



The PILGRIM

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March 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



Heavenly Father we thank you for the gift of Saint Joseph, who has modeled for each of us the gift of purity, devotion and patience.

As husband of Mary he became the protector of all virtue of the Mother of God. In marriage he held her virtue to the most sacred of levels. He teaches all couples to live chaste and holy lives. He was devoted to Mary, and to the Child Jesus. He was in obedience to the Holy Spirit, and gave direction. He taught the child in all the ways of the Torah, and in the practical ways of a simple carpenter. His patience is a model for each of us. He was simple and loving, and kind in all things, and thusly a mirror of patience and poverty.

Saint Joseph, most prudent and faithful, ask Jesus to have mercy upon us, and to help each of us to be pillars of strength, especially in our families.

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue)

SAINT JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish of Berlin, NJ is celebrating Saint Joseph's Feast Day on Wednesday, March 19th, 2003, through reception of meatless meals following 7 PM Holy Mass. Donations go to Saint Vincent De Paul Society.

OUR LADY of EPHEBUS

On April 4, 2003, the Oratory of Our Lady of Ephesus will be dedicated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The MESSAGE for February, 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.

The Rector of the Basilica Shrine is Monsignor Michael J. Bransfield.

The Oratory is presented by "The American Society of Ephesus" Lima, Ohio, and "Our Lady of Ephesus House of Prayer" Jamaica, Vermont. The Liturgy of Holy Mass will be celebrated at 3 PM by Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of Washington. Con-celebrating will be Archbishop Giuseppe Germano Bernadini of Izmir, Turkey.

In the Oratory will be a mosaic made in Italy of Our Lady of Ephesus. The mosaic is a copy of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary that was seen in a vision by Elizabeth Fraser of Burlington, Vermont, in 1959, while she was on pilgrimage in the House of Our Lady of Ephesus, (Meryem Ana Evi).

Grace Markay Marchesani, wrote the song "It Is Your Smile That Is Most Beautiful" using the words of Elizabeth Fraser as she looked upon the face of Mary. Grace will be singing the song at the dedication on April 4th. (Elizabeth Fraser died in 1990.)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

On Divine Mercy Sunday, 27 April 2003, there will be services from 2 PM to 3:30 PM at Assumption Parish Church, 318 Carl Hasselhan Drive (formerly Second Street), Atco, New Jersey 08004-1997. Phone: (856) 767-0719.

The Divine Mercy Novena will be prayed in the Parish Church at 7 PM for 9 days from Good Friday, 18 April 2003 until the conclusion on Divine Mercy Sunday. Father Glenn Hartman and other priests from local parishes will assist with conclusion of the Divine Mercy Novena, Rosary, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will be available. Music ministries have been invited to assist.

"The PILGRIM" for March 2003 is dedicated to **"Our Lady of Ephesus"** and embracing devotion to **"Divine Mercy."** See page 3 for **Table of Contents** / **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."**

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 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. Until such a decision is made, please make your own overnight accommodation arrangements. There is a Holiday Inn Express nearby in Berlin, NJ. Call (856) 767-7711. Within 10 miles there are franchise locations from nearly every American hotel chain.

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.

A GALA HOLIDAY FUND RAISER

Mark your calendars and plan ahead for *Saturday, November 15, 2003* for a **Gala Dinner and Fund Raising Concert** to be held at the Holiday Inn on NJ Route 70 (Marlton Pike), Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

After a Cocktail Reception of Complementary Hors d'oeuvres and a Cash Bar, from 6 PM to 7 PM, you will be escorted to the Grand Ballroom for a festive candlelight Buffet Dinner and Dessert Bar. You will enjoy background music throughout the evening.

Father Michael Semana and Grace Markay will present a PFMC benefit concert following the meal.

Tickets for the evening are \$50 per person, and we are limited to 300 persons. Sign up early. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover.

POPE JOHN PAUL calls CHURCH to be MORE CONTEMPLATIVE

Pope John Paul II called the Church to be more contemplative, more holy and more missionary, grounding its work on fervent prayer.

In his message for this year's World Mission Sunday, issued today, the Pope emphasized that only in an atmosphere of prayer can the Holy Spirit be received and the faithful become witnesses of Christ.

This year, World Mission Sunday will be observed on Oct. 19. It will coincide with the 25th-anniversary celebrations of the Holy Father's pontificate, the beatification of Mother Teresa, and the closing of the Year of the Rosary

Traditionally, the papal message is issued at Pentecost. Its publication was moved up this year, so that dioceses worldwide could study it and integrate it in their pastoral programs.

In the text, John Paul II highlighted the urgency to prepare "capable and holy" evangelizers. "The fervor of the apostles must not be allowed to weaken, especially in regard to the mission ad gentes," he writes.

In this connection, if the rosary is rediscovered and fully appreciated, it "is an ordinary yet fruitful pedagogical and spiritual tool to form the People of God to work in the vast field of apostolic action," he says.

John Paul II proposes that the Year of the Rosary be an occasion for "believers on all the continents to deepen the meaning of their Christian vocation."

"Through baptism all believers are called to

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.

holiness,” the Holy Father says. “Holiness and mission are inseparable aspects of the vocation of every baptized person.”

“At the school of the Blessed Virgin and following her example, every community will be better able to have its own 'contemplative' and 'missionary' activity emerge,” the Pontiff stresses.

The rosary helps believers to contemplate the face of Christ, which leads to “a deeper, interior familiarity with his mystery,” he says.

Moreover, by looking at Mary, “an unequalled model,” and following her example, believers will be able to react “to the great problems, the innocent suffering, the injustices perpetrated with arrogant insolence,” he says.

World Mission Sunday will be observed in a context, in which the Church has more possibilities than ever to proclaim Jesus, “thanks to the development of the means of social communication,” John Paul II emphasizes.

(VATICAN CITY, FEB. 21, 2003 Zenit.org ZE03022109 http://www.zenit.org/senglish/send_friend/index.phtml?sid=31697)

COMBINED APRIL – MAY ISSUE of “The PILGRIM”

Due to involvement of volunteers in the 2003 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE from 14 – 19 March 2003 as well as many of them on the Pilgrimage to Assisi, Medjugorje, and Rome from 19 – 28 March 2003, there will be no April issue of “The PILGRIM.”

There will be a combined April – May issue of “The PILGRIM” put together in the last weeks of April and assembled by volunteers on the first week of May.

Please be patient with us as we recover from the really busy month of March. If you need some information, call (856) 768-9228 and ask for it. When you have to leave a message, please speak slowly and make sure you give your area code since there are so many in our wide service area.

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. After talking with a representative from the office of Bishop Gregorio Nicanor Pena Rodriguez, we are

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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 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.

I AM!

I was regretting the past
and fearing the future
Suddenly my lord was speaking
"MY NAME IS I AM!"

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He paused
I waited, HE continued
"When you live in the past
With its mistakes and regrets
It is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I was!

When you live in the future
with its problems and fears,
it is hard. I am not there.
MY NAME IS NOT I WILL BE!

When you live in this moment,
It is not hard. I am here!
MY NAME IS I AM!

(Helen Mallicoat)

A SPECIAL PRAYER of PETITION to SAINT JOSEPH

Saint Joseph, by the prompt obedience you showed to the will of God, I beseech you to obtain for me from Jesus the grace to obey all the divine commands.

Filled with confidence in your mighty power, I plead with you to ask the Child Jesus to give me the blessings and favors I now desire, if they are in accordance with His holy will. (here pause to mention your needs.)

Guard my soul from all its enemies so that I may always bet especially at the hour of death, enjoy the company of Jesus and Mary.

Dear Saint Joseph, help me to lead a blameless life, and keep me safe under your protection. AMEN.

(Nihil Obstat: James McGrath J.C.D., Censor
Imprimatur: John Cardinal Krol, Archbishop of
Philadelphia)

JESUS IS WATCHING YOU.

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around looking for valuables, and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying,

"Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a vacation after the next big score, then clicked the light on and began searching for more valuables.

Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard,

“Jesus is watching you.”

Freaked out, he shone his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

“Did you say that?” He hissed at the parrot. “Yep,” the parrot confessed, then squawked, “I’m just trying to warn you.”

The burglar relaxed. “Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?”

“Moses,” replied the bird.

“Moses?” the burglar laughed. “What kind of people would name a bird Moses?”

“The kind of people that would name a rottiwieler Jesus.”

Mommomchoochootr@aol.com

ARE YOU READY to SURRENDER?

If one was asked to pick one of the most potent prayers and most asked for prayer said, it would be prayers for acts of constant “surrender” and “non-attachment”. No matter which way we turn in life these days, we are being asked to let go of what we know, to be able to step into the vast unknown.

I believe that surrender and non-attachment work hand in hand. To live in non-attachment is to surrender in every moment; to “let go and let God”. The Saints have in their life stories modeled this over and over again.. Saint Theresa the Little Flower taught us that letting go keeps us very small and she reminds us of the magnificence of the greatness of God.

Lately we find our lives and our world changing in ways we did not expect, and many, like myself, had “plans”. We can get attached to our plans. We have plans for our businesses, our spiritual lives, and our relationships. But, lately I know that the Great Maker has a bigger “Plan” than we could have imagined on our own. The challenge we are faced with is to let go of our human 3D idea of a perfect future to make room for the grand and unexpectedly wonderful next step the Creator has in store for us!

Let me share a little story with you that had a great impact on my heart. Once there was a vision of all the healers, teachers, wise ones, elders, little children ,

and people of all the world standing high atop a huge 360-degree red rock plateau. It was hot and the sun shown in a blazing stream. There were no clouds in the sky. The plateau rose from the desert floor several hundred feet in all directions. The plateau was very crowded, much like a sold-out rock concert.

People sought for a little space of their own, only to find that there was none. There was not an inch of space left to move about. The sun showed down beating against the warmed sweaty bodies. Tempers grew and many in the group were becoming impatient. They yelled at each other, cursed and began to shove and push. The ones on the edge began to quickly search for a way to get off the plateau so they would not be pushed off and fall to the desert floor. But in every direction there was only a sharp drop-off. Fear began to build up in all those closest to the edge, and they pushed harder to go back toward the middle of the gatherings.

