



The PILGRIM

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December 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

Holy Mary, in the great trial of going the long journey to Jerusalem, you had many hardships to endure. Mary, our journey toward Heaven is also long and difficult. Teach us how to offer all up to God, that each day we will be filled with a desire for purity, endurance, and perseverance toward goals including eternal peace.



We thank you Holy Mary, and we thank Joseph for your "yes" to accept the responsibilities of being a Holy Family responsible for raising Jesus from birth in your Jewish family, through his pilgrimages to Jerusalem, to his final human mission on earth.

Show all families the disciplines of prayer and living that are needed to bring up children in a loving manner. Help parents to teach their children about your Son Jesus. Help them to bring God into their relationships together. Help all married couples to live in chastity and purity.

Mary teach all mothers to be gentle and to desire to be like you in their parenting. Teach all husbands to be like Saint Joseph in their humility, respect, and communications with their family.

Thank You Mary for your journey so that we could learn from you. We love you Mother, and we need you and your daily guidance. **AMEN**

MERRY CHRISTMAS, and HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This **December** issue of "**The PILGRIM**" is being mailed a bit late because of the **Werner Family Thanksgiving** and **Advent** preparation in **Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**. We hope you have been preparing yourselves and your 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. We repeat our wish from last month that

you and your family have 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**. See: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET2.pdf review it, and print out the form, fill it out, and mail registration form to **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963**. Reserve rooms at **CLARION HOTEL**.

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. It will be one that you will never forget.

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. Bring a friend or an entire prayer group. We have put together a program to teach you about **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** particularly **HEALING PRAYER** and

The **November MESSAGE**, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, is presented on page 12 (centerfold page) with **REFLECTIONS**.

"**The PILGRIM**" for **December 2006** is dedicated to "**Mary, Our Celestial Mother.**" See page 3 for **Table of Contents** or "**IN THIS ISSUE . . .**"

DELIVERANCE MINISTRY. 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.

Please consider giving reservations for this event with or without hotel rooms as Christmas gifts.

CAN YOU HELP US?

There is a tremendous cost to producing “**The PILGRIM**” and to maintaining the **PFMC** building and property at **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ.** We need your support for this print form of evangelization. We have tried to reduce costs even going to bi-monthly issues.

We have put in every issue sent out, an envelope and donation coupon for you to place with your monthly bills. We had hoped that you would send us what you could when you are finished paying your monthly bills. Unfortunately, only a handful of these envelopes and donation coupons get returned. What was returned hardly paid for the printing of the small envelopes and donation coupons. As a cost saving effort we started purchasing cheaper envelopes and

labeling them ourselves. Then we started printing and cutting our own donation coupons. The envelopes and donation coupons are bigger so you can write more on them.

Because of lack of funds to print and mail it out, our periodical “**The PILGRIM**” is in danger of further cutbacks to more bi-monthly or even quarterly issues and probably will be cancelled completely.

Many cannot afford multiple magazine or newspaper subscriptions and do not take the time to read a lot of periodicals to help them with their prayer life or spirituality. We try to provide just “enough” to read for an entire month to help. Support us this month and every month with a generous donation.

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 08043-4963.**

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.

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

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 19.](#)

February 2007

16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007: PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. See article starting on [page 1.](#)

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:
Judy Polistina, 11/27/06. Born 11/29/46.

Founder of **Lion of Judah** and **Coordinator of**

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.

Youth Track for many conferences including ours.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made in **Judy's** memory to: **FUSCOO (Franciscan University Summer Conference), 1235 University Blvd., Steubenville, OH 43952, c/o Jackie Vandenberg.**

Expressions of sympathy may be e-mailed to
Condolences@GardnerFuneralHome.com.

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.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD?



The mother of the messiah has been called many things in the last 2000 years –the Virgin Mary, Our Lady, the Blessed Mother. But call her “the Mother of God,” and you’ll see some Christians squirm.

This is nothing new. One day in the early fifth century, a priest preached a stirring sermon in the presence of the patriarch of Constantinople.

His subject was the holy mother of Jesus. The preacher continually referred to Mary as the “Theotokos” meaning “God-bearer” or mother of God. This was no innovation—Christians had invoked Mary under this title for at least two hundred years. Nevertheless, at the close of the sermon, the patriarch ascended the steps of the pulpit to correct the preacher. We should call Mary the Mother of Christ, said Patriarch Nestorius, not the Mother of God. She was the mother of his human nature, not the mother of his divinity.

His comment sparked a riot. And the dispute rocked not only the congregation, but the entire empire. Cyril, patriarch of Alexandria, Egypt, immediately recognized that Nestorius’ Marian theology was a symptom of a much deeper problem, a problem with the incarnation itself. For to deny Mary the title “Mother of God” makes of Jesus a dichotomy, a split personality. It would mean that God had not really embraced our humanity so as to become human. Rather, the humanity of Christ is hermetically sealed off from the divinity, as if Jesus were two persons, as if human nature was so distasteful that God, in Christ, had to keep it at arm’s distance. It is OK, according to Nestorius, to say that in Jesus, God raised Lazarus, or multiplied the loaves, or walked on water. But it is

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not OK to say that in Jesus God is born or that God died.



Cyril, aware that this was a challenge to the heart of our faith, demanded that an ecumenical council be called to settle the matter. So in 431, the Council of Ephesus met, under Cyril’s leadership, and solemnly proclaimed that Mary is indeed rightly to be honored as the Theotokos, the Mother of God. It proclaimed that from the moment of his conception, God truly became man. Of course Mary is a creature and could never be the origin of the eternal Trinity, God without beginning or end. But the second person of the blessed Trinity chose to truly become man. He did not just come and borrow a human body and drive it around for awhile, ascend back to heaven, and discard it like an old car. No, at the moment of his conception in the womb of Mary, an amazing thing happened. God the Son united himself with a human nature forever. Humanity and divinity were so closely bound together in Jesus, son of Mary, that

they could never be separated again. Everything that would be done by the son of Mary would be the act both of God and of man. So indeed it would be right to say that a man raised Lazarus from the dead and commanded the wind and waves, that God was born that first Christmas day and that, on Good Friday, God died.



The Council of Ephesus, once confirmed by the Pope, became the third ecumenical council of the Catholic Church, and its teaching in this matter is dogma, truth revealed by God which all are bound to accept.

