



The PILGRIM

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February 2003

The PILGRIM is a periodical from the **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



Into your everlasting arms, O Lord I throw myself in humble adoration. For you are a healing and glorious God of unfathomable graciousness and love.

We thank you for Your precious Mother, and venerate her daily. May we learn to mirror her virtues of compassion, patience, understanding, and protective nurturing of those around us.

Continue to anoint us with Your purifying light of grace. Hold us close to Your heart, and with it's every beat bring us closer to Your Heavenly reward.

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue)

SPECIAL THANK YOUs

Thanks to Dolores for her contribution of the enclosed pamphlet and prayer book on "Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus". This devotion is related to those discussed in the Diary of Saint Faustina Kawalska regarding God's Divine Mercy. There will be more information on the Chaplet, Novena, and Divine Mercy Sunday which is the Second Sunday after Easter in the next issue of "The PILGRIM."

Thanks also to the Oblate Missions – Missionary Association of Mary Immaculate for their donation of the information relating to the cures at Lourdes and the Mysteries of the Rosary.

If you have a prayer card you might want to include in future issues of "The PILGRIM," please call Liz or Kathleen at the PFMC, (856) 768-9228. We need 3000 pieces in order to make sure we have enough to put one into each issue prepared for the bulk and international mailing each month.

The MESSAGE for January, alleged to be from the GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to an alleged visionary from Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, is presented beginning on page 12 (on the centerfold pages) followed by the related REFLECTION article and PRESS BULLETIN.

DON'T PASS UP THIS RETREAT CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITY

Guest speakers will be Father Bill Halbing, Father Andrew Apostoli, and Father Robert DeGrandis.

Joseph Terelya and his interpreter will be featured Saturday afternoon and before the Concert and healing service with Father Michael Semana on Saturday night.

The theme will be "He must increase; I must decrease." (John 3:30) [NAB].

The Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ will be the site for the PFMC March 14th, 15th, and 16th 2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) and the 3 day extension (3DX) March 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2003. Music for the RC will be provided by "REFUGE" the Metuchen Diocese Charismatic Prayer Group musicians who play for the New Jersey Charismatic Conference at Seton Hall. "VOYAGE" will present a short concert and sing for Holy Mass on Friday night, 3/14/03.

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

The 3DX speakers will be Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol and Father Robert DeGrandis. Our 3DX theme will be "**INNER HEALING and GIFTS of the HOLY SPIRIT.**" Carl and Martie Granieri with "HEARTS AFIRE" will provide the music for the 3DX.

The Hilton Hotel is still accepting room reservations at a discounted rate of \$92 per night for the 2003 PFMC RC and 3DX. Don't pass up the opportunity to stay right where the whole program is being held. Please call 1-800-HILTONS or locally at (856) 665-6666 to make your hotel reservation as soon as possible. After 2/19/03, the discounted room rate is

"**The PILGRIM**" for *February 2003* is dedicated to "**Our Lady of Lourdes**" and embracing the devotion to the "**Holy Face of Jesus.**" See page 3 for **Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ."**

no longer guaranteed. Hilton Hotel Rooms will accommodate 2 persons in a king bed or up to 4 persons in two double beds. Cots are also available, but **must be arranged for prior to arrival**. The charge for a cot is for as long as you are staying. **Refrigerators in rooms must be arranged for ahead of time**. There is currently no charge for refrigerators. Rooms must be guaranteed with a one-night charge on a credit card or by check or money order. Cancellation must be **72 hours prior** to the event. Please request smoking or non-smoking rooms ahead of time. This is a request and can not be guaranteed. The Hilton Hotel holds to a first-come first-served basis on their non-smoking rooms. Blocks of rooms and, where possible, entire floors are either non-smoking or smoking.

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

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

For hotel reservations please call NOW: 1-800-HILTONS or locally (856) 665-6666 as soon as possible.

Please make your RC, YT and 3DX reservations with the PFMC as soon as possible.

For more information call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

RETREATS for HEALING after ABORTION

If you are suffering from the aftermath of an abortion in your family, experience the healing love of Jesus on a Rachel's Vineyard retreat. The next area retreat is currently scheduled for March 14, 15, and 16, 2003. This retreat will be held in Immaculata, Pennsylvania, which is located just outside of Philadelphia. For more information, call Mary Alice toll free at 1-877-HOPE 4 ME or sign onto the Internet at www.rachelsvineyard.org. All requests are strictly confidential. Rachel's Vineyard Retreat has been recommended as a resource for post abortion healing by the National Conference of Catholic

Bishops. The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Manual, written by Dr. Theresa Burke, has also received an Imprimatur and Nihil Obstat from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The program is offered throughout the United States and internationally.

PILGRIMAGE to ASSISI, MEDJUGORJE and ROME

Father John Tino from Saint Joan of Arc Parish, Jackson Heights, NY, will provide spiritual assistance for a pilgrimage of peace departing March 19th, 2002 and returning on March 28th, 2003.

Fly into Rome and transfer by bus to Assisi for 2 days and one night. Then fly to Split on Croatia Air and transfer to a motor coach for the trip to Medjugorje. You will be in Medjugorje until March 26th.

Hotel and house accommodations are planned for double occupancy with private bathroom. Single occupancy requires a single supplement. The house in Medjugorje will be just a short walk away from Saint James Church.

You will have a full daily program of prayer, talks, meeting visionaries, as they are available, climbing Cross Mountain and Apparition Hill. You will be in Medjugorje for the Anniversary on March 25th.

On the 26th you will return to Rome where you will tour the Catacombs and the Major Basilicas, visit the Vatican museum and Sistine Chapel, and pray at a private mass in Saint Peters Basilica.

The cost for airfare, hotels, housing, guides, transfers and taxes and ALL BREAKFASTS AND SUPPERS throughout is \$1696 plus \$99 tax per person. Deposit is \$500. See the light blue information sheet and reservation form enclosed in this issue of "The PILGRIM." If interested call Kathleen at (856) 768-9228 to register. We need names and deposits NOW.

FATHER McCARTHY RETREAT for MARRIED COUPLES - MAY 16, 17, and 18, 2003

Take the time as a married couple to explore the marriage covenant, and how the Holy Spirit can

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the PFMC recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the alleged Marian apparitions, locutions and related messages at, and to the recipients from, Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as all other private revelations, rests with the Holy See, to whose judgment we willingly submit. We give total allegiance to our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and its Magisterium, particularly Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. See page 5 for additional PFMC information. 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.

and does work in your lives. Do you want something new in your marriage? Are you seeking something more to fulfill you and your marriage? Is there something lacking or something you want to celebrate together? Explore with Father Bill the beauty and richness, the mountains and valleys, the joys and tears of the sacrament of marriage.

We will have special rates for you at the Holiday Inn Express just around the corner from the PFMC. The hours of the Retreat are currently planned to be from **7 PM to 10 PM on FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2003 and 9 AM to 5 PM on SATURDAY and SUNDAY, MAY 17 and 18, 2003.** The registration donation is planned at \$80 per couple and includes a delicious lunch each day. We are planning comfortable seating for 40 couples.

If there is sufficient interest, this retreat weekend for married couples may be moved to a local hotel to accommodate more couples with overnight accommodations available on site. Early registration is requested to assist in making this latter decision.

We hope that you will take advantage of this wonderful weekend and **register early.** We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. Call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 for an information sheet and registration form if you do not find one enclosed in this issue of "The PILGRIM." God bless you.

WE KNOW THIS IS EARLY BUT PLAN AHEAD - A GALA FALL DINNER and CONCERT with FATHER MICHAEL SEMANA and GRACE MARKAY

Mark your calendar for Saturday evening, November 15, 2003. This will be an evening to remember as the PFMC holds its first Dinner Concert at the Grand Ballroom at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Cherry Hill. The evening will feature Father Michael Semana and Grace Markay. The atmosphere will be joyous and the food will be scrumptious. The family of the PFMC will come together to Celebrate Life.

Look ahead and put this on your calendar. More details to follow.

HUMANITARIAN AID to the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

We have now put in place the ability to continue with aid to this very poor third world country.

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After talking with a representative from the office of Bishop Gregorio Nicanor Pena Rodriguez, we are asking our readers and parishes for help on a regular basis with the following:

We are collecting little girls' white First Communion dresses and veils. Attached to each dress should be the owners name and address and a little note to the girl who would be wearing this dress and veil. Often they will get back a note of thank you.

Donations of money to support the seminarians, who are studying English. This money will be used to buy the second edition of English books for them to use. It will also help with buying them English Bibles, and Catechisms, and shipping them there.

We need medicines to send to the medical clinic that ministers only to the very poor and destitute. Servas de Maria is run by the nuns, and Sister Blanca is in charge of the many demands of the clinics.

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

Please respond to God's call to join us in our Medical Mission, or to help with needed goods to send to the Orphanages and the Medical Clinics. We can use a lot of support. We are especially looking for Pediatricians, Neurologists, Surgeons, and specialists in the area of diabetes. Nurses will help with clinic work, and lay people will help with paperwork or in the Orphanages.

If you can help us collect toys for little girls up to ages 15, or new clothing for children up to this age, please send it or bring it to the PFMC.

If you can help with finances to package and FEDEX packages direct to the Bishop's office, we would be most grateful. A 50 # box costs about \$100. If you know anyone going to Puerto Plata who can hand carry a large duffel bag of goods with them, please have them call Fay or Kathleen.

There will be a Medical Mission from September 27, 2003 to October 11, 2003. If you are a Doctor (particularly a specialist) or a nurse, and would like to be part of this mission, please call Fay or Edwina or Kathleen or Liz at (856) 768-9228 or 1-800-788-MARY [6279]. The staff has established through the Diocese of Puerto Plata, a Humanitarian Aid Program and a Medical Mission. This program will be directly working with the parishes of the poor and sick. We have three orphanages that we will help, and several clinics and the hospital. We will also be helping with the Seminarian Program.

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

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

FUTURE POPE'S SICKLY MOTHER REFUSED to HAVE ABORTION

A new book by two Italian authors asserts that Emilia Wojtyla ignored advice to terminate the pregnancy that led to Karol Wojtyla's (the future Pope John Paul II) birth.