There were no ladders, ropes, bridges, or signs saying this way down. There was no room for any of this. The pulse of the group intensified and the entire top of the plateau became a single pulsing organism.

When asking oneself what the vision meant, one comes to realize that we as a human race have experienced everything we possibly can. We have re-hashed, re-written, re-taught, and re-experienced every spiritual teaching known in this dimension. There is no place left to go. Nothing left to learn. We

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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.

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

cannot back up because history is too packed full of experience and the time has passed where we could retreat back to our comfort zone of what is known.

We are on a spiritual plateau. We are being asked to move forward into the unknown. But, moving forward takes courage, faith, and a huge dose of surrender to be able to make the jump off this spiritual plateau. It will also take a huge dose of non-attachment to what we know, who we think we are, and what we have. And, the universe is asking us... "Are we ready?"

There was a man who once lived in a cave in the Amazon jungle, with no material possessions. He never wore shoes, and only a loin cloth clothed him. He owned no animals nor had he a means of transportation. His food was that which grew around him.

At that time in his life, he was able to move back and forth between dimensions and to commune with the great masters and the Angelic realms. He learned how to jump into the vast unknown -- jump off the plateau! But, he also had no attachments to this world, either. But, as we move back into the mainstream world, it becomes harder to maintain this ability. As he soon discovered, when he was asked to re-enter the world and share his teachings, it was considerably easier for him to enter the void.

Where he is right now, is where we all are. We can't go running into the jungles with just the clothes on our backs, and learn to surrender and take the jump into the void. We are being asked to jump, surrounded by all the things we have collected in our very busy and complicated lives, lives filled with our family obligations, our demanding jobs, our material possessions. I don't think this means we must give it all up. It just means we must not be attached to who we are, what we have, and what are our plans. We are being asked to be ever ready to hear the call, to step on the new path, to make the jump when it reveals itself.

Jesus said, "See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, He will put on an apron, sit them down at the table and wait on them."

Our vision will evolve during the next few months. The ones on the plateau will become like the archetype called Indiana Jones. They begin to swing a machete in the deep dark crowded jungle called life, cutting a path to an unknown destination.

This addition to the original vision reminds one that it is time for us to joyously embrace the spiritual adventurer inside ourselves. It is time to be wild in our thinking and to be creative in our actions. It is a time for us to act while listening only to the Holy Spirit within ourselves. These are the days we can birth a new world, a new age, a new creation, and it is up to us to watch what manifests. It can be for each of us a new HOPE. All it will take is one person on the spiritual plateau to brave the jungle ahead, to jump into the unknown, to lead us to a new future.

The vision is clear -- we as humanity are waiting, desiring, and begging for the next step. Something new and unexpected is on the way and we can all feel its coming. Many I talk to have a feeling of dread or added fears, and many have an uncommitted attitude. It is our readiness and state of surrender that will help us see the path ahead with Hope through our Faith. .

I think we can take flight from the spiritual plateau and reach higher states than we have ever dreamed of. Everything we have learned for ages past, through cultures, religion, science, has brought us to this present place. For us to access the next step, we have to expect the unexpected; to stretch our conscious and unconscious minds and to accept a new reality emerging right in front of us.

I love the movie "Forest Gump". Forest Gump said, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get." Since seeing that movie, I look at the challenges of today, and not worry about the ones of tomorrow.

It is time to let go of the plans we have made and to jump with boundless surrender into the Creator's new vision. The world is going to change from what we know of it. Are YOU ready? The creator thinks so! So "let go and let God." Be small and let Him be big. Stand at the Cross and He will take you into himself.

(by Kathleen Werner)

GO to JOSEPH

Go to Joseph,
In thy joys thou wilt rejoice the more,
Go to Joseph,
In thy grief,
No matter when!

Thy refuge he will be,
He holds the key to Jesus' Heart;
Its treasures are for thee!

(Unknown)

TEN TIPS for PRACTICAL EVANGELIZATION

About 25 years ago, a new word entered our Catholic vocabulary: evangelization. It's a word frequently used but not often understood. As we prepare for the 2000th anniversary of Jesus' birth, Pope John Paul II has challenged us to become good evangelizers. So it's high time we all understood what evangelization is.

The trouble is, evangelization doesn't lend itself to a quick and easy definition. So I've decided to list 10 practical ways you can evangelize, things you can do - at work or at home - to spread the Good News of Jesus.

Tip #1: Be a Show Off - Don't get me wrong. I'm not asking you to be a "show off" in the usual sense of that term. I am suggesting that a powerful way to spread the good news is to demonstrate it in daily life. If your faith really affects how you speak and act in private and in public, people will take notice. A faith lived is a powerful, attractive faith!

Tip #2: Help Someone in Need - Why do we admire Mother Teresa? Because she takes Jesus at His word. She sees Jesus in the poorest of the poor. When we put our faith into action by serving those in need, our faith comes alive and has the power to attract others. So if you want to evangelize, reach out to the sick, the homebound, the troubled, the homeless, the hungry, the imprisoned. Evangelizers don't just write checks. When possible, they engage in "hands on" service of the poor. When others see this, they will start taking the faith more seriously.

Tip #3: Pray - Prayer is the "engine" that drives evangelization. Without prayer, we always fail in our attempts to spread the Gospel. Just think about it. Before Jesus preached, or worked a miracle, or died on the Cross, He prayed. So should we. Prayer is something we can all do - any place, any time. It's something we can do for ourselves and others. Make no mistake. Almost everyone -- even the most hardened unbeliever - appreciates your prayers in time of need!

Tip #4: Respect Other People - Unfortunately, common courtesy isn't too common today. As followers of Jesus, we need to be more than courteous. We need to have a deep respect for the God-given dignity of each human being. Not everyone is asked to write a treatise about human dignity. But we are all called to show respect and concern for each person - those we like and those we don't. Needless to say, we're not effective evangelizers when we imagine we're better than

everyone else or when we disrespect someone because of race, sex or economic status. When we show that we respect others - by how we treat them -- then we stand a much better chance of opening their minds and hearts to the Gospel.

Tip #5: Evangelization Begins at Home - You've heard the old saying, "Charity begins at home." So does evangelization. Husbands and wives should help each other take their faith seriously and grow in it. Parents are the first to help their children open their minds and hearts to Jesus by teaching them how to pray and giving them their first religion lessons. How important for parents to practice their faith - especially by participating in Mass each Sunday. How important for parents to make sure their children really learn what the Catholic faith is all about. A strong, loving and truly Catholic home also has a good impact on the extended family.

Tip #6: Start With Your Friends - When evangelization moves beyond the family circle, you might start getting uncomfortable. After all, no one wants to be thought of as a "religious fanatic." So start with your friends. We all have friends who are "unchurched" or "barely churched." This year, try to convince just one of them to consider or reconsider the faith. Build on that trust and love you already have with that person. Ask the Lord to provide just the right opportunity to speak to your friend about the faith.

Tip #7: Share Your Faith Story - Wait a minute, you might be saying! My faith story? That's right! The Lord has touched the hearts of every believer with His truth and love. So take a minute and think of the ways God has touched your life. And then write down some of the highlights so that when you're talking to family or friends about the faith, you'll be able to speak personally. Don't underestimate the power of personal testimony. People will think more seriously about the faith when you are willing to tell them what it has meant in your own life.

Tip #8: Include God in Your Everyday Vocabulary - It's not against the law to speak about God. No one can order you to leave your faith at home when you go to work in the morning. Be conscious of God's presence in your everyday life -- in decisions great and small. And don't be afraid to mention casually how God works in your life. Doing so helps us raise people's awareness that God is very much alive and present in our midst.

Tip #9: Proclaim Jesus! - When a family member, friend or colleague seems ready, speak to that person about Jesus. You don't have to be a theologian to do this. But you must know and love Jesus. And you

have to be able to express, in clear and concise terms, who He is and what He did to save us. Think of yourself as making an introduction. You do it all the time at home, at work and in social situations. In evangelization, you are simply introducing a well-disposed person to the Lord Jesus! You are helping someone else to know the Lord Jesus who has already touched your mind and heart with His love.

Tip #10: Bring a Friend to Church! - Some of our newly baptized people told me that they had taken this step because a friend brought them to church. That's good, practical evangelization. If you work downtown, ask a friendly co-worker if he or she would like to attend noon Mass with you. Invite your friends to come to Sunday Mass or a parish adult formation class. If the children of Catholic parents in your neighborhood aren't getting to church on Sunday, offer to take them.

A Bonus Tip: Make It Easy - When someone decides to be baptized or received into the Church, be as helpful as you can. Make sure that person meets the priest. Help the candidate enroll in an R.C.I.A. class. Consider serving as a "spiritual mentor" -- someone who helps another really opens his or her heart to the Lord and to the faith of the Church.

To the many men and women in this Archdiocese who evangelize by word and deed, my deepest thanks. To those who never thought they could do this, please reconsider. Evangelization is something we all can and must do!

(Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) http://www.adw.org/evangel/ten_tips.html)

DEAR GOD,

Thank you for the baby brother but what I asked for was a puppy. I never asked for anything before. You can look it up.

Joyce

I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have 3 stitches and a shot.

Janet

If we come back as somebody else, please don't let me be Jennifer Horton - because I hate her.

Denis

I read the bible. What does begat mean? Nobody will tell me. Love,

Alison

How did you know you were God? Who told you?

Charlene

Is it true my Father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golf words in the house?

Anita

I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only 4 people in our family and I can never do it.

Nan

Did you really mean, Do Unto Others As They Do Unto You? If you did then I'm going to get even with my brother.

Darla

I like the story about Chanukah the best of all of them. You really made up some good ones. I like walking on water, too.

Glenn

My Grandpa says you were around when he was a little boy. How far back do you go? Love,

Dennis

Do you draw the lines around the countries? If you don't, who does?

Nan

Did you mean for giraffes to look like that or was it an accident?

Norma

In bible times, did they really talk that fancy?

Jennifer

What does it mean you are a jealous God? I thought you had everything you wanted.

Jane

How come you did all those miracles in the old days and don't do many now?

Seymour

Please send Dennis Clark to a different summer camp this year.

Peter

Maybe Cain and Abel would not kill each other so much if they each had their own rooms. It works out OK with me and my brother.

Larry

I keep waiting for spring, but it never did come yet.
What's up? Don't forget.

