOUR 2006 / 2007 CALENDARS FOR PFMC EVENTS	2
IN MEMORIAM, WE ARE PLANNING A SPRING PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE, WE THANK THE LEGIONARIES OF CHRIST	3
PERIOD OF ADVENT, JOURNEY OF TRUE SANCTIFICATION, ALL SOULS STRIVING TO BE SAINTS	4
PRAYER TO MARY MY MOTHER, DEAREST LORD – A PRAYER, LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS, A SYMBOL OF GOOD THAT CONQUERS EVIL	5
HEAVENLY FATHER HEALING PRAYER, JESUS, POPE POINTS TO ROOT OF THE LOSS OF SENSE OF SIN	6
ON HUMILITY, HUMILITY of SAINT JOHN MARY VIANNEY, HEALING-It's Biblical and Christian	7
PRIEST from ALBANY, NY, NOW ARCHBISHOP of MINNEAPOLIS, MN VISITS MEDJUGORJE, GOD HEALS.....	8
A LITTLE TROUBLE, GOD-TALK ABOUT HEALING, PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING	9
MARY and the EUCHARIST, THE BRICK.....	10
CATALYSTS FOR MIRACLES – MORE ON HEALING, THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL.....	12
CHARISMATICS AND VIRGIN MARY, PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING LIST	13
IN TIME OF NEED	14
SAINT THERESA of the LITTLE FLOWER and EUCHARIST, LORD, SETTLE MY SOUL, THE APOSTLE THOMAS.....	15
EUCHARIST – SAINT IGNATIUS, ENCLOSED ITEMS, PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS.....	17
MESSAGE of 10/25/2006 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti, REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 10/25/2006	18
ANOTHER Reflection on the MESSAGE of 10/25/2006	18
PRAY to END PORNOGRAPHY	19
REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 9/25/06 from Medjugorje	20
DAYTON REFLECTION on the 9/25/06 MESSAGE	21
FATHER JOZO REFLECTION on the 9/25/06 MESSAGE	23
PRESS BULLETIN – NOW SELECTED “NEWS ARTICLES” ...	24
STARVING IN A FOOD STORE, NEW COMMISSION FOR MEDJUGORJE?.....	28
MORE ON THE COMMISSION, CONSECRATION to OUR LADY of GUADALUPE.....	29
THE HEALING POWER OF ONE “HAIL MARY”, VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT, FATHER ROBERT THORN, BACK IN MEDJUGORJE!, HOLY MASS TIMES	31
SPOUSES' PRAYER FOR EACH OTHER.....	31
BLESSING of an ENGAGED COUPLE (By a priest.), PRAYER OF A DIVORCED OR SEPARATED PERSON.....	32
MARY HELPS OVERCOME the TEMPTATION to a MEDIOCRE LIFE, PLENARY INDULGENCE for SOLEMNITY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION	33
BLOOPERS FROM CHURCH BULLETINS.....	33
PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)	34
BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS, CONFERENCE CORNER.....	35
CALENDARS:, AROUND the PFMC AREA, POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS for November 2006	36

these pamphlets from them at **25 cents** each. Many priestly vocations are fostered in this beautiful order. Your support and prayers are very much appreciated. We thank them for allowing us to put this beautiful pamphlet into each of copy of **“The PILGRIM”** for **November 2006**.

PERIOD of ADVENT, JOURNEY of TRUE SANCTIFICATION

VATICAN CITY, NOV 26, 2005 (VIS) - This evening in the Vatican Basilica, Benedict XVI presided at the celebration of the first Vespers of the first Sunday of Advent, which mark the opening of the new liturgical year.

In his homily, the Holy Father commented on a passage from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians (5, 23-24).

The Apostle, said the Pope, hopes that “each individual will be sanctified by God and remain ‘sound and blameless’ in ‘spirit and soul and body’ until the final coming of the Lord Jesus.”

The Holy Father pointed out that the hope expressed by the Apostle “contains a fundamental truth, one he seeks to inculcate into the faithful of the community he founded, and that we can sum up like this: God calls us to communion with Him, communion which will be fully realized with the return of Christ, and He Himself undertakes to ensure that we are ready when we reach this final and decisive encounter.”

Pope Benedict went on: “The future is, so to say, contained in the present or, better still, in the presence of God Himself, in His indefectible love which does not leave us alone, does not abandon us even for an instant, just as fathers and mothers never cease to follow their children’s development.

“Faced with Christ who approaches, man feels called in all his being. ... Sanctification is a gift of God, it is His initiative, but human beings are called to correspond with all their being, leaving nothing of themselves excluded.”

“Just as at the center of human history is the first advent of Christ, and at the end His glorious return, so each individual existence is called to measure itself against Him in a mysterious and multifaceted way during the earthly journey, so as to be found ‘in Him’ at the moment of His return.”

“May Mary Most Holy, the faithful Virgin, guide us to make this period of Advent, and the whole of the new liturgical year, a journey of true sanctification, to the praise and glory of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

(HML/VESPERS:ADVENT/...VIS 051128 (370))

ALL SOULS STRIVING TO BE SAINTS

Whenever I’m wearied by travel, I give myself a reality check.

I have the luxury of an air-conditioned car with a CD player or an airplane that provides pillows, pretzels and Steve Martin movies.

Not bad compared with what the Adorers’ founder, Maria DeMattias, endured when she traveled throughout Italy; she journeyed on donkey or foot over mountainous roads in all kinds of weather.

I think of Maria, too, if I’m ever restless in a long meeting or frustrated by its outcome. From the moment Maria founded our order – at age 29 – until her death in 1866, she was a tireless collaborator, adeptly negotiating with civil and church officials. My knowledge of this saint spurs me on to be more patient and to exercise more diplomacy.

As Catholics we are bound by a communion of saints. We tell their stories, pray for their intercession and recall them in random moments along the way. And yet, as American Catholics, our celebration of All Saints Day and All Souls Day tends to get eclipsed by candy corn and witch costumes.

I like how the Latina community commemorates their deceased loved ones on the Day of the Dead (Nov. 1), setting up shrines scattered with their favorite things. A harmonica, a pipe, a fishing lure, a cribbage board. Knitting needles, oven mitts, Rosary beads, Jane Austen novels.

I once saw a bouquet of fly swatters at the funeral of a man who had always been intent on swatting flies. It made a memorable personal touch.

How will we be remembered? And are our actions leading up to the admirable reputation we’re hoping for? This is the challenge the Communion of Saints leaves for us. It doesn’t come easy to us humans striving for sainthood, slowed down by all our rough patches. But it’s important to live today well, because a first impression quickly melts into a legacy.

Me? I hope I’m remembered as a joyful spirit with a joyful (translation: loud) laugh. Yet when I let travel or meetings wear me down, that joy fades.

As to my memorial, I’d display my passport, an Adorers’ heart and a Cornhuskers hat.

What reputation are you aiming for? And what’s getting in your way of earning it?

All Saints Day and All Souls Day offers us an opportunity to lovingly recall those who have passed away and to conduct a little self inventory. Are you

doing Maria DeMattias, Saint Francis and Grandpa Jim proud?

Maria once observed: "We shall be on this earth but a short time. In that short time we have to become saints. This is the will of God. ...Let us beg God that his will may be fulfilled in us." Amen.

(by Sister Diana Rawlings - Oct. 2006)

PRAYER to MARY MY MOTHER

Take my hand, O Blessed Mother
Hold me firmly, lest I fall.
I am nervous when I'm walking,
And on thee I humbly call.

Guide me over every crossing.
Watch me when I'm on the stairs.
Let me know that you're beside me.
Listen to my fervent prayer.
Bring me to my destination
Safely, every single day.
Help me with each undertaking
As the hours pass away.

And when evening falls upon us
And I fear to be alone
Take my hand, O Blessed Mother
Once again, O lead me home.

(Medjugorje Herald, pg. 28, September 2006)

DEAREST LORD – A PRAYER

O Jesus, O most sweet Jesus, hidden under the sacramental species, give me now such love and humility that I may be able lovingly to speak of this invention of boundless love, that all who hear of it may begin to love You in reality.

O good Lord! O great Lord! How humbly You hide Yourself for our sake! But, alas, how much is Your bounty and love abused! Not only do sinners despise You in this Sacrament of love, because they don't see You, but the good also, the just, treat You with indifference and coldness. You had been so long with them, and they with You that for want of a lively faith they have not known You.

Though You have been with us so long, there are but few who know it, but few who are penetrated with a sense of their unspeakable happiness.

I hear You complain of us, O dear Jesus: "Behold this Heart of Mine so full of love for men that It has shed Its last drop of blood for them! I have given them My own Flesh and Blood as food and drink for their

souls. Consider how this Heart receives from most of men, in return for so great a love, nothing but ingratitude and contempt. But what grieves Me most is that I am thus treated even by good and just souls."

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and our dear Mother! O all ye holy angels, who by your adoration in our churches, make up for the little love which your God and our Saviour receives from men, obtain for us the grace to comprehend a little the love of Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament.

(Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque)

LIGHT of CHRISTMAS, A SYMBOL of GOOD THAT CONQUERS EVIL

VATICAN CITY, DEC 21, 2005 (VIS) - "The light of Christmas" was the theme of Benedict XVI's special catechesis in today's pre-Christmas general audience, which was held in Saint Peter's Square in the presence of 15,000 people.

"Today's audience is taking place in a climate of joyful and eager expectation as we await the imminent Christmas festivities," said the Pope, adding that many symbols help us to understand the mystery of Christmas, "among them that of the light, which is one of the richest in spiritual significance."

He went on: "Christmas in our hemisphere coincides with the days in which the sun completes its descendent cycle and the period of daylight gradually

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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.

begins to lengthen. ... This helps us to a better understanding of the subject of light overcoming shadow; a symbol evoking a truth that touches the most intimate part of man: the light of goodness that overcomes evil, ... of life that overcomes death. Christmas - which re-presents us with the announcement of the definitive victory of God's love over sin and death - causes us to think of this interior light, this divine light. ... As we prepare to celebrate with joy the birth of the Savior in our families and our ecclesial communities, a certain form of modern consumer culture tends to remove Christian symbols from the Christmas celebration. Let everyone, then, seek to understand the value of the Christmas traditions, which are part of the heritage of our faith and our culture."

"In particular, when we see streets and squares adorned by dazzling lights, let us remember that these lights call us to another light, one invisible to the eyes but not to the heart. As we admire them, as we light the candles in church or the lights on the nativity scene or the Christmas tree in our homes, let our souls open to the true spiritual light, which was brought to all men and women of good will."

The Pope concluded his catechesis by calling on the faithful to "maintain their interior wonder" as they celebrate the birth of the Savior, and wishing everyone "a happy and holy Christmas."

(AG/LIGHT:CHRISTMAS/...VIS 051221 (370))

HEAVENLY FATHER HEALING PRAYER

Father, I call on You right now in a special way. It is through Your power that I was created. Every breath I take, every morning I wake, and every moment of every hour, I live under Your power.

Father, I ask You now to touch me with that same power. For if You created me from nothing, You can certainly recreate me. Fill me with the healing power of Your Spirit. Cast out anything that should not be in me. Mend what is broken. Root out any unproductive cells. Open any blocked arteries or veins and rebuild any damaged areas. Remove all inflammation and cleanse any infection.

Let the warmth of Your healing love pass through my body to make new any unhealthy areas so that my body will function the way You created it to function.

And Father, restore me to full health in mind and body so that I may serve You the rest of my life.

I ask this through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

(Father Larry J. Hess. For copies: write for Heavenly Father "Holy" Card 200 Friedensburg Road, Reading PA 19606 Phone: 1-610-779-5773)

JESUS

Jesus had no servants, yet they called Him Master.
Had no degree, yet they called Him Teacher.

Had no medicines, yet they called Him Healer.

Had no army, yet kings feared Him.

He won no military battles, yet He conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified Him.

He was buried in a tomb, yet He lives today.

Feel honored to serve such a Leader who loves us.

Unknown

POPE POINTS to ROOT of the LOSS of SENSE of SIN

Urges Canadian Bishops to Promote Sacrament of Penance

For Benedict XVI, recovery of the sense of sin is a pastoral priority, as it also implies recovery of the sense of God.

"This pastoral priority reflects an eager hope that the faithful will experience God's boundless love as a call to deepen their ecclesial unity and overcome the division and fragmentation that so often wound today's families and communities," he added.

The Pope recommended that the bishops promote the sacrament of reconciliation.

"While this sacrament is often considered with indifference, what it effects is precisely the fullness of healing for which we long," he assured. "A newfound appreciation of this sacrament will confirm that time spent in the confessional draws good from evil, restores life from death, and reveals anew the merciful face of the Father."

(ZE06100902 VATICAN CITY, 10/9/06 - Zenit.org)

ON HUMILITY

As I often pray, I grapple with the thoughts of the need for humility in all we do. It must come from an interior disposition. And, for anyone who

does the Lord's work, it is absolutely necessary to have humility of prayer to be able to reach souls.

Without humility one can easily stray in wrong directions and it will eventually lead to the temptation to take charge. It is easy to seize the reigns from God's hand, instead of letting go of all plans, and let God do it His way. It is easy to turn away from accepting God's way, and insist that all be done our own way. Or it is also easy to give way to apathy in response to the daily challenges present to us in our faith life.

I do believe that we can all stray without humility and a personal living relationship with Christ. But it is a relationship that must be unturned and strengthened in daily prayer, Eucharist, and the Sacraments. It is in prayer that serenity is born in dealing with the messy things of our lives, and in the lives of others we associate with. Even in the workplace, humility is necessary, and prayer is its bonding.