The assertion appears in "Fatima: The Story Behind the Miracles" by Renzo Allegri, a prize-winning journalist and biographer, and his brother, Roberto Allegri, who is also a journalist. "In 1906, aged 23,

she became the mother of a baby boy, Edmund," they write of the Pope's mother, who was very frail in health. "She had a difficult pregnancy, and the doctors forbade her to have any other children. In the autumn of 1919, when she was 35, she learned that she was pregnant. The doctors told her she should have an abortion. She did not listen to them."

It was then that Karol Wojtyla was born. The date was May 18, 1920. We are currently trying to corroborate this striking claim, that a man who would later become the leading defender of the unborn, who would revive the papacy, who would lead to the fall of Communism as the Church's supreme pontiff, and who as such would change the world, appeared on the scene only because his mother had the courage to forsake termination of a pregnancy that medical experts said could harm her.

While we have not yet been able to verify the Allegri's reportage, a review of major papal biographies confirms the tenuous nature of Emilia's health. After a daughter died in 1914, Emilia's health deteriorated, according to His Holiness by Carl Bernstein and Marco Politi. "She never complained about the way her pregnancies had undermined her health." This book goes on to say that during the pregnancy "her weakened body was tested almost beyond endurance."

Just six years earlier Emilia had lost a daughter, Olga, either in infancy or still-born. But she went on to give birth to Karol Wojtyla, and when she did, it is said that she asked the midwife to open the window "so that the first sounds her newborn son heard would be the singing in honor of Mary, Mother of God," write Politi and Bernstein. "And so the midwife sprang from the foot of the bed to the window and threw back the shutters. Suddenly the little bedroom was flooded with light and with the intonations of May vespers to the Blessed Virgin, from the Church of Our Lady, in the very month dedicated to her."

Even those who didn't know her recognized Emilia's calm and religiousness, and if the Allegri account is accurate, the birth was one of many miracles surrounding her and the future Pope. Indeed, Emilia died on April 13, 1929 -- anniversary of the first apparition at Fatima and also the very year Fatima seer Lucia dos Santos was granted a vision repeating the request that the Pope, in concert with the world's bishops, consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart.

It turned out to be Karol who, as Pope 55 years later, finally succeeded in carrying forth the request for consecration. And it was also John Paul II who was shot by a Turkish gunman on 13 May 1981, another major Fatima anniversary. He would later credit Our

Lady of Fatima with saving his life (the bullet took an unusual path through his body, barely missing the aorta, spine, and organs).

According to the Allegris, there were many other times the Pope narrowly escaped death. "When Karol was 10 years old, he was playing at the house of a friend," they assert. "His friend wanted to show him his father's gun. Thinking it was empty, he pointed it at Karol and pressed the trigger. The bullet broke into pieces in the air. The boy's parents ran to the room. Karol, pale and frightened, was leaning against the wall in the room. The plaster of the wall behind him was riddled with fragments from the bullet, but not one fragment had touched his face."

The Allegris have written other books on Mother Teresa, Maria Callas, and Padre Pio. During the war, they say, when Germans combed Kracow, the Nazis searched every part of the Pope's apartment complex -- he heard them in the apartment next door and in the apartment below and in the apartment above -- but mysteriously, they never came to his apartment.

In another case - this time on 29 February 1944 - the future Pope was on his way home after working a double shift when an army truck hit him and flung him into a ditch. Bearing a large head wound, Karol showed no life when a woman ran over to assist him and alerted an official who took him to the hospital. "Wojtyla spent two days in a coma and was miraculously saved," say the Allegris. "Afterwards, no one ever knew what happened to the woman."

(Medjugorje News – New Zealand, December 2002)

VOCATION DEPARTMENT: NAZARETH HOUSE

A place of discernment and formation for men aspiring to priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, Nazareth House is located on the campus of Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill. It houses the Diocese of Camden formation program to help young men investigate whether God is calling them to a priestly vocation. The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation. The staff provides them with the foundation for seminary theologate formation, through a shared community life of prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service. It now houses the Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

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Father Cadmus Mazzarella,
mazzarella@camdendiocese.org,
Director of Vocations, Diocese of Camden,
Nazareth House, 300 Cuthbert Boulevard,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
(856) 910-4930 or FAX: (856) 662-8917
or visit: <http://www.beapriest.org>

INTERESTED in FORMING A VOCATION AWARENESS PROGRAM in YOUR PARISH?

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

PRAY for VOCATIONS

Jesus made a tour through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness.

And when he saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep

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President / Editor / Co-Director: Kathleen Werner

Vice-President / Publisher / Co-Director: Keith Werner

Books and Religious Articles / Inventory: Vince and Livia Nocella

Events / Programs / Vocations: Elizabeth Wisniewski

Secretary: Fay Ramos / Edwina Jardinico / Colleen Thomas

Treasurer / Accounting: Pat Cousino / Dot Lyons

Youth Ministry: Bill Skorko / Sandy Ruiz / Joanne Niece

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

Communications: Bernadette Smutko, Networks: Bob Van Horn

Medical Mission Coordinators: Bernadette Jackson / Marcy Florendo

CAMDEN DIOCESE LIAISON: Father Joseph Byerley

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Father Glenn Hartman, Father John McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, Father Jim Sauchelli, Father Brendan Williams, Father Joseph Szolack, as well as many of Mary's other beloved priests from the

Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Camden, Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses. Father Hartman is reviewing every issue.

Father Joseph Szolack, szolack@camdendiocese.org, is Dean of Men at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, PA.

PRINTERS: Jim Toudy, Brian James (856) 829-3787

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

without a shepherd.

Then He said to His disciples: "The harvest is rich but the laborers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send laborers to His harvest." (Matthew 9:35-38)

To pray for vocations is something that the Master Himself asks of us. Those who can are invited to offer one Holy Communion each month for this intention. Those who attend daily Holy Mass are asked to remember to pray for vocations daily.

(Liz W.)

MIRACLES of LOURDES

INTRODUCTION to LOURDES

In 1858 in the grotto of Massabielle, near Lourdes, France, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous, a 14 year old peasant girl. She identified herself as The Immaculate Conception. She gave Bernadette a message for all: "Pray and do penance for the conversion of the world."

The Church investigated Bernadette's claims for four years before approving devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes. Lourdes has since become one of the most famous shrines, attracting more than a million pilgrims each year. There have been thousands of miraculous cures at this shrine. A Medical Bureau was established in 1882 to test the authenticity of the cures.

The doctors include unbelievers as well as believers and any doctor is welcome to take part in the examination of the alleged cures. As many as 500 medical men of all faiths or no faith have taken advantage of the invitation each year. Many books and movies tell the story of Lourdes.

Even Hollywood made a movie of this remarkable event in the 1940's entitled "The Song of Bernadette" which won six academy awards. No one leaves Lourdes without a gain in faith.

Moral and spiritual cures are more marvelous than physical cures. Some go to Lourdes with lifetime prejudices, yet their minds are cleared in a sudden manner. Frequently skepticism gives way to faith; coldness and antagonism become whole hearted love of God. Again and again those who are not cured of bodily pain receive an increase of faith and resignation - true peace of soul. The story of two outstanding miracles that occurred at Lourdes are told below.

GABRIEL GARGAM

The case of Gabriel Gargam is probably one of the best known of all the thousands of cures at Lourdes, partly because he was so well known at the Shrine for half a century, partly because it was a twofold healing, spiritual and physical.

Born in 1870 of good Catholic parents, he gave early promise of being a clever student and a fervent Catholic. The promise was not fulfilled in the most important respect for, at 15 years of age, he had already lost his faith. He obtained a position in the postal service and was carrying out his duties as a sorter in December of 1899, when the train on which he was traveling from Bordeaux to Paris collided with another train, running at 50 miles per hour. Gargam was thrown fifty two feet from the train. He lay in the snow, badly injured and unconscious for seven hours.

He was paralyzed from the waist down. He was barely alive when lifted onto a stretcher. Taken to a hospital, his existence for some time was a living death. After eight months he had wasted away to a mere skeleton, weighing but seventy-eight pounds, although normally a big man. His feet became gangrenous. He could take no solid food and was obliged to take nourishment by a tube. Only once in twenty-four hours could he be fed even that way. He brought suit for damages against the railroad. The Appellate Court confirmed the verdict of the former courts and granted him 6,000 francs annually, and besides, an indemnity of 60,000 francs.

Gargam's condition was pitiable in the extreme. He could not help himself even in the most trifling needs. Two trained nurses were needed day and night to assist him. That was Gabriel Gargam as he was after the accident, and as he would continue to be until death relieved him. About his desperate condition there could be no doubt. The railroad fought the case on every point. There was no room for deception or hearsay. Two courts attested to his condition, and the final payment of the railroad left the case a matter of record. Doctors testified that the man was a hopeless cripple for life, and their testimony was not disputed. Previous to the accident

Gargam had not been to Church for fifteen years. His aunt, who was a nun of the Order of the Sacred Heart, begged him to go to Lourdes. He refused. She continued her appeals to him to place himself in the hands of Our Lady of Lourdes. He was deaf to all her prayers. After continuous pleading of his mother he consented to go to Lourdes. It was now two years since the accident, and not for a moment had he left his bed all that time. He was carried on a stretcher to the train. The exertion caused him to faint, and for a

full hour he was unconscious. They were on the point of abandoning the pilgrimage, as it looked as if he would die on the way, but the mother insisted, and the journey was made.

Arrived at Lourdes, he went to confession and received Holy Communion. There was no change in his condition. Later he was carried to the miraculous pool and tenderly placed in its waters - no effect. Rather a bad effect resulted, for the exertion threw him into a swoon and he lay apparently dead. After a time, as he did not revive, they thought him dead. Sorrowfully they wheeled the carriage back to the hotel.

On the way back they saw the procession of the Blessed Sacrament approaching. They stood aside to let it pass, having placed a cloth over the face of the man whom they supposed to be dead. As the priest passed carrying the Sacred Host, he pronounced Benediction over the sorrowful group around the covered body. Soon there was a movement from under the covering. To the amazement of the bystanders, the body raised itself to a sitting posture. While the family were looking on dumbfounded and the spectators gazed in amazement,

Gargam said in a full, strong voice that he wanted to get up. They thought that it was a delirium before death, and tried to soothe him, but he was not to be restrained. He got up and stood erect, walked a few paces and said that he was cured. The multitude looked in wonder, and then fell on their knees and thanked God for this new sign of His power at the Shrine of His Blessed Mother.