Mark

You don't have to worry about me. I always look both
ways before I cross the street.

Dean

My brother told me about how you are born but it just
doesn't sound right. What do you say?

Marsha

If you watch in Church on Sunday I will show you
my new shoes.

Mary

Is Reverend Coe a friend of yours, or do you just
know him through the business?

Donny

In Sunday School they told us what you do for a job.
Who does it when you are on vacation?

Jane

In school we read that Thomas Edison made light, but
in Sunday School they said you did it first. Did he
steal your idea? Sincerely,

Donna

I do not think anybody could be a better God than
you. Well, I just want you to know that. I am not just
saying that because you are already God.

Charles

It is great the way you always get the stars in the right
place. Why can't you do that with the moon?

Jeff

I am doing the best I can. Really.

Frank

I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the
sunset you made on Tuesday night. That was really
cool.

Carol

rnelson@megavision.com

TO LIVE of LOVE

“If any man love Me, he will keep My word and My
Father will love him and We will come to him and
make Our abode with him... My peace I give unto
you ... Abide in My love.” (John 14, 23, 27,-15:9)

The evening His life of love drew near its end,
Thus Jesus spoke: “Whoever loveth Me,
And keeps My word as Mine own faithful friend,
My Father, then and I his guests will be;
Within his heart will make Our dwelling above.”
Our palace home, true type of heaven above.
There, filled with peace, We will that he shall rest,
With us, in love.

Incarnate Word! Thou Word of God alone!
To live of love, 'tis to abide with Thee.
Thou knowest I love Thee, Jesus Christ, my Own!
Thy Spirit's fire of love enkindleth me.
By loving Thee, I draw the Father here
Down to my heart, to stay with me always.
Blest Trinity! Thou art my prisoner dear,
Of love, to-day.

To live of love, 'tis by Thy life to live,
O glorious King, my chosen, sole Delight!
Hid in the Host, how often Thou dost give
Thyself to those who seek Thy radiant light.
Then hid shall be my life, unmarked, unknown,
That I may have Thee heart to heart with me;
For loving souls desire to be alone,
With love, and Thee!

To live of love, 'tis not to fix one's tent
On Tabor's height and there with Thee remain.
'Tis to climb Calvary with strength nigh spent,
And count Thy heavy cross our truest gain.
In heaven, my life a life of joy shall be,
The heavy cross shall then be gone for aye.
Here upon earth, in suffering with Thee,
Love! let me stay.

To live of love, 'tis without stint to give,
An never count the cost, nor ask reward;

BOOKS to BROWSE

These books may be obtained through the PFMC.
If you are interested in ordering them, please call us
at (856) 768-9228 and order from the Inventory
Volunteers, Vince and Livia Nocella. 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 de
Montfort, Tan Books and Publishers
“*Sent to Earth*” by Michael H. Brown, Queenship
Publishing Company”

So, counting not the cost, I long to live
And show my dauntless love for Thee, dear Lord!
O Heart Divine, o'erflowing with tenderness,
How swift I run, who all to Thee has given!
Naught but Thy love I need, my life to bless.
That love is heaven!

To live of love, it is to know no fear;
No memory of past faults can I recall;
No imprint of my sins remaineth here;
The fire of Love divine effaces all.
O sacred flames! O furnace of delight!
I sing my safe sweet happiness to prove.
In these mild fires I dwell by day, by night.
I live of love!

To live of love, 'tis in my heart to guard
A mighty treasure in a fragile vase.
Weak, weak, am I, O well beloved Lord!
Nor have I yet an angel's perfect grace.
But, if I fall each hour that hurries by,
Thou com'st to me from Thy bright home above,
And, raising me, dost give me strength to cry:
I live of love!

To live of love it is to sail afar
And bring both peace and joy where'er I be.
O Pilot blest! love is my guiding star;
In every soul I meet, Thyself I see.
Safe sail I on, through wind or rain or ice;
Love urges me, love conquers every gale.
High on my mast behold is my device:
"By love I sail!"

To live of love, it is when Jesus sleeps
To sleep near Him, though stormy waves beat nigh.
Deem not I shall awake Him! On these deeps
Peace reigns, like that the Blessed know on high.
To Hope, the voyage seems one little day;
Faith's hand shall soon the veil between remove;
'Tis Charity that swells my sail away.
I live of love!

To live of love, O Master dearest, best!
It is to beg Thee light Thy holiest fires
Within the soul of each anointed priest,
Till he shall feel the Seraphim's desires;
It is to beg Thee guard Thy Church, O Christ!
For this I plead with Thee by night, by day;
And give myself, in sacrifice unpriced,
With love away!

To live of love, it is to dry Thy tears,
To seek for pardon for each sinful soul,
To strive to save all men from doubts and fears,
And bring them home to Thy benign control.
Comes to my ear sin's wild and blasphemous roar;

So, to efface each day, that burning shame,
I cry: "O Jesus Christ! I Thee adore.
I love Thy Name!"

To live of love, 'tis Mary's part to share,
To bathe with tears and odorous perfume
Thy holy feet, to wipe them with my hair,
To kiss them; then still loftier lot assume,
To rise, and by Thy side to take my place,
And pour my ointments on Thy holy head.
But with no balsams I embalm Thy Face!
'Tis love, instead!

"To live of love, what foolishness she sings!"
So cries the world. "Renounce such idle joy!
Waste not thy perfumes on such trivial things.
In useful arts thy talents now employ!"
To love Thee, Jesus! Ah, this loss is gain;
For all my perfumes no reward seek I.
Quitting the world, I sing in death's sweet pain:
Of love I die!

To die of love, O martyrdom most blest!
For this I long, this is my heart's desire;
My exile ends; I soon will be at rest.
Ye Cherubim, lend, lend to me your lyre!
O dart of Seraphim, O flame of love,
Consume me wholly; hear my ardent cry!
Jesu, make real my dream! Come Holy Dove!
Of love I die!

To die of love, behold my life's long hope!
God is my one exceeding great reward.
He of my wishes forms the end and scope;
Him only do I seek; my dearest Lord.
With passionate love for Him my heart is driven.
O may He quickly come! He draweth nigh!
Behold my destiny, behold my heaven,--
OF LOVE TO DIE.

(Poem by Saint Theresa, Little Flower, 2/25/1895)

MY NOVENA ROSE PRAYER

O Little Therese of the Child Jesus, please pick for me a rose from the heavenly gardens and send it to me as a message of love.

O little Flower of Jesus, ask God today to grant the favors I now place with confidence in your hands....

(mention your requests)

Saint Therese, help me to always believe as you did, in God's great love for me, so that I might imitate your "Little Way" each day. AMEN

(Society of the Little Flower, 1313 Frontage Rd.,
Darien, IL 60559)

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:

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.

VOCATION PRAYER

Lord, give me your strength and support as I face the challenges of life.

Help me to accept my true vocation: to see beyond the uncertainty of the future by resting in the certainty of your steadfast love.

Help me to discover any gifts that will enable me to be an expression of your love in the world.

Trusting in your will, I open my heart to your love and your call.

Amen.

(The Monitor)

A SPIRIT to KNOW YOU

Gracious and holy God, please give me:
The intellect to understand you,

Reason to discern you,

Diligence to seek you,

Wisdom to find you,

A spirit to know you,

A heart to meditate upon you,

Ears to hear you,

Eyes to see you,

A tongue to proclaim you,

A way of life pleasing to you,

Patience to wait for you

And perseverance to look for you.

Grant me a perfect end –

Your holy presence,

a blessed resurrection

and life everlasting.

AMEN

(Vermont Religious Vocation Commission

<http://www.vermontcatholic.org/vrvc>)

HOLY MASS TIMES

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

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

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

MESSAGE of 2/25/2003 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also today I call you to pray and fast for peace. As I have already said and now repeat to you, little children, only with prayer and fasting can wars also be stopped. Peace is a precious gift from God. Seek, pray and you will receive it. Speak about peace and carry peace in your hearts. Nurture it like a flower which is in need of water, tenderness and light. Be those who carry peace to others. I am with you and intercede for all of you. 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 2/25/03

The reflection was written by Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, February 26, 2003, but for some unknown reason has not been translated into English by late on Monday, March 3, 2003. We must go to press in order to make the delivery date of 3/12/03.

COMMENTARY on the ATTACKS against FATHER JOZO ZOVKO, OFM by Denis Nolan

A vicious attack against Fr. Jozo Zovko, OFM., and Medjugorje has been launched in the main traditionalist publication in the US, *The Wanderer*, (November 14, 2002).

Many of these false allegations have been refuted long ago and this is just one more example of how the enemies of Medjugorje rely upon disinformation in order to destroy Medjugorje and her Franciscan priests. Highly volatile "flash words" are used so as to indirectly associate Medjugorje with recent scandals in the USA involving clergy, though no facts are given to back up these allegations. Guilt by association, innuendo and slander serve their intended purpose. *The Wanderer* should be held accountable for such libelous journalism.

You'd think this time the news editor for *The Wanderer* would have at least gotten the date right: "the alleged apparitions began in 1979," in light of the fact that several paragraphs later Paul Likoudis quotes: "the apparitions of the blessed Virgin Mary first started in 1981," (p.1)

In point of fact Likoudis established lack of credibility four years ago with his article, "**Film Probes Underside of MEDJUGORJE INDUSTRY**," (*The Wanderer*, March 26, 1998).

Now, four years later, the director and producer of that film, the cameraman, the journalists - all of whom Likoudis referred to and quoted throughout his article - testify publicly that everything he reported was false. It was all part of a deliberate campaign to destroy Medjugorje! And Likoudis has the audacity continuing this campaign in the November 14, 2002 *The Wanderer*! This is criminal. He and the *Wanderer* should be held accountable! There never were any death threats made by the Franciscans of Medjugorje against Jones and others There never was a pedophile ring of Franciscans in Medjugorje! The story that was kept alive for two years in the Muslim news daily, "The Feril Tribune," - that all money given by pilgrims to the Franciscans in Medjugorje during the war, for refugee aid, was instead used by them for ethnic cleansing of Muslims - was entirely false!