Prayer reminds us to let go and let God be the organizer. Our thoughts are reflections of the desires to do "something" good, and do it in the light of grace. Prayer offers the soul the ability to recognize this and in humility to accomplish them, even in these times of darkness.

We live among the weeds that have been sowed in this dark world, and in prayer we acknowledge that God will sift through those weeds and find each of us as a flower he can treasure in His bouquet of life. The tree of life He already planted for us. It is His Cross. And, among the weeds, we can stand out in giving of ourselves in an authentic life symbolized by the Cross through our prayer, and humbled attitudes.

God will grant you the strength to do all His tasks and achieve the Kingdom. We only need allow the Holy Spirit to guide us. We ask God for our healing that we may stand out in Humility that all may see and follow His ways.

(Kathleen Werner, editor)

HUMILITY of SAINT JOHN MARY VIANNEY

When Saint John Mary Vianney arrived at the obscure little village of Ars, someone said to him with bitterness, "Here there is nothing to do."

"Therefore there is everything to do" replied the Saint.

And, he began immediately to act. What did he do? He arose at 2am in the morning and went to pray near

the altar in the dark church. He recited the Divine Office, and prepared himself for Holy Mass.

After the Holy Sacrifice, he made his thanksgiving. Then he would remain at prayer until noon. He would be always kneeling on the floor without any support. He cupped a Rosary in his hand, and his eyes were fixed on the tabernacle.

(from "Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love", by Father Stefano Manelli, O.F.M. Conv., S.T.D.)

HEALING-It's Biblical and Christian

Anyone who's paying any attention while reading the Gospel accounts of Jesus has a hard time missing that Jesus healed people of physical illnesses. Not only did Jesus do it early and often (so often that during His life, His healings were seen as a trademark of His work), but He is reported in Scripture to have given his followers the ability to do the same, and more. As to the church actually following through on that promise, see [Acts 3:1-16](#).

From the point of view of the Bible as a whole, healing happens whenever harm or damage is made whole. This broader view of healing needs to be kept in mind as we think Christianly about politics, society, interchurch relations, [decision-making](#) methods, and questions of racism, sexism, or classism. Yet, the Bible usually means something more specific and earthy than that when it speaks of healing. It tells the story of specific people being healed of their specific physical illnesses. If we over-emphasize the broader vision, we can quickly lose sight of the specific usage. Thus, in this chapter I'll stick to the primary meaning of healing, that of physical restoration of health, and leave inner healing to [another chapter](#).

Jesus did his healings in the context of [Isaiah 53:5](#) (according to [Matt 8:17](#)). That's an atonement passage. It's tempting to simplistically link all healing with the Lord's Supper, and treat healing as a fait accompli, as if it's already there for the asking. But the Eucharist is about Jesus' presence, which is not only an 'already', but a 'not-yet'. The body and blood 'already' were shed to save us, and believers in Christ are 'already' a part of the Kingdom of God, but we await his 'not-yet' return ([1 Corinthians 11:26](#)). That's why there isn't perfect healing in this life, any more than there is perfect living. **The Christian faith does not deny brokenness. It denies that brokenness has the last word.** Healing is a foretaste of a Kingdom that has not yet come in its fullness.

"God heals the sicknesses and the griefs by making the sicknesses and the griefs his suffering and his

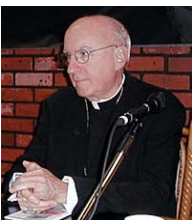
grief. In the image of the crucified God the sick and dying can see themselves, because in them the crucified God recognizes himself.” Jurgen Moltmann, *The Spirit of Life*, p.191. Emphasis is in the original.

The early church understood this, and not just in the era of the Apostles. Throughout the first two centuries, wherever Christian witness went, physical healing went too. It would perhaps be helpful to mention a saint or two who healed, but the fact is, healings may well be the most common miracle ascribed to those the Roman Catholic Church honors as saints, famed and forgotten saints alike. While it became much less common after the time of Constantine, it did not vanish like most other miraculous acts and signs. Instead, nearly every era has some Christians who touched and healed people, right through to our own times. It goes hand-in-hand with a deep spirituality and an even deeper love of God and other people -- when the Spirit is there, healing happens !

Healing is a sign of the day when all illness and unease is healed. It is actually one of the actions of that kingdom asserting itself, the beginning of the healing process for all of creation. (Only a beginning. It is no substitute for the completed Kingdom. The healed will eventually die, just as the raised Lazarus died again. So getting part of that wholeness through healing reminds us of what it is to have the whole thing someday.) In healing prayer and healing work, we can all be a part of God’s holistic healing work. Christians don’t worship health. We don’t call on God to remove all suffering from life. What we do is ask God to fulfill the divine purposes, and trust God to give us health where it helps and suffering where that is needed.

(<http://www.spirithome.com/healings.html>)

PRIEST from ALBANY, NY, NOW ARCHBISHOP of MINNEAPOLIS, MN VISITS MEDJUGORJE



‘Praise be Jesus and Mother Mary!’ Archbishop Harry Joseph Flynn visited with pilgrims from his diocese where numerous ‘prayer groups’ have been established, they have reintroduced Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

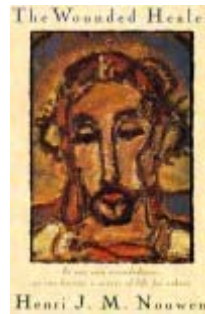
The Bishop stated he traveled to Medjugorje to pray and spend many hours hearing confessions. He and a

visiting Archbishop from Catania, Italy celebrated the A.M. masses for the Italians and English Speaking Pilgrims from England, Ireland, Canada and the Philippines. He met with the Franciscans serving the Parish of Saint James and spoke with them of the pastoral aspects of their work with the pilgrims these past 25 years.

Both Bishops planned their pilgrimage to Medjugorje for the feast of Our Queen of the Holy Rosary.

May we all ‘breathe life into this troubled world’, and be filled with the complete fullness of Jesus and His Mother Mary.

(l. murnighan [pepelapew3@yahoo.com])



GOD HEALS

“We are all healers who can reach out and offer health, and we are all patients in constant need of help.” Henri Nouwen, *the Wounded Healer*, p. 27

All healing is, in some way, divine healing. We can speak of ‘natural’ processes for healing, but who created nature? Who set its rules, gave it its direction? God, of course. So when body tissue repairs itself and the immune system works, it is doing what God intended it to do. We can also speak of ‘medical’ healing. But medicine is rooted in the understanding of how nature works. It gives a boost to the systems for healing that we already have within us, clearing away roadblocks to restoring health, and does some things that nature does not have the ability to do on its own. Medicine itself has no ultimate healing power. All medicine can do at its very best is to delay death’s inevitable arrival. Even medicine’s ability to delay death is a great gift from God. The Holy Spirit is, according to the Nicene Creed, the Giver of life. The Spirit is also the sustainer of life, the breath which we keep taking in as long as we are alive . Just as the Spirit can heal our souls, the Spirit can work within us to heal our bodies.

The kind of healing that the Bible talks about also takes place today in our day and time. It is real. It’s in the toolbox that the Spirit has given Christ’s followers. As we do with many of those tools, we try to be in control, to manipulate using healing (like Simon Magus may have done), or to fake it in order to become famous. The real gift may be hard to find because so many are claiming to do it.

In today's world, many people turn to healing ministries and faith healers for many of the same reasons they use for turning to alternative medicine, unusual therapies, and New Age healing:

spiritual hunger;

meaning in life;

direction for life.

It's best to address these needs without letting them overwhelm the healing task at hand. A congregational healing ministry is not a shrink's couch or a medical practice or a weekend with a guru. It has a different task. It must not try to imitate them.

Faith healing is not there to replace medicine or the body's healing processes. But Western civilization has gotten even many Christians to look to medical science as their only source of healing. When the Bible speaks of healing, it is speaking of God's stepping in to bring about healing by divine power rather than mere medicine. The natural processes obey God's command rather than operate as they normally do. Miracles show who's really in charge. Thus, the Christian's prayer is not just that the ill be comforted, but that they may be healed. When healing occurs, we are not to ask what we did right, but to ask what God is up to.

(<http://www.spirithome.com/healings.html>)

A LITTLE TROUBLE

Two little boys, ages 8 and 10, are excessively mischievous. They are always getting into trouble and their parents know all about it. If any mischief occurs in their town, the two boys are probably involved

The boys' mother heard that a preacher in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The preacher agreed, but he asked to see them individually. So the mother sent the 8 year old first, in the morning, with the older boy to see the preacher in the afternoon

The preacher, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Do you know where God is, son?"

The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there wide-eyed with his mouth hanging open.

So the preacher repeated the question in an even sternertone, "Where is God?!"

Again, the boy made no attempt to answer. The preacher raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and bellowed, "Where is God?!"

The boy screamed & bolted from the room, ran directly home & dove into his closet, slamming the door behind him

When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?" The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time.

"GOD is missing, and they think we did it!"

(Francine Schmatz [snowflake007@juno.com])

GOD-TALK ABOUT HEALING

Healing is a divine mystery. God does not provide the same things to everyone, nor the same thing all the time to any one person. The gifts are measured according to the Kingdom's standards, not our standards, and are given entirely for God's purposes. It's not a 'health and wealth' thing where one presses a prayer button marked 'gimme' and out pops a new Mercedes or a miracle healing. The idea of automatic blessing is presumption, not faith. Yet, charismatic Christians take issue with the church in general for not seriously believing that God will lead, heal, or empower. They believe that God can and DOES step into our lives. They trust that God will do right by them when they are ill ([Matthew 6:19-33](#)).

However, there's a serious problem among some churches. It's especially severe among fundamentalists and fringe Pentecostals, but the problem can be found in members of just about any

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church. The problem starts with a simple idea : that unconfessed sin can cause illness. The Bible teaches that. Life experience teaches that. I myself have gone through serious physical distress because of what an unconfessed sin did to me from inside, twisting me into such knots that I developed itchings and sores and headaches and bodily weakness.

The problem is that many Christian churches teach this backward: if you're ill and it doesn't go away with prayer, then it *must* be caused by unconfessed sin or the absence of faith. Baloney! It usually isn't caused by unconfessed sin. Illness is made possible by the sinfulness which comes with being a part of this created world -- the sort of sin which Christians mean when saying that all human beings are 'fallen'. This 'fallenness' (sometimes called 'original sin') has put us all out of kilter and made us un-whole. That's why we all break down and eventually die. Our state of sin is what makes it possible for us to become ill. But all the confession in the world has never once gotten rid of that state of sin within earthly life. It's with us till the Kingdom comes. Specific sins are usually not what gives a specific person their specific illness at a particular time. That's usually a matter of germs or conditions or bad genes or accident, the result of this world's 'fallen' disorder.

Yet I can tell you of dozens of people I have met (and hundreds I have heard about) who were scolded, berated, shunned, shamed, and labeled as a grave sinner just because they happened to be ill and it didn't go away when they were prayed over. I've seen this happen with my own eyes more times than I care to recount. Most Pentecostals I know of are aware of this, and say that they don't believe that the failure to be healed is always from unrepented sin. Yet, even for those people, old habits die hard. Often, the first thing that even those believers will do when someone isn't healed is to start interrogating the unhealed person about the parts of their life that personal sins are most expected to be found -- usually involving sex. **Tens of thousands of people every year are driven away from the church by this belief. They flee because instead of being loving people who gave grace to someone in need, the church was an angry, superstitious, bitter, legalistic, elite clique which showed no real love at all, and indeed showed exactly the opposite of love. Such is not the way of Christ. Christ made contact with the ill, Christ treated them as persons, Christ healed them, Christ showed them love. If your church doesn't do that, either change churches, or if possible, cause the church to change. It is a matter of the Gospel.**

<http://www.spirithome.com/healings.html>)



MARY and the EUCHARIST

"We know, too, that united to the Divinity in the Eucharist there is Jesus' Body and Blood taken from the body and blood of the Blessed Virgin. Therefore at

every Holy Communion we receive, it would be quite correct, and a very beautiful thing, to take notice of our Holy Mother's sweet and mysterious presence, inseparably united with Jesus in the Host.

Jesus is always the Son she adores. He is Flesh of Her flesh and Blood of Her blood. If Adam could call Eve when she had been taken from his rib, bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh, (Gen 2:23), cannot the holy Virgin Mary even more rightly call Jesus "Flesh of my flesh and Blood of my blood?"

Taken from the intact Virgin as says Saint Thomas Aquinas, the flesh of Jesus is the maternal flesh of Mary, the blood of Jesus is the maternal blood of Mary. Therefore it will never be possible to separate Jesus from Mary.:

(from *Jesus, Our Eucharistic Love*, by Father Stefano Manelli, O.F.M. Conv., S.T.D.)

THE BRICK

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and backed the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid shouting,

"What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck

are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?" The young boy was apologetic.

"Please, mister...please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do," He pleaded.

"I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth poi

"It's my brother," he said.

"He rolled off the curb and fell out of wheelchair and I can't lift him up.

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me." Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door.

He kept the dent that reminded him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not

Thought for the Day:

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

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

He sends you flowers every spring.

He sends you a sunrise every morning

Face it, friend - He is crazy about you!

Send this to every "beautiful person" you wish to bless.

God didn't promise days without pain, laughter without sorrow, sun without rain, but He did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears, and light for the way.

Read this line very slowly and let it sink in

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

(Terzmaster2@aol.com)

CATALYSTS FOR MIRACLES – MORE ON HEALING

People report that they go through [strange things](#) when they are miraculously healed:

- shaking or shivering hands;
- heat where a healer and heal-ee make contact;
- a gift of being led as to what to pray for;

-- the feeling of being 'bathed in prayer', a sense of peace and assurance that there are people really actively praying for the person's wellness, and that God is giving a positive response to their prayers.