As Gargam had on him only invalid's clothes, he returned to the carriage and was wheeled back to the hotel. There he was soon dressed, and proceeded to walk about as if nothing had ever ailed him. For two years hardly any food had passed his lips but now he sat down to the table and ate a hearty meal. On August 20th, 1901, sixty prominent doctors examined Gargam. Without stating the nature of the cure, they pronounced him entirely cured. Gargam, out of gratitude to God in the Holy Eucharist and His Blessed Mother, consecrated himself to the service of the invalids at Lourdes. He sat up a small business and married a pious lady who aided him in his apostolate for the greater knowledge of Mary Immaculate.

For over fifty years he returned annually to Lourdes and worked as a brancardier. The Golden Jubilee of his cure was the occasion of a remarkable celebration during the French National Pilgrimage in 1951. M. Gargam sat in a chair in the Rosary Square, surrounded by 1,500 sick and 50,000 other pilgrims

while a description of his twofold healing was given by the celebrated apologist, Canon Belleney. His last visit to the Shrine was in August 1952: he died the following March, at the age of eighty-three years.

JOHN TRAYNOR

In some respects the story of John Traynor is similar to that of Gabriel Gargam. Yet in many ways it is different. After their cures, the two men were *brancardiers* at Lourdes at the same time and may have discussed their cases with each other. John Traynor was a native of Liverpool, England. His Irish mother died when he was quite young, but the faith which she instilled in her son remained with him the rest of his life. His injuries dated from World War I, when he was a soldier in the Naval Brigade of the Royal British Marines. He took part in the unsuccessful Antwerp expedition of October, 1914, and was hit in the head by shrapnel. He remained unconscious for five weeks. Later, in Egypt, he received a bullet wound in the leg. In the Dardanelles, he distinguished himself in battle but was finally brought down when he was sprayed with machine gun bullets while taking part in a bayonet charge. He was wounded in the head and chest, and one bullet went through his upper right arm and lodged under his collarbone.

As a result of these wounds, Traynor's right arm was paralyzed and the muscles atrophied. His legs were partially paralyzed, and he was epileptic. Sometimes he had as many as three fits a day. By 1916, Traynor had undergone four operations in an attempt to connect the severed muscles of this right arm. All four operations ended in failure. By this time he had been discharged from the service. He was given a one hundred percent pension because he was completely and permanently disabled. He spent much time in various hospitals as an epileptic patient.

In April, 1920, his skull was operated on in an attempt to remove some of the shrapnel. This

HOLY MASS TIMES

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

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.

operation did not help his epilepsy, and it left a hole about an inch wide in his skull. The pulsating of his brain could be seen through this hole. A silver plate was inserted in order to shield the brain. He lived on Grafton Street in Liverpool with his wife and children. He was utterly helpless. He had to be lifted from his bed to his wheelchair in the morning and back into bed at night.

Arrangements had been made to have him admitted to the Mosley Hill Hospital for Incurables. In July, 1923, Traynor heard that the Liverpool diocese was organizing a pilgrimage to Lourdes. He had always had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin and determined to join the pilgrimage. He took a gold sovereign which he had been saving for an emergency and used it as the first payment on a ticket. At first his wife was very much disturbed by the idea of her husband making such a difficult trip. His friends tried to talk him out of it. His doctor told him the trip would be suicide. The government ministry of pensions protested against the idea. One of the priests in charge of the pilgrimage begged him to cancel his booking. All of this was to no avail. Traynor had made up his mind, and there was no changing it.

When his wife saw how much he wanted to make the trip, she decided to help him. In order to raise the money for the pilgrimage, the Traynors sold some of their furniture; Mrs. Traynor pawned some of her jewelry. There was much excitement at the railroad station the day the pilgrimage was to leave. In addition to the noise and confusion that accompanies the departure of every large pilgrimage, there was the additional hubbub caused by the curious who had come to see Traynor.

His trip had aroused much interest, and at the station a great number of people crowded about his wheel chair. Newspaper reporters and photographers were on hand to cover the event. As a result of all this, Traynor reached the station platform too late to get on the first train. The second train was crowded, and once more an attempt was made to talk him out of taking the trip.

Traynor, however, said that he was determined to go if he had to ride in the coal tender. The trip was extremely trying, and Traynor was very sick. Three times, during the journey across France, the directors of the pilgrimage wished to take him off the train and put him in a hospital. Each time there was no hospital where they stopped, and so they had to keep him on board. He was more dead than alive when he reached Lourdes on July 22 and was taken to the Asile.

Two Protestant girls from Liverpool, who were serving as volunteer nurses in the Asile, recognized

Traynor and offered to take care of him. He gladly accepted the offer. He had several hemorrhages during his six days there and a number of epileptic fits. So bad was his condition that one woman took it upon herself to write to his wife and tell her that there was no hope for him and that he would be buried in Lourdes. Traynor managed to bathe in the water from the grotto nine times, and he attended all the ceremonies to which the sick are taken. It was only by sheer force of will that he was able to do this. Not only were his own infirmities a serious obstacle but the *brancardiers* and others in attendance were reluctant to take him out for fear he would die on the way. Once he had an epileptic fit as he was going to the *piscines*. When he recovered, the *brancardiers* turned his chair to take him back to the Asile. He protested, but they insisted. They were forced to give in when he seized the wheel with his good hand and would not let the chair budge until it went in the direction of the baths.

On the afternoon of July 25 when he was in the bath, his paralyzed legs became suddenly agitated. He tried to get to his feet, but the *brancardiers* prevented him. They dressed him, put him back in his wheel chair, and hurried him to Rosary Square for the Blessing of the Sick. Most of the other sick were already lined up. He was the third last on the outside as one faces the church. Let us hear in Traynor's own words what happened after that.

This is the story as he told it to Father Patrick O'Connor. "The procession came winding its way back, as usual, to the church and at the end walked the Archbishop of Rheims, carrying the Blessed Sacrament. He blessed the two ahead of me, came to me, made the Sign of the Cross with the monstrance and moved on to the next. He had just passed by, when I realized that a great change had taken place in me. My right arm, which had been dead since 1915, was violently agitated. I burst its bandages and blessed myself - for the first time in years. "I had no sudden pain that I can recall and certainly had no vision. I simply realized that something momentous had happened. I attempted to rise from my stretcher, but the *brancardiers* were watching me. I suppose I had a bad name for my obstinacy. They held me down, and a doctor or a nurse gave me a hypo. Apparently they thought that I was hysterical and about to create a scene.

Immediately after the final Benediction, they rushed me back to the Asile. I told them that I could walk and proved it by taking seven steps. I was very tired and in pain. They put me back in bed and gave me another hypo after a while. "They had me in a small ward on the ground floor.

As I was such a troublesome case, they stationed *brancardiers* in relays to watch me and keep me from doing anything foolish. Late that night, they placed a *brancardier* on guard outside the door of the ward. There were two other sick men in the room, including one who was blind. "The effect of the hypos began to wear off during the night, but I had no full realization that I was cured. I was awake for most of the night. No lights were on.

"The chimes of the big Basilica rang the hours and half hours as usual through the night, playing the air of the Lourdes *Ave Maria*. Early in the morning, I heard them ringing, and it seemed to me that I fell asleep at the beginning of the *Ave*. It could have been a matter of only a few seconds, but at the last stroke I opened my eyes and jumped out of bed. First, I knelt on the floor to finish the rosary I had been saying. Then I dashed for the door, pushed aside the two *brancardiers* and ran out into the passage and the open air. Previously, I had been watching the *brancardiers* and planning to evade them. I may say here that I had not walked since 1915, and my weight was down to 112 pounds.

"Dr. Marley was outside the door. When he saw the man over whom he had been watching during the pilgrimage, and whose death he had expected, push two *brancardiers* aside and run out of the ward, he fell back in amazement. Out in the open now, I ran toward the Grotto, which is about two or three hundred yards from the Asile. This stretch of ground was graveled then, not paved, and I was barefoot. I ran the whole way to the grotto without getting the least mark or cut on my bare feet.

The *brancardiers* were running after me, but they could not catch up with me. When they reached the grotto, there I was on my knees, still in my night clothes, praying to our Lady and thanking her. All I knew was that I should thank her and the grotto was the place to do it. The *brancardiers* stood back, afraid to touch me." A strange feature of Traynor's case was that he did not completely realize what had happened to him. He knew that a great favor had been bestowed upon him and that he should be thankful, but he had no idea of the magnitude of the favor.

He was completely dazed. It did not seem strange to him that he was walking, and he could not figure out why everyone was staring at him. He did not remember how gravely ill he had been for many years. A crowd of people gathered about Traynor while he was praying at the grotto. After about twenty minutes, he arose from his knees, surprised and rather annoyed by the audience he had attracted. The people fell back to allow him to pass. At the crowned statue

of our Lady, he stopped and knelt again. His mother had taught him that he should always make some sacrifice when he wished to venerate the Virgin. He had no money to give. The few shillings he had left after buying a railroad ticket, he had spent to buy rosaries and medals for his wife and children. He therefore made the only sacrifice he could think of: he promised our Lady that he would give up cigarettes.

The news of his cure had spread rapidly, and a great crowd was waiting at the Asile. Traynor could not understand what they were doing there. He went in and got dressed. Then he went into the washroom. A number of men were there ahead of him. "Good morning, gentlemen!" said Traynor cheerily. But there was no answer. The men just looked at him; they were too overcome to speak.

Traynor was puzzled. Why was everyone acting so strangely this morning? When he got back to his ward, a priest who was visiting at Lourdes came in and said, "Is there anyone who can serve Mass?" "Yes, I can," Traynor volunteered. The priest who knew nothing yet about the cure accepted the offer, and Traynor served Mass in the chapel of the Asile. It did not seem a bit out of the ordinary to be doing so. In the dining room of the Asile where Traynor went to eat his breakfast, the other patients stared at him in amazement. Later when he strolled outdoors, the crowd that had gathered there made a rush at him. Surprised and disconcerted he made a quick retreat into the enclosure.

