



The PILGRIM

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April 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



Lord All that you allow to happen to us is to be gift in some way. Often we are tired, saddened, in pain or grieving at the loss of a loved one. Lord bless all those who suffer in the world and ease the pain through your infinite Mercy. We are so helpless without you. We are such little children always needing Your and Your Mothers guidance.

We thank You Lord, for all you suffered for each one of us. We could hardly begin to understand the pain. And Lord we are sorry for all our sins and offenses against others, against You.

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue. She is doing just that in Rome as we go to press. This is a copy of her prayer from April 2000.)

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY and NOVENA from GOOD FRIDAY

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 Assumption Parish Church at 7 PM for 9 days from Good Friday, 18 April 2003 and there will be a concluding service on Divine Mercy Sunday. See pages 9 to 11.

Father John O'Leary, Pastor of Assumption Parish, along with Father John Gavin, O.S.F.S, Father Glenn Hartman, Saint John Neumann Parish, Sicklerville, NJ, Father Robert Gregorio, Pastor of Blessed John XXIII, Blue Anchor, NJ, Monsignor Ciaran

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

O'Mearain, Pastor of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Father Jim MacDonald from the Pallotines at Bishop Eustace Prep, Father Peter Joyce, and other priests from local parishes will assist with nightly talks during the Divine Mercy Novena and the conclusion on Divine Mercy Sunday with Rosary, Adoration and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions. Grace Markay will provide the music for Divine Mercy Sunday. See pages 9 to 11.

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

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?

Take the time as a married couple to explore the marriage covenant, and how the Holy Spirit can and does work in your lives. Explore with Father Bill the beauty and richness, the mountains and valleys, the joys and tears of the sacrament of marriage.

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 requested registration donation is \$80 per couple and includes a delicious lunch each day. We are planning seating for 40 couples.

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."

"The PILGRIM" for April 2003 is dedicated to "Our Lady, Blessed Mother of Jesus" and embracing devotion to "Divine Mercy." See page 3 for Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ."

Please make your own overnight accommodation arrangements. There is a Holiday Inn Express nearby in Berlin, NJ. Call (856) 767-7711. Within 10 miles of the PFMC there are franchise locations from nearly every American hotel chain. God bless you.

2003 RETREAT CONFERENCE and 3-DAY EXTENSION – THANKS!

Despite many last minute cancellations for a variety of reasons, the six days of the 2003 Retreat Conference (RC), Youth Track (YT), and 3-Day Extension (3-DX) were spirit filled and anointed with the True Presence of Jesus, not only in the Blessed Sacrament, but in those who were able to attend. We cannot thank Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, His Father, the Holy Spirit, and Our Blessed Virgin Mother Mary enough for the blessings received in these events. We tried to recognize those present who assist us in doing the Lord's Will but felt we should reprint the improved list from the booklet so that all our readers could see the members of the Body of Christ involved in supporting the PFMC with their volunteer efforts for the RC, YT and 3-DX.

We want to particularly thank **Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop of the Diocese of Camden, NJ.** He has supported us with his prayers. He has met with us. He has granted his permissions related to holding liturgical services, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions during this RC and 3-DX in the **HILTON HOTEL.** We thank him for his permissions related to this RC and 3-DX at the **HILTON HOTEL** in his diocese. We thank him for allowing the fruits of this ministry to flourish.

We also thank **Monsignor Pokusa, Chancellor, and Camden Diocese,** for his prayers and assistance, particularly for being the main celebrant for the Friday night Holy Mass.

We thank **Father Joseph Byerly,** our newly appointed liaison from the Camden Diocese, for his help with details regarding the speakers, confessors, and other matters related to this event. His welcome letter for the booklet was particularly spirit filled.

In line with Vatican II, we have been allowed to evangelize through RC and 3-DX events such as this, through "**The PILGRIM**" monthly periodical,

speaking with groups, coordinating pilgrimages, days of retreat and through many other avenues of our faith.