-- a 'parting of the fog', a sudden clarity of mind or return of awareness during illnesses or treatments that produce dizziness, extreme weakness, headache, or disorientation.

There's a lot of dispute as to whether the gift of healing is given to a 'healer' (so said Oral Roberts) or to the 'healed' (so said David DuPlessis). There's reason to suspect that the Spirit is giving matching gifts to both. There are some people who just seem to be able to bring healing with them wherever they go. They act as great [catalysts](#) for healing. Yet in order to do the healing, the Spirit must also be operating inside of the ill person to make the change happen, with or without someone else healing them. The dominant gift, I would think, would be the one to the 'healed' person, as they are the beneficiaries; however, that's by no means clear. Whatever the case, one of the joyful rewards of being in a healing ministry is when you see the Lord bring healing in a way you didn't expect, especially when God gave you a part in what was done.

Someone can talk a lot about healing, share methods of healing, use [anointing oils](#) and liturgies at the scene, discover that they may have a healing touch, teach about intercessory prayer, and learn how to conduct healing services. That's all good, all important, and all part of a valid healing ministry.

But, unless many actual healings come from that work, that person has less of an actual healing ministry than any of the tens of thousands who take part in [prayer chains](#) and hospital visitations for their congregations. Or for that matter, no more of a ministry than the countless Christians who are doctors, EMTs, nurses, psychologists and counselors. These unsung heroes of the Christian faith look illness, insanity, human frailty and even death right in the eyes every day. Yet, how rare is it that we write books or feature TV shows about them, or stage big church events to whip up a frenzy over them, even after what they did on 9/11? How many Christian congregations fail to even acknowledge such ministries? These people are taking part in what is best seen as a 'Body' gift of healing -- the kind of gift not focused in a single person or moment, but given to Christ's followers as a group as well as to those within it who take on these tasks.

(<http://www.spirithome.com/healings.html>)

THE CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is present in 238 countries and has touched the lives of over one hundred million Catholics. In some countries the number of participants seems to have diminished in recent years, while in other places the number continue to rise at an amazing rate.

There are 150,000 Prayer groups in the world with 44 million persons involved.. Only in New York City, there are about 500 Catholic Charismatic Hispanic prayer groups. (From [ICCRS](#).)

The *Catholic Charismatic Renewal* began at a retreat for **college students at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania in February 1967**. The students had spent much of the weekend in prayer, asking God to allow them to experience the grace of both baptism and confirmation. The students, that weekend, had a powerful and transforming experience of God, which came to be known as '*baptism in the Spirit*'. The account of the weekend and the experience of the Spirit quickly spread across the college campus, then to other campuses throughout the country.

The charismatic experience soon moved beyond colleges and began to have an impact on regular parishes and other Catholic institutions. Loose organizations and networks were formed. Catholic charismatic conferences began to be held, drawing over 30,000 at Notre Dame campus in South Bend Indiana in the mid 1970's.

The Catholic Charismatic Renewal is not a single, unified worldwide movement. It does not have a single founder or group of founders as many other movements do. It has no membership lists. It is a highly diverse collection of individuals, groups and activities - covenant communities, prayer groups, small faith sharing groups, renewed parishes, conferences, retreats, and even involvement in various apostolates and ministries -, often quite independent of one another, in different stages and modes of development and with different emphases, that nevertheless share the same fundamental experience and espouse the same general goals.

The common thread for the Movement is the '**baptism of the Holy Spirit**'. For many people, this new, powerful, and life-transforming outpouring of the Holy Spirit takes place in the context of a specifically designed **seminar called 'Life in the Spirit'**, although many have been 'baptised in the Spirit' outside of the seminar. [Charismatic Renewal](#).

The Renewal caught the attention of the Church, and the leaders of the movement met Pope Paul VI (1975) as well as Pope John Paul II several times. In addition, several of the bishops' conferences, of various countries, have written pastoral letters of encouragement and support for the movement.

The hierarchy should love the Charismatics, and take good care of them... The Charismatic Renewal as a movement within the Catholic Church has been acknowledged by two Popes, **Paul VI and John Paul II**. Speaking to the International Conference on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal on May 19, 1975, Pope Paul VI encouraged the attendees in their renewal efforts and especially to remain anchored in the Church.

Pope John Paul II, for his part, has been more explicit. Speaking to a group of international leaders of the Renewal on December 11, 1979, he said, *I am convinced that this movement is a very important component of the entire renewal of the Church*. Noting that since age 11 he had said a daily prayer to the Holy Spirit he added, *This was my own spiritual initiation, so I can understand all these Charisms. They are all part of the richness of the Lord. I am convinced that this movement is a sign of his action*.

Pope Benedict XVI, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect for the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, has added his voice to the Pope John Paul II in acknowledging the good occurring in the Charismatic Renewal and providing some cautions. In a forward to a book by Cardinal Suenens, at that time the Pope's delegate to the Charismatic Renewal, the Prefect comments on the Post-Conciliar period stating, *At the heart of a world imbued with a rationalistic skepticism, a new experience of the Holy Spirit suddenly burst forth. And, since then, that experience has assumed a breadth of a worldwide Renewal movement. What the New Testament tells us about the Charisms - which were seen as visible signs of the coming of the Spirit - is not just ancient history, over and done with, for it is once again becoming extremely topical*.

The actual Pope urges those who read the book to pay special attention to the author's double plea,... *to those responsible for the ecclesiastical ministry - from parish priests to bishops - not to let the Renewal pass them by but to welcome it fully; and on the other (hand) ... to the members of the Renewal to cherish and maintain their link with the whole Church and with the Charisms of their pastors*. [*Renewal and the Powers of Darkness*, Leo Cardinal Suenens (Ann Arbor: Servant Books, 1983)]

"Obedience" is love, the evidence to be a good charismatic, like Virgin Mary.



CHARISMATICS and VIRGIN MARY

The Mother of God... your Mother... the Virgin. The Spouse of the Spirit... the Queen. The Woman in Gen.3:15

The “essence” of the Charismatic Renewal is the “First Pentecost” of the NT on Matt.1 and Luk.1: The Holy Spirit descended upon Mary and Jesus came into her.

With Jesus in her, she did what every good Charismatic should do:

- 1- “To Serve” her neighbor: She went with haste to help her old, pregnant cousin Elisabeth (Luk.1:39).
- 2- “She praised the Lord”: “My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior” (Luk.1:46).

Virgin Mary is the “First Charismatic” of the New Testament!

The reason of it all?: She says it herself in the continuation of the Magnificat: For he has regarded **the “humility of his handmaid”**, and for it, God made wonders on me... and for it, all generations shall praise me (Luk.1:48-49).

“Humility”, my brother, “humility”. He who is not humble like Mary, can nor rejoice in the greatness of the Lord. Only the clean of heart, like Saint Joseph, can see God. Why do we call her “Virgin”? Because she is the only one called “virgin” in the Bible, and four times: Is.7:14, Matt.1:23, Luk.1:27 (twice). **Do you have an impossible problem in your life?: Try Mary!**... you will see wonders in your life!... I have seen them in mine. You are not a Christian?: It doesn’t matter, try her!... pray three Hail Marys for your incurable sickness, or the one of your relative, or for the rebellion of your son or husband, or for that job you need... you don’t have to change religion, not to believe in anything new... and it costs you nothing... just try the “First Charismatic”, alone, at night... and you will see great things in this life!... And, on top of it, you will go to “Eternal Heaven”, because the boat of May only leads to her son Jesus. Praise the Lord... Hallelujah!

Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus... consequently, the “Mother of God”, because Jesus is God... She is the Mother of God like my mother is the mother of Doctor Domínguez, even if she doesn’t know medicine, nor how to make neither eyes nor souls... in the same way the Mother of Jesus, is the Mother of “Jesus”, as he is... even if she doesn’t know how to make neither hearts, nor spirits, nor God!... **“Virgin” Mary:** We call her “Virgin Mary” because she is the only person called “virgin” in the Bible, and 5 times: 3 times in Lk.1, in Mt.1:23, and in Is.7:14... but she calls herself only the humble servant of the Lord. On top of it, we call her “Virgin Mary to distinguish her from the other 5 “Mary” in the Bible: Mary was the name of six women of the Bible, including the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, the sister of Lazarus, the wife of Cleopas, the mother of John Mark, and a Christian in Rome.

“Our Mother”:

At Calvary, “*standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple who, he loved standing besides her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son”. Then he said to the disciple, “here is your mother”. And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home (John 19:25-27).*”

Jesus knew very well that Virgin Mary was not the mother of John... and Jesus was not saying a lie on the Cross when he called Mary the mother of John... rather Jesus was stating a very sweet truth: You and I were represented by the “disciple”, and to you and me Jesus was saying, “*here is your mother*”... - Saint Paul says the “Body of Christ”, the Church, has a “head”, which is Christ; and many “members”, who

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are each Christian... that Body has only one Spirit, and only one Father, says Paul... and is got to have one Mother, otherwise would be a monstrous body, with a father and no mother... the “Mother” of the head, is the Mother of the Body, of each member of the Body of Christ... otherwise, again, it would be a monstrous body, with a mother of the “head”, and no mother for the “members”... (1Cor.12, Ef.4, Col.1)

Try Her!:

The Mother of Jesus is “your mother”, know it or not, believe it or not... Try Her! even if you are not a Christian, you will see wonders in your life. Just try 3 Hail Marys every night

In the wedding at Cana, they had “no wine”... and Jesus didn’t care, because his time to make miracles had not yet come, as Jesus told his mother, “*my hour has not yet come*” (Jn.2:4)... but they got the needed wine!... and with a miracle of Jesus!, the first!, though his time had not yet come... I believe it is the only place in the Bible where the “Plan of God” has been changed... because of the love of your mother!

I had an impossible wish in my School, and someone told me, if I ask anything to Virgin Mary, I will have it... I didn’t believe it, but it cost me nothing, so, I prayed three Hail Marys every night for that dream... and I got it!... the number 1 in my class, though I was a mediocre student!... I had another dream: A house on the waterfront... I prayed my 3 Hail Marys... and you got it!... in three months I had a house “in” the water, and very ship!, and I keep it for 30 years.

I wanted to have a Christian program on the Radio, I prayed my 3 Hail Marys... I had it in one month, and then another one, and then on T.V., already for 30 years... now on the Internet!.

Just try Her:

If you have an impossible dream, or a very difficult problem, pray 3 Hail Marys... and you will see wonders in your life... I guarantee it!... **If you are not a Christian**, try Her!, she is your mother!... you don’t have to renounce to anything... it costs you nothing!... just try Her... and I guarantee it!... you will see wonders in your life!... let me know!.

The “Spouse of the Spirit”... The “Queen”:

Virgin Mary conceived Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit... Mary is indeed the “spouse” of the Holy Spirit, made the most pure, immaculate, and faithful by her spouse Himself, the Holy Spirit, praise the Lord!.

In all the kingdoms, the mother of the King is the “Queen Mother”... your Mother is a very important person in the Kingdom of Jesus!...

Psalm 45, is the Psalm of the “King and the Queen”:

The first 9 verses talks about the King... the last 9 verses are like a “riddle”: It says, the Queen is the “mother” of the King, the Spouse of the King, and the daughter of the King... who is she?... Virgin Mary is the Mother of Jesus, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, and the favored daughter of the Father... and, in the last verse of the Psalm, says a prophecy about the Queen that is exactly the one made about Virgin Mary in Luk.1:48, “*all generations will call me blessed*”

The “prophecy” fulfilled!:

The prophecy just mentioned, has been fulfilled in the last 2,000 years: Virgin Mary is the women in the history who has had ore poems dedicated to her, and more statues, and more paintings, and more chapels, and basilicas in the 6 continents, by the best artists... to call her “blessed” with all kinds of arts... and every second, during these 2,000 years, some one is saying in some part of the world, “Hail Mary, blessed are you among women”... the prophecy has been, and it is been fulfilled right now!... **Do you fulfill it now?... do your church fulfills it?**

The “woman”:

At Calvary, Jesus called his Mother “woman”... and Jesus was not insulting his Mother on the Cross!... he was remembering the “woman” of Gen.3:15, that will crush the head of the serpent with the Blood of Jesus... by the way, the Bible mentions 5 times “Mother”, and once “women” in Jn.19:25-27... all the prophecies about Mary in the Bible, can be applied to the Church, and vice verse.

Virgin Mary:

The Mother of God the Son, the favored daughter of God the Father, the Spouse of God the Holy Spirit, your Mother and mine, praise the Lord.

<http://religion-cults.com/spirit/virgin.htm>)

IN TIME OF NEED

Heavenly Father, in my present need, help me to believe that you are aware of my anxiety and will do what is best for me. Give me the strength to trust you and put the present and future in your hands. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

SAINT THERESA of the LITTLE FLOWER and EUCHARIST

Of her First Communion, in which Therese received Love Himself, personally for the first time, she writes, "It was a kiss of love, I felt myself loved, and I replied, 'I love You and I give myself to You forever.'"