So why does the Roman liturgy celebrate the Octave of Christmas as the Feast of Mary the Mother of God? Because this paradoxical phrase strikes at the very heart of Christmas. The songs we sing and the cards we write extol the babe of Bethlehem as Emmanuel, God-with-us. He is so with us that after Gabriel's visit to the Virgin of Nazareth, the Divine Word can never again be divided from our humanity. What God has joined, let no man separate.

This was originally published in the January 1, 2006 edition of Our Sunday Visitor (www.osv.com) as a reflection on the readings for the Octave of Christmas, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

(by Doctor Marcellino D'Ambrosio from http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/library_article/844/Mary_Mother_of_God_.html)

9-11 and A MAN from NORFOLK

(Our reviewers have informed us that there is concern about the contents of this great story. Those concerns are spelled out on web site pages such as: <http://www.snopes.com/rumors/matthews.asp> and http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl_robert_matt_hews.htm. It is still a great story so here it is.)

A man from Norfolk, VA called a local radio station to share this on September 11th, 2003. His name was Robert Matthews. These are his words:

"A few weeks before September 11th, my wife and I found out we were going to have our first child. She planned a trip out to California to visit her sister. On our way to the airport, we prayed that God would grant my wife a safe trip and be with her. Shortly after I said 'amen,' we both heard a loud pop and the car shook violently. We had blown out a tire. I replaced the tire as quickly as I could, but we still missed her flight. Both very upset, we drove home.

I received a call from my father who was retired NYFD. He asked what my wife's flight number was, but I explained that we missed the flight. My father informed me that her flight was the one that crashed into the southern tower.

I was too shocked to speak. My father also had more news for me; he was going to help. This is not something I can't just sit by for I have to do something. I was concerned for his safety, of course, but more because he had never given his life to Christ.

After a brief debate, I knew his mind was made up. Before he got off of the phone, he said, 'take good care of my grandchild.' Those were the last words I ever heard my father say. He died while helping in the rescue effort. My joy that my prayer of safety for my wife had been answered quickly became anger. I was angry at God, at my father, and at myself. I had gone for nearly two years blaming God for taking my father away. My son would never know his grandfather, my father had never accepted Christ, and I never got to say good-bye.

Then something happened. About two months ago, I was sitting at home with my wife and my son, when there was a knock on the door. I looked at my wife, but I could tell she wasn't expecting anyone. I opened the door to a couple with a small child. The man looked at me and asked if my father's name was Jake Matthews. I told him it was. He quickly grabbed my hand and said, 'I never got the chance to meet your father, but it is an honor to meet his son.'

He explained to me that his wife had worked in the World Trade Center and had been caught inside after the attack. She was pregnant and had been caught under debris. He then explained that my father had been the one to find his wife and free her.

My eyes welled up with tears as I thought of my father giving his life for people like this.

He then said, 'there is something else you need to know.' His wife then told me that as my father worked to free her, she talked to him and lead him to Christ.

I began sobbing at the news. Now I know that when I get to heaven, my father will be standing beside Jesus to welcome me, and that this family would be able to thank him themselves. When their baby boy was born, they named him Jacob Matthew in honor of the man who gave his life so that mother and baby could live."

This story should help us to realize two things: First that though it has been almost five years since the attacks, we should never let it become a mere tragic memory. And second - but most important - God is

always in control. We may not see the reason behind things, and we may never know this side of heaven, but God is ALWAYS in control.

Please take time to share this amazing story with those you love. You may never know the impact it may have on someone. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called. Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever. (Psalm 136) Always remember to forget the troubles that pass your way. BUT never forget to remember the blessings that come each day.

[\(bwinkelmann@npdodge.com\)](mailto:bwinkelmann@npdodge.com)

HEAVENLY FATHER - A HEALING PRAYER

Heavenly 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 To order more Heavenly Father
Prayerphone 1-610-799-5773)**

SAINT NOW!

Even before Pope John Paul II was laid to rest on April 8 in the crypt beneath Saint Peter's Basilica, the faithful were crying out for him to be declared a "saint now!" and elevated to the rank of John Paul the Great. His cause for canonization could begin moving forward as soon as Pope Benedict XVI approves it and waives the five-year waiting period, as John Paul II did for Mother Teresa.

As the world now adjusts to a new Holy Father, the faithful agree that John Paul II has left us a remarkable legacy. He lives on through his writings,

his prayerful witness to the love of Christ, his diplomacy on the world stage, and the underlying theme of his pontificate: the dignity of every human person.

A profoundly human Pope, John Paul II always lived what he taught, says the Very Rev. Father John Rokosz, MIC, Superior General of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception.

"He defended human life from the moment of conception until natural death," Father John said. "He established personal contact with those who found themselves marginalized by our technologically oriented society - the sick, the elderly, and the poor."

A POPE WHO SUFFERED FOR THE CHURCH

Perhaps John Paul's greatest teaching came at the very end of his life, when he was unable to speak. He lived out the words of Saint Paul: "I am content with weaknesses... and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor 12:10).

Once an athlete who skied into his early 70s, John Paul in his later years offered us a precious gift in his suffering by uniting it with Christ's for the Church.

Vatican officials described the suffering Pope as "lucid and serene" in his final days. His closest collaborators surrounded him in the papal apartment, and he was aware of the thousands of faithful who had gathered in Saint Peter's Square to pray for him.

The faithful knew that the end was near when the Vatican reported on April 1, that he was in "very grave" condition after suffering cardiac-circulatory

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

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

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

Newark and New York Archdioceses as well as the Allentown,

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

Rockville Center, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses.

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

collapse and septic shock.

A POPE LOVED and MOURNED by MILLIONS

After serving the Church as Pope for more than 26 years, John Paul II died in the evening on Saturday, April 2. He passed away after his personal secretary, Archbishop Stanislaus Dziwisz, presided at a Divine Mercy Sunday Mass on the vigil of the feast in the Holy Father's presence.

Upon receiving news of his passing, an estimated 4 million mourners made their way to Rome to pay tribute to their beloved Pope. The April 8 funeral Mass drew about 400,000 pilgrims to Saint Peter's Square with millions more watching on large TV screens in the streets of Rome.

"Today, we bury his remains in the earth as a seed of immortality - our hearts are full of sadness, yet at the same time of joyful hope and profound gratitude," Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Dean of the College of Cardinals, said in his homily at the funeral.

Alluding to John Paul's sanctity, the Cardinal- who is now Pope Benedict XVI - said the Holy Father was a "priest to the last" who had offered his life for God and his flock "especially amid the sufferings of his final months."