At the time the acting Provincial for the Hercegovina Province, Fr. Tomislav Pervan, OFM., felt it necessary to answer some of these accusations in an article titled "Campaign Against Medjugorje" in the Croatian weekly "Nedjeljna Dalmacija (April 17, 1998). Likoudis and *The Wanderer* should be apologizing and printing a retraction instead of continuing their shameless campaign.

I can just imagine the scenario surrounding Fr. Jozo's speaking engagement at the Basilica of Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.... The same thing happened several years ago when he was invited to speak at the National Conference of Medjugorje at the University of Notre Dame. My bishop's fax machine was flooded with faxes from the same number (is it a coincidence that one paragraph from Likoudis' article is exactly the same - word for word - as a paragraph in the fax my bishop received)? The attempt failed. Bishop John M. D'Arcy saw right through what was happening.

Commenting on the recent *The Wanderer* article, the Franciscan Provincial in Mostar, Fr. Slavko Soldo, OFM., Fr. Jozo's superior, told me: "It's not true that Fr. Jozo was suspended by his Franciscan general. He is not suspended! He is a priest in good standing with

his community!" (Note that the November 14th letter from the Provincial and a November 21st letter of clarification from the Franciscan Vicar General in Rome are posted at www.childrenofmedjugorje.com.) He continued: "And regarding the charges against him, it's interesting that not one of those women has ever sent any of those letters to me. And I'm the first person who should know. Fr. Jozo is responsible to me as far as discipline goes. I find it interesting that neither has the bishop ever sent me a copy of any of those supposed letters. Let me repeat: never have such charges - or anything like them - ever been brought to my attention - and there are none in my office files preceding my time as Provincial! Of course now they can be invented and sent to me afterwards."

Fr. Soldo has good reason to be frustrated. Charges of sexual misconduct brought against Fr. Tomislav Vlasic, OFM (who was named Pastor in Medjugorje after Fr. Jozo was sent to prison) spread publicly by the Bishop of Mostar have been refuted countless times by the very woman whose name appears at the end of the letters - who was supposed to have written them and sent them to the bishop. She pointed out to him that two letters he had with her name at the end were even written in different handwriting. "I am ready to swear by the Cross in the presence of anybody and everybody that I never disclosed or wrote who the father of the child is." The bishop's response was to ask her to be quiet, and he continued spreading those letters to journalists as authentic! (Cf. "At the Sources of Medjugorje: Objections," Daria Klanac, ZIRAL, Hrvatski mladezi bb, Mostar, 1999, p. 39).

<http://childrenofmedjugorje.com/JozoDefense.htm>

PRESS BULLETIN 183, 2/26/2003

Let us launch out into the deep

Pope John Paul II, aware of the situation in the Church, invited Christians in one of his talks to "launch into the deep" (Duc in altum, Lk 5,4). It is the same invitation that Jesus addressed to all of us through the apostles. The Pope feels that all of us Christians started to live attached to human values. We often put our hopes, more and more, into passing things of this world. We want to be ensured, even to enter into compromises with a perverse logic of an immoral world. We seem to become little by little part of the world in which we drown and thus stop being a boat and the haven of peace for humanity.

What would it mean to launch into the deep in our circumstances? Today, it would mean first and

foremost to rely on the same Jesus upon whom the forefathers of our faith relied. It would mean to recover trust in the One who can lead us into the haven of life. A Christian today must put Jesus in the first place, and place all his security into his hands. Our Lady calls us precisely to this in Medjugorje. To launch into the deep should be understood as an invitation to run away from mediocrity, indifference and lukewarmness for the inspirations of God. God wants us to be passionate and burning for his word; he looks for witnesses.

So, let us launch into the deep and let us free ourselves from the false security of this world. Today, maybe more than ever, the invitation of Jesus to launch into the deep can be understood as an answer to the drama of the humanity that became a victim of hatred. Today's society expects to see in Christians a concrete reflection of Jesus' way of doing, of His love for each person. From us, Christians, it is expected to be truly the salt of the earth and the light of the world. As Christians, we must again start to follow Jesus, and this means raising our voices against the culture of death, against abortion, against divorce, against the dead of marital love, against injustices, exploitation of the poor and the weak... Jesus invites all of us into his boat and wants us to sail with Him to those who expect us as ambassadors of Christian message of hope and of peace.

.....
Father Mario Knezovic

Communions and Concelebrants

During the month of January, 50,000 received Holy Communion and 743 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

Holy Mass for War Victims from the Parish of Medjugorje

On February 10, the Evening Holy Mass was celebrated in the parish church in Medjugorje in memory of the Franciscans and the parishioners. On that day we remembered the martyrdom of Fr. Krizan Galic, Fr. Jozo Bencun, Fr. Marko Dragicevic, Fr. Mariofil Sivric, Fr. Grgo Vasilj and Fr. Jenko Vasilj, killed perfidiously in 1944 and 1945.

The faithful that assisted at Mass prayed for the victims of World War I and II and of the most recent war in defence of the Homeland. During these three wars, almost every family of the parish lost someone. The feast of the Blessed Croatian Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac, celebrated on February 10, is commemorated in our parish as a day of remembrance and prayer for all the victims of the

war. The Eucharistic celebration was presided by the pastor Fr. Branko Rados.

Soccer Players (“Footballers”) in Medjugorje

During the last two months, many soccer players from several clubs made their winter training in Medjugorje. Except daily training, the soccer players were often seen in recollecting prayer in the church, on Apparition Hill and on Cross Mountain. Medjugorje is a place of prayer and recollection for all those who come here. The soccer players, who are from year to year more numerous on winter training, have also recognized this.

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

POPE STRESSES NEED to PRAY ROSARY for PEACE

Pope John Paul II asked all Catholics worldwide to pray the rosary, a “privileged instrument for building peace.”

With this appeal, the Pope concluded his Message for World Mission Sunday 2003, which will be observed October 19. The message was published today.

“War and injustice have their origins in the ‘divided’ heart,” he writes. “Anyone who assimilates the mystery of Christ -- and this is clearly the goal of the rosary -- learns the secret of peace and makes it his life’s project.”

“If the rosary keeps pace with the speed of our lives, it can become a privileged instrument for building peace in the hearts of persons, in families, and among peoples,” the Pope adds

“With Mary, we can obtain everything from her Son Jesus,” the message says. “Supported by Mary, we will not hesitate to devote ourselves generously to taking the proclamation of the Good News to the ends of the earth

(VATICAN CITY, February 21, 2003 Zenit.org

http://www.zenit.org/senglish/send_friend/index.phtml?sid=31698)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER STORY

A voyaging ship was wrecked during a storm at sea and only two of the men on it were able to swim to a small, desert like island.

The two survivors, not knowing what else to do, agreed that they had no other recourse but to pray to God. However, to find out whose prayer was more powerful, they agreed to divide the territory between them and stay on opposite sides of the island.

The first thing they prayed for was food. The next morning, the first man saw a fruit-bearing tree on his side of the land, and he was able to eat its fruit. The other man's parcel of land remained barren.

After a week, the first man was lonely and he decided to pray for a wife. The next day, another ship was wrecked, and the only survivor was a woman who swam to his side of the land. On the other side of the island, there was nothing

Soon the first man prayed for a house, clothes, more food. The next day, like magic, all of these were given to him. However, the second man still had nothing.

Finally, the first man prayed for a ship, so that he and his wife could leave the island. In the morning, he found a ship docked at his side of the island. The first man boarded the ship with his wife and decided to leave the second man on the island. He considered the other man unworthy to receive God's blessings, since none of his prayers had been answered.

As the ship was about to leave, the first man heard a voice from heaven booming, “Why are you leaving your companion on the island?”

“My blessings are mine alone, since I was the one who prayed for them,” the first man answered. “His prayers were all unanswered and so he does not deserve anything.”

“You are mistaken!” the voice rebuked him. “He had only one prayer, which I answered. If not for that, you would not have received any of my blessings.”

“Tell me,” the first man asked the voice, “What did he pray for that I should owe him anything?”

“He prayed that all your prayers be answered.”

For all we know, our blessings are not the fruits of our prayers alone, but those of another praying for us.

This is too good not to share. With obedience come blessings.

My prayer for you today is that all your prayers are answered.

[\(dittodotty@aol.com\)](mailto:dittodotty@aol.com)

ANNE CATHERINE EMMERICH

Venerable Anne Catherine was born to a poor family of Westphalian peasants on September 8, which is officially celebrated as the birthday of the Blessed Mother. She entered an Augustinian convent in 1802. When the convent was closed in 1812, due to the Napoleonic Wars -- which saw a direct attack on the papacy -- she moved to a private home, where she resided until her death on February 2, 1824.

“From childhood she experienced many extraordinary mystical graces,” noted the late Raphael Brown in his classic work, *The Life of Mary As Seen By the Mystics*. “Before becoming a nun she endured the pains of the crown of thorns and in 1808 those of the wounds of Christ. In 1812 the stigmata became visible.”

On May 13, 1820 -- a date that later became famous for the apparition at Fatima -- the nun saw that “the Church of Peter was undermined by a plan evolved by the secret sect [Freemasons], while storms were damaging it. But I saw also that help was coming when distress had reached its peak. I saw again the Blessed Virgin ascend on the Church and spread her mantle [over it]. I saw a Pope who was at once gentle and very firm... I saw a great renewal, and the Church rose high in the sky.”

On September 12, 1820, according to *Catholic Prophecy*, Sister Emmerich foresaw “a strange church being built against every rule... No angels were supervising the building operations. In that church, nothing came from high above... There was only division and chaos. It is probably a church of human creation, following the latest fashion.

“I saw again the strange big church that was being built. There was nothing holy in it. I saw this just as I saw a movement led by ecclesiastics to which contributed angels, saints, and other Christians. **But there [in the strange new big church] all the work was being done mechanically. Everything was being done according to human reason. [Note: We have now passed out of the Age of Reason into the Age of the Father, one of mysticism]**

“I saw all sorts of people, things, doctrines, and opinions. There was something proud, presumptuous, and violent about it. I did not see a single angel nor a single saint helping in the work. But far away in the background, I saw the seat of a cruel people armed with spears, and I saw a laughing figure which said: 'Do build it as solid as you can; we will pull it to the ground.'“

From August to October of 1820, the Venerable Emmerich wrote: “I see more martyrs, not now but in

the future... I saw a secret sect [Freemasons] relentlessly undermining the great Church. Near them I saw a horrible beast coming up from the sea. All over the world, good and devout people, especially the clergy, were harassed, oppressed, and put into prison. When the Church had been for the most part destroyed and when only the sanctuary and altar were still standing, I saw the wreckers enter the Church with the Beast. There, they met a Woman of noble carriage who seemed to be with Child because she walked slowly.