In her little notebook Therese wrote down all the days on which she received Jesus in Holy Communion. Her second meeting with Jesus was equally as intimate. Of this wedding Therese recalled the words of Saint Paul, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal. 2:20)

Medjugorje Herald October 2006)

LORD, SETTLE MY SOUL

Lord, this is all my desire -- to walk along the path of life that Thou hast appointed me, even as Jesus my Lord would walk along it, in steadfastness of faith, in meekness of spirit, in lowliness of heart, in gentleness of love. And because outward events have so much power in scattering my thoughts and disturbing the inward peace in which alone the voice of Thy spirit is heard, do Thou, gracious Lord, calm and settle my soul by that subduing power which alone can bring all thoughts and desires of the heart into captivity to Thyself. All I have is Thine; do Thou with all as seems best to Thy divine will; for I know not what is best. Let not the cares or duties of this life press on me too heavily; but lighten my burden, that I may follow Thy way in quietness, filled with thankfulness for Thy mercy, and rendering acceptable service unto Thee

(http://www.beliefnet.com/prayeroftheday/more_prayers.asp?paid=73&faid=1 by Maria Hare)

THE APOSTLE THOMAS

"His Question Gives Us the Right to Ask Jesus for Explanations"

VATICAN CITY, SEPT. 27, 2006 Here is a translation of Benedict XVI's address at today's general audience, dedicated to present the figure of the Apostle Thomas.

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Continuing with our encounters with the Twelve Apostles chosen directly by Jesus, today we dedicate our attention to Thomas. Always present in the four lists of the New Testament, he is presented in the first three Gospels next to Matthew (cf. Matthew 10:3; Mark 3:18; Luke 6:15), while in the Acts of the Apostles he appears next to Philip (cf. Acts 1:13). His name stems from a Hebrew root, "ta'am," which means "twin." In fact, John's Gospel calls him sometimes with the nickname "Didymus" (cf. John 11:16; 20:24; 21:2), which in Greek means precisely "twin." The reason for this name is not clear.

The fourth Gospel, in particular, gives us some information which offers us some significant characteristics of his personality. The first is the exhortation he made to the other apostles when Jesus, at a critical moment of his life, decided to go to Bethany to raise Lazarus, thus coming dangerously close to Jerusalem (cf. Mark 10:32). On that occasion, Thomas said to his fellow disciples: "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). His determination when it came to following the Master is truly exemplary and gives us a precious teaching: It reveals the total willingness of adherence to Jesus to the point of identifying his own fate with His, and of wanting to share with Him the supreme trial of death.

In fact, what is most important is never to distance oneself from Jesus. When the Gospels use the verb "follow," they intend to explain that wherever he goes, his disciple must also go. Thus, Christian life is defined as a life with Jesus Christ, a life that must be spent with him. Saint Paul wrote something similar when he calmed Christians of Corinth with these words: "You are in our hearts, to die together and to live together" (2 Corinthians 7:3). What is true between the Apostle and his Christians must also be true above all in the relationship between Christians and Jesus himself: to die together, to live together, to be in his heart as he is in ours.

A second intervention of Thomas is recorded in the Last Supper. On that occasion, Jesus, predicting his imminent departure, announces that he will go to prepare a place for the disciples so that they will also be where he is; and he specifies: "And you know the way where I am going" (John 14:4). Then Thomas intervenes, saying: "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" (John 14:5).

In reality, with these words he places himself in a rather low level of understanding, but [his words] offer Jesus the opportunity to utter the famous definition: "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:6). Therefore, in the first instance, he makes this revelation to Thomas, but it is valid for all

of us and for all times. Every time we hear or read these words, we can be in thought next to Thomas and imagine that the Lord also speaks with us as he spoke with him.

At the same time, his question also gives us the right, so to speak, to ask Jesus for explanations. We often do not understand him. We must have the courage to say to him: I do not understand you, Lord, hear me, help me to understand. In this way, with such frankness, which is the authentic way to pray, to converse with Jesus, we express the littleness of our capacity to understand, but at the same time we assume the attitude of trust of one who expects light and strength from the one able to give them.

Then, very well known, even proverbial, is the scene of Thomas' incredulity, which took place eight days after Easter. Initially, he did not believe that Jesus had appeared in his absence and had said: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). Deep down, from these words emerges the conviction that Jesus is no longer recognized by his face, but rather by the wounds. Thomas believes that the characteristic signs of Jesus' identity are now above all his wounds, in which is revealed to what point he has loved us. In this the apostle is not mistaken.

As we know, eight days later, Jesus again appears to his disciples and on this occasion Thomas is present. And Jesus says to him: "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing" (John 20:27).

Thomas reacts with the most splendid profession of faith of the New Testament: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). In this connection, Saint Augustine comments: Thomas "saw and touched the man, but confessed his faith in God, whom he did not see or touch. But what he saw and touched led him to believe that which until then he had doubted" ("In Iohann" 121, 5). The evangelist continues with one last phrase of Jesus addressed to Thomas: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (John 20:29).

This phrase can also be enunciated in the present: "Blessed are those who do not see and believe." In any case, Jesus enunciates here a fundamental principle for Christians who will come after Thomas, that is, for all of us. It is interesting to observe how another Thomas, the great medieval theologian from Aquino, joins this blessedness with another referred to by Luke that seems opposed: "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!" (Luke 10:23).

However, Thomas Aquinas comments: "He has much more merit who believes without seeing than he who seeing, believes" ("In Iohann XX lectio" VI para 2566). In fact, the Letter to the Hebrews, recalling all the series of ancient biblical patriarchs, who believed in God without seeing the fulfillment of his promises, defines faith as "guarantee of what is hoped for; the proof of realities that are not seen" (11:1).

The case of the Apostle Thomas is important for us at least for three reasons: first, because it consoles us in our insecurities; second, because it shows us that every doubt can have a luminous end beyond any uncertainty; and, finally, because the words that Jesus addressed to him remind us of the authentic meaning of mature faith and encourages us to continue, despite the difficulties, on the path of fidelity to Him.

The fourth Gospel has preserved for us a last note on Thomas, on presenting him as witness of the Risen One in the moment after the miraculous catch on the Lake of Tiberias (cf. John 21:2). On that occasion, he is mentioned also immediately after Simon Peter: an evident sign of the notable importance that he enjoyed in the ambit of the first Christian communities. In fact, in his name, were later written the "Acts" and the "Gospel of Thomas," both apocryphal, but in any case important for the study of Christian origins.

Let us recall, finally, that according to an ancient tradition, Thomas evangelized in the first instance Syria and Persia (so says Origen, as referred by Eusebius of Caesarea, "Hist. eccl." 3,1) and later went as far as western India (cf. "Acts of Thomas" 1-2: 17 and following), from where Christianity also later reached the south of India. We end our reflection with this missionary perspective, hoping that Thomas' example will increasingly confirm our faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God.

At the end of the audience, the Pope greeted pilgrims in several languages. In English, he said:]

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Continuing our catechesis on the apostles, I wish to reflect today on Thomas the Twin. It is most especially in John's Gospel that we learn about Thomas. At a dangerous time in our Lord's life, when he decided to visit Lazarus in Bethany, it was Thomas who said: "Let us also go, that we may die with him." He shows us that the most important thing is never to distance oneself from Jesus. The life of a Christian is one spent together with the Lord.

At the Last Supper, it is Thomas who says: "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" His question leads to the celebrated response: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." Jesus also proclaims these words to us today.

A further episode in Thomas' life is well known to us all: that of the "doubting Thomas," who says "unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails ... I will not believe." Yet, once Jesus appears to him he utters the most splendid profession of faith in all the New Testament: "My Lord and my God!"

Let us take heart from the life of Thomas: He comforts us in our uncertainty; shows us that doubt can lead to spiritual growth, and he helps us learn from Jesus the true meaning of mature faith, encouraging us to persevere as disciples of Christ!

I welcome all the English-speaking pilgrims present today, including participants in the Pauline Colloquium, Friends of L'Osservatore Romano, and the Villa Maria College choir from Christchurch, New Zealand. I also greet in a special way the Asian Mission Congress Delegates and Pilgrims from Thailand. Upon all of you I invoke God's blessings of peace and joy!

(Zenit.org.- ZE06092704)

EUCHARIST – SAINT IGNATIUS



"I no longer take pleasure in perishable food or in the delights of this world. I want only God's bread, which is the Flesh of Jesus Christ, formed of the seed of David, and for drink I crave His Blood which is love that cannot perish"

"Be careful, therefore, to take part only in the one Eucharist; for there is only one Flesh of Our Lord Jesus Christ and one cup to unite us with His Blood."

"I am God's wheat and shall be ground by their teeth so that I may become Christ's pure bread."

(from the letters of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr.)

ENCLOSED ITEMS

In this *November* issue of "*The PILGRIM*" are the following:

A [blue](#) information packet with registration forms for the **16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE**. Theme: "**but deliver us from the evil one.**" (**Matthew 6:13**)[NAB]. Location: **Clarion Hotel, NJ 70 and I-295, Cherry Hill, NJ**. Call (856) 768-9228 for a packet or print it from: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET2.pdf.

Legionaries of Christ pamphlet on the mysteries of the rosary and the instructions on how to say the

rosary. If you are so inclined, remember them with a small **Christmas** donation as a thank you. Send to **P. O. Box 1122, Cheshire, CT 06410-9727**. You may order more of these pamphlets from them at **25 cents** each.

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. Those who attended the **2006 Camden Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Convention** at the **Wildwoods Conventions Center, 12-15 October 2006**, can describe the type of presentation the **PFMC Volunteers** are able to provide.

The **PFMC** volunteers 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** volunteers to set up a display in the basement, school cafeteria, or gymnasium, or wherever we could have about **20** or more large tables with display material on them. If the donations / free will offerings are sufficient, we will share them with the parish.

MESSAGE of 10/25/2006 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

Dear children! Today the Lord permitted me to tell you again that you live in a time of grace. You are not conscious, little children, that God is giving you a great opportunity to convert and to live in peace and love. You are so blind and attached to earthly things and think of earthly life. God sent me to lead you toward eternal life. I, little children, am not tired, although I see that your hearts are heavy and tired for everything that is a grace and a gift. 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 10/25/2006

I LEAD YOU TO ETERNAL LIFE

The Blessed Virgin Mary, given that she is a mother, knows well the heart and soul of man. She also knows the spiritual illnesses into which we can fall prey to: forgetfulness, hardness of heart, negligence, blindness towards and ungratefulness to God for all that we have received and are receiving from Him. That is why this message resounds in our ears and hearts as a reminder, admonition, warning and mother's reprimand. She has come to awaken us, encourage us and lead us to God who we must choose to follow today and not after our death.

The Virgin Mary, who comes to us through the glory of our Heavenly Father, knows better than we do the perils into which our souls may fall. In times past in our parishes there were folk missions held and the motto of these missions was: "Save your soul". It is only important to save the soul. The soul is the basis and bearer of everything that man is and by which he exists. To save your soul means to be connected to God, cleansing your soul before God in honest confession, fighting against all sins which could distance us from God and one another.

While we are healthy here on earth, while things are going more or less the way they should, we somehow easily forget about our soul and God. We are hurried, rushing around and fighting to achieve more, have more and to secure our life and existence here. We all know that we will one day have to leave all of this but we still continue to fight frantically and hold tightly to worldly things. These are only signs of how small our faith is, that is, how little faith we have in God. And the consequences of all this are visible indeed. We have increasingly less time for each other, there is increasingly less trust between people, neighbours and in families. There is increasingly more tension, nervousness, fear and anguish in the heart. Our Lady as our mother wants to open our eyes to another

reality, God's reality which we carry in ourselves, but one which is not buried under and suffocated with things and anguishing worries for this life and world. In this worldly life much is needed. We think that it is important to have everything in life. However when a man dies, when he comes face to face with God, then the only important thing is that we have saved our soul and that we fought to stay connected to God.

God has been sending us the Mother of his Son Jesus, and our Heavenly Mother among us for 25 years and four months now. Mary said to us: "I will stay with you for as long as the Almighty allows; I will encourage you for as long as the Almighty allows; There will come a time when I will no longer be with you."

Our Lady's presence among us in this manner, through the apparitions is a grace and gift. It is a grace and gift to the Church, to you and me if we accept her as our Mother and we pour Her words into our life. Let a mother's calls not be in vain in our lives and families. Let us take Her seriously today so that tomorrow it will not be too late.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.10.2006,
(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr>)

ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 10/25/2006

"Dear children! Today the Lord permitted me to tell you again that you live in a time of grace." As one reads this first sentence of Our Lady's message of October 25, 2006, he or she can be inspired in a powerful way to accept the fact that we are living in a profound, ***"time of grace."*** However, by proclaiming that, ***"today the Lord permitted me to tell you again that you live in a time of grace,"*** Our Lady with much motherly love is explaining to us that many have been reluctant to embrace this ***"time of grace"*** within their inner beings. Have we taken the time and made the effort to make God a real priority in our lives?

It is quite apparent that most people are very busy. Work schedules and the responsibility to provide for their families can be more than overwhelming to many men and women. The free time that they have is used for everything, but giving some moments to our dear and loving God. Thus the next two sentences of Our Lady's message of October 25, 2006 seem quite appropriate. ***"You are not conscious, little children, that God is giving you a great opportunity to convert and to live in peace and love. You are so blind and attached to earthly things and think of earthly life."***

These beautiful words of Our Lady should ring quite loudly in our ears. Again, we have been called by Our Lady to change through the reality of spiritual conversion. For those who have already begun this process, you must continue with the persistence and perseverance of a devoted belief in Jesus. For those who wish to begin a spiritual renewal, now is the time, and Our Lady is the best teacher in Jesus' "school of love and mercy."

Let us challenge ourselves to be more committed to God while encouraging others to do likewise with the compassion, tenderness, and unconditional love of God and Our Lady. By being critical, judgmental and self-righteous, we will never be successful in bringing souls to Jesus. On the other hand, by acting like a saint, one can do wonders for his or her conversion while encouraging others to do likewise. Will these days be the time when we finally decide to bring God into the center of our lives? We must remember that this will only happen when prayer and very regular attendance at Mass (more than once a week when possible) become part of who we are.