A POPE WHO DEFENDED HUMAN DIGNITY

John Paul II's papacy touched on everything from the responsibilities of those in public office to reflections on

the arts. He expressed contempt for any ideology that was not marked by a profound respect for human life.

Papal biographer and former Superior General of the Marians, Father Adam Boniecki, MIC, recalled that even as Cardinal of Krakow, the future Pope was focused on human freedom in communist Poland. "He encouraged me, a priest, to take certain actions which were forbidden by the [communists], saying that we should expand the sphere of freedom at the risk of a fine or having to stand before a tribunal he said in the video version of George Weigel's papal biography "Witness to Hope".

"These efforts may not have been spectacular," Father Adam said, "but they were very deep-reaching and, because of that long-lasting and effective [in undermining the communist regime in Poland].

That effort continued in John Paul II's papacy and eventually led to the downfall of communism in Eastern Europe.

A POPE WHO LOVED EVERY PERSON

Father John, who attended the funeral Mass, said that there was such an outpouring of love for John Paul II at his passing because of his profound witness to the love of Christ.

"He demonstrated that a Pope does not stop being a man and does not lose his right to express his love for God and man a natural way," he said. "People who were fortunate to meet him in person tell how well he was able to approach each of them in a personal way."

Another hallmark of John Paul's papacy was his affection for the young. He would often stop to embrace children as he popemobile made its way through Saint Peter's Square, and he established World Youth Day.

"He had a deep affection for young people whom he won over by his authenticity, but also by governing them challenges and demands," Father John said.

This man of deep love every human being may one day be known as Saint John Paul the Great. He leaves an enduring legacy for the Church and the world.

(By Patrick Novacosky. Former assistant editor of Marian Helper magazine. He is a freelance writer based in Ann Harbor, MT. From Marian Helper, Summer Issue, 2005)

THE LAWYER

What I felt was a decent life, my time on earth came to the end

The first thing I remember is sitting on a bench in the waiting room of what I thought to be a court house

The doors opened and I was instructed to come in and have a seat by the defense table

As I looked around I saw the "prosecutor." He was a villainous looking gent who snarled as he stared at me. He definitely was the most evil person I have ever seen.

I sat down and looked to my left and there sat My Attorney, a kind and gentle looking man whose appearance seemed so familiar to me, I felt I knew Him

The corner door flew open and there appeared the Judge in full flowing robes. He commanded an awesome presence as He moved across the room I couldn't take my eyes off of Him. As He took His seat behind the bench, He said, "Let us begin

The prosecutor rose and said, "My name is Satan and I am here to show you why this man belongs in hell." He proceeded to tell of lies that I told, things that I stole, and in the past when I cheated others. Satan told of other horrible perversions that were once in my life and the more he spoke, the further down in my seat I sank.

I was so embarrassed that I couldn't look at anyone, even my own Attorney, as the Devil told of sins that even I had completely forgotten about

As upset as I was at Satan for telling all these things about me, I was equally upset at My Attorney who sat there silently not offering any form of defense at all.

I know I had been guilty of those things, but I had done some good in my life - couldn't that at least equal out part of the harm I'd done?

Satan finished with a fury and said, "This man belongs in hell, he is guilty of all that I have charged and there is not a person who can prove otherwise."

When it was His turn, My Attorney first asked if He might approach the bench. The Judge allowed this over the strong objection of Satan, and beckoned Him to come forward. As He got up and started walking, I was able to see Him in His full splendor and majesty. I realized why He seemed so familiar; this was Jesus representing me, my Lord and my Savior.

He stopped at the bench and softly said to the Judge, "Hi, Dad," and then He turned to address the court

"Satan was correct in saying that this man had sinned, I won't deny any of these allegations. And, yes, the wage of sin is death, and this man deserves to be punished.

Jesus took a deep breath and turned to His Father with outstretched arms and proclaimed, "However, I died on the cross so that this person might have eternal life and he has accepted Me as his Savior, so he is Mine."

My Lord continued with, "His name is written in the book of life and no one can snatch him from Me

Satan still does not understand yet. This man is not to be given justice, but rather mercy.

As Jesus sat down, He quietly paused, looked at His Father and said, "There is nothing else that needs to be done.

I've done it all.

The Judge lifted His mighty hand and slammed the gavel down. The following words bellowed from His lips.

"This man is free." The penalty for him has already been paid in full. Case dismissed."

As my Lord led me away, I could hear Satan ranting and raving, "I won't give up, I will win the next one." I asked Jesus as He gave me my instructions where to go next, "Have you ever lost a case?"

Christ lovingly smiled and said, "Everyone that has come to Me and asked Me to represent them has received the same verdict as you, "Paid In Full," Bless you both.

THE MORAL: Stop telling God how big your storm is. Instead, tell the storm how big your God is.

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

[\(billw@winkelmann.org\)](mailto:billw@winkelmann.org)

A LITANY for NURSES

Dear Jesus, I believe you called me to serve you as I minister to those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. In gratitude for the vocation of nursing,

Touch me with your healing love.

For the grace to become a healer with the heart of Jesus, ***Touch me with your healing love.***

For the times I was made to feel inadequate by co-workers or supervisors,

Touch me with your healing love.

For the grace to let go of resentment against those who have wounded me in word or action,

Touch me with your healing love

For the times I have felt powerless in the midst of others' pain and suffering,

Touch me with your healing love

For the fears I have regarding my own mortality and death, ***Touch me with your healing love***

For my concerns regarding the changes in health care

Touch me with your healing love

For the grace to know your will for me and the courage to carry it out,

Touch me with your healing love

That I may bring your tender mercy to all those who seek my help, ***Touch me with your healing love***

AMEN

(Association of Christian Therapists (ACT))

PRAYER to ABBA-ALMIGHTY GOD

For each of us as an only-child relationship with the Father;

I pray that You Bless each one of us with an open heart and willing mind to see the true journey You have prepared for each of us and to embrace You, Lord, every step of the Way without hesitation or reserve.

We ask You now, to remove any blindfolds, any hindrances, any deceptions, anything at all that would block our receiving Your Truth, Your Will, Your Grace, Your Love, Your Favor, this day and each and everyday from this day forward.

May we serve only You, Lord Jesus Christ, in Love, in Truth. May our faith in You grow each day. May our lives expand to encompass Your Truth. May we enter the Throne Room of Almighty God each and every day to access Your Truth. For this we pray.

Alleluia. Amen. And again I say Alleluia, Amen!