“At this sight, the enemies were terrorized.”

After great tribulation, the nun saw the Church “promptly rebuilt,” with the Blessed Mother “more magnificent than ever.”

On September 20, 1820, Sister Emmerich “saw the Church of Saint Peter destroyed but for the sanctuary and the main altar. Saint Michael came down into the Church, clad in his suit of armor, and he paused, threatening with his sword a number of unworthy pastors who wanted to enter.”

Emmerich -- who foresaw the rise of Moscow as the center of evil a century before Lenin -- also saw an unnamed Pope “weakened by old age and by much suffering. His head was lolling from side to side, and it dropped onto his chest as if he were sleeping. He often fainted and seemed to be dying. *But when he was praying, he was often comforted by apparitions from Heaven.*” [Many believe this is the current Holy Father].

Finally, on October 4, 1820, the mystic wrote: “When I saw the Church of Saint Peter in ruins, and the manner in which so many of the clergy were themselves busy at this work of destruction -- none of them wishing to do it openly in front of the others -- I was in such distress that I cried out to Jesus with all my might, imploring His mercy.

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“Then I saw before me the Heavenly Spouse, and He spoke to me for a long time. He said, among other things, that this translation of the Church from one place to another meant that she would seem to be in complete decline. But she would rise again; even if there remained but one Catholic, the Church would conquer again because she does not rest on human counsels and intelligence.”

(The Life of Mary as Seen By the Mystics, Catholic Prophecy <http://www.spiritdaily.com/lifemary>)

CANTICLE to the HOLY FACE

Dear Jesus! 'tis Thy Holy Face
Is here the start that guides my way;
They countenance, so full of grace,
Is heaven on earth, for me, to-day.

And love finds holy charms for me
In Thy sweet eyes with tear-drops wet;
Through mine own tears I smile at Thee,
And in Thy grief my pains forget.

How gladly would I live unknown,
Thus to console Thy aching heart.
Thy veiled beauty, it is shown
To those who live from earth apart.
I long to fly to Thee alone!

Thy Face is now my fatherland,--
The radiant sunshine of my days,--
My realm of love, my sunlit land,
Where, all life long, I sing Thy praise;
It is the lily of the vale,
Whose mystic perfume, freely given,
Brings comfort, when I faint and fail,
And makes me taste the peace of heaven.

Thy face, in its unearthly grace,
Is like the divinest myrrh to me,
That on my heart I gladly place;
It is my lyre of melody;
My rest -- my comfort-- is Thy Face.

My only wealth, Lord! is thy Face;
I ask naught else than this from Thee;
Hid in the secret of that Face,
The more I shall resemble Thee!

Oh, leave on me some impress faint
Of Thy sweet, humble, patient Face,

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And soon I shall become a saint,
And draw men to Thy saving grace.

So, in the secret of Thy Face,
Oh! hide me, hide me, Jesus blest!
There let me find its hidden grace,
Its holy fires, and, in heaven's rest,
Its rapturous kiss, in Thy embrace!

(Poem by Saint Theresa the Little Flower August 12, 1895)

THE EUCHARIST

The Heart of Our Faith

After the celebrant shows the consecrated host and the chalice of precious blood to the people at Mass, he genuflects in adoration and then joins the people in one of several proclamations expressing the core of our Christian faith. “Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.”

Our faith teaches us that what we proclaim in the Eucharist, Christ’s death and resurrection, is also represented in that very action by the power of God’s love and goodness. This is the heart of our faith in the sacrament we call the Eucharist, the holy sacrifice of the Mass, the real presence of Christ.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* begins the article on the Eucharist with a reflection on the names by which the sacrament is identified. It is called “Eucharist, because it is an action of thanksgiving to God” (1328). It is sometimes referred to as “the Breaking of the Bread” because Jesus used this rite, above all, at the Last Supper (1329). The Eucharist is also called “the memorial of the Lord’s passion and resurrection.” Finally, it is called “the Holy Sacrifice because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior and includes the Church’s offering” (1330).

The Eucharist is at the heart of the Church’s life. In the celebration of this mystery of faith, Christ himself is present to his people. Rich in symbolism and richer in reality, the Eucharist bears within itself the whole reality of Christ and mediates his saving work to us. In short, when the Church gathers in worship of God and offers the Eucharistic sacrifice, not only is Christ really and truly present under the species of bread and wine, but he also continues his saving work of our salvation.

With great clarity, the Second Vatican Council’s *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* teaches: “At the

Last Supper, on the night he was betrayed, our Savior instituted the Eucharistic sacrifice of his body and blood. He did this to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross throughout the centuries until he should come again, and so to entrust to his beloved spouse, the Church, a memorial of his death and resurrection: a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal banquet in which Christ is received, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future life is given to us” (47).

In the Eucharist, Jesus has instituted the sacrament in which the very passion, death and resurrection he would undergo would be made present again in our lives in a way that enables us to share in the benefits of the cross. We speak of our dying to sin and rising to a new life because we participate in the mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Church uses the word “re-present” to speak of what is happening in the Mass. The term “holy sacrifice” of the Mass is also exact because sacramentally, but really and truly, the death and resurrection of Jesus Is once again made present.

It is true that there is only one sacrifice – the self-giving of Christ on the cross at Calvary. Once and for all Jesus who was the victim for our sins offered himself up for our redemption. “Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promise of eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant” (Heb 9:15)

The haunting words and melody of the hymn “Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?” come to mind as we reflect on the Eucharist as sacrifice. The hymn catches the sense of sacramental presence. While it is true that we cannot be physically present at Calvary, there is a real, sacramental and spiritual sense in which we are present as we participate in the Eucharist. The merit obtained for us through the death of Jesus is applied to us in the very mystery that we call the paschal mystery – Passover from death to life.

The beginning of this sacred mystery goes back to the struggle that is so much a part of the story of humanity – the struggle of good against evil. The Eucharist is our sign and pledge of the ultimate victory of God. “God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself” (2 Cor 5:19). God triumphed in Christ, winning victory over sin and Satan, over the bondage of the old law and death. Sin has reigned over us

(VATICAN CITY, February 21, 2003, Zenit.org)

GUIDANCE

When I meditated on the word “Guidance”, I kept seeing “dance” at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God’s will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn’t flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky.

When one person realizes and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It’s as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness, and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other.

My eyes drew back to the word “guidance”. When I saw “G” I thought of God, followed by “u” and “I” - “God” “u” and “i” “dance”: God, you and I dance.

As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. My prayer for you today is that God’s blessings and mercies be upon you and your family on this day and every day. May you abide in Him as he abides in you.

Dance together with God, trusting Him to lead and to guide you through each season of your life.

Mommomchoochootr@aol.com

JESUS’ SACRIFICE on the CROSS

We have seen that Jesus is a priest and that his priesthood will last forever, because the mysterious union of human nature and the divine nature in Jesus Christ will last for all eternity. It is very important to note that the most essential function of the priestly office is to offer sacrifice to God for the sins and failures of mankind. Thus, we read in Hebrews 8:3, “It is the duty of every high priest to offer gifts and sacrifices.”

What I would like to communicate to you here is the Church’s belief and teaching that Jesus’ bloody death on the Cross was a true *sacrifice*. We all have some idea of what a “sacrifice” is in the secular sense, that is the giving up of some present good for the sake of something better. Thus, many parents deny themselves certain luxuries, such as a new car or a trip to Europe or a pleasure boat, in order to have the necessary money to send their children to college. Real accomplishment and perfection in any line of human endeavor, whether it be tennis, biology or playing the piano, requires giving up or sacrificing

other things, often much more pleasant, that one would like to do.

In the liturgical sense, such as we find in the Old Testament, a sacrifice is an external religious act in which a gift perceptible to the senses is offered to God by a specially designated person in recognition of his absolute sovereignty and in atonement for sins. Thus we distinguish four elements in every true sacrifice: the person to whom it is offered, the one who offers, the visible gift, and the purpose for which the offering is made.

All of these elements are present in Jesus' death on the Cross. For, Jesus himself is both the priest and the victim; he offered himself to the Father in atonement for the sins of all mankind.

The Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D. taught that Jesus offered himself up as a pleasing sacrifice to our God and Father. In that teaching they relied on the words of Saint Paul to the Ephesians as found in 5:2: "Follow Christ by loving as He loved you, giving Himself up in our place as a fragrant offering and a sacrifice to God" (see Ex 29:18).

Some of the Fathers of the Church looked upon the Cross of Jesus as a type of altar of sacrifice. This idea was picked up and incorporated into the official teaching of the Church by the Council of Trent in 1562. In pointing out the relationship between Jesus' bloody sacrifice on the Cross and the Holy Mass, the Fathers said: "In the divine sacrifice that is offered in the Holy Mass, the same Christ who offered Himself once in a bloody manner *on the altar of the cross* is present and is offered in an unbloody manner" (*Denzinger 940*).

In the New Testament there are many references, both direct and indirect, to the sacrificial character of Jesus' death on Calvary. Thus, Saint John the Baptist, following the prophet Isaiah, sees in Jesus the Lamb of sacrifice, who took on Himself the sins of all mankind, in order to atone for them. Seeing Jesus approach the Jordan, Saint John exclaimed to his followers: "Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29). Saint Paul says of Him in 1 Corinthians 5:7, "Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed."

In the Gospels, Jesus, on a number of occasions, speaks of "giving" His life for us, and of "shedding" or "pouring out" His blood for us. The Greek words used for these expressions are the same ones used in the Septuagint or Greek version of the Old Testament which was current at the time; in the Old Testament these words are used in connection with the prescribed sacrifices that had to be offered at certain times of the year. For example, we read in Matthew

20:28, "The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to *give* His life as a ransom for many."

When He instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, Jesus indicated the sacrificial nature of His death by the very words He used – words which are repeated by the Church each day in the Holy Mass: "This is My Body which will be *given* for you" (Lk 22:19); "This is My Blood, the Blood of the Covenant, which is to be *poured out* for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Mt 26:28).