"God sent me to lead you toward eternal life." As we reflect upon this sentence of Our Lady's message of October 25, 2006, let us contemplate the reality of the salvation of our souls. For God, the salvation of each one of our souls means everything. In fact, Jesus words to St. Faustina used as a reflection for the first day of the Divine Mercy Novena speaks to this theme. ***"Today, bring to me all mankind, especially all sinners and immerse them in the ocean of my mercy. In this way you will console me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges me."*** As always, our dear Lord's words explain His unconditional love for us. Again, for the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Our Lady, the salvation of each one of our souls means everything. God and Our Lady have done their part to bring about the salvation of our souls. I wonder will we do our part? Let us further reflect upon this particular issue of our personal salvation.

"We have been created in the image and likeness of God with a special sacredness to each one of us." These words taken from the Vatican II Document The Church in the Modern World shows us the sanctity of our personal creation. Through this creation, we have been given a treasured gift of faith from God to respond to His revelation to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Almighty God has also given us the gift of free will. In order to save our souls, at some point in our life we must make a conscious choice for God through faith. Jesus has done His part. He has redeemed us. Through his sacrifice, he has atoned for our sins and calls each one of us in a very personal way to a life of holiness. By our sharing in His Paschal Mystery (His passion, death, and resurrection), holiness can be attained. We have been blessed with many talents and abilities. We are called to use these personal gifts for the glory of God. One can never save his or her soul through a promotion of oneself. In the end, political power, influence, fame, wealth and other realities that seem so important will mean nothing unless we have used these gifts to give God the love, honor, glory, praise and thanksgiving that He so richly deserves.

"I, little children, am not tired, although I see that your hearts are heavy and tired for everything that is a grace and a gift." As we perceive the opportunity to come to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary may we be filled with hope since Our Lady is truly with us. Even after the apparitions to the visionaries of Medjugorje are over, our dear Blessed Mother will not abandon her "little children." She knows our struggles, frustrations and difficulties better than we do. However, She is also challenging us to accept our crosses and offer them to Jesus. Suffering is a grace and gift from God. It

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.

purifies our own soul and the souls of others. May we continue to move away from our own selfish wants and desires while replacing them with a willingness to serve God in a total way. God provides us with everything that we need. May we accept all of God's graces and gifts including suffering, sorrow, joy, happiness with everything that falls in between. Be a faithful follower of our loving Savior. Be His servant and become His saint.

I hope you are well. Give my best to your families. As we approach the month of November, let us remember that this month is dedicated by the Church to our beloved deceased. Pray for the holy souls in purgatory. Have Masses said for them and pray the different devotions given to us to help these souls to be released into heaven. May 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, 10/27/2006)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 9/25/06 from Medjugorje

Not available at press time for the **October** issue of **"The PILGRIM"** but made available later in **October 2006**.

I CALL YOU TO COMPLETE CONVERSION

Dear children! Also today I am with you and call all of you to complete conversion. Decide for God, little children, and you will find in God the peace your heart seeks. Imitate the lives of saints and may they be an example for you; and I will inspire you as long as the Almighty permits me to be with you. Thank you for having responded to my call.

Message of **September 25, 2006**

In many of her previous messages the Virgin Mary spoke to us: "I am with you", "I intercede for you", "I remain with you on your way to conversion", "I am with you and I want you to believe me that I love you."

Even today she is with us, just as she has been with us for all of the 25 years of the apparitions. Our Lady appears not to be visibly present among us in the flesh, but to call us to conversion, to the way of

holiness and a new life in Jesus. The seers once asked Our Lady: "Our Lady, why don't you appear in front of everybody, why do you appear only before us?" Our Lady replied to that question: "Blessed are those who do not see but still believe." It is not necessary to see something with our physical eyes. Important things that we need in order to live cannot be seen, but we can sense them with our spiritual powers that God bestowed on us. The same is with Our Lady's presence among us. All those who have believed the Virgin Mary with their open and penitent hearts have experienced and lived up to feel the greatness of God's mercy in their faith.

Heavenly Mother Mary knows that we tend to forget things easily and we easily get used to the good, to blessing and mercy. When this happens, man forgets all about the Giver, the God who gives life and blessing to everything. In spite of our forgetfulness, Mary has not forgotten to call us today. It is a call from the bottom of a heart which loves and feels pain for each and every one that is far from Her heart.

Even today she presents us with an ideal. Even today she is demanding because she wishes us well. She does not call us to partial or superficial conversion. It is a call to enter into the unity with God. Motherly love is demanding. Do not expect impossible from us, but seek what is in harmony with our nature and what we ardently desire in the depth of our hearts. What kind of mother it would be if she did not want the best for her children. She has not come here to tell us what we want to hear, what is easy or what we like at first sight. She speaks of what is for our good and for our true joy and peace. No mother does good to her children if she makes all their selfish wishes come true. A real mother is demanding when it comes to raising her children.

Mary knows where the source of peace that our hearts are looking for is. We cannot fool our heart with things, not even the most expensive ones. A heart knows who its Creator is and therefore cannot be filled with anything less than its Creator. This is what Saint Augustine wrote in his confessions who, after much wandering, finally found God: "Our hearts are restless till they find rest in Thee."

On the path towards God, and towards conversion there are many who had been there before us – saints. It is why Mary is made an example for us. She is a role model and inspiration. They certainly cannot replace us nor live instead of us, but can intercede for us, give us advice, encourage us to persevere, not to give up and not to withdraw from everything that is good, holy and positive.

As a mother Mary does not give up. She is encouraging us even today. She intercedes for us,

loves and suffers for us and often because of us. Let us not make her love, closeness and encouragement be in vain for us and for our lives.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.9.2006,
(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr> after 10/4/06)

DAYTON REFLECTION on the 9/25/06 MESSAGE

May God find you all well and encompassed in God's peace. I thought you would enjoy the below reflection on Our Lady of Medjugorje's message.

It is read and approved by a wonderful Medjugorje priest prior to posting it on the website: <http://www.medjugorje-dayton.org>.

There are also many inspiring quotes that Pope John Paul the II shared with other priests related to Medjugorje, along with the Consecration prayers that Mary gave us at Medjugorje. I hope you find the site pleasant. There are no fund raising or advertisement banners related to this site. It is all for Mary and God's glory. God Bless you all.

Our Lady of Medjugorje, 9/25/06

"Dear children! Also today I am with you and call all of you to complete conversion. Decide for God, little children, and you will find in God the peace your heart seeks. Imitate the lives of saints and may they be an example for you; and I will inspire you as long as the Almighty permits me to be with you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

A. ***"Dear children! Also today I am with you and call all of you to complete conversion."*** Our Blessed Mother is calling us to live out our baptismal promises with utmost attention and perfection. She echoes our Heavenly Father's call, "Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect."

1. God gave John the revelation of Jesus Christ to show his servants what must soon take place. **(Revelation 1:1)** "Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near." **(Revelation 1:3)**

a. **Repent and remember from what you have fallen, so that you may do the deeds you did at first. (Rev 2:5)** God warns Ephesus, "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear evil men, but have tested those who call themselves apostles but are not.

i. But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had first. Remember then from what you have fallen, repent and do the works you did at first.

1. If not I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place

2. To him who conquers, I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."

b. **Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life! (Revelation 2: 8-11)** God warns Smyrna, "I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.

i. Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for 10 days you will have tribulation.

ii. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death.

c. **Fast and do penance for your brother who does not follow God's ways! (Rev 2:12-17)** God warns Pergamum, "I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is; you hold fast my name and you did not deny my faith, even in the days of Antipas, my witness, my faithful one, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells.

i. But I have this against you, you have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice immorality.

ii. Repent then. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of the mouth. To him who conquers I will give some hidden manna, I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone.

d. **Guard your hearts and mind so nothing other than God's law enters. (Rev 2:18-29)** God warns to the church of Thyatira, "I am He who searches mind and heart and I will give each of you as your works deserve."

i. You tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself prophetess and is teaching and beguiling my servants to practice immorality and eat food sacrificed to idols.

ii. Those who commit adultery with her I will throw into the great tribulation, unless they

repent of her doings. Learn what some call the deep things of Satan.

iii. Learn what some call the deep things of Satan. To those who conquer, I will give him power of the nations.

e. **Stay awake and be perfect. (Rev 3:1-6)** God warns the church of Sardis, I know your works; you have the name of being alive, and you are dead.

i. Awake and strengthen what remains and is on the point of death, for I have not found your works perfect in the sight of my God.

ii. Remember then what you have received and heard; keep that and repent. If you will not awake, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come upon you. To those who conquer, shall be clad in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the book of life.

f. **Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown! (Rev 3:7-13)** God warns Philadelphia, "Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie--behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word of patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial which is coming on the whole world.

i. He who conquers I will make a pillar in the temple of my God; never shall he go out of it; and I will write on him the name of God...the new Jerusalem which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name.

g. **Do not be lukewarm, but zealous and repent. (Rev 3:14-21)** God warns the church of Laodicea, "Because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew you out of my mouth. For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing; not knowing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.

i. Therefore, I counsel you to buy from me the gold refined by fire, that you may be rich. Those whom I love, I reprove and chasten; so be zealous and repent.

ii. Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to eat with him, and he with me. He who conquers, I will grant a seat with me on my throne.

2. Love God with your whole heart, soul, and mind, giving Him all you are every day, so that He can make you perfect in charity, hope, and love.

B. **"Decide for God, little children, and you will find in God the peace your heart seeks. Imitate the lives of saints and may they be an example for you; and I will inspire you as long as the Almighty permits me to be with you."** "Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints (**Rev 13:10**). "Woe to you, O'earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short (**Rev 12:12**)!"

1. The final battle between good and evil. And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down to the earth, he pursued the woman who had borne the male child. But the woman was given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly from the serpent into the wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time. (**Rev 12:12**)

2. The serpent tries to sweep away the woman. The serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away like a flood. But the earth came to the help of the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon poured from his mouth. (**Rev 12:15**)

3. God saves the women from any defilement, so the dragon wages war with the woman's offspring. Then the dragon was angry with the woman, and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and bear testimony to Jesus. (**Rev 12:17**)

4. The beast works wonders and deceives those not written in the book of life. Then John saw another beast rise from the sea. To it, the dragon gave his power. One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth followed the beast with wonder.

a. Who is like the beast, who can fight against it?

i. It opened its mouth to utter its blasphemies against God and those who dwell in heaven. It was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them.

ii. It deceives those who dwell on earth, bidding them make an image for the beast which was wounded by the sword and yet lived. (**Rev 13:1-14**)

5. God has the final victory and warns us, so that we might dwell with Him for all of eternity, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out all fear."

a. "This is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know He hears us, in whatever we

ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of Him.”(1 Jn 3)

b. Therefore, go and wash your garments in His blood so that you might be found worthy with all of His angels and saints, singing all power and glory to your God, so that He will make you His people. Amen

(from Tammy Jetton, Child of Jesus and Mary,
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saintcecilia@woh.rr.com, <http://www.medjugorje-dayton.org> 9/10/06)

FATHER JOZO REFLECTION on the 9/25/06 MESSAGE

In her message, the Queen of Peace tells us, “Dear Children, also today I am with you.” In this she desires to tell us that her presence with us is a grace but at the same time a mission and a call to conversion. We are all called to complete conversion. Her words ‘complete conversion’ are not new in her messages but are infrequent. Each of us is called. This call especially pertains to our Prayer Partnership family which was established in response to the messages of the Queen of Peace.

For Saint Paul, complete conversion meant to set aside idols, errors, waywardness, public sins and scandal. The Apostle concretely explained to us that ‘to convert’ means to remove the old person with all of his faults and vices and to be clothed in the new person, similar to Christ Our Lord. Complete conversion is a complete return to God. So often in her messages Our Lady calls us to ‘put God in the first place’ in our lives and in our families. This means to behave like saints, like Saint Francis of Assisi. It means to leave behind everything, including our security, our trust in our knowledge, our friends, our money, our resourcefulness or the like. It means to set aside everything we attribute to our own earning, success and career. Our Lady knows our weaknesses. So often, we have fallen and stumbled in most ordinary trials. We are always on some kind of a turbulent sea in our life. In these, our storms, we are persecuted by our anguish and disappointments because we want to do everything on our own, without our God or His help. This is pure arrogance and selfishness.

If we look at the history of the Church, we see that the Church has also experienced falls and scandals. The human element often over shadows and sometimes even rejects God’s will.

In this way, man starts to sink and to lose hope. He is left without self confidence. He then accuses and

attacks everyone because of his lack of success. He feels that he is alone and therefore starts to criticize everyone, even the Lord Himself. On the other hand, the Church has also always had its saints, those who were great and brought abundant fruit. The greatest wisdom expressed by the poor man of Assisi was when he said, “My God and my All”.

In this way he over shadowed the wise and the rich of all times.