(Now, enter the throne room which is in your heart / soul. It is indeed a safe place. The easiest Way to access the doorway is through Eucharist / Communion. If you can not go officially, then go spiritually in your homes. Keep a record of the Lord's directions and comforts in your prayer journals. Remember we are a profound intercessory army of prayer, and we don't even need to leave home! Lastly here is a blessing for you.)

"I have heard you, I AM answering you. Be schooled in My Ways by only praying and I WILL open treasures to you. Pray. Pray. Pray. I WILL advance you beyond human means. I need only for you to set aside 15 minutes to pray. Pray. Pray. Pray. I know a way. Pray. I Love You. I Bless you abundantly."

(ACT 7/3/06)

TALK by FATHER PETAR LJUBICIC

Dear Friends,

There is an excellent article on a talk given by Father Petar Ljubicic in the October/November 2006 "Medjugorje Star". I would like to share that article in its entirety with you:

"Father Petar Speaks of Medjugorje"

transcribed by Kay Mule

On October 17, 2006, Father Petar Ljubicic spoke in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at Our Lady of Mercy

Church. He spoke in Croatian. The following is taken from the English translation of that talk. He said that in Medjugorje there are two mountains and one church between. There you can find everything you need. Some people have a problem with the fact that Our Lady has been appearing so long, 9,232 days. But Our Lady sees that so many of her children are having trouble that she continues to remind them that conversion in their life and following God's will for them will bring peace and joy.

Next year Father Petar will be a priest for 35 years and he is still in the process of conversion. He told several testimonies of the miracle of conversion in the lives of people through their Medjugorje experience. Conversion means to try to stop sinning, to try to live a new life. Once the visionaries asked Our Lady, "What do you expect of priests?" She said that they should firmly believe in God and help people to believe. Then he related the witness of a priest who told of his conversion in front of over 4,000 people and a bishop in Medjugorje. He had been a drug addict, but through Medjugorje he decided to become a priest. He held up his hands and said, "Look at my hands! A few years ago they were giving out drugs, passing around drugs, contaminating people. But Jesus freed me from that condition. My hands were consecrated by my bishop and now my hands are passing Jesus around to people." Thus we see that God is able to do everything when we surrender to His will.

Q. What will be your role when it is time for the secrets to be revealed?

A. The Holy Mother entrusted the visionaries with ten secrets. Mirjana was given a parchment which contains the secrets (now invisible). Ten days before the first secret will occur, he will be given the parchment. He and Mirjana will fast for seven days. Three days before, he will reveal to everyone what will happen. The first and second secrets are related to Medjugorje because the Holy Mother appeared there. These will be a great warning to the people in Medjugorje about how they accept and live the messages. The third secret will be a perpetual sign that will happen on Apparition Hill. It will be a joy for people who believe and a sign for people who did not convert yet.

Now on Apparition Hill is a statue of Our Lady. One family from Korea had a son who was very ill. Jesus healed him through prayer in Medjugorje. As a sign of appreciation, they brought this statue of Our Lady there. Miraculous things happen in Medjugorje! The most important thing is that we convert, that we consecrate and live according to the will of God, that

we pray and believe. Then whatever happens, we are in God's hands.

A year ago you had a huge catastrophe (Hurricane Katrina). This is also a warning that we always have to be ready. Every thing that we have obtained is gone in a few minutes.

But good deeds, prayers and faith are returnable. I am trying to say that we have to be able to read the signs of the times we are living in. We are just passing through this world. Our true home is in heaven. We are here on earth on vacation. And that vacation is short! We have to think about our eternal life.

This is what I have to say about the secrets. Secrets are made for people so that they take faith more seriously and try to become better.

Q. Was Katrina a warning for us?

A. Any catastrophe is always a warning. We always try to figure out why those bad things happen to good people. Just and good believers have nothing to lose. They only gain in catastrophes. God always gives them the strength to thank Him and they say, "God, we want to be faithful to you still, no matter what is going on." These persons always learn a lesson so they can become better. This is the way I look at it.

(mikeseppal@webtv.net 11/25/06)

ENCLOSED ITEMS

In this *December* 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.

Extra copies are available for your prayers groups or parishes. Please make sure you have permission before you distribute in parishes.

The new larger **PFMC** donation envelope and the new larger donation coupon expanded in size over those smaller versions 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.

See donations needed article on page 2.

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.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

As many of our Spiritual Directors have advised their parishioners, it would be of great value if you would consider a religious article, book, pamphlet, or even a statue as part of your Christmas gifts for each person on your list.

We have a large selection of these items in the inventory at the **PFMC** and will try to be open for your review of our displays. Please call **(856) 768-9228** in advance of your visit to make sure that someone is available to assist you.

MESSAGE of 11/25/2006 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

Dear children! Also today I call you to pray, pray, pray. Little children, when you pray you are close to God and He gives you the desire for eternity. This is a time when you can speak more about God and do more for God. Therefore, little children, do not resist but permit Him to lead you, to change you and to enter into your life. Do not forget that you are travellers on the way toward eternity. Therefore, little children, permit God to lead you as a shepherd leads his flock. 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 11/25/2006

WHEN YOU PRAY YOU ARE CLOSE TO GOD

In her recent message, just like in many of her previous messages, the Blessed Virgin Mary repeats and calls us three times in a row to: “pray, pray, pray”. She utters these words wanting to remind us and to emphasize the importance of prayer for our spiritual life. It is not about some pious exercise or an imposed law. It is not a call to follow a forgotten custom. Prayer is not some spiritual training. Prayer is life. Just as our body needs air, food and other conditions in order to live, our soul needs prayer. We become well aware when we neglect our body. When we become undisciplined with our diet, our body easily falls ill. The same happens when we neglect prayer. Then spiritual viruses and bacteria find an easy way to our soul and man easily becomes a slave to all sorts of sins. He becomes prey of evil, hatred, wickedness, bad habits, curses, harsh words, selfishness, laziness and other evils.

Being a Mother, Mary wants to tell us that there is no other way and no other means towards God but through prayer. “Little children, when you pray you are close to God” – she speaks to us. In prayer we hear the echo of eternity in our souls. Or as the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us: “As ‘the seed of eternity that we bear in ourselves is irreducible to the merely material, man’s soul can have its origins only in God’ (CCC 33).

Only in prayer to which Our Lady calls us so tirelessly can we experience and feel that deep desire hidden in our hearts. Only in prayer can we experience the truthfulness of Saint Paul’s words: “But our homeland is in heaven. And we eagerly await Our Saviour from there – the Lord Jesus Christ” (Phil 3,20).