A Mr. Cunningham, who was also on the pilgrimage, came to talk to him. The visitor spoke casually, but it was evident that he was making a great effort to control his excitement. "Good morning, John. Are you feeling all right?" "Yes, Mr. Cunningham, quite all right. Are you feeling all right?" Then he came to the matter that was puzzling him. "What are all those people doing outside?" "They're there, Jack, because they are glad to see you. "Well, it's nice of them, and I'm glad to see them, but I wish they'd leave me alone."

Mr. Cunningham told him that one of the priests of the pilgrimage - the one who had opposed his coming - wished to see him. There was much difficulty getting through the crowd, but they finally got to the hotel where the priest was waiting. The priest asked him if he was all right. All this solicitude was most bewildering. "Yes, I'm quite well," Traynor answered, "and I hope you feel well, too." The priest broke down and began to cry. Traynor traveled home in a first-class compartment despite all his protests.

As they were going across France, Archbishop Keating of Liverpool came into his compartment.

Traynor knelt to receive his blessing. The Archbishop bade him rise. "John, I think I should be getting your blessing," he said. Traynor did not know what the Archbishop meant. The Archbishop led him over to the bed, and they both sat down. Looking at Traynor closely, His Excellency said, "John, do you realize how ill you have been and that you have been miraculously cured by the Blessed Virgin?"

"Suddenly," Traynor later told Father O'Connor, "everything came back to me, the memory of my years of illness and the sufferings of the journey to Lourdes and how ill I had been in Lourdes itself. I began to cry, and the Archbishop began to cry, and we both sat there, crying like two children. After a little talk with him, I felt composed. Now I realized fully what had happened."

Someone suggested to Traynor that he telegraph his wife. Instead of telling her that he had been completely cured, he merely said, "Am better - Jack." His wife was very much pleased to receive this message. She had been very much upset when the woman in the pilgrimage had told her that he was dying. But she was not prepared for the glorious news that was to come! She was the only one who was not, for the story had been in the Liverpool papers. Since she had not happened to see the story, those about her decided not to tell her. They thought it would be nicer to surprise her. It seemed that all Liverpool was at the station to greet the cured man upon his return.

When Mrs. Traynor reached the platform, she told who she was and asked to be allowed through the crowd. "Well," said the official in charge, "all I can say is that Mr. Traynor must be a Mohammedan, because there are seventy or eighty Mrs. Traynors on the platform now." In an attempt to save Traynor from being crushed by the crowd which was growing every minute, the railway company stopped the train before it got to the station. The Archbishop walked toward the crowd. He asked the people to restrain their enthusiasm when they saw Traynor and to disperse peacefully after they had had a look at him. They promised that they would do so.

Despite this promise there was a stampede when Traynor appeared on the platform. The police had to clear a passage for him to pass through. The joy of Traynor's family upon his return and their deep gratitude to Our Lady of Lourdes could never be put into words. The cured man went into the coal and hauling business and had no trouble lifting 200-pound sacks of coal. He went back to Lourdes every summer to act as a *brancardier*. He died on the eve of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1943. The cause of his death was in no way related to the

wounds which had been cured at Lourdes. The two non-Catholic girls who looked after Traynor at Lourdes came into the Church as a result of the cure. Their family followed their example, and so did the Anglican minister of the church they had been attending.

A great number of conversions in Liverpool resulted from the miracle. Although the cure took place in 1923, the Medical Bureau waited till 1926 to issue its report. Traynor was examined again, and it was found that his cure was permanent. "His right arm which was like a skeleton has recovered all its muscles. The hole near his temple has completely disappeared. He had a certificate from Dr. McConnell of Liverpool attesting that he had not had an epileptic attack since 1923. . . .

"It is known that when the important nerves have been severed, if their regeneration has not been effected (after the most successful operations this would take at least a year) they contract rapidly and become dried up as it were, and certain parts mortify and disappear.

In Mr. Traynor's case, for the cure of his paralyzed arm, new parts had to be created and seamed together. All these things were done simultaneously and instantaneously. At the same time occurred the instant repair of the brain injuries as is proved by the sudden and definite disappearance of the paralysis of both legs and of the epileptic attacks. Finally, a third work was effected which closed the orifice in the brain box.

It is a real resurrection which the beneficiary attributes to the power of God and the merciful intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes. The mode of production of this prodigious cure is absolutely outside and beyond the forces of nature."

As is usual in such cures, John Traynor retained souvenirs of his former afflictions. The right hand did not hang quite normally, and the right forearm was a little less thick than the left. A slight depression was the only trace that was left of the hole in the skull. If John Traynor and Gabriel Gargam ever discussed their cases and compared notes while both were serving as *brancardiers*, they must have been amused by one point. Gargam succeeded in having his pension from the railway company discontinued.

The British War Pension Ministry, however, insisted upon paying Traynor's pension till the end of his life. They had examined him thoroughly and found him incurable. They did not care what the Lourdes Medical Bureau said or what any of the doctors who examined Traynor after his return from Lourdes reported. It did not matter that he was engaged in the most strenuous kind of work. They had pronounced

him incurable, and incurable he was. This decision was never revoked.

The gift of miracles has never ceased to show its presence in the Catholic Church. "If you would not believe Me" said Our Lord to the Jews, "believe the works I do." "The Catholic Faith alone produces miracles, which are never seen among heretics. Plants of this sort cannot grow in a soil cursed by God; they can take root only in that Church where the True Faith is professed . . .

God cannot sanction the performance of a miracle except in favor of the true religion; were He to permit it in support of error, He would deceive us."

<http://olrl.org/stories/lourdes.html>

RECOGNIZED MIRACULOUS CURES at LOURDES, FRANCE

1950 – Col. Paul Pellegrin – A veteran of military campaigns in Africa, Indo-China, World War I and II, Pellegrin had never been wounded or sick before. In 1048, severe pain and fever were the first signs of chronic fistula from an abscess of the liver. By the time of his pilgrimage to Lourdes, his condition had digressed to an open wound requiring multiple dressings each day. Upon emerging from his second bath, the wound had completely closed and never bothered him again.

1963 – Vittorio Micheli – Diagnosed with cancer of the pelvis, Micheli's tumor had grown so large that his left thighbone became loose from the socket leaving his leg limp and paralyzed. Encased in a plaster cast, he began a pilgrimage in May 1963. Upon taking the baths, he was freed from bone pain and although still in a cast, he was able to walk. By February 1964, the tumor had completely disappeared and his hip joint had recalcified, allowing him to lead a normal life.

1970 - Mr. Serge Perrin – Perrin is the very first person to be cured during the Ceremony of the Anointing of the Sick. In February, 1964, Perrin awoke with a severe headache, speech impairment and partial right side paralysis with further digression in vision impairment to near blindness. On April 26, 1970, he made a pilgrimage to Lourdes and was almost on the verge of death on the evening of April 30. On the morning of May 1, he insisted on being wheeled to the Basilica for the Ceremony where he sensed a feeling of warmth starting from his toes up to his head. He then realized he was completely cured – his vision returned and he could walk unaided after years of confinement to a wheelchair.

1976 - Miss Cirolli Delizia (Mrs. Costa)

1987 - Mr. Jean-Pierre Bely – Bely is the most recent cure at Lourdes to be declared miraculous. Stricken with Multiple Sclerosis in 1972, Bely came to Lourdes on October 8, 1987. On October 9, while in his room after attending Mass, Bely began experiencing a high fever that caused him severe pain. Suddenly, he woke up to find himself sitting by the side of the bed, able to move his arms and even sensed feeling coming back into his body. The following night, Bely awoke abruptly. To his surprise, he could walk, Within 12 hours, he had regained his physical abilities and showed no further symptoms of illness..

(Oblate Missions with permission – P.O. Box 659437, San Antonio, Texas 78216 www.oblatemissions.org)

CONSECRATION to OUR LADY of the MIRACULOUS MEDAL

O Virgin Mother of God, Mary Immaculate, we dedicate and consecrate ourselves to you under the title of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. May this Medal be for each one of us a sure sign of your affection for us and a constant reminder of our duties toward you.

Ever while wearing it, may we be blessed by your loving protection and preserved in the grace of your Son.

O most powerful Virgin, Mother of our Savior, keep us close to you every moment of our lives. Obtain for us, your children, the grace of a happy death; so that, in union with you, we may enjoy the bliss of heaven forever. AMEN

(The Central Association of the Miraculous Medal 475 E. Cheltenham Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144)

VICKA IS A NEW MOTHER

Vicka had a baby girl on January 13, 2003. She was christened Marija Sophia.

Mother and daughter are doing fine.

Vicka was the last of the visionaries of Medjugorje to marry. This is her first baby. Vicka states she continues to have daily apparitions of Our Lady.

<http://www.medjugorje.org>

MESSAGE of 1/25/2003 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! With this message I call you anew to pray for peace. Particularly now when peace is in crisis, you be those who pray and bear witness to peace. Little children, be peace in this peaceless world. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 1/25/03

The Blessed Virgin Mary calls her children again; she calls all those who want to hear her motherly voice and respond to the voice of peace. The call is given in love and leaves us freedom to accept it. In Our Lady's motherly voice there is no intimidation, no threatening, no pessimism, no fear and no panic. Her voice and her words come from a heart that is pacified in God. She sees well the situation of the world, but she is not in despair because of it. She also sees well the crisis of the world, of men, of the family, of youth and of old people, but she also sees well the possibility of these same men to reach peace and to witness the peace that she gives us, and to which she invites us. Mary, our Mother, wishes to lead us to the experience of a heart full of peace that we can obtain through abandonment to God, without effort and without tension. This is what the psalmist speaks about: *"Lord, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me. Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child. Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever."* (Ps 131)

We have to develop trust and exercise ourselves in trust in the Almighty who wants to give us this experience. Such an experience of trust and peacefulness is a treasure from which one can live and which can be given to others. I believe that each one of us has had the experience of an encounter with an aggressive person, but also with a person whose heart is pacified. We run away from those who are aggressive, we avoid them because they bring trouble and threaten our peace. On the contrary, we are ennobled by an encounter with a person whose heart is pacified, a person who makes no offence, utters no calumny, does not attack, has no hatred in the heart. We can feel that such an encounter make us take part in the peace of that person. The most frequent cause of peacelessness and tension is mistrust, which engenders a feeling of being threatened. Ladislaus Boros says in connection to this: "True Christianity knows the power of meekness, knows holiness of

character, and the power of abandonment. A new strength enters into the world where those, who bear witness in their blood tremble in pain and still persevere without being revolted and without perverting their suffering by hatred, desire of vengeance or vanity. It is a great delight to encounter a truly meek person. She can set her seal on the entire life of another."