Complete conversion is a wondrous freedom from our daily attachments and enslavements. A man so enslaved serves things and not the Creator. He wastes his feelings and time on what is unnecessary. He does not feel or recognize that all things are less than he is and that he is less than his Creator. Complete conversion is that wondrous wisdom that Saint Francis received as a gift before the Crucified Lord. Jesus called Peter to follow Him just at the moment when Peter had the greatest catch of his life - a boat over flowing with fish (Luke 5:9). However, that wealth did not scandalize Peter. To the contrary, he became aware of his sinfulness and unworthiness of God’s nearness. “Come, follow me” was the greatest reward for the astounded fishermen.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, this message of Our Lady is so powerful. I see us as the Israelites who were told by Joshua that they could not enter into the Promise Land by serving both God and idols. Joshua points them to the fact that it is time to make a radical decision. He calls them to choose whom they will serve and belong to. The prophet Elijah also strongly criticized and called the Israelites, “How long will you serve God and idols? Today is the day of decision” (1Kings 18:21). They responded, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

Today’s families in the Church, wounded by selfishness and motivated by pleasure, have abandoned God. Many of them are separated having destroyed the gift of love and rejected the call to holiness. Also the scandals in our community and in the Church of today show that we are a generation which serves both God and idols.

In this message, Our Lady is radical, as all the prophets and saints have been - calling us to decide completely for God. Our Lady’s call to complete conversion means to abandon the idols of our time, the errors and the sins that the community promotes and governments legalize. To convert means to completely decide for God and to live the Gospel. The call to conversion is difficult and therefore we cannot see it as a pre-election slogan. It is truly a personal choice deeply motivated and inspired by grace. Conversion is a fruit of fasting and prayer. It is

a fruit of living the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist. It is the complete surrender recognizable in the lives of saints. The way of conversion is a special grace to which the Queen of Peace calls us.

Who are the saints we must follow? Saints are people for all times. They are examples for all men and all generations. Saints are like flowers, with every flower being different. Each one is so beautiful and wonderful. They are like a starry sky. The stars are marvelously scattered in the sky but each receives its light from the sun. This is also with the saints. Each saint is a light to us and to all generations. Their light comes from Jesus and is recognizably reflected to us. Saints are dear to us because, like flowers and the starry sky, they evidence the beauty, holiness and fullness of God. To follow Christ and the saints is a special charism of religious communities. Each religious life is a call to follow Jesus and the saints. The religious community, which knows the way and the means to the goal, assists in this. This is holiness.

What do those who have accepted God, and have decided for Him with all of their heart, find in Him? They find a peace that the world does not know and cannot give. They find a joy that is complete in Jesus. They find the blessing and a fruitful life. They find what every person seeks and is in his nature - the realization of his life.

Dear Ones, I thank the Mother who inspires, calls, leads and encourages us to decide for God. I pray and fast that you may persevere and that each one of us may be like a saint - a living example to others.

This month we will pray for the following intentions:

1. For our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI - for the Blessed Virgin to wrap him with her mantle of love and peace so that he may lead the Church without fear. We will pray for our Bishops, priests and religious that they may daily decide to serve God and the Church: that also today we may have our examples and saints in them.

2. For the Church of 'the little' who are shaken by the scandals of 'the great' - that they may not build their faith on men but on God for whom it is worthwhile to decide.

3. For peace in Lebanon, the Holy Land and the whole world. For the grace and gift of wisdom. For the Church to live with other religions.

Dear Ones, to live the messages perseveringly with love is the only remedy and the way of the Church in this unstable world. Be wise and persevering in living the messages. I pray for each of you and recommend you all to our Queen of Peace.

Yours most Sincerely,

Father Jozo Zovko, OFM 28.09.2006

(June Klins [tnklins@velocity.net] Wed 10/11/2006)

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**.



Monsignor Michael Pearce Lacey, Retired Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto (Canada) makes his fifth private pilgrimage

Monsignor Michael Pearce Lacey, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, made his fifth private pilgrimage to Medjugorje from the 11th to the 16th of October 2006. He accompanied a group of pilgrims from Canada. He followed the usual program for pilgrims, and heard confessions. Monsignor Lacey met the Franciscans serving in Medjugorje and he gave an interview to Radio “Mir” Medjugorje, in which he underlined the fact that he believes that Our Lady does indeed appear in Medjugorje.

Monsignor Lacey was ordained a priest in 1943, and consecrated bishop in 1979. He retired in 1993. He visited Medjugorje for the first time in 1987 as the then active Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto.

Monsignor Pavel Mária Hnilica, S.J. Dead



Monsignor Pavel Mária Hnilica, S.J., Titular Bishop of Rusado, died in the early morning of the 8th of October 2006, in Novi Hradý in the Czech Republic. He was buried on the 18th of October in Trnava (Slovakia). Monsignor Hnilica was ordained a priest on 29.09.1950, and consecrated bishop on 02.01.1951. He was appointed Titular Bishop of Rusado on 13.05.1964.

Monsignor Hnilica was consecrated Bishop in Czechoslovakia at the age of thirty by his own bishop, who was then near to death. Owing to the persecution, his consecration could not be performed in the usual official manner, and his bishop gave him a special mission, to help the Church in the East, saying: “Your diocese stretches from Berlin to Moscow and Peking.” Hnilica took this mission very seriously, and for forty years he brought help to many bishops and evangelized many people at great risk to his life. He

went to Rome, where he founded a religious association called Pro Deo et Fratribus (for God and for the brethren), and his work consisted of supporting the people both spiritually, with Bibles and Gospels, and also materially, with money. Bishop Hnilica was convinced that the triumph announced by the Blessed Virgin at Fatima will only be possible if the Catholic and Orthodox Churches are reconciled. This work of ecumenism should be engendered and brought about in an atmosphere of fraternal charity, as dialogue can only achieve fruition in charity. (See: <http://www.christendom-awake.org/pages/ttindalr/hnilica.htm>)

Monsignor Hnilica is also known for his involvement in favour of Medjugorje. On the 25th of June 1997, Monsignor Hnilica, in communion with Monsignor Frano Franić, Father Tomislav Pervan, Father Ivan Landeka, Father Jozo Zovko, Father Slavko Babarić and Father Leonard Oreč, signed a letter addressed to the friends of the Medjugorje Prayer groups (see: Shrine – Medjugorje in the Church – Spiritual movement of the Queen of Peace).

In an interview conducted by Marie Czernin for the German Catholic monthly magazine PUR (published in December 2004), Monsignor Hnilica spoke about his conversations with Pope John Paul II concerning Medjugorje. (On our web page: in the Archives under 28.04.2005.)

- Marie Czernin: Bishop Hnilica, you spent a lot of time with Pope John Paul II and you had many private encounters with him as, for example, when you visited him at the Gemelli Hospital shortly after the attempt on his life on the 13th of May 1981. Did you ever discuss the events in Medjugorje with his Holiness?

Bishop Pavel Hnilica (B.P.H.) – I visited the Holy Father in 1984. We had lunch at Castel Gandolfo, his summer residence, and I told him about the Consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which I had performed in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Moscow, on March 24th of that same year, in accordance with what Our Lady had asked at Fatima. When I told the Holy Father about these events, he was very touched and he remarked: “The Virgin Mary led you there under her protection”. I responded: “No, Holy Father, she was carrying me in her arms!” After this, he asked me what were my own thoughts about Medjugorje and whether I had paid a visit there. I answered that although the official Vatican had not forbidden me to go, I was nevertheless counselled not to do so. The Pope looked at me and said: “Go to Medjugorje incognito as you went to Moscow. Who can forbid you to go?” The Pope didn’t officially authorise my going to Medjugorje, but he did suggest that alternative

solution! The Pope continued speaking, and he showed me a book about Medjugorje written by René Laurentin. He began to read some chapters and he noted that the messages of Medjugorje were closely related to those of Fatima. “Look, Medjugorje is a continuation, a veritable extension of Fatima. Our Lady is appearing in communist countries primarily because of the problems that originate in Russia”, said the Pope, who had already taken this on board as part of his own pontifical mission. This is how I immediately understood the connection between Fatima and Medjugorje.

After my conversation with the Pope, I visited Medjugorje incognito on three or four occasions. However, the former Bishop of Mostar-Duvno, Pavao Zanic, wrote a letter to me asking me not to visit Medjugorje again. Were I to refuse, he would write to the Pope himself, he said. It seems that somebody informed him of my visit. Needless to say, there was no reason for me to be afraid of the Holy Father.

- Did you speak with the Holy Father about Medjugorje on any other occasions?

B.P.H. – Yes, the next time we spoke about Medjugorje was on August 1st, 1988. A group of doctors from Milan, who were performing scientific tests upon the children, came to visit the Pope in Castel Gandolfo. One of the doctors mentioned that the bishop of Mostar was giving them a hard time. The Pope said: “As he is the bishop of that place, you have to respect him.” Then he continued in a cordial tone: “But he will have to answer before God if he has not acted in a righteous manner”. After this, the Pope reflected for a few moments, and then he said: “Today’s world has lost the sense of the supernatural, in other words, the sense of God. But many people rediscover this sensitivity in Medjugorje through prayer, fasting and the sacraments.”

For me personally, this is the strongest explicit witness in favour of Medjugorje. What has especially and profoundly impressed me is the fact that the doctors, who were present, declared “Non constat de supernaturalitate”. The Pope, for his part, had recognised for a long time before then that supernatural events are indeed at work in Medjugorje. Through many sources, the Pope arrived at the conviction that God can be experienced there.

- Is it possible that many of the events that happen in Medjugorje could be fabricated?

B.P.H. – Some years ago, there was a Youth meeting in Marienfried, to which I had been invited. During that encounter, a journalist asked me: “Bishop, don’t you believe that all that is happening in Medjugorje comes from the devil (Satan)?” “I am a Jesuit” I

answered, “Saint Ignatius taught us how to discern spirits, and he also taught us that each event can have 3 possible sources: human, divine or diabolic.” Eventually, he agreed with me that what is happening in Medjugorje cannot be explained from a human point of view, acknowledging the fact that every year normal young people are attracted there in their thousands, and that they actually queue in order to reconcile with God. Medjugorje has already been named “confessional of the world” because of that phenomenon, while neither Lourdes nor Fatima have managed to spur such crowds of people to go to confession. What happens during confession? The priest delivers the sinner from the devil. I further added in answer to the journalist: “Of course, Satan is capable of many things, but one thing he is not capable of... it is not possible for Satan to spur people to go to confession in order to be delivered precisely from himself!” The journalist laughed in comprehension of my thesis thus far. Therefore, the only remaining source was the divine... God Himself! Afterwards, I made disclosure of this conversation to the Holy Father.

- How would you summarise the messages of Medjugorje? What distinguishes these messages from those of Lourdes or of Fatima?

B.P.H. – In all three places, Our Lady invites us to repentance, forgiveness and prayer. From this perspective the messages of all three apparitions are similar. However, the difference in Medjugorje is that the apparitions have lasted in excess of 23 years to date. The intensity of this supernatural continuum has neither declined nor diminished during all these years, with the result that an even greater number of intellectuals have converted here.

- Some do not consider the events of Medjugorje as genuine because war broke out in this region, which has resulted in nations turning one against the other. But isn't this a place of peace rather than conflict?

B.P.H. – When in 1991, which was 10 years after the first message of “Peace, peace and only peace”, the war broke out in Croatia, I met the Pope once again. He asked me: “How can the apparitions of Medjugorje be explained in the midst of the war in Bosnia?” Truly, the war was terrible, so I answered: “It seems that we are in a similar situation to that which prevailed in Fatima. If Russia had been consecrated immediately to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Second World War and the spreading of Communism and atheism may well have been avoided. Holy Father, as soon as you consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1984, countless changes took place in Russia, and the fall of communism began. In Medjugorje, the Gospa began

by warning that there would be a war if we were not converted. Nobody took these messages seriously. Maybe, if the bishops of the former Yugoslavia had accepted these messages more seriously, matters may not have deteriorated so much, but even that would not have been a guarantee of the definitive recognition of the Official Church, because the apparitions are ongoing to this very day.” Whereupon the Pope enquired of me: “Bishop Hnilica is convinced, then, that my Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary was valid?” I answered: “Certainly it was valid! The only remaining question is to ask how many bishops really did perform the same Consecration in union with the Holy Father.”

- Why do you think it so important that the other bishops should also have made the same Act of Consecration in communion with the Holy Father?

B.P.H. – It would have expressed the collegiality of the Church. In other words, the unity of the bishops with the Pope would have given a far deeper meaning to the Act of Consecration. When Karol Wojtyla was elected Pope in 1978, I congratulated him, but I immediately told him that something would be missing in his pontificate if he did not consecrate Russia in communion with all the bishops. He then said to me: “If you manage to convince the bishops to do this, I will do it tomorrow.” This is why, after the consecration on the 25th of March 1984, he asked me how many bishops had co-consecrated with me. As I could not answer this question for him, the Pope said: “Every bishop must prepare his diocese, every priest must prepare his community, and furthermore, every father must prepare his family, because the Gospa said that lay people must also consecrate themselves to her Heart.”

The Medjugorje Adoration in Voivodina



Approximately 2,000 people inhabit the Hungarian speaking rural parish of Sts. Peter and Paul, in the town Male Pijace in Voivodina (Serbia). They have Adoration of the Blessed

Sacrament in their church every Thursday. They listen to the meditations from the church in Medjugorje thanks to “Radio Maria” from Novi Sad, which, in turn, relays the broadcasts from Radio “Mir” Medjugorje. Whenever translation into the Hungarian language is not possible in Medjugorje itself, the translation is done in the studio in Novi Sad.

The parish priest, Father József Széll, together with his parishioners, came to Medjugorje on a pilgrimage

in October 2006, and he outlined how they pray for peace in his parish...