Eternity does not begin when we die. We are immersed in eternity. It has already begun. We are to commit ourselves to it and struggle for it every single day. To be devoted to the Holy Spirit is to find eternity in time. The experience we have about the reality before a prayer is an experience of a limited nature of this reality to begin with. We experience how everything passes and goes into its own direction. However, after a prayer we see that everything is becoming different, new and never-ending. We then become fulfilled with eternity and discover an eternal dimension in everything. Or as Saint John of the Cross wrote: “Lord God, anything can change as long as you permit us to have our dwelling place in You. Once we find our dwelling place in God through prayer, we no longer live in changes. At the end of our lives events continue to take place. We, however, are no longer involved in them. We find ourselves in a deeper place, in God, who is the very stability.

Once we have accepted God and taken His side that is against sins, evil, darkness and hatred, we already are in eternity. It is here that we need to struggle and create God’s Kingdom. It is here that we need to be allowed and to allow God to guide us, change us and enter into our lives just as Mother Mary invites us to do.

With sincere and humble hearts we pray to Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, who has become great because she has let God perform His works in her and through her. Let her teach us how to believe and how to surrender completely to God and to our fellow creatures in order to truly experience in us the eternity that we have been created for.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.11.2006,
(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr/Main.aspx>)

ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 11/25/2006

“Dear children! Also today I call you to pray, pray, pray.” Again, in this monthly message of November 25, 2006, Our Lady is encouraging all of Her little children to become Her prayer warriors. During these days, as we begin another Advent season, may we accept this request of Our Lady with much exuberance, persistence and perseverance.

When we open up our hearts to God through prayer, Our Lady explains to us the beautiful impact that praying can have for us. ***“Little children, when you pray you are close to God and He gives you the desire for eternity.”*** These beautiful words of our dear Blessed Mother challenge us to understand the importance of our relationship with God. The time has come for us to reflect more and more about eternal life. We must prepare ourselves for Jesus, and when we, ***“pray, pray, pray,”*** we begin this process.

Unfortunately, since most folks are very busy during the month of December, many neglect to pray. However, we have been challenged to overcome this dilemma. We must focus upon Our Lady’s call to ***“pray, pray, pray.”***

May we respond by praying many rosaries, and all of our favorite prayer devotions during these days. Also, spend some quiet time with Our Lord reflecting upon the sacredness of His birth and those beautiful events that preceded it. Read the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Meditate upon the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary. Contemplate within your heart the love of Our Lady as she said yes to Gabriel; and traveled to the hill country to see *“her kinswoman Elizabeth, who was with child.”* Be inspired by the zeal and courage of John the Baptist as he heralded the coming of the Lord. This is the amazing story of the Eternal Father’s unconditional love for us. Our personal reflection upon the incarnation (the coming of the Messiah, the Son of God into this world) *“when the word was made Flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14)* can definitely bring us closer to God. We can become more aware of the presence of the Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit within our lives.

In this process, we begin to prepare our souls for eternal life. In the third sentence of Her message of November 25, 2006, Our Lady says, ***this is a time when you can speak more about God and do more for God.*** With the tenderness and compassion of Our Lady, we have been called to lead souls to Jesus. This task is most important. When the parties and celebrations of December 2006 are over, will we have done anything for Jesus? Again, as we contemplate

God’s unconditional love for us, may we offer ourselves totally to Jesus for the salvation of souls. This is truly serving God and doing His work.

“Therefore, little children, do not resist but permit Him to lead you, to change you and to enter into your life.” With these words, Our Lady is encouraging us to open up our hearts to the Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Are we willing to allow our Triune God to lead us, to change us, and to enter into our life? Hopefully, we will answer this question with a resounding yes; but for some an attitude adjustment is needed. God wishes to nourish us with His unconditional love, but we must invite Him into that sacred place reserved for Him, our souls. Prayer, conversion, and openness to God’s way will lead us to Him. As we bring God into our lives, we can acquire the grace from the Holy Spirit to share this presence of God with others. As we contemplate these thoughts in our minds, the next two sentences of Our Lady’s message of November 25, 2006 seem quite appropriate. ***“Do not forget that you are travelers on the way toward eternity. Therefore, little children, permit God to lead you as a shepherd leads his flock.”***

On a daily basis, we become very concerned with many tasks that need to be accomplished. Some of these may involve work situations, family needs, or other responsibilities that we may have. However, during this time of grace given to us by the Eternal Father to overcome the darkness of sin and evil that has enveloped so many, we have been called to prepare ourselves for eternal life. The salvation of our own soul and the souls of others should be as important to us as it is to the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Our Lady. I wonder, is it? As people

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.

of faith, we must make those changes in our life that allow us to say yes to this question.

During these days of Advent, may we pray to the Holy Spirit and Our Lady for their intercession within our lives. If we give them the chance, they will lead us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus; who is waiting patiently to prepare our souls for the divine love of the Eternal Father. We have to be open to these situations involving our relationship with God. We must be willing to continue to change so that we can lead others to Jesus through the intercession of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady. This can only happen when we pray and allow God to lead us. May we always be His devoted sons and daughters while accepting Our Lady as our Blessed Mother. Let us be her little children. She will always lead us to Her Son.

I hope you are well. Please give my best to all of your families. Prepare in a very spiritual way to celebrate Jesus' birth. Let us remember "Jesus is the reason for the season." As we experience the joy and beauty of Christmas, may we contemplate the sacredness of the Eucharist. Attend the Eucharist on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In this way, we will truly be giving Jesus a special gift on His birthday, the gift of ourselves. May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever, and ever. Amen.

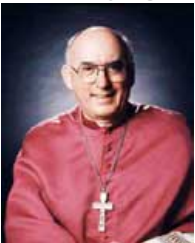
God's love and prayers always,

Father Ed

HEdwardChalmers@aol.com, Thursday, 11/30/2006)

SELECTED "NEWS ARTICLES"

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, Saint Paul-Minneapolis, USA, a Testimony: „In Medjugorje, people are turning to God"



(Published in the Saint Paul-Minneapolis archdiocesan newspaper, The Catholic Spirit, October 19, 2006 and in <http://www.spiritdaily.org>)

Some years ago when I was first a bishop in Louisiana, it must have been 1988, I was making my first "ad limina" visit to the Holy Father in Rome.