It should be clear, then, that Jesus' death on the Cross was a true sacrifice because it fulfilled all the requirements of a sacrificial act. As man, Jesus was at the same time both sacrificing priest and sacrificial gift. As God together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, He was also the One who received the sacrifice.

The act of sacrifice consisted in the fact that Jesus, in an attitude of perfect self-surrender, voluntarily gave up His life to God by allowing His enemies to kill Him, even though He could have prevented it. For, He said in John 10:18, "No one takes it (*My life*) from me; I lay it down of My own free will, and as it is in My power to lay it down, so it is in My power to take it up again."

(by **Kenneth Baker, S.J.**, **FUNDAMENTALS of CATHOLICISM, VOL II**)

THE LATEST on the ALLEDGED VISIONARIES from MEDJUGORJE

Vicka Ivankovic - Vicka is the oldest of the visionaries. She was born September 3, 1964, in Bijakovici, and comes from a family of 8 children. Her prayer mission given by Our Lady is to pray for the sick. Our Lady appeared to her for the first time on June 24, 1981. For her, the daily apparitions have not yet stopped. Our Lady has so far confided nine secrets to her.

Vicka married on January 26, 2002, and lives with her husband Mario in the small village of Gruda, a few kilometers north of Medjugorje. Vicka and Mario are expecting their first child in January 2003.

Here is a short interview with Vicka about her marriage:

Vicka is of medium height and thin. She has sparkling eyes and a wonderful smile. She simply radiates love through her constant smile. She is filled with energy and has tirelessly spoken with pilgrims in Medjugorje for over 21 years.

Vicka: *“Before, I prayed from pure habit. Now I've turned completely to prayer. I commit my life completely to God. I feel sorry for those who do not believe in God, because Our Lady wants no one to be lost. We can help each other find the right way to God. It's up to the people to obey the messages and be converted. Great things are happening here: Our Lady is among us. She wishes to attract everyone to Her Son. That's the reason She has been coming so long and so often. Here, everyone feels the nearness and the love of God. As role model and example, Gospa began, in January 1983, to tell me Her life story, which took over two years.”*

The information Our Lady dictated to Vicka over these two years is contained in two hand written notebooks and will be published when Our Lady tells Vicka it is time

Mirjana Dragicjevic-Soldo -

Mirjana was born March 18th, 1965 in Sarajevo. Her prayer mission from Our Lady is to pray for all unbelievers. She is the second oldest of the seers. Very intelligent, Mirjana graduated from the University of Sarajevo where her family lived.

Mirjana was the second to see the Blessed Mother that day, June 24th in Medjugorje. Although her family lived in Sarajevo, she spent the summers with her grandmother who lived in Bijakovici. That is how she came to be in Medjugorje that summer. She had daily apparitions from June 24, 1981 till December 25, 1982. On this date, Mirjana received her 10th and final secret from Our Lady. Mirjana was the first seer to receive all 10 secrets. Since that time, Our Lady only appeared to Mirjana once a year on her birthday (March 18) until August 2, 1987 when Our Lady also started appearing to Mirjana on the 2nd day of each month to pray with Mirjana for all unbelievers. Mirjana tells us that Our Lady defines “unbelievers” as those who have not yet felt God's love. She tells us that if we only once saw the tears in Our Lady's eyes for all unbelievers that we would all begin praying intensely for this intention.

These special meetings with Our Lady are sometimes apparitions and sometimes locutions. Mirjana's 2nd of the month meetings with Our Lady used to be something very private. Not even her own family was with her during these visits with Our Lady. Mirjana always locked herself into her room and started praying. On January 2, 1997, Our Lady told Mirjana that from February 2, 1997 onward, her apparitions would be public. Our Lady invites all to join them in prayer on this 2nd day of each month for unbelievers. For those fortunate enough to be in Medjugorje on the 2nd of the month, you can join Mirjana for this

apparition, which is usually held in the Cenacolo community in Medjugorje.

Mirjana is living in the parish of Medjugorje and is married to Marko Soldo who she knew since they were children. They have two daughters and meet with pilgrims often when they are in Medjugorje. Mirjana also helps out with many orphans at the orphanage in Medjugorje since the war.

Mirjana: *“I didn't know Marian apparitions existed. I never heard about Lourdes or Fatima. The first day Ivanka had the vision of Our Lady, she was full of enthusiasm and wanted me to look too. I thought: “This can't be real!” But, Our Lady gave us strength to accept Her as a Mother. I've changed a lot. I realize how empty my heart was. Now, I truly feel God, the Mother of God, and the faith. My relationship with Our Lady has become one of a mother and daughter. Jesus is like a friend, or an older brother. Whoever believes in God, and opens himself up to God, needn't be afraid. God will be with him in the future too. If everyone believed in God, there'd be no war.”*

Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti - Marija is the third oldest member of the group. She was born on April 1, 1965, in Bijakovici. Her prayer mission given by Our Lady is to pray for all the souls in purgatory. She has three brothers and two sisters. When the apparitions started, she was studying in Mostar which is about eighteen miles away.

She is of average height and thin. Marija is most serene and deeply spiritual. She is a retiring and unobtrusive person. Those who know her describe her as “just beautiful” because of her deep spirituality, prayerfulness, and humility.

Our Lady appeared to her for the first time on June 25, 1981. She still has apparitions every day, and is the visionary to whom Our Lady gives the public message to the world on the 25th of each month. Our Lady has confided nine secrets to her so far. Marija is presently living in Italy, is married, and has four children. She visits Medjugorje a number of times each year.

Marija: *“Everything has changed in Medjugorje. People started to pray and listen to Our Lady's messages. Before, I didn't pray enough. Now I want to pray more and more. I'm sure God gives much to everyone who's open to prayer. I tell people they should pray more, and Our Lady will give them peace in all that burdens them. It's not I, it's Our Lady who urges us to nurture prayer, to propagate peace, and to fast. She says that everyone who comes to Medjugorje, must be converted. They must encourage other people too, to pray and fast. God wishes us to*

pray and fast. God wishes to develop the parish and make it grow more and more in faith. If people accept the messages, God will lead them.”

Ivanka Ivankovic-Elez - Ivanka was the first to see Our Lady on June 24, 1981, and is the youngest of the 4 girls and was born on July 21, 1966, in Bijakovici. Ivanka's prayer mission from Our Lady is to pray for families. Ivanka has one brother and one sister. Her mother Jagoda, died in May 1981. When the apparitions first began, Ivanka asked the Blessed Mother about her mother. Our Lady told her that her mother was with her in heaven. God has allowed Ivanka to see and speak to her mother, who is in heaven, five times over the years.

She had daily apparitions from June 24, 1981, until May 7, 1985. On that day Our Lady confided to her the last of her ten secrets. Our Lady told her that for her entire life she will have an apparition every year on June 25, the anniversary of the apparitions. And so far it has been just that way. Ivanka is living in the parish of Medjugorje, is married and has three children.

Ivanka: “When the apparitions began, I was only a child. I prayed and went to church when my parents asked me to. Now when I pray, I feel united with God and Our Lady. Before, when I went to Mass, I didn't feel anything special. Now, I know God is alive at the Holy Mass and gives Himself completely to us in the Host. Concerning my own future, I leave it completely to God - my path will go in the direction God leads me. I have some advice for young people: I want to tell them to turn to God as soon as possible because He's the only one who can lead them to happiness and truth. We simply must pray more and live the messages of Medjugorje.”

Ivan Dragicevic - Ivan is the oldest of the two boys who see Our Lady and was born on May 25th, 1965 in Bijakovici. His prayer mission given by Our Lady is to pray for priests and the youth of the world. There are three younger children in his family and although Ivan and Mirjana share the same last name, they are not related.

Our Lady has appeared to him every day since June 24, 1981. Our Lady to date has confided nine secrets to Ivan. He is now married and resides half the year in the parish of Medjugorje, and half the year in Boston, MA. Ivan and his wife Laureen have three children.

Ivan: “The apparitions made a big difference in my life - the difference between heaven and earth. For example, I arrange my day now so that even during the day I find time to pray. Before, my life had no meaning. Now, I'm filled with inner contentment. The first time I saw Our Lady, a change occurred in my

soul, and in my heart. Before, I often avoided prayer, but now the difference is so great, I really can't describe it. I'm no longer sorry that Our Lady revealed my future. I'm confident and not afraid, because I know who leads me, and therefore, I'm not afraid of death. People in our parish, and all people, should feel that way.”

Jakov Colo - Jakov is the youngest of the seers. He was born on March 6, 1971 in Bijakovici, and was only 10 years old when the apparitions started. His prayer mission given by Our Lady is to pray for the sick. Jakov's mother Jaca, died on September 5th 1983 and it affected Jakov very deeply since he rarely saw his father who worked in Germany as many men did in those days with no jobs available in Medjugorje or the surrounding area.

He has had daily apparitions since June 25, 1981, and on September 12, 1998, Our Lady confided to him his 10th secret. Our Lady now appears to Jakov only once per year on Christmas Day. Our Lady literally raised Jakov since his mother died when he was so young. It was very difficult for him to accept that he would no longer see Our Lady every day. He wondered how he would continue, and struggled for months until he tells us that through prayer he realized that he was now like all of us who do not see Our Lady. He tells us that Our Lady is with each one of us always, and we can experience her in our hearts. Jakov lives in the parish of Medjugorje, is married and now has two children.

In the early years, the presence of the young fidgety boy among the group of seers is special in terms of the authenticity of the apparitions. It was highly improbable that he would come to church for two to three hours of prayer every single day, in winter as well as in summer, in bad weather as well as in good, and for well over three years, simply to make believe that he is seeing the Blessed Virgin.

Jakov: “From the time Our Lady first appeared to me, my life has entirely changed. Now, I pray more and go to Mass every evening. I try, more and more, to fulfil the messages that Our Lady gives us. I feel I'm closer to God now. I believe we have to pray that God's plans will be realized. I now want to live as a Christian. I begin the day with prayer, then go to school. when I get home, I help wherever necessary. To me, the Mass means an encounter with the living God. Our Lady always tells us to pray more.”