We would like to acknowledge those priests who have shared their wisdom, patience, and kindness in giving us direction in so many areas of the **PFMC** activities:

Father Glenn Hartman, of *Saint John Neumann* in Sicklerville, NJ, has been a very dedicated Spiritual Director for the **PFMC.** He has been assigned by Bishop DiMarzio to assist us with the review of the contents of the "**The PILGRIM**" monthly periodical

Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, who now resides in **Washington, DC,** and has conducted many retreats for the **PFMC.** He has helped us with his gift of prayer, and wisdom of knowledge of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Father is a friend and a spiritual confidant.

Father Michael Semana, the founder of the **World of Hope Foundation,** has been on pilgrimage with us. He has blessed us with his gift of song and evangelization. He also helps with the YT.

Father John McFadden, Assistant Pastor of **Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Cheltenham, PA,** leads us monthly in Healing Prayers, Rosary, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Mass and Confessions at the **Immaculate Heart of Mary Prayer Community** meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at **Saint Rose of Lima Church in Eddystone, PA.** Father has opened our RC and 3-DX events by a special blessing on the facilities. He was the principal speaker at our first **RETREAT.** He has been a speaker at nearly every one of our RC events since leading the first PFMC Retreat at Saint Pius X Retreat Center in 1991. He has brought a wealth of graces to **Keith and Kathleen.**

Father Joseph Szolack is the Dean of Men at Saint Charles Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has been a source of spiritual directions and information relating to vocations.

All these Holy Men of God have shared with us the wisdom, temperance, and patience of God. They have given us individually and as a group wise guidance as well as prayer over these wonderful years of Our Lady's work through the many volunteers at

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.

the **PFMC**. We thank them for their time, interest, openness, deep faith and love of Our Lady and of the Roman Catholic Church.

We know that the **PFMC RC, YT, and 3-DX** events cannot go on without the help of many hands and their prayers as they work. We especially want to thank **Lynn Rudzenski** and **Teri Tew** who have helped with our hospitality rooms; **Edwina Jardimico** who has worked endless hours and feverishly over the registrations; **Vincent** and **Livia Nocella** who were in charge of the books and religious articles; **Sam Berger** and **Colleen Thomas** with registration recording and computer support; **Pat Cousino** in book keeping and financial accounting; **Elizabeth Wisniewski** who helped find priests to hear confessions, and with the many jobs in organizing and promoting this weekend; the **DiMeglio** family, especially **Yvonne, Chris, and Francesco**, who were in charge of decorations for the Adoration Room 623 and brought the statue of Mary for the 3DX; **Joe and Dorothy Guido** for setting up for Holy Mass, and **Gloria Cruz** at the phones and odd jobs.

Additional hands have been **Edrie Broz, Pat and Frank DiMaria, Bill and Linda Howard, Mary Kisielnieki, Kathy Lore, Dot Lyons, Frances Markus, Florence Mastercola, Mary McShane, Stan and Emily Osmansky, Fay Ramos, Irene Wells**, and many more. They have all assisted with the phone, taking registrations, typing, pricing books, inventory, decorations, putting together packets, hospitality and food, security and coordinating the many other areas needing attention.

Those who helped **Vince** and **Keith** load the truck included **Bob Bursley, Joe Gilbo, David McGuinness, Stan Osmanski, Joe Rudzenski, and Irene Wells**. **David Lore** joined the team for set up on Friday morning and was a great help. On Wednesday, **John Wells, Irene's** son, almost single handedly loaded the PFMC inventory onto the truck at the hotel. Help from **John and Carmel Petrowski** made it so that attendees could concentrate on the final talks and anointing without concern for the loading. **Joe Gilbo, Greg Hopkins, Joe Rudzenski, Bill Skorko, Irene and John Wells**, as well as **Claude and Jackie Landry** from New Hampshire followed the truck to the **PFMC** so they could help.