These are fruits of faith and of trust that the Holy Spirit produces in us. Faith bestows on our life relaxation and peace. To believe in someone means to have the possibility to come to know this person. If I do not trust someone, I cannot come to know this person, because I am closed. It is the same with our relationship to God. If I do not believe what Jesus tells me in the Gospel, I will never be able to make the experience of what He promises me by his word.

Words of Our Lady's message, just as the Gospel, may seem distant, idealistic and impossible to be put into practice in our lives. Our Lady's message reminds me of Jesus' words: *"Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* (Mt 5:48) At first sight, it is an almost impossible demand. The Gospel really demands from humans what is impossible for human strength. This impossible demand of the Gospel would like to lead us not to rely on ourselves but on God. Only then shall we have peace. If we try to put these demands into practice by our own strength, we shall be defeated and frustrated. Women in Africa usually carry loads on their head, and if they keep them in a good balance, they can walk many kilometres with them. If loads are not in a good balance, they will hurt their back after only a few meters. In the same way, we have to understand well the Gospel, which does not support loads, according to the words of St. John: *"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."* (1 Jn 5:3). Let us rely on God. May He become more important for us than we are important for ourselves. Let us allow Him to take initiative in our lives, because it is more important what He does in us than what we do ourselves. Let us allow His love to touch us, so that His peace may come into our lives, our words, our encounters and our deeds.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, January 26, 2003

Where Does God Live?

All human beings, according to psychologists and theologians, are in quest of a certain higher power. They direct their gaze towards heaven. We seek and permanently long for the cause of our existence. This seeking and longing is natural in and of itself. Our seeking is a human reality. We cannot live all alone, but the question is how do we seek and whom, in fact, do we seek? Do we seek our Creator or an illusory god made according to our fancies and our needs?

People, as God's creatures, should long for and seek God the Father who wanted us to exist as a radiance of His own face. Any other seeking would mean going astray, and any other longing would be an illusion. God of the Christians is a reality, he is not an invented god but Emmanuel – God with us. He is present all around us. Let us seek Him and long for His presence.

There is a beautiful image in the Gospel according to John. Two disciples ask Jesus: "Rabbi, Master, where dwellest thou?" He saith unto them, "Come and see." (Jn 1,38-39) This short dialogue says and reveals so much! It reveals human longing for God and God's concrete invitation to an encounter with Him. What did Jesus mean when he said: "Come and see"? Where should the disciples go to encounter their Master? We maybe sometimes think that we should go from place to place to encounter God. We seek Him without really knowing where He stays, which is His address. It is important to know that God is not hidden. He revealed Himself to us, He continuously talks to us, He gives Himself to us at every moment. He also speaks to us in Medjugorje through Mary. He speaks to us in the silence of our humble prayer, in every sigh, in the gift of time, in the life of the nature, of people, of the sun...

God's address is within us, in your brother, your sister... We are temples of the Holy Spirit. God dwells in us if we have not blocked the way through sin. God dwells in the heart of your neighbour whom you have maybe despised and abandoned. God invites you to come and visit Him on the address where people are ill, poor, rejected, hungry and thirsty, handicapped and unemployed. This is God's address. Jesus invites us to seek Him there. Hence, let us allow him to lead us in his dwellings and reveal us His home.

Father Mario Knezovic

Communions and Concelebrants

During the month of December, 50,000 received Holy Communion and 916 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

During the year of 2002, 1,138,000 received Holy Communion and 27,377 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

Cardinal Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna (Austria), About Medjugorje

On December 1, 2002, in a catechesis given in St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, Cardinal Schönborn said the following about Medjugorje:

"I do not wish to express an opinion on Medjugorje from the point of view of a judgment of the Church. There is, however, one thing I can observe, over and over again, namely, that this is a place where an intensive mission-station of heaven obviously exists, where thousands upon thousands of people find prayer, confession, conversion, reconciliation, healing and deeper faith."

Radio "Mir" Medjugorje Extends Its Programme

With the beginning of the New Year, Radio "Mir" Medjugorje has extended the broadcasting time of its own programme. Now, it broadcasts its own programme from 10 am to 10 pm. The programme is enriched by new interesting rubrics from religious and social life. The rest of the time, Radio "Mir" Medjugorje transmits the programme of the Croatian Catholic Radio from Zagreb.

According to the decision of the CRA (Communication Regulatory Agency), Radio "Mir" Medjugorje put into functioning its eighth transmitter, situated on Kozara near Banja Luka, transmitting on the frequency of 106.7 MHz. Thus, since mid-December, the inhabitants of the region of Banja Luka, of Jajce and of north Bosnia can also hear the programme of Radio "Mir" Medjugorje.

**Religious and Humanitarian Association
"MEDJUGORJE-MIR"**

The religious and humanitarian association "Medjugorje-Mir" was founded in 1992. The headquarters of the Association are in Split (Croatia), in the Franciscan monastery in Poljud. The Association also has an office in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the Parish office Medjugorje. The Association gathers people of good will from all over the world who want to act on humanitarian and

charity level. Most of them are inspired by Our Lady's messages in Medjugorje.

All those who want to continue to collaborate with the Association "Medjugorje-Mir", and all those who want to join us in the work for the welfare of the needy, may contact us on the following address: "MEDJUGORJE-MIR", Poljudsko setaliste 4, 21000 SPLIT, CROATIA / Tel: +385-21-381 322, Fax: +385-21-381 324, e-mail: medjugorje-split@st.hinet.hr.

(Published by: Information Center MIR - Shrine of the Queen of Peace, 88266 Medjugorje. <http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>)

ANNUAL APPARITION to JAKOV on DECEMBER 25th 2002

At the last daily apparition to Jakov Čolo on September 12th, 1998, Our Lady told him she would appear to him each year, every December 25th, Christmas Day. This is how it was this year. Our Lady came with the Child Jesus in her arms. The apparition began at 5:20 PM and lasted 7 minutes. Our Lady gave the following message:

Dear children! Today, on the day of love and peace, with Jesus in my arms, I call you to prayer for peace. Little children, without God and prayer you cannot have peace. Therefore, little children, open your heart so that the King of Peace may be born in your heart. Only in this way you can witness and carry God's peace to this peaceless world. I am with you and bless you with my motherly blessing.

(<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>)

EXCERPTS from a REPORT by SISTER EMMANUEL

VICKA'S VISIT

At the wedding of Vicka and Mario early in 2002, one of the guests was Teresa (62) from Sicily and she told the following story to Sister Emmanuel and others.

I am the twelfth of 14 children. My father used to curse God and beat my mother and us children. We were often hungry and had to sleep 3 to a bed. When I was 9 years old I received the call to become a nun, but my father would not allow it because he wanted me to work in order to help the family. Later I got

married and became lukewarm in my faith. My husband didn't believe much, but we went to Mass on Sundays.

In 1998, I had to have a hysterectomy due to cancer of the uterus followed by chemotherapy and radiation. Then my husband became very ill and I had to take care of him, until his death two years ago. Completely exhausted, I had to have further tests. This time, I was diagnosed with liver cancer. My whole body was suffering and I was vomiting constantly. I decided to go on a retreat at San Giovanni Rotondo, in the former parish of Padre Pio, to put my life in order for the months that I had left to live. I was suffocating under so many hardships. The doctors wanted to do a third operation, and I had to make a decision.

The first night at San Giovanni, June 21, 2000, I had a strange experience, which I thought was a dream, but I wasn't sure. I found myself in the waiting room at the hospital, waiting my turn to be called for the operation. The door opened and a young woman entered. It was a nurse wearing a white uniform. She had her brown hair in a pony tail. She came straight towards me saying, "**You can leave now, you're cured.**" Shocked and surprised, I stuttered that I couldn't leave because I had come to have an operation. She repeated: "**Yes! You can leave, you've been cured.**" Again, I told her: There must be a mistake, because I'm scheduled to have an operation.' Then with an authoritative voice, she told me: "**But I've told you that you are cured!**"

The next morning, this "experience" still had hold of me. I spoke about it to a priest who told me: "We'll see with time if it's true or not. Meanwhile, you yourself have to make the choice to have the operation or not." I decided not to have the operation. In fact, during that same night the pain had completely disappeared. I was able to start eating normally again, I gained weight, I was able to sleep, to walk, just like someone in good health. An enormous strength had come into my whole body.

And I forgot to say that my first thought upon awakening from the dream was "**Medjugorje: I must go to Medjugorje!**" I was seized with an intense desire to go there, and yet I didn't really know anything about Medjugorje: a small isolated village in Bosnia-Herzegovina, some apparitions to young shepherds... That's all I knew!

The retreat at San Giovanni Rotondo was a time of resurrection for me, and I decided to change my life, to put God in the first place. After the retreat I looked for a means to go to Medjugorje, and finally in Sicily, I found a pilgrimage organized for New Year's. I was also invited to participate in a prayer group on

Thursday evenings to meditate on the messages from the Queen of Peace. Each message went straight to my heart and filled me more and more with joy.

Once I arrived in Medjugorje, I was impressed by the grace of the site, even on the first day while praying the Stations of the Cross on Mount Krizevac. The next day we went to listen to Vicka. When I saw her, I said to myself, **“I’ve already seen her face somewhere, but where?”**

Then it came back to me in a flash, the scene of the night at San Giovanni and I exclaimed, It’s her! That’s the young woman in white who came to tell me, ‘you can leave, you are cured!’ I was amazed and I looked at the light radiating from her eyes, the rays of love coming from her face. Later I had the opportunity to tell her about that night when she came to visit me, and she only said to me, smiling: **“Thanks be to God!”**

My life is now taken up with an apostolate in Sicily and prayer retreats in Medjugorje. I know that the Gospa has a plan for me through the healing and the freedom that was given to me. My joy is to be her instrument for whatever she has in store for me.