(Paul Farge, Medjugorje News, December 2002)

RECIPE for MIRACLES

Ingredients:

- 1 part of knowing who you are 1 part of knowing who you aren't
- 1 part of knowing what you want
- 1 part of knowing who you wish to be 1 part of knowing what you already have
- 1 part of choosing wisely from what you have
- 1 part of loving and thanking for ALL you have

Instructions:

- Combine ingredients together gently and carefully, using faith and vision.
- Mix together with strong belief of the outcome until finely blended.
- Use thoughts, words and actions for best results.
- Bake until Blessed.
- Give thanks again

Yield:

- Unlimited servings

Mommomchoochotr@aol.com

Hearing, she stretched for the life source.
Embracing the quickening call.
'How is this? I know not!' she responded.
Stumbling in God's desert of time.
"But you speak and all things come together.
I will as you say let it be."
Her lifetime of shadowy knowing was confirmed
in the quieting joy,
Summoning cadences. ancient and deep.
echoed the call of God's peace.
Miryam arose and went out.
Holding the knowledge of change, went out.
Accepting the newness of challenge, went out.
Went out to begin the task.
Miryam embarked on the journey.
Her mind precise for the journey.
Her soul enflamed for the journey.
Journeyed to the arms of Elizabeth.
In the warmth of those arms, she knew.
Ancient pathways opening before her, she knew.
Words of her people streamed from her mouth,
she knew.
Knew that her God lived within her.

(by Ann Johnson)

ANNUNCIATION

In the Jewish days of Mary, her name is often referred to as Miryam. This is a very beautiful story of Mary as the angel approached her in the silence of her room. And it is [one view of] her response to God and His Spirit:

- In those days when the people of Judea were oppressed in the reign of King Herod, in the town of Nazareth there was a woman named Miryam.
- In prayer Miryam watched.
- Eyes of her soul turned inward, she watched.
- Ears of her spirit stretched out, she watched.
- Watched for Yahweh in stillness.
- In awe Miryam listened.
- With the firm beat of her heart, she listened.
- With the deep stroke of her breath, she listened.
- Listened for Yahweh in stillness.
- In the stillness Miryam reached out.
- Mind alive, she reached out.
- Memory reflecting, she reached out.
- Inviting her God to inspire.
- The Shadow streamed into her being.
- Greeting the core of her soul.

AS CHRISTIANS, WE MUST FOCUS FIRST on the CROSS of JESUS

The call to conversion and forgiveness of sins does not end with the close of the Lenten Season; it is the on-going demand of the Christian life. Peter prepares the crowd for the coming of the Holy Spirit by calling them to seek deeper reconciliation with God in order to receive the Holy Spirit.

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter show a Christian community under siege and reacting to the sinful nature of the world which persecuted them. Peter encourages the crowds in their struggle with those who hate them because of their way of life.

To the extent that we remain faithful to the Lord and the calling we have received, we must find ourselves at odds with the world around us. Certainly there are times when this creates deep conflicts for many people.

We know that it is difficult to live a life of virtue and of service to the poor and the downtrodden. Often we feel that we are swimming upstream against the attitudes of the world that many today identify as a

“culture of death” where the value of life is diminished.

The Church in the United States finds itself under siege again. While we have historical experiences of anti-Catholic persecution existing well into our own time, the present scandal is an internal one that has painful social and moral implications. This has, unfortunately, resulted in a credibility crisis between the Church and the world.

There are Catholics who now feel betrayed by the very shepherds who serve as the guardians of the Church. Some are experiencing a crisis or “loss” of their faith as a result of actions of Church leaders in these matters.

What we have here is a conflict of competing values which has driven us into scandal and confusion. We are a community of compassion and forgiveness. These form the very heart of the teaching of Jesus. While the institutional Church may have had some interest in attempting to protect itself, its primary concern was for the welfare of individual priests and the hope that conversion and reconciliation would singularly correct a failure which is more psychological than immoral in its origins. As humans we all sin, and each of us must continually seek the forgiveness of our sins. The inability to recognize one’s sinfulness or to confront the sinful actions of others has profound consequences.

We must focus first as Christians on the cross of Jesus. It is precisely because Jesus has died on the cross and has been raised, that eternal life is possible. This reality must sustain us as we live through the present situation through which we as Church are suffering.

When humans in their institutions fail, we must not lose sight of the fundamental promise of Jesus as we hear it in the Gospel: Jesus is the shepherd whose voice we must heed. The cacophony of voices that are screaming at us demanding our attention must all fall silent to the gentle and continual invitation of Jesus to him. Because some fail – regardless of who they are – it does not offer us the excuse to fail to continue to follow the Shepherd.

That the Church must continue to struggle to have the message of Jesus heard and made real in the world in which we live is a long-standing fact of Christian history. While the present looks bleak because of self-inflicted wounds, we have the faith that the Shepherd is calling the Church to deeper relationship with him.

We have been redeemed by the death of Jesus and in seeking the forgiveness of our sins we are preparing

ourselves for the revelation of the Holy Spirit in our midst – which is the true gift of Jesus to the Church.

(by Dr. Garry Koch, Teacher of Religious Studies at Christian Brothers Academy, Lincroft, “The Monitor”)

LOVE SONG

Majestic sovereign, timeless wisdom,
Your kindness melts my hard, cold soul.
Handsome lover, selfless giver, your beauty fills my
dull, sad eyes.

I am yours, you made me.

I am yours, you called me.

I am yours, you saved me.

I am yours, you loved me.

I will never leave your presence.

Give me death, give me life.

Give me sickness, give me health.

Give me honor, give me shame.

Give me weakness, give me strength.

I will have whatever you give.

AMEN

(Saint Teresa of Avila)

GODS HOLY PEOPLE DO NOT GIVE UP HOPE

Psalm 80 is a song of lament, a supplication to the Lord. God is invoked as “shepherd” and is called on to save his people, his flock.

The imagery of a vine is then used: Planted by the Lord and cultivated by man, it flourishes and increases, producing much good fruit. But the walls protecting it are broken down and it is overrun by wild beasts, symbols of sin and evil.

God’s holy people, however, do not give up hope. They cry out to the Lord. In fact, it is not God who has abandoned his people, but his people who have turned away from him. All of us therefore need to return to the Lord, who stands ever ready to save us from eternal suffering and death with the offer of salvation in Jesus Christ.

**(Pope John Paul II, Weekly General Audience,
April 10, 2002, The Monitor)**

GATE of HEAVEN

Queen and mother, many hearts
Cast themselves before thy throne,

But we call ourselves by right
Specially the very own.
Then be to each one of us here
The Gate of Heaven, O Mother dear!

We have pledged ourselves to fight
In the Army of thy son;
We would pass through thee to Him,
When the desperate fight is won.
Be to all enlisted here
The Gate of Heaven, O Mother dear!

Thou unto the King of Kings
Wert a Gate of earth and us;
We must go to Christ through thee,
We can reach Him only thus.
Oh, be thou to each one here
The Gate of Heaven, O Mother dear!

(Shepherdess of Souls)

THE LENTEN INVITATION of RENEWED LIFE – GOD HAS NEW LIFE CHOICES for YOU

Have you heard of the computer game, The Sims™? To start to play you create a family, build a home, fill it with the luxuries of a four star hotel, and move in. The needs of the family are met by you; your choices impact their virtual lives. The game has some consequences for making poor choices – a child who doesn't do well in school will be banished to military school and an adult who doesn't go to work will lose his job. But something is missing in this recreated world for your PC or Mac. These computer-generated people don't have life purpose. They don't go to church or pray. They don't have the ability to forgive or ask for forgiveness. And when their life gets difficult, you can simply turn the computer off.

Thank goodness our lives are not controlled by a computer game. But our lives are filled with choices. Lent, a clarion call for the conversion of the heart is perhaps the most important time of the year to examine the choices we have made or have not made. We can seek to repair the breach that selfish or hurtful decisions have caused for our families, friends, and even ourselves. During this sacred time of Lent, we practice self-denial and give more abundantly as signs of our sincere desire to reestablish a right relationship with God, to renew this cherished friendship.

The great Paschal sacrifice of Christ is not just a historical event but an inner event that takes place in

our own hearts if we are attentive to it. By joining ourselves to the suffering of Jesus and laying open our hearts on the altar of love, we will come to the Resurrection. Such repentance opens us to growing into spiritual maturity.

Life is a continuing process of the death and rebirth. Lent truly offers us the opportunity to renew our lives. We can strip away the clutter and see that Christ has possibilities for us. And, as we celebrate Easter, we know that following Jesus, through difficult at times, will always lead to joy.

As you examine your choices and accept the Lenten invitation of renewed life, your desire to serve God will be strong. What is God's plan for your life? What are the possibilities that Christ has set before you? How do you make sense of it all? As strong as our love for God can be, sometimes hearing God's call can be difficult and we become restless.

As a religious congregation, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, understand how powerful that restlessness can be. Our Life Choices program helps women and men to make the right choices for their lives. This unique program combines both spiritual and vocational counseling in which we explore "big picture" questions about career, lifestyle, and spirituality with you.

Since we are a religious community, we can help you explore religious life as an option. But we don't assume that you are headed for a religious vocation when you enter the program – only God knows what your path will be. Together we help you identify your gifts, narrow down your options and explore how they fit in service of God's people. As you listen to God's call, the Adorers will listen too and support you in prayer.

Typically it takes most people three to six months to go through the Life Choices program. To date, we've helped over 320 people using this practical spiritual discernment tool. Some Life Choices albums are serving in Church ministry, others hold professional positions in the corporate world or social services agencies, many have married and are raising children as they build careers in various areas of service. All are confident that their life choice is a personal, thoughtful response to what God has called them to do with their lives.

Computers can't come close to actual life. Our choices are real. This Lent, accept God's invitation to renew your life. If your heart struggles with what God intends for you, the Adorers are here to help ease your restlessness and explore your choices so that you too will be confident about what God is calling you to do with you life.

To learn more about Life Choices, visit our web site at www.adorers.org or e-mail me at rawlingsd@adorers.org or call 1-887-236-7377.