The statues in the **Grand Ballroom** for the **RC** were brought from **Angels of Our Lady of Medjugorje** by **Ceil and Lorry Prizer**. We thank them for allowing us to have their statues on display. The replica of **Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, from **Tihalinja, Bosnia-Hercegovina (B-H)**, is a special

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blessing to those who have made pilgrimages to **Medjugorje, B-H**.

Flowers for the **Adoration Room** and in front of the above mentioned statues were donated and arranged by **Tina and Andy Aquino**.

We are certain that **Our Lady** has special thanks and intercession for our speakers this year: **Father William Halbing, Father Apostoli, Father Robert DeGrandis, Father John McFadden, Father Michael Semana, Josyp Terelya and Dorothea DeGrandis Sudol** as well as our **EMCEES, Al Barbarino** for the **RC**, and **Carl Granieri** for the **PFMC YT, and 3-DX**

Many need to be singled out for their work with the **YT**. They are: **Bill Skorko** as director of the **YT**, **Carl and Marti Granieri** with **Hearts Afire**, **Joanne Niece, Sandy Ruiz** for the younger children, **Marty Rotella, Father Michael Semana, Father John McFadden, Father Andrew Apostoli, Mike McColgan, Travis and Jen Fowler**, and the **Sisters Minor of Mary Immaculate (SMMI)**.

We thank all the priests who so generously tendered their names with intentions to help with the

Sacrament of Confession / Reconciliation / Penance, particularly **Father John McFadden, Father Abraham Matthew, Father Joseph Keating, Father Michael Semana, Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J., Father John Tino, Father Clarita Jundis, Father Rex Familiar, Father Edward Maher, Father Joseph Byerly, Father Joy Chacko, Father Efren Esmilla, Father Nester Lisandra, Father Patrick McCormick, Father Jack Connors, Father Noel Morales, Father Van Hager, I.M.C.** and many others who felt they could not commit in time to print their names. We know that all who receive the graces of this wonderful Sacrament will individually thank them also. Many have traveled great distances to be with us just for this great purpose. Many miracles have happened through the Sacrament of Confession / Reconciliation / Penance in past retreats. We know that God will bless each priest who has given of his time to help with this great Sacrament. The graces flowing through each one will fill them with the Holy Spirit..

We also want to thank **Deacon Fritz Kautz, Deacon Emil Ralbusky, Deacon Joe Upcavage,** and all the deacons that assisted at Holy Mass, Benediction and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is so great that they have graced us with their presence for this **PFMC RC, YT, and 3-DX.**

A special thanks to the "**Magnificat**" organization for sending us enough "**Magnificat**" booklets so each attendee could have one to take home. With the "**Magnificat**" we are enabled see the Holy Mass readings of the day and join in with a portion of the prayers of the day as well. Consider taking out a subscription for this beautiful booklet published 14 times per year. There is subscription information in the back of each "**Magnificat**" booklet.

Spirit filled music, microphones, controls and amplification have been graciously provided for the **PFMC RC** by "**Refuge**" under the direction of **Pete Maszczak.** This volunteer family ministry is from the **Metuchen Diocese.**

Liturgical music was provided by **Dean Pulcini** who also writes music for and directs "**Voyage**" a group of volunteer music ministers. We thank them all.

We welcome and thank **Carl and Martie Granieri** and "**Hearts Afire**" for helping with the **PFMC YT** and **3-DX.** A Tuesday night concert brought us all great joy and healing. Particularly rousing was their new song which highlighted our choices for eternity – Smoking ▼ or Non-Smoking ▲.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet was chanted by **Vinney Flynn** on Saturday and **Marty Rotella** on Sunday.

The **Saturday** night concert by **Father Michael Semana** was a time of celebration in the Lord's Joy and Love. We thank **Father Mike** for being here so faithfully every year, and for his support of the work of the **PFMC.** We also thank "**Refuge**" for participating in this year's concert.