VICKA on 9/11/01

Sister Emmanuel also related: Here are a few words that we gathered from Vicka on the catastrophe of September 11th in New York:

Vicka: “You know, we shouldn’t be afraid of anything. The Lord didn’t want to give us a shock. We have to look at things with different eyes. God wanted to give us a lesson. All of us, when something ugly happens, something terrible, we tend to let despair come in. Actually, we must be ready, because for 20 years the Gospa has been calling us, telling us that through fasting and prayer we could prevent wars, stop wars. We’ve got to be ready! In our families we should think more about God and then all the rest will fall into place. But today we have forgotten God. He has been delegated to the second place, or worse, He doesn’t exist anymore in our families. Therefore, we need to change! May the Lord truly be in the first place then all the rest will follow. We shouldn’t be afraid. It is not God who wants to bombard us or harm us. No, God wants to save us! He wants to help us! Through the sign in New York, He wants us to wake up! Gospa, also, only wants to give us hope and confidence.”

We know how Vicka cares for those who suffer. In putting God back in the first place, let us not allow such a tragedy ever to happen again!

EGYPT

I was in Egypt recently, witnessing to what Our Lady, Queen of Peace, is doing in Medjugorje. While I was preparing for this trip, a priest gave me a sound tip for apostolic fruitfulness. **“Before going to talk to people about God,”** he said, **“pray for them until you come to love them deeply, and you are ready to lay down your life for them.”** This is an excellent piece of advice for effective witnessing to the Heart of Mary!

I thank all of those who have prayed that the Christians in Egypt would be open to the messages of Medjugorje. I have seen there the wonderful fruitfulness that is granted **to organizers who are truly prepared in prayer and totally dedicated.** After a few years of missions, I have noticed that Mary often starts by touching one person (or one family), placing such a fire in their heart that this person cannot help but work for the Gospa. She then opens unexpected doors for them. If this person is faithful to prayer and perseveres in the face of the purifications that accompany this inner fire, they become a flexible instrument in God’s hands, experiencing great joy at working out his plans.

Medjugorje is a lay movement, and the lay people who organize missions for Medjugorje in their country, edify me by the holiness of their lives. They do not quit when adversity manifests itself, as it always does when the enemy’s plans are thwarted. How could the blessing of God not be granted to a mission when its workers are obedient to the Holy Spirit, humble and, moreover, living out the unity of hearts?

HOLY REFUGEES

Let me share something I learned in Egypt.

To my surprise it seems that the Holy Family had a difficult itinerary when they fled to Egypt.

Like many others, I believed that Saint Joseph had found work among the few local Jews, but this is not the case. Actually, in order not to be spotted by Herod’s soldiers, the Holy Family had to constantly hide and move about. They were isolated and lacked everything. They traveled more than 2000 kilometers in most precarious conditions, suffering from hunger, thirst, extreme heat, scorn and insecurity in all its forms. Their situation was not even up to refugee status because they had to remain anonymous.

Tradition has it that the Holy Family remained in Egypt for almost four years.

This tells us what training the Queen of Peace received during her first years as a Mother.

It shows us also what kind of welcome our world gave the Son of God in his early years!

(Paul Farge "Medjugorje News" December 2002)

LISTEN TO ME – WHY ARE YOU IGNORING MY MOTHER

Just stop a while
And listen to Me;
I have a question
To ask of thee-
Why are you ignoring My Mother?
I chose Her to be
My very Own,
And greater perfection
Was never known.
Why are you ignoring My Mother?
I was born through Her
So we all would be
Spiritual members
Of one Family.
Why are you ignoring My Mother/
I've sent her to you
With a message Divine
Not once or twice,
But many a time.
And still you're ignoring My Mother.
Like a wreath of graces
Her Rosary she's given
To Her loving children
As a Key to Heaven.
And still you're ignoring my Mother
She came with My message
To LaSalette
But those requests
Have not been met.
Why are you ignoring My Mother?
I sent Her again
To the cave at Lourdes,
But just as before
You spurned Her words.
Why are you ignoring My Mother?
To the fields of Fatima
Again She came
For prayers and sacrifice
In Her Son's Name.
And still you're ignoring My Mother
She descended again

To Garabandal,
But you're not heeding
Her latest call
Why are you ignoring My Mother?
I sent Her to Earth
From Heaven above,
So you would give Her
Your honor and love
And still you're ignoring My Mother!
When you ignore
My Mother,
You ignore Her Son
Because to Me
She's the Dearest One.
Why are you ignoring My Mother/
You'd better amend
And do not tarry-
The ideal way to Jesus
Is Mary!
So stop ignoring My Mother!

(Anonymous, 1971 – Tan, P.O. Box 424, Rockford, Ill 61105)

LOURDES WATER

This is natural water from the spring at Lourdes, France, which began to flow in 1858 when, at the command of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the little girl Bernadette dug in the ground at her feet. The first cure was return of sight to a man who bathed his eye in the water. The second cure was instantaneous complete recovery of health to a dying infant who had been immersed in the water by its mother. The cures have been many. Even more wonderful than the physical have been the spiritual cures worked in the souls of many.

“Lourdes Spring Water is for applying to infected or aching members of the body. It is not a magic remedy nor related to witchcraft. Great faith and insuperable confidence in the Immaculate Virgin is necessary.”

(Excerpt from official slip sent with the Water from Lourdes.)

If you receive help or notable relief from the use of Lourdes Water, kindly write a letter of acknowledgement to this Shrine.

(Lourdes Rosary Shrine, Dominican Fathers, 1104 S. Sixth Street, Louisville, KY 40203)

PRAYER to SAY when USING LOURDES WATER

O Immaculate Virgin of Lourdes, I prostrate myself in spirit at the humble grotto where you once appeared and where you continue to dispense graces and wonders of love. O Inexhaustible Source of Healing Graces, free me from my infirmities. Protect me and keep misfortune from me. Use thy boundless influence to obtain for me patience in my sufferings, restoration to health, and the grace to make good use of my lot in life for the glory of God.

Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes, Pray for us.

(Imprimatur: MOST REV. JOHN A. FLOERSCH,
D.D., Archbishop of Louisville)

A NEW PAMPHLET

We have just received a new pamphlet on the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and How to Say the Rosary. If you want to order send a donation of 60 cents each, which includes the postage to mail it to you. Order some for your prayer group or to put out for your parish. Call Livia or Vincent at the PFMC, (856) 768-9228.

A PRAYER to OUR SOVEREIGN QUEEN

Dearest Mother Mary our Sovereign Queen, I ask for your holy blessing, for myself and for all. May your blessing be the celestial dew which descends upon sinners to convert them, and upon the afflicted to console them. May it descend upon the whole world and transform it into good; may it descend upon the purging souls and extinguish the fire that burns them. May your maternal blessing be a pledge of salvation for all souls. AMEN

(from Medjugorje in America 654 Washington Street
Braintree, Ma. 02184-5767)

MOTHER TERESA'S SAINTLY EXAMPLE

The cause for beatification for Mother Teresa has been approved and she will be proclaimed Blessed on October 19, 2003 in Rome. Recognition

of her saintliness reveals her holy efforts in spite of great struggles.

Mother Teresa once said that, "Life is a promise, fulfill it." She knew intimately the battle we all face. Especially resonant is her statement, "I know God won't give me anything I can't handle. I just wish Hw didn't trust me so much."

She understood oppression and she loved Our Lady of Medjugorje. In her own words, "I give thanks to Our Lady of Medjugorje. I know that many people go there and are converted. I thank God for guiding us in this way at this period." ("Medjugorje: What Does the Church Say?", Queenship Publishing Company)

On August 12, 1991 Mother Teresa gave author Dennis Nolan written permission to publish her letters referring to Medjugorje in order to refute attacks against its authenticity: "I give you permission to use my words for the glory of God and the good of souls." ("Medjugorje: What Does the Church Say?" Queenship Publishing Company)

(Network News – Medjugorje in America, January 2003)

REVELATION 8: 3-4

An angel came in holding a censer of gold. He took his place at the altar of incense and was given large amounts of incense to deposit on the altar of gold in front of the throne, together with the prayers of all of God's holy ones. From the angel's hand the smoke of the incense went up before God, and with it prayers of God's people.

The angels carry out God's will. Let us pray that we too may listen carefully for His voice and hear His call.

O God, you made your angels messengers of your

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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.

marvelous works, help us to proclaim your wonderful deeds to all people.

The angels unceasingly proclaim that you are holy and exalted, may your people on earth join their voices to the angelic song of praise.

You commanded your angels to watch over your servants in all their ways, guide those who are traveling and bring them home safely in joy and in peace.

You gave the angels the mission of announcing peace to all and inspire counsels of peace in the hearts of leaders and peoples of all nations.

When you send forth the angels to gather together your chosen people from every corner of the earth, but bring them all to the unending gladness of your kingdom.

(Angels of God - Edmundite Missions, 1428 Broad Street, Selma, AL 36701)

WAYS

I sat, with two friends, in the picture window of a quaint restaurant just off the corner of the town-square. The food and the company were both especially good that day.

As we talked, my attention was drawn outside, across the street. There, walking into town, was a man who appeared to be carrying all his worldly goods on his back. He was carrying a well-worn sign that read, "I will work for food."

My heart sank. I brought him to the attention of my friends and noticed that others around us had stopped eating to focus on him. Heads moved in a mixture of sadness and disbelief.

We continued with our meal, but his image lingered in my mind. We finished our meal and went our separate ways. I had errands to do and quickly set out to accomplish them. I glanced toward the town square, looking somewhat halfheartedly for the strange visitor. I was fearful, knowing that seeing him again would call for some response. I drove through town and saw nothing of him. I made some purchases at a store and got back in my car.

Deep within me, the Spirit of God kept speaking to me: "Don't go back to the office until you've at least driven once more around the square." And so, with some hesitancy, I headed back into town. As I turned the square's third corner, I saw him. He was standing on the steps of the storefront church, going through his sack. I stopped and looked; feeling both compelled to speak to him, yet wanting to drive on.

The empty parking space on the corner seemed to be a sign from God: an invitation to park.

I pulled in, got out and approached the town's newest visitor.