“Back in the nineties, when war started in the then Yugoslavia, our diocese decided to pray for peace every Thursday before Mass. Together with my parishioners, I decided to have an hour of adoration every Thursday before Mass. On the 25th of March, 1999, that night when NATO started to bomb Serbia, our Holy Father John Paul II asked the world to pray for us and for peace in our country. We realized then that, if all Christians were invited to pray for our freedom, we needed to pray even more ourselves. I proposed to my parishioners that thenceforth, every single day before Mass, we would have an hour of Adoration. They accepted. We did so until the end of the bombing, in July. In the beginning, we only numbered between 10 and 20. However, as the schools were closed because of the bombing, the children attended for catechism, despite not having normal classes. One day, of their own volition, they decided to attend in groups for adoration. This was a great joy for us, as the presence of children gave us an even greater strength to persevere.

When the bombing was over, we decided to continue to pray for peace by praying the rosary before Mass every Thursday. But in the Jubilee Year 2000, we restored the hour of Adoration each Thursday before Mass. In 2003, Pope John Paul II again invited Christians to pray for peace, because of the situation in the Middle East. Yet again, in our own parish, we resumed our Thursday Adoration. And again last year we resumed this practice in celebration of the Year of the Eucharist.

In August 2005, we who live near Subotica heard, through “Radio Maria”, that we could follow the Adoration from Saint James’ church in Medjugorje on Thursdays. In spite of the fact that we already had Adoration with the faithful before Mass every Thursday, the catechist and I decided to consecrate the evening hour of adoration to Jesus, united with the faithful and the pilgrims in Medjugorje. Several weeks later, we invited all parishioners to join with us each Thursday from 8-9 pm (7-8 pm in winter), which they accepted, and we do so every week for the glory of God, in honour of the Mother of God, for the salvation of souls, and that peace may reign in all human hearts. Whenever there is no translation from Medjugorje, Teresa, who does so with great love, translates the Adoration which is broadcast via “Radio Maria”.

During the first week of each month, for the forgiveness of the sins of the world, the Adoration takes place on the first Saturday, in lieu of the preceding Thursday.

I went to Fatima in 1992. Since then, on the 13th day of the months of May, June, July, August, September and October, we have an hour of Adoration which is followed by Holy Mass, after which we process with the statue of Our Lady of Fatima.”

Monsignor Luigi Bommarito and Monsignor Harry Joseph Flynn visit for the feast of the Queen of the Holy Rosary



Two archbishops visited Medjugorje for the feast of the Queen of the Holy Rosary.

Monsignor Luigi Bommarito, Archbishop Emeritus of Catania (Italy), was in Medjugorje from the 5th to the 7th of October 2006, together with a group of pilgrims from Italy. This was his second visit to Medjugorje.



Monsignor Harry Joseph Flynn, Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota (USA), together with a group of pilgrims from Minnesota, visited Medjugorje for the first time from the 6th to the 8th of October 2006. Monsignor Flynn met the Franciscans serving Medjugorje Parish and spoke with them about the pastoral aspects of the work with the pilgrims, and especially with those who come from his own archdiocese, where numerous prayer groups have been established, groups that have reintroduced Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament into their parishes. He said that he has come to Medjugorje to pray.

Having celebrated the morning Holy Masses for the Italian and the English speaking pilgrims, both archbishops visited the places of prayer and also spent many hours hearing confessions.

One hundred and twenty students from the Franciscan University in Steubenville

At the end of September 2006, a group of 120 students from the Catholic Franciscan University in Steubenville (USA) made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, and were accompanied by Father Peter, a Third Order Regular (TOR) Franciscan.

Students from Steubenville spend one semester in a monastery in Austria, and during that semester, pilgrimages are organised to different shrines right across Europe.

In Medjugorje, the students took part in the prayer programme in the parish church. They prayed the Rosary on Apparition Hill, and they also made the

Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain. They also sang during Mass for the English speaking pilgrims on Sunday the 24th of September.

In Steubenville, there are about 2,200 students, many of whom study theology and prepare themselves to provide service to the Church. The mission of the Catholic Franciscan University in Steubenville is to expose young people not only to knowledge, but also to the practical experience of living the catholic faith both in their daily lives and in their future professional lives, and to direct them towards holiness of life. (See: <http://www.franciscan.edu>)

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

STARVING IN A FOOD STORE

Maria Jancuk was born in Poland and during World War II suffered privation, torture and hunger in a Nazi concentration camp. After the war she lived in Leeds, England. On 22nd January 1971 she was found dead of starvation in her house. She weighed only 41 pounds, and it was evident she had been wasting her health. But her cupboards were full of eggs, butter, cheese and milk, which she had hoarded. The policemen who investigated said, "It was like a food store." The horrors of life and hunger in a concentration camp had probably created a fear in her mind, which remained with her through the rest of her days. She died of starvation, even though her kitchen shelves were stocked. There is an abundance of blessings, promises, assurances of peace, joy, strength, life, salvation, eternal life and all that one needs in this life, in the Word of God. The Psalmist prays, "Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of your Law." Yet it is a pity people die of spiritual salvation.

(Medjugorje News, Issue 42 – September, 2006)

NEW COMMISSION for MEDJUGORJE?

A notable enemy. According to the Catholic News Service of July 24, 2006 and other news papers like Croatian Vecernji List of July 16, 2006. Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo announced that a new commission for Medjugorje will be formed in September. The members of this International commission are not yet known. This announcement came after a Bosnia and Hercegovina Bishop's meeting held in Banja Luka from July 12-14, 2006. The primary goal of the new commission will be to

decide whether or not Medjugorje will be earnestly analyzed.

In this regard, an interesting observation has been made in Rome. This year, (25th anniversary of apparitions), the Vatican's official travel agency for pilgrimages, Opera Romana :Pilligrini, organized about 14 pilgrimages to Medjugorje by bus and 24 by plane!

Early signs of this commission could be seen in 1999 when Father Francois-Xavier Wallays, General Superior of the Community of the Beatitudes, and several of his priests visited Arch-Bishop Tarcisio Bertoni, the secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of Rome, Arch-Bishop Bertoni said "one should consider Medjugorje the same way we consider Czestochowa - a very popular Marion Shrine in Poland", Let us wait with hope and in peace. Our task is now to pray that in Rome this new commission will be put together with wisdom and that it work's may serve the salvation of many. If Pole John Paul II has been able to write to his friends, Zofia and Marek Skmarnicki of Krakow that he went every day to Medjugorje through prayer it shows that he had perceived this providential grace of Medjugorje for our time. Here is an extract from one of the letters sent to Zorfia and Marek.

"I thank Zorfia for everything concerning Medjugorje, I too go there everyday as a pilgrim in my prayers. I unite in my prayers with all those who pray there or receive a calling from prayer from there. Today we have understood this calling better. I rejoice that our time is not lacking. People of prayer and apostles, (John Paul II, December 8, 1992).

As we await new changes for Medjugorje, let's remain faithful to the official documents dated May 26, 1996. Coming from the congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome:

"The Church allows private pilgrimages to Medjugorje and don't allow official pilgrimages. She asks that the pilgrims who go to Medjugorje may be accompanied by pastoral care.

(Medjugorje News, Issue 42 – September, 2006)

MORE on the COMMISSION

The first task of the new commission on Medjugorje will be to review that report of 1991 by the Bishops conference of Yugoslavia. That case stated "it cannot be affirmed that these matters concern supernatural apparitions or revelations."

It will also review the pastoral provisions that are made for pilgrims to the area. A conference was held

in Dublin in early July 2006 to mark the 25th Anniversary of the first alleged apparition to six children. At it Irish Theologian Father John Harris OP noted that “the Church has not refused the vocations that have come from Medjugorje; it has not denied absolution to all those who returned to the sacrament of confession; and it has not turned away the drug addicts who have recovered their dignity there.”

(Medjugorje Herald, October 2006)

CONSECRATION to OUR LADY of GUADALUPE

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Ever Virgin, mother of the True God, Woman clothed with the Sun, I totally consecrate myself to you and to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart.

In humility, through this consecration, I receive you, Virgin of Guadalupe, into every moment of my life and every fiber of my being. I am assured that God has chosen you for me and I recall what the Angel of the Lord told Saint Joseph:

“Do not be afraid to take Mary to yourself because what is in her is of the Holy Spirit.” [Mt. 1:20]

Holy Archangel Gabriel who presented the beauty and virtues of Mary’s should [Lk. 1:26-35] obtain for me the grace to imitate these virtues and, by my example, to show others how to live, how to love, how to sacrifice and how to die.

As I receive you, Queen and Mother of the Americas, I desire, with your help, to grow in my relationship with you, a relationship which was confirmed by your Divine Son as He hung dying on the cross when He said to you His Holy and Sorrowful Mother, “Woman, behold your Son!” And to Saint John, his beloved disciple, “Son, behold your Mother!” [Jn. 19:26-27]

I implore you, Queen of the Angels, and to Saint Michael and the other angels to defend us in our battle against Satan and all of the evil spirits in this present darkness. [Eph. 6:12]

In reparation I will pray and sacrifice.

Please pray for us who seek refuge in you, for the conversion of poor sinners who offend you and for the salvation of all souls!

I promise to keep ever before me your instructions at the Wedding Feast at Cana, “Do whatever He tells you.” [Jn. 2:5] In doing so I will be loyal and obedient to the Pope, your first son on earth.

I am sure in my consecration to you that you will lead me on a safe and sure path to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Holy Mother of God, save us through the Flame of Love of your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart! Send forth the grace from your Flame of Love to the whole human race now and at the hour of our death. Send forth your Spouse, the Holy Spirit, to bring us the New Pentecost and the fire of His Divine Love to renew the face of the earth.

O Mother of Mercy, let there be revealed, once more, in the history of the world the infinite power of merciful love! May it put an end to evil. May it transform consciences. May your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of faith, hope and love. May Christ the King reign over us, our families, cities, states, nations and the whole of humanity.

O clement, O loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary, hear our please and accept this cry from our hearts!

Dear Lady of Guadalupe, I conclude my consecration to you with the message you gave to Blessed Juan Diego in Mexico on Tepeyc Hill in 1531 hereby accepting it also as a message from you to me.

Know for certain that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God. Here I will show and offer all my love, my compassion, my help and protection to the people. I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all how love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping and their sorrows and will remedy and alleviate their suffering, necessities and misfortunes... Listen and let it penetrate your heart... Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexations, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the folds of my mantle?

In the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else you need?

Mary Our Blessed Mother! Pray for us!

[\(http://www.beliefnet.com/frame_offsite.asp?pageLoc=http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/\)](http://www.beliefnet.com/frame_offsite.asp?pageLoc=http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/)

THE HEALING POWER of ONE “HAIL MARY”

Let me share an unforgettable example of the power of one Hail Mary with the power of belief. This happened about ten years ago.

I receive many phone calls from people asking for prayers. These calls come from all over the world. One day my phone rang and a woman's lovely voice asked me if I was Tony Zuniga. I said yes. She then told me that she had heard about me and wondered if it was true that I help people with all kinds of problems in their lives. I simply told her that I always try to help anybody I can. What's your problem? I asked her.

She said, "It's not me. It's my sister. She is very sick and dying. Can you help her? I had been professing the power of one Hail Mary and the problem of sickness her sister had. I just blurted out, "Tell your sister to believe and to pray one Hail Mary and turn her problem over to Mary, the mother of God. Then tell your sister to forget about her problem and to go to sleep. God will take care of everything for her and she will be healed."

I almost went into shock when she answered me right back, "What is a Hail Mary?" And before I could even answer her, she added, "We're Hindu. We are not Christian. But I'm interested in this Hail Mary of yours. Let me get a pencil and paper and writing it down." So I recited the Hail Mary to her over the phone and she thanked me. That was it. That was all we shared.

She called back about a month later to tell me that her sister had been completely healed. She also added that both she and her sister had now become Catholic.

When she told me the above story, I went straight to the Blessed Sacrament and gave thanks once more for what God had accomplished through me. I also thanked the Holy Spirit for prompting me to speak to her about the Hail Mary.

We are not alone. God is always with us. As Bishop Fulton J. Sheen once said, "When God is with you, who dares to go against you?"

And don't forget that His Son Jesus is also with us. He is real, alive and present in the Holy Eucharist in all the tabernacles of the world and available to us at all times until the end of the world.

(By Brother Knight Tony Zuniga, Medjugorje News, Issue 42 – September, 2006)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

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

FATHER ROBERT THORN, BACK IN MEDJUGORJE!

Father Robert Thorn (former teacher of Transcendental Meditation) offers us a first hand witness about false peace: "I had a close friend who was so calm and at peace all the time and I asked him how he did it. And he said, "Well, I do Transcendental Meditation." I got a little information from him, and decided I wanted to try it. From the moment I started it, I felt so much peace flowing into my body. I really felt an incredible amount of peace. It got me away from drugs, because the TM program didn't allow it. Eventually, I became a teacher of TM.

Because of the encouragement of my brother, I came to visit Medjugorje but only as a tourist, out of curiosity.

One night, up on Apparition Hill, I was kneeling at the foot of the cross doing my Transcendental Meditation and some other pilgrims were praying next to me. One of them began to pray in tongues, and as soon as he started I had this uncomfortable feeling in my gut. I felt like I had to say something. All of a sudden I began to speak in tongues and he and I began to converse in tongues! This shows that the evil one can also speak in tongues!

After my experience in Medjugorje, I continued my work and travels, but began reading the Bible and praying the Rosary. I was still doing TM and was experiencing uncontrollable attraction for different women. I was living in sin.

I returned to Medjugorje (en route to rendezvous with a Turkish woman for a romantic getaway in Istanbul). After a few days, I cancelled the rest of my plans and remained in Medjugorje. I had an experience one evening at the healing service in the church, right after Mass. I was kneeling down, imagining the blood of Christ just flowing over me. I had my eyes closed, and all of a sudden I saw this ugly black creature, kind of a cross between a lobster crab and a beetle, just going across my mind's eye. I said instinctively, "That is an evil spirit. I need to get rid of it."