Audio tapes of each presentation were made and reproduced during and after the **PFMC RC** by **Bob Pladek** of "**Catholic Focus - A-Plus Keepsake Video, Inc.**" and his family. **Bob** has always been so gracious to come to our **RC** events to tape the speakers so that others who could not come could enjoy them on audio tape. Order tapes for your friends by calling 1-800 TAPES 123. **Bob** accepts credit cards and supports the **PFMC** with a small royalty on each tape. Please be generous and support his ministry.

We thank **Jim Toudy** at "**Brian James Printing and Graphics.**" He and his staff have tried to accommodate our last minute needs in the printing of donation slips, envelopes, pilgrimage flyers, and now the monthly periodical "**The PILGRIM**"

Although not a direct part of the **PFMC RC, YT, and 3-DX,** we want to especially thank **George and Millicent Kraft** whose generosity and willingness to support our Rosary Making ministry has been most noteworthy. We have been able to equip the entire student body of several parochial schools with a Rosary for each child and continually support several prison, hospital and CCD ministries.

We wish to thank the staff of the **HILTON HOTEL** for the generous allowance of their time to make planning and conduct of these **PFMC RC, YT, and 3-DX** events so easy for our staff and comfortable for the attendees.

We especially wish to name the Hilton staff members that have been so helpful to us in making every detail for this retreat go smoothly. They are: Director of Sales **Ron Livingston;** Angela Lustig, Convention Service Manager until just days before the **RC;** **Niel Dinsfriend,** Food Service Manager, who stood in for **Angela** after she took a better job near **Atlantic City;** and **Leslie Benit,** Hotel Reservations. We also thank the Housekeeping Department, Bellmen and Set-up staff, Kitchen and Serving Staff and Restaurant Staff, and all behind the hotel scenes.

These **PFMC RC, YT, and 3-DX** events could not be possible unless God allowed each person to work in union with the other.

The fruit of these **PFMC RC, YT, and 3-DX** events lies in this unity of thought, word and deed. It is the living Church, its body, and its members! It is truly a

gift of the Holy Spirit through the intercession of Our Lady, Mary, Queen of Peace.

Thank You and God Bless You All,

(Kathleen, Keith and All the PFMC Volunteers)

2004 RC, YT, and 3-DX DATES to MARK on YOUR CALENDAR

If the 2004 RC, YT, and 3-DX are to be again held at the Hilton Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ, the dates will be Friday, 12 March 2004, Saturday, 13 March 2004, and Sunday, 14 March 2004 for the RC and YT. The 3-DX will be Monday, 15 March 2004, Tuesday, 16 March 2004, and Wednesday, 17 March 2004.

We have not signed a contract as yet and are awaiting the inputs from all the volunteers and attendees to work up lessons learned. We will put out information sheets and reservations forms as soon as we have signed contracts and assembled a list of speakers.

Al Barbarino, Father Robert DeGrandis, Father Michael Semana, REFUGE and HEARTS AFIRE have all agreed to return. Kathleen felt certain that she should try to get Sister Brieghe McKenna and Father Kevin Scallon because of the theme. They appear to be involved in something else for the dates mentioned above. We are praying because the word is their 2004 calendar has not been confirmed yet.

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 asking our readers and parishes for help on a regular basis with the following:

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

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McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSA, Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, Father Jim Sauchelli, Father Brendan Williams, Father Joseph

Zsolack, 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.

the parishes of the poor and sick. We have three orphanages that we will help, and several clinics.

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.

A GALA DINNER and FUND RAISING CONCERT

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 dinner.

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

A PRAYER for OUR TROOPS

Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. AMEN

(Unknown)

DAILY PRAYER for ONE ATTEMPTING to LIVE the MAXIMS

Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit,
Source of All Holiness,
Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

I unite myself with you today.

To honor you, Father, I ask the grace to do what is pleasing to you.

To honor and imitate you, Jesus, I strive to practice true humility,

Inviting you to fill me with your life-giving love.

To honor you, Spirit of Love, I will make every effort to live in true freedom,

Allowing you to guide my actions.

Mary, My Mother, you lived God's plan faithfully.

In the same manner,

I seek to respond to the movement of grace in my own life.