"Looking for the pastor?" I asked.

"Not really," he replied, "just resting."

"Have you eaten today?"

"Oh, I ate something early this morning."

"Would you like to have lunch with me?"

"Do you have some work I could do for you?"

"No work," I replied. "I commute here to work from the city, but I would like to take you to lunch."

"Sure," he replied with a smile

As he began to gather his things, I asked some surface questions.

"Where you headed?"

"Saint Louis."

"Where are you from?"

"Oh, all over; mostly Florida."

"How long have you been walking?"

"Fourteen years," came the reply.

I knew I had met someone unusual. We sat across from each other in the same restaurant I had left earlier. His face was weathered slightly beyond his 38 years. His eyes were dark yet clear, and he spoke with an eloquence and articulation that was startling. He removed his jacket to reveal a bright red T-shirt that said, "Jesus is The Never Ending Story."

Then Daniel's story began to unfold. He had seen rough times early in life. He'd made some wrong choices and reaped the consequences. Fourteen years earlier, while backpacking across the country, he had stopped on the beach in Daytona. He tried to hire on with some men who were putting up a large tent and some equipment. A concert, he thought. He was hired, but the tent would not house a concert, but revival services, and in those services he saw life more clearly. He gave his life over to God.

"Nothing's been the same since," he said, "I felt the Lord telling me to keep walking, and so I did, some 14 years now."

"Ever think of stopping?" I asked.

"Oh, once in a while, when it seems to get the best of me. But God has given me this calling. I give out Bibles. That's what's in my sack. I work to buy food and Bibles, and I give them out when His Spirit leads."

I sat amazed. My homeless friend was not homeless. He was on a mission and lived this way by choice. The question burned inside for a moment and then I asked:

“What’s it like?”

“What?”

“To walk into a town carrying all your things on your back and to show your sign?”

“Oh, it was humiliating at first. People would stare and make comments. Once someone tossed a piece of half-eaten bread and made a gesture that certainly didn’t make me feel welcome. But then it became humbling to realize that God was using me to touch lives and change people’s concepts of other folks like me.”

My concept was changing, too. We finished our dessert and gathered his things. Just outside the door, he paused. He turned to me and said,

“Come Ye blessed of my Father and inherit the kingdom I’ve prepared for you. For when I was hungry you gave me food, when I was thirsty you gave me drink, a stranger and you took me in.”

I felt as if we were on holy ground. “Could you use another Bible?” I asked.

He said he preferred a certain translation. It traveled well and was not too heavy. It was also his personal favorite. “I’ve read through it 14 times,” he said.

“I’m not sure we’ve got one of those, but let’s stop by our church and see.”

I was able to find my new friend a Bible that would do well, and he seemed very grateful.

“Where you headed from here?”

“Well, I found this little map on the back of this amusement park coupon.”

“Are you hoping to hire on there for awhile?”

“No, I just figure I should go there. I figure someone under that star right there needs a Bible, so that’s where I’m going next.” He smiled, and the warmth of his spirit radiated the sincerity of his mission.

I drove him back to the town-square where we’d met two hours earlier, and as we drove, it started raining. We parked and unloaded his things.

“Would you sign my autograph book?” he asked. “I like to keep messages from folks I meet.”

I wrote in his little book that his commitment to his calling had touched my life. I encouraged him to stay strong. And I left him with a verse of scripture from Jeremiah, “I know the plans I have for you,” declared

the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you a future and a hope.”

“Thanks, man,” he said. “I know we just met and we’re really just strangers, but I love you.”

“I know,” I said, “I love you, too.”

“The Lord is good!”

“Yes, He is. How long has it been since someone hugged you?” I asked.

“A long time,” he replied.

And so on the busy street corner in the drizzling rain, my new friend and I embraced, and I felt deep inside that I had been changed. He put his things on his back, smiled his winning smile and said, “See you in the New Jerusalem.”

“I’ll be there!” was my reply.

He began his journey again. He headed away with his sign dangling from his bedroll and pack of Bibles. He stopped, turned and said, “When you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?”

“You bet,” I shouted back, “God bless.”

“God bless.” And that was the last I saw of him.

Late that evening as I left my office, the wind blew strong. The cold front had settled hard upon the town. I bundled up and hurried to my car. As I sat back and reached for the emergency brake, I saw them... a pair of well-worn brown work gloves neatly laid over the length of the handle. I picked them up and thought of my friend and wondered if his hands would stay warm that night without them. I remembered his words: “If you see something that makes you think of me, will you pray for me?”

Today his gloves lie on my desk in my office. They help me to see the world and its people in a new way, and they help me remember those two hours with my

BOOKS TO BROWSE

These books may be obtained through the PFMC. If you are interested in ordering them, please call us and order. (856) 768-9228 Book Department. This is a SPECIAL. We will pay your shipping.

“*The Gift of Miracles*” by Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. with Linda Schubert, Servant Publications

“*True Devotion to the Holy Spirit*” by Luis M. Martinez, Sophia Institute Press

“*The Secret of the Rosary*” by Saint Louis deMontefort, Tan Books and Publishers

“*Sent to Earth*” by Michael H. Brown, Queenship Publishing Company”

unique friend and to pray for his ministry. "See you in the New Jerusalem," he said. Yes, Daniel, I know I will..."I shall pass this way but once. Therefore, any good that I can do or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now, for I shall not pass this way again."

This prayer is powerful and there is nothing attached. Prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards, let's continue to pray for one another.

"Father, I ask you to bless my friends, relatives and e-mail buddies reading this right now. Show them a new revelation of your love and power. Holy Spirit, I ask you to minister to their spirit at this very moment. Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence through your grace. In Jesus' precious Name, Amen."

(Leslie Beers, Jewish Federation of Greater Dayton, Inc., 4501 Denlinger Road, Dayton, OH 45426)

FASTING in SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4: 2 - "He fasted for forty days and forty nights and afterwards he was hungry."

Matthew 6: 16, 17, 18 - "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ...so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden."

Matthew 9: 14, 15 - "Then the disciples of John approached him and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast, but your disciple do not fast?"

Jesus answered them: "Can the wedding guest mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them and then they will fast."

Matthew 17: 21 - "But this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting."

A PRAYER to OUR LADY to HELP US FAST

O Queen of Heaven, we unite ourselves with others across the land in a holy fast, reminiscent of the so many times ancient Israel cried out in repentance to their God. By their history, we know God the Most High will hear our cry. We humble ourselves because of our sins. Seek, Mary our Queen, on our behalf that the Lord not look upon our sins, but the love we show

Him through this fast. Persuade Him to not only forgive but also forget and blot out our sins, that through your hands we will grow close to Him and know Him intimately as a Father, as our protector.

O Mary these days of fasting we wish to empty our hearts of everything useless. Cleanse us. Let this fast purify us and atone for everything that has defiled us. O Mary, Queen of Peace, let our hearts be refilled through your hands with whatever graces are necessary to reconcile us, our families, and our nation back to God. We wish to also atone for any wrongs of Christians for the 2002 years since Christ's birth, to purify Christianity in order for the rebirth and the ushering of a new springtime for Christianity.

We consecrate our hearts to you, Mary, and to Jesus. We want to give you and Jesus "title" of not only our souls but also our bodies, as well as all we possess. We know that you revealed that Satan was completely unchained. Our response is to give ourselves to you and Jesus completely, as a possession into Your and His hands, through the formal daily act of consecration, thereby, owned by you and your Son, we are afforded protection through being your possession.

We therefore present to You the intention to empty our hearts that you may refill them, in order that You will present this novena with your Son before the throne of God.

We ask for an unleashing of grace to be poured out upon each of us, as well as upon those hearts united to it. We ask you to hear the countless petitions from the numbers who are in need of conversion throughout our land, and your intentions for all of the above intentions. Please intercede for us as our Mother.

AMEN

(edited from Caritas of Birmingham)

ALL IT TAKES –

He almost didn't see the old lady, stranded on the side of the road. But even in the dim light of day, he could see she needed help. So he pulled up in front of her Mercedes and got out. His Pontiac was still sputtering when he approached her.

Even with the smile on his face, she was worried. No one had stopped to help for the last hour or so ... was he going to hurt her? He didn't look safe; he looked poor and hungry. He could see that she was frightened, standing out there in the cold.

He knew how she felt. It was that chill which only fear can put in you. He said, "I'm here to help you,

ma'am. Why don't you wait in the car where it's warm? By the way, my name is Bryan."

Well, all she had was a flat tire, but for an old lady, that was bad enough. Bryan crawled under the car looking for a place to put the jack, skinning his knuckles a time or two. Soon he was able to change the tire. But he had to get dirty and his hands hurt.

As he was tightening up the lug nuts, she rolled down the window and began to talk to him. She told him that she was from Saint Louis and was only just passing through. She couldn't thank him enough for coming to her aid.

Bryan just smiled as he closed her trunk. She asked him how much she owed him. Any amount would have been all right with her. She already imagined all the awful things that could have happened had he not stopped. Bryan never thought twice about being paid. This was not a job

to him. This was helping someone in need, and God knows there were plenty who had given him a hand in the past. He had lived his whole life that way, and it never occurred to him to act any other way.

He told her that if she really wanted to pay him back, the next time she saw someone who needed help, she could give that person the assistance they needed, and Bryan added, "And think of me."

He waited until she started her car and drove off. It had been a cold and depressing day, but he felt good as he headed for home, disappearing into the twilight.

A few miles down the road the lady saw a small cafe. She went in to grab a bite to eat, and take the chill off before she made the last leg of her trip home. It was a dingy looking restaurant. Outside were two old gas pumps. The whole scene was unfamiliar to her. The cash register was like the telephone of an out-of-work actor -- it didn't ring much.

The waitress came over and brought a clean towel to wipe her wet hair. She had a sweet smile, one that even being on her feet for the whole day couldn't erase. The lady noticed the waitress was nearly eight months pregnant, but she never let the strain and aches change her attitude.

The old lady wondered how someone who had so little could be so giving to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan.

After the lady finished her meal, and the waitress went to get change for her Hundred-dollar bill, the lady slipped right out the door. She was gone by the time the waitress came back.

The waitress wondered where the lady could be. Then she noticed something written on the napkin under which were four \$100 bills.