The other bishops of Louisiana were with me and, as was the custom of John Paul II, we were invited in to enjoy a lunch with him. There were eight of us at the table with him.

Soup was being served. Bishop Stanley Ott of Baton Rouge, La., who has since gone to God, asked the Holy Father: "Holy Father, what do you think of Medjugorje?"

The Holy Father kept eating his soup and responded: "Medjugorje? Medjugorje? Medjugorje? Only good things are happening at Medjugorje. People are praying there. People are going to Confession. People are adoring the Eucharist, and people are turning to God. And, only good things seem to be happening at Medjugorje."

That seemed to have ended the discussion and we went on to another topic. But, I will long remember the very skillfully cautious response of our Holy Father.

A Pilgrimage Adventure

Just two weeks ago, I had an opportunity to visit Medjugorje. A good friend for more than 50 years, Jim McHale from Connecticut, has been wanting to go to Medjugorje for some time. His wife was not inclined to go at this time for many reasons but mostly because she is preparing for the marriage of their daughter in New York City.

We flew from Minneapolis to Amsterdam, from Amsterdam to Prague and from Prague to Split in Croatia. We remained in Croatia for two evenings before we traveled up the mountain to Medjugorje in Bosnia along the Adriatic Sea.

It is quite an adventure in arriving in this little mountain village which has apparently become famous because of the alleged apparitions that take place there.

We were fortunate enough to have made contact with Stephanie Percic from Minneapolis. Stephanie was making her 100th pilgrimage to Medjugorje and leading a group of people from the Twin Cities, Crookston and Duluth and some from other parts of the country.

Having been there so many times, Stephanie is well-known to the villagers. Certainly that helped us a great deal in getting about.

The drive from Split into Medjugorje is a beautiful one, indeed. The road snakes around the Adriatic Sea and up the mountain. At times it might seem a bit perilous but the beauty is overwhelmingly inviting.

We arrived in the village on a Friday afternoon. There were 30,000 to 40,000 pilgrims there for the weekend. I was quite impressed with them all.

They were from all over the world -- countries throughout Europe, the United States, Ireland, Canada and the Philippines. Italy was well represented also.

On Saturday morning we heard one of the visionaries speak and I must say that everything that he said was very solid.

Someone in the audience asked him a question about "Communion in the hand."

His answer was very direct and very simple. "DO what the church permits you to do. You will always be safe."

The great moment, for me, was the hearing of confessions every afternoon from 5 p.m. until 10 or 10:30 p.m. There were 46 priests hearing confessions in various languages. What a great grace that is onto itself: "People turning toward God."

I just walked and around and looked at the lines. There were 26 confessional stations in which there was a priest and then 20 more priests hearing confessions in temporary stations. This happened also on Sunday afternoon from 5 p.m. until about 8:30 p.m. I heard confessions in English, and it was a great grace for me and a wonderful experience.

The Chapel of Adoration was most edifying. People came in quietly to adore the Eucharistic Lord and to pray. Everything seemed to have been so orderly and quiet, as were the groups of people in the streets and on the hills saying their Rosary and praying.

I celebrated the noon Mass on Sunday in English. The church was packed to overflowing. There are pews outside on all three sides of the church in which people can hear the Mass but they cannot see it. Once again the faith of so many people touched me deeply.

A Yearning Within

This past week we celebrated the feast of Saint Ignatius of Antioch. In his letter to the Romans, Ignatius wrote: "Within me is the living water which says deep inside me: 'Come to the Father.'"

There is something of that yearning in all of those pilgrims who visited Medjugorje.

Somehow there is something deep within them which keeps crying out, "Come to the Father."

They do this through devotion. They do it through their love for Mary. They do it through their love for Jesus Christ. "Come to the Father" is deep within each of one us.

On Monday morning, our pilgrimage was coming to a close. I celebrated Mass in the chapel of the Eucharist for the pilgrims who were led by Stephanie Percic. So many of them were from the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis, and I was impressed by their strong faith and their promise of prayer for the entire archdiocese.

...All in all, after the journey to Medjugorje, I keep pondering the words of John Paul II as he was eating his soup on that day sometime in 1988:

"Medjugorje? Medjugorje? Medjugorje? Only good things seem to be happening at Medjugorje. People are turning to God."

(11/20/2006)

The 12th International Seminar for Priests

The 12th International Seminar for Priests will be held in Medjugorje from 2nd to 7th July 2007. The theme of the seminar is: "With Mary – waiting for the Holy Spirit". The preacher is Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap. (<http://212.39.96.6/sveeng%2007.htm> and [registration seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr](http://212.39.96.6/medeng07.htm))

(11/16/2006)

The Fourteenth International Meeting for Leaders

The fourteenth International Meeting for Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer and Charity groups will be held in Medjugorje from the 4th to the 8th of March 2007.

The theme of the gathering is: „By your perseverance you shall be saved". (Luke 21,19) (<http://212.39.96.6/medeng07.htm> and [registration seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr](http://212.39.96.6/medeng07.htm))

(11/16/2006)

Statistics for September and October 2006

September 2006:

Holy Communion distributed: 196.000

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE AND STAY ON THE BULK MAILING

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

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

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

Concelebrating priests: 4.062

October 2006:

Holy Communion distributed: 170.000

Concelebrating priests: 3.677

(11/1/2006)

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

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.

Pray for **Father John O'Leary**, shown in the pictures above. He suffered **another heart attack** on the **Friday** after **Thanksgiving, 2006**. He is resting comfortably at home after more surgery to insert additional stents to keep his circulation paths open.

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.

PRAYER for PRIESTS

Almighty eternal God, look upon the face of Thy Christ, and for love of Him who is the eternal High priest, have pity on your priests. Remember, O most compassionate God, that they are but weak and frail human being. Stir up in them the grace of their vocation, which is in them by the imposition of the Bishop's hands. Keep them close to You, lest the enemy prevail against them, so that they may never do anything in the slightest degree unworthy of their sublime vocation.

Jesus, I pray to You for your Faithful and fervent priests; for Your unfaithful and tired priests; for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields; for Your young priests; for your aged priests, for your sick priests, for your dying priests; for the souls of Your priests in purgatory. But above all I commend to you the priests who absolved me from my sins; the priests at whose Masses I attended and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me or helped me and encouraged me; all the priests to whom I am indebted in any other way, particularly...

CHAPLET for PRIESTS

This prayer is for all Priests, particularly for:

Those who are tired, depressed, discouraged, unmotivated, burned out, alone and also challenged by personal crisis so that they may discover the joy of belonging to Jesus and renew their Consecration.