Joseph, in your honor, I will attempt to serve the dear neighbor

With the same humility, gentleness and charity with which you served

Jesus and Mary.

Finally, I keep in mind today all the saints and angels and ask them to

Surround me with strength to serve God and my neighbor faithfully.

Today I pray to:

Seek peace and unity in my life and with all creatures

Practice charity and patience in all my relations

Work toward emptying myself of needless attachments

Remain open to your will in the changing circumstances of my life.

All for your glory, my God! AMEN.

(“Responding to the Maxims: A Spirituality Revisited” by Claire Oliver, C.S.J. – a work based on the Maxims of Perfection of Jean-Pierre Medaille, S.J.)

DEAR LORD:

I thank You for this day, I thank You for my being able to see and do hear this morning. I'm blessed because you are a forgiving God and an understanding God, You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me.

Forgive me this day for I have sinned. I ask now for Your forgiveness.

Keep me safe from all danger and harm. Let me start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude,

Let me make the best of each and every day and give my best In all that is put before me.

Clear my mind that I can hear from You. Broaden my mind that I can accept all things that are of You. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over.

Let me continue to see sin through Your eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing, and receive the forgiveness of God.

And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example to slip away and find a quiet place to ray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray out loud, You listen to my heart.

Continue to use me to do Thy Will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak and unsaved.

Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those that are lost and cannot find their way. I pray for those that are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who refuse to share a word from You. I pray for those who don't know you intimately.

I believe that You change people, and I pray for all my sisters and brothers, for each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.

This is my prayer -In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

(Irene Atwell)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

THEY NEED to HEAR IT from YOU

In the song "Que Sera," Doris Day answers a child's question about the future with, "Whatever will be, will be." Chances are if you're saving for your children's education or helping them prepare for tough exams, you want a little more involvement in their career and vocation plans.

Maybe your children dream of becoming astronauts, movie stars or professional football players. If you're like most parents, you listen to their aspirations and gently guide them toward careers that suit their aptitudes--and away from careers that don't.

By offering encouragement and wisdom, you play a major role in your children's vocational journey. Have you presented all the options? Often overlooked

in career exploration are religious life and the priesthood.

Parents cite many reasons for not discussing religious vocations with their children. I've heard parents question whether their child will be happy. "Too many priests and sisters don't convey a sense of fulfillment." Or they say they want grandchildren. "I want to enjoy my grandchildren and see my daughter experience the joy of being a mother." Finally, they fear their child will be lonely. "...There is something about 'coming home' to a family and a sharing of the day's activities that somehow makes even a bad day a good one."

But more parents see religious and priests living fulfilled lives. "They have a peace about them. What better way to love the Lord than to dedicate your life to Him?" Also, some say they not only stay close to their child but they feel a part of the entire religious community their child joins. "The other members of my sons community are so welcoming of our entire family we all feel blessed to be a part of the extended community." Still other parents contend the community lifestyle is not lonely. "It is a community lifestyle of mutual support that is absent in most other lifestyles--it provides a spiritual and personal security akin to a family."

However you view religious vocations, have you discussed them with your children? Your kids aren't likely to learn much about these "alternative" careers/vocations from their school, their friends or any other source. As their first Christian role model, you need to bring up the topic. They may not always take your advice, but they want to hear it. Ask them questions like "What do you think God wants you to do with your life? Have you thought about being a sisters or a priest or brother. Help them find the vocation that will truly make them happy--the one God has in mind. Pray with and for them that they will make the best decision.

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.

Few things are as exciting and frightening as anticipating your life's work. As your children prepare for their future, they rely on you to say more than "Whatever will be, will be." Give them all the options and trust God to lead them to the vocation that is the best "fit." That may mean a religious vocation--or a leap into space (as an astronaut that is).