(Sister Diana Rawlings, Vocation Director for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Province)

DIVINE INTIMACY

DIVINE INTIMACY is undoubtedly the classic Carmelite work on meditation- it helps one arrive at intimate union with God by the practice of considering holy truths. It shows how to join prayer and action and put the Catholic doctrine on the spiritual life into daily practice. Translated into all principal languages, DIVINE INTIMACY has met with extraordinary success, bringing encouragement and spiritual profit to laity and religious alike.

For each day of the year, Father Gabriel gives 1) a brief introduction, 2) a two-part meditation, followed by 3) a “colloquy”-acts of love, thanksgiving, petition, resolution, etc. addressed to our Lord and based on the truths just meditated upon. About three pages are devoted to each day, and even the busiest person can use it regularly. The meditations for Sundays are based on the Sunday Gospel readings of the traditional liturgical calendar.

Firmly grounded in Thomistic theology, Father Gabriel (1893-1953) draws from Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the great Carmelite Saints, including Saint John of the Cross, Saint Theresa of Avila, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and Sister Elizabeth of the Trinity. His goal – marvelously achieved – is to cover the whole doctrine of the spiritual life in the course of a year.

This is a book for a lifetime – one that is conceived to be used each day and to be read over and over. DIVINE INTIMACY imparts an absolutely Catholic view of life and prepares the reader for the greatest possible union with God this side of Heaven.

A book to introduce souls to profound prayer!

(by Cardinal Cushing.)

HIGH-TECH EVANGELIZATION in the VATICAN

The Vatican’s World Wide Web site (www.vatican.va) is up and running. You may not be able to go to Pope John Paul II’s home, but you can go to his home page. There you’ll find all of his major writings in six languages. The site also

provides a short daily news bulletin from VIS, the Vatican Information Service.

If you need the latest news from the Vatican and you’re a regular Internet surfer, this is the site for you. It has documents from various Vatican agencies, a calendar of events and news. There’s also a search engine so you can plug in the word “family,” for instance, and find what the pope has to say about the subject. As you might guess, it’s quite a bit.

When the site first opened there was an electronic mailbox for the pope, but it had to be shut down after just a month because it was impossible to respond to the 4,000 messages that had poured in. It was shortly after the pope was sick at Christmas, and little girls were writing in, telling him to make sure he took his chicken noodle soup. That was interesting, since most people in Rome don’t even know what chicken noodle soup is.

The Vatican Web site is housed in the Apostolic Palace, just three floors below the pope’s quarters. It is run by a friendly and energetic American, Sister Judith Zobelein, of the Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist. She is assisted by three young Italians and lots of guardian angels. In fact, three of the machines carry the names of the archangels: Raphael (the server), Michael (the firewall, or security Mechanism) and Gabriel. Another machine is called the cherubim.

“We really feel angels can give us their protection,” Sister Judith said. The office is officially known as the Internet Office of the Holy See and Sister Judith is its technical director. Although she majored in English literature before going off to Thailand with the Peace Corps, she had always been good at math and got into computers in the early 1980s while in Jerusalem.

Sister Judith, 47, wears a long brown habit and black veil. She claims it was the Holy Father himself who pushed ahead the Internet project. “The Holy Father really wanted it,” she said. “He sees evangelization as something that can be carried out via the Internet.” Is John Paul on line? Not yet,” Sister Judith says with a laugh. “But we’re working on it.”

One high-ranking prelate who has logged on is the former secretary of state, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, now retired. “The Internet is exploding all over the world, and the Church has got to be there,” Sister Judith says. “The Church seeks to be present among the people, and the Internet is a way of doing that. It’s a way to say, ‘We’re here, to.’”

Sister Judith finds that computers can be helpful for one’s spiritual life since they teach you

accountability.” You face your own mistakes,” she says. “You can’t blame anyone else.”

Stefano Pasquini serves as system manager for the operation and is proud that no one has broken into the Vatican’s site yet. He’s also proud of the Vatican’s C2 security level and 20-gigabyte capacity. (These are two aspects of computers that I’m sure are more important to some readers than others.)

A few hackers have managed to find the address and send messages to the pope, but Pasquini says they’re wasting their time online. “I can’t answer for the pope,” he says.

Sister Judith sees something providential in her ending up in computers, a field her father worked in at Burroughs. “My father died when he was still young, at 54,” she recalls. “Before that I had never wanted to touch a computer. But somehow it got passed on to me afterwards.”

One of the last things Sister Judith’s father worked on back in the early 1970s was the development of an online communications system. Now she, too, is involved in the same field, the development of communications.

She thinks the Vatican Web site can be a tool to help people who want to know what the Church teaches, whether it’s about reincarnation or remarrying in the Church. It’s a vehicle for reaching a lot of people who probably never go to church, “ Sister Judith says.

Information flow is fast and furious, and certainly not everything one finds on the Net is good. But perhaps the Vatican’s presence in cyberspace is a form of high-tech evangelization just right for the end of the 20th century and the dawning of a new millennium. As Sister Judith says, the Church has to be there.

(by Greg Burke, “The Monitor”)

OUR FATHER in HEAVEN

Our Father in Heaven. . . .
Yes?

Don't interrupt me. I'm praying. . .

But you called me.

Called you? I didn't call you. I'm praying. Our Father in Heaven....

There, you did it again!

Did what?

Called me. You said “Our Father in heaven”. Here I am; what's on your mind?

But I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the

Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like getting my duty done.

All right, go on.

Hallowed be your name.

Hold it! What do you mean by that?

By what?

By “Hallowed be your name”.

It means....it means....good grief, I don't know what it means. How should I know? Its just part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?

It means “honoured”, “holy”, “wonderful”.

Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what “Hallowed” meant before. Your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in Heaven.

Do you really mean that?

Sure, why not?

What are you going to do about it?

Doing? Nothing, I guess. I just think it would be neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there.

Have I got control of you?

Well, I go to church.

That isn't what I asked you. What about that habit of lust you have? And your bad temper? You've really got a problem there, you know. And then there's the way you spend your money... all on yourself. And what about the kind of books you read?

Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those phonies at the church.

Excuse me... I thought you were praying for my will to be done. If that is to happen, it will have to start with the ones you are praying for it. Like you, for example.

Oh, all right! I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.

So could I.

I haven't thought about it until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I'd like to, you know, be really free.

Good, now we're getting somewhere. We'll work together... you and me. Now some victories can truly be won. I'm proud of you.

Look, Lord, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does.... Give us this day our daily bread.

You need to cut down on the bread too... you're overweight as it is.

Hey, wait a minute! What is this, “Criticism Me” day? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of a

sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.

Praying is a dangerous thing. You could wind up changed, you know. That's what I'm trying to get across to you. You called me, and here I am. It's too late to stop now. Keep on praying. I'm interested in the next part of your prayer... well, go on.

I'm scared to...

Scared? of what? I know what you'll say. Try me and see.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

What about Joe?

See, I knew it! I knew you would bring him up! Why he's told lies about me, cheated me out of money... He never paid back that debt he owes me. I've sworn to get even.

But your prayer... What about your prayer?

I didn't mean it.

Well at least you're honest. But it's not much fun carrying the load of bitterness around inside, is it?

No, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even. Boy, have I made some plans for ol' Joe. He'll wish he never did me any harm.

You won't feel any better. You'll feel worse. Revenge isn't sweet. Think of how unhappy you are already. But I can change all that.

You can? How?

Forgive Joe. Then I'll forgive you. Then the hate and sin will be Joe's problem and not yours... You may lose the money, but you will settle your heart.

But Lord, I can't forgive Joe.

Then I can't forgive you.

Oh, you're right! You always are. And more than I want revenge on Joe, I want to be right with you... All right! I forgive him. Help him to find the right road in life, Lord. He's bound to be awfully miserable, now that I think about it. Some way, some how, show him the right way.

There now! How do you feel?

Hmmm... not bad. Not bad at all, In fact I feel pretty great. You know, I don't think I'll have to go to bed uptight tonight for the first time since I can't remember. Maybe I won't be so tired from now on because I'm not getting enough rest.

You're not through with your prayer. Go on

Oh, all right.....Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

Good... good. I'll do that. Just don't put yourself in a place where you can be tempted.

What do you mean by that?

Quit hanging around the wrong places, watching inappropriate movies and television, listening to sinful conversations, hanging around the places where Playboy and Playgirl are sold. Change some of your friendships. Some of your so-called friends are beginning to get to you. They will have you completely involved in wrong things before long. Don't be fooled. They advertise they're having fun, but for you it would be ruin. Don't use me for an escape hatch.

I don't understand.

Sure you do, you've done it... lots of times. You get caught in a bad situation, you get into trouble and then you come running to me: "Lord help me out of this mess, and I promise you I'll never do it again!" You remember some of those bargains you tried to make with me?

Yes, and I'm ashamed Lord. I really am.

Which bargains are you remembering?

Well, when the guy next door saw me backing away from the neighborhood bar.. I told my wife I was going to the store.. I remember telling you, "Lord don't let him tell her where I've been. I promise I'll be in church every Sunday."

He didn't tell your wife, but you didn't keep your promise, did you?

I'm sorry Lord, I really am. Up until now I thought if I just prayed the Lord's prayer every day, then I could do what I liked. I didn't expect anything to happen like it did.

Go ahead, finish your prayer.

Oh yes....For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours forever and ever. Amen.

Do you know what would bring me glory? What would make me really happy?

No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you. I can see what a mess I've made out of my life, and I can see how great it would be to really be one of your followers.

You just answered the question.

I did?

Yes, the one thing that would bring me glory is to have people like you truly love me. And I can see that happening between us. Now that some of these old sins are exposed and out of the way... Well, there's no telling what we can do together.

Lord, let's see what we can make of me, OK?

Yes, Let's see!

(Medjugorje News – New Zealand, December 2002)

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, Diocese of Camden.

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 *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *SAIN*
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)**.

In *April*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of
PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (13), and *EASTER*
SUNDAY (20), the Feast of *Saint Mark, Evangelist (25)*,
the Memorials of *Saints Stanislaus (11), Anselm (21),*
Adalbert (23), George, Martyr (23), Fidelis of
Sigmaringen (24), Peter Chanel (28), Louis de Monfort
(28), Catherine of Siena (29) and *Pius V, Pope (30)*. The
EASTER TRIDUUM is **Holy Thursday (17), Good**
Friday (18) and **Holy Saturday (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 27. 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

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The PILGRIM

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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!"



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