When a priest heard this in my confession, he said "Ahh, that is interesting. Tell me, have you been fasting?" I said, "Yes," and the priest replied, "Good, because the power of the Holy Spirit is greater when you have been fasting."

This priest was an exorcist and so, through a long intense night of prayer, we renounced and bound, in the name of Jesus Christ, the spirits that were in me. I felt incredible pain in my gut. It would start coming out of my throat as burps, one time (actually saw a jet of steam come right out of my mouth! I was flat on

my hands and knees on the floor and the priest was sprinkling me with Holy Water, he placed the crucifix against my gut and the pain was incredible.

At one point during this night, when the priest demanded, "In the name of Jesus Christ, who are you?" I found myself reciting my mantra from TM. Now it is forbidden to say your mantra out loud because it weakens its power to take you "within", so it surprised me that I would be saying it. I later asked the priest if there was anything wrong with TM, and I explained that what I had recited was my TM mantra. He said, "Well, it responded to the power and authority of Jesus Christ!" Later, both he and I found out the meaning of this mantra, and it was the demon of lust. At another point during the process, the name of one of the demons was that of a master in TM!

After this, I stopped doing TM "cold turkey" and started coming frequently to Medjugorje, spending time on Krizevac and praying for discernment. I started a novena and on the third night, while attending Mass, I clearly heard, during the offertory prayer "I want you to be a priest."

I was shocked. I didn't know what to do. I walked out of the church, in a daze, to the restaurant I always went to. I was praying to Mary. I said, "Mary, if this is really what You want of me, You have to help me with my desire to get married and have children." She said in response, "I'll give you more children than you could ever imagine."

Sister Em: How do you explain the kind of "peace" you had when you started TM?

"Now, I recognize it as a false peace. In going back and looking at all the teachings of TM, all of a sudden it was all just as clear as day to me that what they are talking about are demons! In TM you will feel that you have all you want fulfilled, because you go into this field and the demons provide for all your needs. And of course the demons are going to provide for your needs because every time you meditate, you are caressing them and stroking them and they want you to come back! This peace that you feel through TM is a false peace, centered on yourself. You are just caressing your own EGO and then you feel good. You don't realize that you are becoming "Jesus resistant" so to speak! But true peace flows from God to you when you turn to Him. TM instead is total self gratification."

Remember the words of Jesus, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you. Not as the world gives do I give unto you." (John 14:27)

Dearest Gospa, Queen of Peace, in our hearts and in the world, may Your voice prevail over those which deceive us!

SPOUSES' PRAYER

Lord Jesus, grant that I and my spouse may have a true and understanding love for each other. Grant that we may both be filled with faith and trust. Give us the grace to live with each other in peace and harmony. May we always bear with one another's weaknesses and grow from each other's strengths. Help us to forgive one another's failings and grant us patience, kindness, cheerfulness and the spirit of placing the well-being of one another ahead of self. May the love that brought us together grow and mature with each passing year. Bring us both ever closer to You through our love for each other. Let our love grow to perfection. Amen

http://www.beliefnet.com/prayeroftheday/more_prayers.asp?paid=57&faid=1



BLESSING (by a priest) of an ENGAGED COUPLE

(Sign of the Cross) In the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise You for Your goodness in bringing us together to celebrate in joy. Grant that all our festivities may be for your honor and glory.

We ask this grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us pray for N. and N. and for their families and friends, and ask God's help for all in need:

(Moment of silence)

HOLY MASS TIMES

If you ever think you will miss Holy Mass because you don't know the times of Holy Mass or the locations of churches in the area that you are going to visit or are currently located, please call **1-410-676-6000**.

If you have access to the Internet and don't already have it book marked, type in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) www.masstimes.org in the white box near the top of your browser.

You can find maps to the churches in addition to the times of Holy Mass celebrations.

Lord, bless N. and N., and help them as they prepare for marriage.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep them holy and pure in their lives, deepen their spirit of prayer and love, and lead them in perfect joy.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Bless their parents, families and friends, and lead us to help N. and N. by our prayer and example as they prepare to marry.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Have mercy on all who suffer need or pain, and through our generosity and love, bring them help and consolation.

We pray to the Lord. R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Concluding prayer...

Father, hear our prayers in Your love. Bless this couple, and help them as they prepare to celebrate the sacrament of marriage.

Father, we ask this grace through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing of the ring...

Father in heaven, bless + this ring, and grant N. and N. Your grace, so that they may prepare worthily for the sacrament of marriage, and live as Your beloved children. Grant this, Father, through Christ, our Lord.

Blessing of the engaged couple...

May almighty God bless you, N. and N. May He grant you love and happiness, peace and joy, and strength in trials, all the days of your life together.

May almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, give His blessing to you for ever and ever. Amen.

http://www.beliefnet.com/frame_offsite.asp?pageLoc=http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/

PRAYER of a DIVORCED or SEPARATED PERSON

Father, I belong to you. I place myself anew in your hands and acknowledge you as Master and Lord of my life. Grant me the gift of a forgiving heart and cleanse me of any anger, hostility, or revenge. Heal my hurts and teach me to rely on your love. Grant me wisdom of heart and strengthen me by your grace to move on in faith, in trust, and in love. Thank you, Lord, for your love in my life.

http://www.beliefnet.com/prayeroftheday/more_prayers.asp?paid=28&faid=1

MARY HELPS OVERCOME the TEMPTATION to a MEDIOCRE LIFE

VATICAN CITY, DEC 8, 2005 (VIS) - Following Mass in Saint Peter's Basilica, Benedict XVI appeared at the window of his private study in order to pray the Angelus with thousands of faithful gathered in the square below. In remarks to them, he referred to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception as "a day of intense spiritual joy."

The Pope recalled the image of Mary as she appears in the thirty-third canto of Paradise in Dante's Divine Comedy - "humbler and higher than all other creatures, fixed aim and goal of the eternal plan" - saying: "In contemplating the Virgin, how can we not reawaken in ourselves, her children, the aspiration to beauty, goodness and purity of heart? Her celestial candor attracts us towards God, helping us to overcome the temptation to a mediocre life - one made up of compromises with evil - and orienting us decisively towards authentic goodness, which is a source of joy."

The Pope then recalled once more the 40th anniversary of the closure of Vatican Council II, "the greatest ecclesial event of the twentieth century," when Pope Paul VI "amid the jubilation of many faithful in Saint Peter's Square, entrusted the implementation of the conciliar documents to the Virgin Mary, calling her with the title of Mother of the Church. ... In a special way, Mary watched with maternal concern over the pontificates of my venerated predecessors, each of whom, with great pastoral wisdom, guided the ship of Peter on the route of authentic conciliar renewal, working ceaselessly for the faithful interpretation and implementation of Vatican Council II."

After praying the Angelus, the Pope blessed the Olympic torch which was carried across Rome yesterday and which will eventually be borne to the northern Italian city of Turin, site of the 2006 Winter Olympic Games. The torch was brought into Saint Peter's Square by a Swiss Guard and a member of the Vatican Gendarmerie. "May this flame," said the Holy Father, "serve to recall those values of peace and universal fraternity that are the foundation of the Olympic Games."

(ANG/IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:OLYMPIC TORCH/...VIS 051209 (360))

PLENARY INDULGENCE for SOLEMNITY IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

VATICAN CITY, NOV 29, 2005 (VIS) - According to a decree made public today, Benedict XVI will grant the faithful a Plenary Indulgence for the forthcoming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8, 2005). The decree is signed by Cardinal James Francis Stafford and Father John Francis Girotti, O.F.M. Conv., respectively penitentiary major and regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary.

"December 8," the text reads, "will mark 40 years since Servant of God Paul VI, Supreme Pontiff, who had already proclaimed the Virgin Mary as Mother of the Church, in closing Vatican Council II dedicated great praise to the Virgin who, as Mother of Christ, is Mother of God and spiritual Mother to us all.

"On this Solemnity, the Supreme Pontiff Benedict XVI, when he renders public homage of praise to Mary Immaculate, has the heartfelt desire that the entire Church should join with him, so that all the faithful, united in the name of the common Mother, become ever stronger in the faith, adhere with greater devotion to Christ, and love their brothers with more fervent charity. From here - as Vatican Council II very wisely taught - arise works of mercy towards the needy, observance of justice, and the defense of and search for peace."

For this reason, the decree continues, the Holy Father "has kindly granted the gift of Plenary Indulgence which may be obtained under the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer in keeping with the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff), with the soul completely removed from attachment to any form of sin, on the forthcoming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, by the faithful if they participate in a sacred function in honor of the Virgin, or at least offer open testimony of Marian devotion before an image of Mary Immaculate exposed for public veneration, adding the recitation of the Our Father and of the Creed, and some invocation to the Virgin."

The document concludes by recalling that faithful who "through illness or other just cause," are unable to participate in a public ceremony or to venerate an image of the Virgin, "may obtain a Plenary Indulgence in their own homes, or wherever they may be, if, with the soul completely removed from any form of sin, and with the intention of observing the aforesaid conditions as soon as possible, they unite themselves in spirit and in desire to the Supreme

Pontiff's intentions in prayer to Mary Immaculate, and recite the Our Father and the Creed."

(.../DECREE INDULGENCE/STAFFORD VIS 051129 (420))

BLOOPERS from CHURCH BULLETINS

Thank God for church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced in church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8 PM in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill The Holy Saints

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Smile at someone who is hard to love.

Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir.

They need all the help they can get.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility. Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10 AM. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B. S. is done.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge--Up Yours"

Terzmaster2@aol.com Mon 7/10/2006

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.

Those who saw our **60 tables** of inventory display at the **Camden Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Weekend** at the **Wildwoods Convention Center, 12-15 October 2006**, can testify to the extent of material in our inventory. Any help to manage it would be greatly appreciated.

We need volunteers to help us get the entire inventory available for production of order forms.

We are in the process of taking pictures and/or scanning covers into our Inventory system so we can support the order form process as well as to eventually load up a shopping cart program allowing **Internet** users to see our **Inventory** on-line.

If you have inventory or computer skills we would love to have your help.

Laurie Lubrano and **Bill Malone** have been of great help in the effort of simply taking inventory and maintaining the Inventory data base based on the great original work by **Vince** and **Livia Nocella**. If you would have a few moments to assist them, **Laurie** is doing the computer work and **Bill** is helping **Vince** and **Livia** with the organizing and counting. They can always use some additional hands. We want to complete as much of the current inventory as possible before the **2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE**. After this event we will have to count the inventory to see where we stand. **Laurie** and **Bill** want us to start using a shopping cart program so we need some regular volunteers to handle the telephone and process orders off the shopping cart program to the point of mailing them out.

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.

16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007 - **PFMC** RETREAT CONFERENCE

Theme: "but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)[NAB]. Location: Clarion Hotel, NJ 70 and I-295, Cherry Hill, NJ. Speakers: Father Bill Halbing, Francine Schmatz, Neal Lozano, Robert Abel, Moira Noonan, Father John Tino, Father Michael Semana. Music: Refuge. Donation: \$50 Meal Plan: \$60. Call (856) 768-9228. Visit the following: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET2.pdf review, and print form, fill-out, and mail registration form to 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963.

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.

16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007 - PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. THEME: "but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)[NAB]. LOCATION: Clarion Hotel, NJ 70 and I-295, Cherry Hill, NJ. SPEAKERS: Father Bill Halbing, Francine Schmatz, Neal Lozano, Robert Abel, Moira Noonan, Father John Tino, Father Michael Semana. MUSIC: REFUGE. DONATION: \$50 Meal Plan: \$60. Call (856) 768-9228.

CALENDARS:

In **November**, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of **CHRIST the KING** (26), the Feast of **Saint Andrew the Apostle** (30), Memorials of **Saints Martin of Tours** (11), **Frances Xavier Cabrini** (13), **Elizabeth of Hungary** (17), **Cecilia** (22), **Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions** (24) and the **Presentation of Mary** (21), and the Optional Memorials of **Saints Albert the Great** (15), **Margaret of Scotland** (16), **Gertrude** (16), **Rose Philippine Duchesne** (18), **Pope Clement I** (23), **Columban** (23), as well as **Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro** (23), and the **Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome** (18) and **Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** (27). Church calendars recognize **Veterans Day** (11), and **Thanksgiving Day** (23). **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

In **December**, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** (8) and **CHRISTMAS** (25), Feasts of **Our Lady of Guadalupe** (12), **Saint Stephen, First Martyr** (26), **Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist** (27), **Holy Innocents** (28), and **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph** (30), Memorials of **Saints Ambrose** (7), **Lucy** (13), **John of the Cross** (14) and Optional Memorials of **Saints John of Damascus** (4), **Nicholas** (6), **Juan Diego** (9), **Pope Damasus I** (11), **Jane Frances de Chantal** (12), **Peter Canisius** (21), **John of Kanty** (23), and **Thomas Becket** (29). **MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all! Please register for the 2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE and reserve your room at the CLARION HOTEL.**

AROUND the **PFMC** AREA

Please review the announcements on **pages 1** through **4**, and on **pages 35** and **36** 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 your religious articles and materials gifts. 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 **November 2006**

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of **November 2006** is: "That, everywhere in the world, an end be put to all forms of terrorism."

His mission intention is: "That through the effort of believers, together with the forces of society, the new and old chains which prevent the development of the African Continent may be broken."

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

Page 36

The PILGRIM, Volume 17, Number 11 – November 2006

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