(Sister Diana Rawlings, National Vocation Director,
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, 1-877-236-7377
ASCVocations@newmann.edu)

A PRAYER for VOCATIONS

Pray, we beseech you, O holy Mother of God, that religious vocations to this work of mercy be multiplied, and that those who are called for help be eager to respond for the greater glory of God, your honor, and the relief of many who suffer in misery and abandonment. AMEN

(Servants of Charity, Director of Vocations, Don
Guanella Seminary, 17 S. Sproul Road, Springfield, PA
19064)

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.

A PRAYER for PRIESTS

Lord Jesus, you have chosen your priests from among us and sent them out to proclaim your word and to act in your name. For so great a gift to your Church, we give you praise and thanksgiving. We ask you to fill them with the fire of your love, that their ministry may reveal your presence in the Church. Since they are earthen vessels, we pray that your power shine out through their weakness. In their afflictions let them never be crushed: In their doubts never despair; in temptation never be destroyed; in persecution never abandoned. Inspire them through prayer to live each day the mystery of your dying and rising. In times of weakness send them Your Spirit, and help them to praise your heavenly Father and pray for poor sinners. By the same Holy Spirit put your words on their lips and your love in their hearts, to bring good news to the poor and healing to the brokenhearted. And may the gift of Mary your mother, to the disciple whom you loved, be your gift to every priest. Grant that she who formed you in her human image, may form them in your divine image, by the power of your Spirit, to the glory of God the Father. AMEN.

(The Secretary, Saint Vincent Ministry to Priests, 970
Pine Hill Rd. , Palm Harbor, Florida 34683)

THE ROSEBUD

A young, new priest was walking with an older more seasoned preset in the garden one day.

Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice.

The older preacher walked up to a rose bush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals. The young

preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry. But because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact.

It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do. Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...

It is only a tiny rosebud,
a flower of God's design;

But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
Then in my hands they die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

So I'll trust in Him for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to Him for His guidance
Each step of the pilgrim way.

The pathway that lies before me
Only my Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose.

Mommomchoochootr@aol.com

THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA



Jesus further asked that the **Feast of the Divine Mercy** on the **Sunday after Easter** be preceded by a **Novena to the Divine Mercy** beginning on **Good Friday**.

He gave *Saint Faustina* an intention to pray for on each day of the Novena, saving for the last day the most difficult intention of all, the lukewarm and indifferent of whom He said:

"These souls cause Me more suffering than any others; it was from such souls that My soul felt the

most revulsion in the Garden of Olives. It was on their account that I said: 'My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by.' The last hope of salvation for them is to flee to My Mercy."

In her diary, *Saint Faustina* wrote that Jesus told her:

"On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy ... On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for these souls."

The different souls prayed for on each day of the Novena are:

[DAY 1](#) - All mankind, especially sinners

[DAY 2](#) - The souls of priests and religious

[DAY 3](#) - All devout and faithful souls

[DAY 4](#) - Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him

[DAY 5](#) - The souls of separated brethren

[DAY 6](#) - The meek and humble souls and the souls of children

[DAY 7](#) - The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy

[DAY 8](#) - The souls who are detained in purgatory; and

[DAY 9](#) - The souls who have become lukewarm.

The Novena prayers are prayed along with the Divine Mercy Chaplet on each day of the Novena.

First Day (Good Friday): Today bring Me all mankind, especially all sinners.

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins, but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen.

Second Day (Holy Saturday or Easter Vigil): Today Bring Me the Souls of Priests and Religious.

Most Merciful Jesus, from whom comes all that is good, increase Your grace in us, that we may perform worthy works of mercy, and that all who see us may

glorify the Father of Mercy who is in heaven. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company [of chosen souls] in Your vineyard - upon the souls of priests and religious; and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others in the way of salvation, and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.

Third Day (Easter Sunday): Today Bring Me All Devout and Faithful Souls.