This chaplet consists of 12 small meditations like the 12 Apostles, the first Priests of Jesus.

O God, come to my assistance. Lord, make haste to help me. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

FIRST MEDITATION

The FIAT of Mary and the YES to the Priestly Anointing:

We pray that the YES of Priests would become a reflection of the FIAT of Mary to bring salvation to the World.

Our Father - 5 Hail Mary - 1 Glory be

O my Jesus forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell and bring all souls to heaven especially those most in need of your mercy.

Queen of Priests pray for them.

SECOND MEDITATION

Service and availability:

Let us pray that all Priests realize that sanctity is most of all the fruit of giving of themselves and that we may receive the gift of charity and of love needed to help then and support them.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary -1 Glory be... O my JesusQueen.....

THIRD MEDITATION

Full Time Priests:

Let us pray that Priests would be able to be “full time Priests”, able to smile and be available to listen, testifying with their lives that Jesus is Risen and ALIVE among us and that we may be given the grace to walk humbly with them.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary -1 Glory be...O my Jesus.... Queen.....

FOURTH MEDITATION

Eucharistic Presence:

Let us pray so that the Liturgy will never become just another daily routine diminishing the immeasurable value of the moment of consecration.

-We pray also that, with our collaboration, our churches may be open for daily or perpetual-Adoration.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary -1 Glory be... O my JesusQueen.....

FIFTH MEDITATION:

The Presence of Jesus:

Let us pray that, at the time of Communion, Jesus is offered to us with joy, with love as a living presence and not as “hurried distribution”.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary -1 Glory be... O My Jesus..... Queen

SIXTH MEDITATION:

Gethsemane. the Fiat of Jesus who has given us our salvation.:

Let us pray that Priests would always be able to remember the joy of their “first day” and looking at their consecrated hands (to pray, to bless, to comfort) would rediscover enthusiasm for their ministry for which they have been “called” and for us to be able to inspire them.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary -1 Glory be...O my Jesus Queen.....

SEVENTH MEDITATION

Jesus fell under the weight of the Cross:

Let us pray that their human weakness would always be supported by faith and with the certainty that Jesus

is infinite Mercy and He always grants the possibility to rise again, and that we may be given the grace to be able to help Priests with a silent presence, without criticism and condemnation.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary -1 Glory be...O my Jesus.....Queen.....

EIGHTH MEDITATION

The Cirenean on the way of the Cross:

Let us pray for Bishops and Cardinals so that they be “good Shepherds and Fathers” for every Priest entrusted to their care and emulate Simon of CIRENE, ministering to them with empathy in their personal difficulties and sufferings.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary -1 Glory be...O my JesusQueen.....

NINTH MEDITATION

The women of Jerusalem follow Jesus:

Let us pray that we may be able to give support to every Priest, collaborating with them even if only be by keeping a door open, inviting them for dinner, or just a smile.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary - 1 Glory be...

O My Jesus. . .Queen. . . .

TENTH MEDITATION

Mary besides Jesus on the way to Calvary and under the Cross:

Let us pray, asking Mary to help us to see Jesus in every Priest, and in doing so we may be good Samaritans, if necessary, without shame or fear.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary - 1 Glory be... O my Jesus....Queen.....

ELEVENTH MEDITATION

Leave your country and go... ..:

Let us pray for all Missionaries who experience

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.

detachment, struggle, and danger to bring the Good News to all the nations of the world. We pray that the Lord will protect them and the Holy Spirit would guide them, and grant us, with our prayers, to form shield that will defend them from every danger or temptation.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary -1 Glory be...O my JesusQueen.....

TWELTH MEDITATION

For Deceased Priests:

Let us pray for Priests who suffer in Purgatory, especially for the forgotten ones for whom no one prays for: May the Lord be merciful to them and bring them to the glory of his presence.

1 Our Father, 5 Hail Mary - 1 Glory be...O my JesusQueen.....

We also pray for the Holy Father and for his intentions.

LET US PRAY

Queen of Priests, help us every day to live in the light of peace, of love and of charity. When we are wounded, for any reason, you are our strength and our way. May we honor you with our love and our prayers, and never offend you. Help me to grow in faith, hope and charity, in virtue and sanctity. Amen

PRAYER for VOCATIONS BY POPE JOHN PAUL II

Oh Jesus, our Good Shepherd, bless all our parishes with numerous priests, deacons, men and women in religious life, consecrated laity and missionaries, according to the needs of the entire world, which You love and wish to save.

We especially entrust our community to You; grant us the spirit of the first Christians, so that we may be a cenacle of prayer, in loving acceptance of the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

Assist our pastors and all who live a consecrated life. Guide the steps of those who have responded generously to Your call and are preparing to receive holy orders or to profess the evangelical counsels.

Look with love on so many well-disposed young people and call them to. follow You. Help them to understand that in You alone can they attain to complete fulfillment.

To this end we call on the powerful intercession of Mary, Mother and Model of all vocations. We beseech You to sustain our faith with the certainty that the Father will grant what You have commanded us to ask. Amen.

(The Rev. Robert F. McKeon - Office of Vocations)

PRAYER for VOCATIONS

Creator God,

Life is your gift to me.

Through Baptism, You invite me to share the gift of my life in service to others.

Be with me as I choose each day to show Your presence in our world.

I pray especially for those who serve you as priests, brothers, sisters, deacons

and lay ministers. Keep them close to You.

Open the minds and hearts of many other

men and women that they may accept

Your challenge to build the Kingdom.

**(Don Dino Lorenzotto, O.F.M. International
Movement, "The Rondinelle" Fraternita' Cristiana Via
Marmemmana Inferiore 420, 00012 Guidonia, Italy)**

SAINT THERESE'S PRAYER for PRIESTS

O Holy Father, may the torrents of love flowing from the sacred wounds of Thy Divine Son bring forth priests like unto the beloved disciple John who stood at the foot of the Cross; priests; who as a pledge of Thine own most tender love will lovingly give Thy Divine Son to the souls of men.

May Thy priests be faithful guardians of Thy Church, as John was of Mary, whom he received into his house. Taught by this loving Mother who suffered so much on Calvary, may they display a mother's care and thoughtfulness towards Thy children. May they teach souls to enter into close union with Thee through Mary who, as the Gate of Heaven, is specially the guardian of the treasures of Thy Divine Heart.