There were tears in her eyes when she read what the lady wrote: "You don't owe me anything. I have been there too. Somebody once helped me out, the way I'm helping you. If you really want to pay me back, here is what you do: Do not let this chain of love end with you."

Well, there were tables to clear, sugar bowls to fill, and people to serve, but the waitress made it through another day. That night when she got home from work and climbed into bed, she was thinking about the money and what the lady had written. How could the lady have known how much she and her husband needed it? With the baby due next month, it was going to be hard.

She knew how worried her husband was, and as he lay sleeping next to her, she gave him a soft kiss and whispered soft and low, "Everything's gonna be all right. I love you, Bryan."

There is an old saying "What goes around comes around." Today, I sent you this story, and I'm asking you to pass it on ... Let this light shine.

Don't put it under a basket. Please pass this on to a friend.

"Throw your dreams into space like a kite, and you do not know what it will bring back: a new life, a new friend, a new love, a new country."

"COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS DAILY, AND FORGET YOUR TROUBLES"

(anonymous)

A NOVENA to SAINT THERESA of the CHILD JESUS

Father Putigan, a Jesuit, began the Novena to Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus on December 3, 1925. He asked the glorious Saint for one great favor. For nine days he recited the "Glory be to the Father" twenty four times thanking the Holy Trinity for the favors and Graces showered on Saint Theresa during the twenty four years of her life on earth. The priest asked Saint Theresa that as a sign that his novena was heard he would receive from someone a freshly plucked rose. On the third day of the novena, an unknown person sought out Father Putigan and presented him with a beautiful rose.

Father Putigan began the second novena on December 24th of the same year, and as a sign asked for a white

rose. On the fourth day of this novena one of the Sister-nurses brought him a white rose saying:

“Saint Theresa sent you this.”

Amazed, the priest asked: “Where did you get this?”

“I was in the chapel”, said the Sister, “and as I was leaving I passed the altar above which hangs the beautiful picture of Saint Theresa. This rose fell at my feet. I wanted to put it back into the bouquet, but a thought came to me that I should bring it to you.”

Father Putigan received the favors he had petitioned of the Little Flower of Jesus, and promised to spread the novena to increase devotion to, and bring her more honor.

In this fashion, from the ninth to the seventeenth of each month those who want to participate in the Twenty-four “Glory be to the Father’s novena, should add to those of their own, the intentions of all who are at that time making the novena, thus forming one great prayer in common.

The Novena

The Twenty-four “Glory be to the Father’s” novena can be said at any time. However the ninth to the seventeenth of the month is particularly recommended for those days the petitioner joins in prayer with all those making the novena.

The “Glory be to the Father” praising the Holy Trinity is said twenty-four times each of the nine days, in thanksgiving for all the blessings and favors given to Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus during the twenty four years of her life. In addition, this, or a similar prayer may be used:

“Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, I thank Thee for all the blessings and favors Thou hast showered upon the soul of Thy servant Theresa of the Child Jesus, during the twenty-four years she spent here on earth, and in consideration of the merits of this Thy most beloved Saint. I beseech Thee to grant me this favor, if it is in accordance with Thy most Holy Will and is not an obstacle to my salvation.”

After this Prayer, follow the twenty-four “Glory be to the Father’s,” between each of which may be included this short prayer:

“Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus, pray for us.”

The Glory Be Prayer

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN

(copies of this Novena are available from: Our Lady of the Rosary Library, 4016 Preston Hwy., Louisville, KY 40213 2 cents each plus \$2 S&H in U.S.)

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

We are not a church, store or travel agency but have aspects of all three. We operate as a ministry whose volunteers are mostly lay persons professing a belief in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, through the universal faith and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. We profess allegiance to the Magisterium of that Church led by Pope John Paul II. In a similar fashion as those who approach members of famous families such as the Carters and the Kennedys as well as the British Royal Family through the matriarchs or mothers, we believe that approaching Jesus through his Blessed Virgin Jewish Mother, Mary, may be of benefit in the answering of our prayers.

We operate on donations for all our activities. These activities include retreats and days of recollection at the PFMC where Holy Mass and Adoration take place for the public with Bishop DiMarzio’s permission. The PFMC was established based on pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and other holy places or shrine worthy of pilgrimage. Books, pamphlets and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and take based on donations. We are NOT a store.

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

We accept DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (CIRRUS) and VISA (PLUS) for all donations to the PFMC. This includes for books

and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, seminars, "The PILGRIM," or the building debt retirement fund.

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

Thank you and God bless you,

(Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff)

BULLETIN NOTICES for *PFMC* AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out one or more of following BULLETIN NOTICES and take them to your Pastor and / or Parish Bulletin Coordinator? One per week should not be an overload to you. Ask your Pastor and / or Parish Bulletin Coordinator to publish these notices to support the events for which you have an interest.

It does wonders when a parishioner asks for a bulletin notice as compared to the thousands of requests that come in from outside the parish.

Thanks for your assistance, we really need and appreciate it.

Father Joseph Byerley of Saint Pius X Roman Catholic Church, 344 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, NJ, 08034-3396, (856) 429-1330, FAX: (856) 429-8679, is the PFMC Liaison with Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio.

2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ. The dates are Friday through Sunday, March 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2003.

The 2003 RC theme is "He must increase; I must decrease." (John 3:30) [NAB].

Father Bill Halbing, Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, and Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J. will be featured speakers. They will speak on "Healing in our Faith."

Father Michael Semana, founder of the "World of Hope Foundation," will return for a concert Saturday evening as well as his very generous work with the youth and young adults in the Youth Track (YT).

Joseph Terelya will speak via his interpreter on Saturday afternoon and at night before the concert.

The Metuchen Diocese Charismatic Music Group "REFUGE" will be back to provide the weekend music. Al Barbarino has agreed to EMCEE for the Weekend and to provide background music for the 3DX. "VOYAGE" will perform a brief concert

before and provide the music for the Holy Mass on Friday night. Marty Rotella and "HEARTS AFIRE" led by Carl and Martie Granieri will assist with the YT. Other musicians including "CEDARS in CHRIST" and "S'ELAH" have been invited.

Father Robert DeGrandis and his sister Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol will share the seminars and workshops of the 3-Day Extension (3DX) on "Healing of Memories - Inner Healing."

"HEARTS AFIRE" led by Carl and Martie Granieri will musically support the 3DX.

The 3DX will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2003.

Rooms may be booked for both the 2003 RC and 3DX as well as up to 7 days before or after the events. The PFMC \$92 rate for a king bed or two double beds in rooms large enough to handle cots for extra people and availability of additional rooms is scheduled to expire on 2/19/2003. The hotel has every rite to charge the going rate or say there are no rooms available after that date.

For hotel reservations please call NOW: 1-800-HILTONS or locally (856) 665-6666 as soon as possible.

Please make your RC, YT and 3DX reservations with the PFMC as soon as possible.

For more information call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

16-18 MAY 2003, RETREAT WEEKEND for MARRIED COUPLES

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host a married couples retreat chaired by Father Bill McCarthy, M.Ss.A., co-founder of My Father's House <http://www.myfathershouse.com/> in Moodus, CT. It is planned for the evening of Friday, 16 May 2003, and 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, 17 May 2003 and Sunday, 18 May 2003. Donation requested is \$80 per couple. This includes hot lunches on Saturday and Sunday as well as handouts.

If there is sufficient early registration interest, this married couples retreat weekend may be moved to a local hotel with overnight accommodations available. Cost of rooms will be kept reasonable. Sign up early to assist us in making this latter decision.

For more information call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

(Kathleen as well as all the *PFMC* Volunteer Staff)

CALENDARS:

In *February*, the Church observes Feasts of **Presentation of the Lord (2)**, and **Chair of Saint Peter (22)**, Memorials of *Saints Agatha (5)*, *Paul Miki and Companions (6)*, *Scholastica (10)*, and *Cyril and Methodius (14)*, Optional Memorials of *Saints Blase (3)*, *Ansgar (3)*, *Jerome Emiliani (8)*, and *Peter Damian (21)* as well as *Our Lady of Lourdes (11)*, and **Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (17)**. Most Church calendars show **Presidents' Day (17)** and **Saint Valentine's Day (14)**.

In *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *SAINT JOSEPH, HUSBAND of MARY (19)* and the *ANNUNCIATION of the LORD (25)*, the Memorials of *Saints Perpetua and Felicity (7)*, *John of God (8)*, *Patrick (17)*, *Cyril of Jerusalem (18)*, and Optional Memorials of *Saints Katherine Drexel (3)*, *Casimir (4)*, *Frances of Rome (8)*, as well as **Ash Wednesday (5)**. Mark your calendars for the **PFMC RC (14-16)** and **3DX (17-19)**.

AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please take note of the new centerfold location for the message alleged to be from Mary, GOSPA and its reflection.

Please review the announcements on pages 1 through 4 and the Bulletin Notices on page 23. We need everyone to help spread this information with prayer groups and Parish committees as well as to publish it in your Parish Bulletin.

For additional information, call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228. Please speak clearly and slowly, leave your name, address and phone number with area code so

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Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc.
NON-PROFIT and IRS Code 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT
Keith and Kathleen Werner, Co-Directors
61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963
(856) 768-9228 FAX: (856) 768-9428

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,
Friday, 2/7/2003**

The PILGRIM

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

that we may return your call. You may FAX your questions to (856) 768-9428. If anyone has a plain paper FAX machine they are not using, we would love a donation. Our FAX machine is not working properly and we have had to fall back on an old thermal paper machine until we can get a new plain paper FAX machine.

PFMC PRESENTATIONS

Kathleen and Keith desire to participate in Altar Rosary Society, Legion of Mary, or other parish prayer group meetings with witness, and/or videotape or slide presentations, followed by a question and answer session. The experiences and continuation of the PFMC ministries for Our Lady in this time of manifestation of Our Lord's mercy and graces are shared at no cost. Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites just like they are at the PFMC which operates like a church book rack. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value on each article. Call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228.

INTERNET

Surf for the PFMC presence on the Internet at:

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

Send us interesting web sites and e-mails:

PFMCkmw@comcast.net

keithwerner@comcast.net



PLEASE DON'T THROW THIS AWAY!!

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

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