Most Merciful Jesus, from the treasury of Your mercy, You impart Your graces in the great abundance to each and all. Receive us into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by that most wondrous love for the heavenly Father with which Your Heart burns so fiercely. Eternal Father, turn Your Merciful gaze upon faithful souls, as upon the inheritance of Your Son. For the sake of His Sorrowful Passion, grant them Your blessing and surround them with Your constant protection. Thus may they never fail in love or lose the treasure of the holy faith, but rather, with all the hosts of Angels and Saints, may they glorify Your boundless mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Fourth Day (Easter Monday): Today Bring Me Those Who Do Not Believe In Me and Those Who Do Not Know Me

Most Compassionate Jesus, You are the Light of the whole world. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who as yet do not believe in You or do not know You. Let the rays of Your grace enlighten them that they, too, together with us, may extol Your wonderful mercy; and do not let them escape from the abode which is Your Most Compassionate Heart. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who do not believe in Your Son, and of those who as yet do not know You, but who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Draw them to the light of the Gospel. These souls do not know what great happiness it is to love You. Grant that they, too, may extol the generosity of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Fifth Day (Easter Tuesday): Today Bring to Me the Souls of the Separated Brethren

Most Merciful Jesus, Goodness Itself, You do not refuse light to those who seek it of You. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the

souls of our separated brethren. Draw them by Your light into the unity of the Church, and do not let them escape from the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart; but bring it about that they, too, come to glorify the generosity of Your mercy. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of our separated brethren, who have squandered Your blessings and misused Your graces obstinately persisting in their errors. Do not look upon their errors, but upon the love of Your Own Son and upon His bitter Passion, which He underwent for their sake, since they, too, are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Bring it about that they also may glorify Your great mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Sixth Day (Easter Wednesday): Today Bring Me the Meek and Humble Souls and the Souls of Little Children

Most Merciful Jesus, You Yourself have said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart." Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. These souls send all heaven into ecstasy, and they are the heavenly Father's favorites. They are a sweet-smelling bouquet before the throne of God; God Himself takes delight in their fragrance. These souls have a permanent abode in Your Most Compassionate Heart, O Jesus, and they unceasingly sing out a hymn of love and mercy. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon meek and humble souls, and upon the souls of little children, who are enfolded in the abode of the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls bear the closest resemblance to Your Son. Their fragrance rises from the earth and reaches Your very throne. Father of mercy and of all goodness, I beg You by the love You bear these souls and by the delight you take in them: bless the whole world, that all souls together may sing out the praises of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Seventh Day (Easter Thursday): Today Bring Me The Souls Who Especially Venerate and Glorify My Mercy

Most Merciful Jesus, whose Heart is Love Itself, receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who particularly extol and venerate the greatness of Your Mercy. These souls are mighty with the very power of God Himself. In the midst of all afflictions and adversities they go forward, confident in Your Mercy. These souls are united to Jesus and carry all mankind on their shoulders. These souls will not be judged severely, but Your mercy will embrace them as they depart

from this life. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls who glorify and venerate Your greatest attribute, that of Your fathomless mercy, and who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls are a living Gospel; their hands are full of deeds of mercy and their spirit, overflowing with joy, sings a canticle of mercy to You, O Most High! I beg You O God: Show them Your mercy according to the hope and trust they have placed in You. Let there be accomplished in them the promise of Jesus, who said to them, "I Myself will defend as My own glory, during their lifetime, and especially at the hour of their death, those souls who will venerate My fathomless mercy."

Eighth Day (Easter Friday): Today Bring Me The Souls Who Are In the Prison Of Purgatory

Most Merciful Jesus, You Yourself have said that You desire mercy; so I bring into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls in Purgatory, souls who are very dear to You, and yet who must make retribution to Your justice. May the streams of Blood and Water which gushed forth from Your Heart put out the flames of purifying fire, that in that place, too, the power of Your mercy may be praised. Eternal Father, turn Your most merciful gaze upon the souls suffering in Purgatory, who are enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. I beg You, by the sorrowful Passion of Jesus Your Son, and by all the bitterness with which His most sacred Soul was flooded, manifest Your mercy to the souls who are under Your just scrutiny. Look upon them in no other way than through the Wounds of Jesus, Your dearly beloved Son; for we firmly believe that there is no limit to Your goodness and compassion. Amen.