Give us priests who are on fire, and who are true children of Mary, priests who will give Jesus to souls with the same tenderness and care with which Mary carried the Little Child of Bethlehem.

Mother of sorrows and of love, out of compassion for Thy beloved Son, open in our hearts deep wells of love, so that we may console Him and give Him a generation of priests formed in thy school and having all the tender thoughtfulness of thine own spotless love.(Saint Therese's devotion to the Priesthood is to be found in all its fullness in a prayer which she used to say daily and which she learned by heart; this is all

the more remarkable in view of her known distaste for lengthy set forms of prayer.)

<http://indigo.ie/~sttheres/prayer2.htm>)

PRAYER – A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP with JESUS

Prayer is the genesis of our Personal Relationship with Jesus in the Blessed Trinity.

(ACT 7/3/06)

GIVING THANKS at EVERY CORNER: OUR CATHOLIC CALL

The news was arresting. The details, alarming. And the response, inspiring.

Amid the horror and confusion of learning 10 girls had been killed, the Amish community immediately made plans to offer forgiveness and food to the family of the shooter. They demonstrated the highest principles of faith.

In the face of crisis, we need to work hard to remember the gift of life, taking stock of the goodness that still surrounds us, asserts Henri J. M. Nouwen in his book “The Return of the Prodigal Son.” He calls this “the discipline of gratitude.” The Amish demonstrated it beautifully.

Hardship tests our capacity for love and forgiveness. Being grateful – finding and clinging to gratitude – can provide our greatest solace.

This doesn’t come naturally, particularly to Americans. We have become spoiled, ungrateful people, bearing little resemblance to the early colonists.

They sunk their fingers into the soil with wonder, rejoicing in the simple ability to stake a new home and worship freely in it.

We grumble if the football game is interrupted by news or if our high-speed Internet falters. Google delivers us thousands of answers in two-tenths of a second. And if it takes four-tenths, we’re annoyed.

At the underside of every task or burden, there is a reason to give thanks. We just have to adjust our attitude to see it.

When I was sick last week, I found myself indulging in a little self-pity. Everyone else was flitting around, healthy as a horse, and I was miserable. And I so much to do! It seemed unfair.

Then, as I drove home from the doctor, I heard a news report about the growing number of Americans without health insurance. It hit me hard: I was lucky to be able to go to the doctor and readily obtain medicine.

Now I’m trying to see through grateful eyes.

During traffic yesterday, I reminded myself ‘I’m lucky to have a job to drive to and a car that runs.’

Chores like washing dishes and cleaning clothes are blessings, too; I can afford and enjoy food and clothing, staples that are denied to some.

Bogged down by homework? Be grateful you get to attend school and learn. Hit with a huge utility bill this month? Be grateful to be warm. Stunned by the cell phone bill when you went over your minutes? Be grateful for all the friends and relatives you love to talk to.

I know it’s counterintuitive. But it will relieve stress and inject joy into your daily life. And it will deepen your faith.

“Gratitude,” G. K. Chesterton once said, “is the sincerest form of prayer.”

Gratitude is at the core of Catholicism. The Eucharist, our source and summit of life, means “Thanksgiving.” It is the ultimate gift.

Gratitude is also at the core of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. To adore is to express wonder and praise. Our founder, Saint Maria de Mattias, was overwhelmed by gratitude for our merciful God. It was evident to everyone who met her, which made her a powerful speaker and teacher.

My prayer this Thanksgiving is that every morning – even when the alarm clock rings earlier than I’d like – I rise with a word of thanks to the God who granted me another glorious day.

(Sister Diana Rawlings, ASC Krystaalloysia@cs.com)

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME

Twas the night before Jesus came
And all through the house

Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care,
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,
Was watching The Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray,
I knew in a moment that this must be The Day.

The light of His face made me cover my head;
It was Jesus! Returning just like he said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in His hand
Was written the name of every saved man.

He spoke not a word as He searched for my name,
When He said "It's not here" my head hung in shame.
The people whose names had been written with love
He gathered to take to His Father above.

With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.
I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight.

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!

(Author Unknown

<http://www.butlerwebs.com/holidays/poems.htm#Twas%20The%20Night%20Before%20Jesus%20Came>)

BLESSING for the CHRISTMAS TREE

(When the Christmas Tree is decorated, just before the lights are turned on for the first time on Christmas Eve, the tree may be sprinkled with Holy Water as the following prayer is said.)

Holy Lord, we come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son, who rescued us from the darkness of sin by making the Cross a tree of life and light. May this tree, arrayed in splendor, remind us of the life-giving Cross of Christ, that we may always rejoice in the new life that shines in our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

(Anonymous)

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.

The PILGRIM, Volume 17, Number 12 – December 2006

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] DONATION: \$50 Meal Plan: \$60. Call (856) 768-9228.

CALENDARS:

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!**

In **January**, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **Mary, Mother of God** (1), **Epiphany of the Lord** (6), Feast of **Baptism of the Lord** (7) and Memorials of **Saints Basil the Great** (2), **Gregory Nazianzen** (2), **Elizabeth Ann Seton** (4), **John Neumann** (5), **Anthony, Abbot** (17), **Francis de Sales** (24), **Timothy** (26), **Titus** (26), and **John Bosco** (31) and Optional Memorials of **Saints Genevieve** (3), **Raymond of Penyafort** (7), **Hilary** (13), **Pope Fabian** (20), **Sebastian** (20), **Vincent** (22), **Angela Merici** (27), and **The Most Holy Name of Jesus** (3) as well as **Blessed Andre Bessette** (6). Most Church calendars recognize **Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr** (15).

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 18** and **19** 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 **December 2006**

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of **December 2006** is: "That Christ, meek and humble of heart, may inspire leaders of nations to use power wisely and responsibly."

His mission intention for the month of **December 2006** is: "That in every part of the world missionaries may live out their vocation with joy and enthusiasm, faithfully following in Christ's footsteps."

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

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

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

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

Kathleen PFMCkmw@comcast.net and

Keith keithwerner@comcast.net Werner, Co-Directors

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

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,
Friday, 12/15/2006**

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATCO, NJ
PERMIT NO. 74
NON PROFIT ORG.

PLEASE DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY!!!!

If you do not desire to read "**The PILGRIM**," please give it to a Marian prayer group or return it to sender. If recipient address has changed, please send a change of address.

If there is no time to read it all now, please put it with other reading material in a place where you can read at least an article per day until the next issue arrives. We 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!**