Ninth Day (Easter Saturday): Today Bring Me The Souls Who Have Become Lukewarm

Most Compassionate Jesus, You are Compassion Itself. I bring lukewarm souls into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart. In this fire of Your pure love let these tepid souls, who, like corpses, filled You with such deep loathing, be once again set aflame. O Most Compassionate Jesus, exercise the omnipotence of Your mercy and draw them into the very ardor of Your love; and bestow upon them the gift of holy love, for nothing is beyond Your power. Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon lukewarm souls who are nonetheless enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Father of Mercy, I beg You by the bitter Passion of Your Son and by His three-hour agony on the Cross: let them, too, glorify the abyss of Your mercy. Amen

(compiled from

<http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/mercy/novena.htm>,

<http://www.thedivinemercy.org/index2.htm>,

<http://marian.org/divinemercy/faustina/facts.html>)

ANNUAL APPARITION of OUR LADY to MIRJANA DRAGICEVIC-SOLDO on MARCH 18, 2003



The visionary Mirjana Dragicevic-Soldo reported daily apparitions from June 24th 1981 to December 25th 1982. During the last daily apparition, Our Lady gave her the 10th secret, and told her that she would appear to her once a year, on the 18th of March. It has been this way through the years.

This year several thousand pilgrims gathered to pray the Rosary at the Cenacolo Community in Medjugorje. The apparition lasted from 8:55 AM to 9:02 AM and Our Lady gave the following message:

"Dear children! Particularly at this holy time of penance and prayer, I call you to make a choice. God gave you free will to choose life or death. Listen to my messages with the heart that you may become cognizant of what you are to do and how you will find the way to life. My children, without God you can do nothing; do not forget this even for a single moment. For, what are you and what will you be on earth, when you will return to it again. Do not anger God, but follow me to life. Thank you for being here."

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

CATHOLIC INSTITUTE of DISCIPLESHIP – INAUGURAL SEMINAR – SATURDAY, 4/26/03

"Holy Spirit Power." will be presented by the Catholic Institute of Discipleship at Saint Antoninus Church, 337 South Orange Avenue, Newark, NJ 07103. Registration begins at 11 AM and the seminar runs from 12 NOON to 5 PM. The speakers will be Father Bill Halbing and Father Paul Lehman. Call (973) 623-0258 for more information.

Additional planned seminars include: "Gifts of the Holy Spirit" with Father John Hampsch, 5/2-4/2003, "The Eucharist" 8/9/2003, and "The Last Things" 11/15/03.

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.

MESSAGE of 3/25/2003 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also today I call you to pray for peace. Pray with the heart, little children, and do not lose hope because God loves His creatures. He desires to save you, one by one, through my coming here. I call you to the way of holiness. Pray, and in prayer you are open to God's will; in this way, in everything you do, you realize God's plan in you and through 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 to alleged visionaries from Medjugorje.)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 2/25/03

Our Lady's words, just as her love for us, her children, remain unchanged. As in the last message, she calls us also today to prayer and fasting for peace. She presented herself here as Queen of Peace who brings and gives us peace. Many have experienced it in their hearts. They took this peace into their daily life. Although in her messages she addresses herself to everyone, saying "dear children", as a mother she speaks to each one individually, to each heart. Starting with the individual, peace spreads into the family and from the family into the people and into the whole society. It is important to answer to this call personally. Everything starts with the individual. We should not expect and wait for others to be converted, to become better, to believe, but it is important to turn our heart personally to the Mother who leads us to Jesus – the King of Peace. She sees well how much men are threatened, how much peace is threatened in human hearts. She knows well that peacelessness and hatred come from a troubled heart. She offers us a remedy for this and such heart.

Our Lady has neither revealed something new here, nor has she brought something unknown. Our Lady addresses us the same invitation as the Prophets in the Old Testament: conversion of hearts, faith, fasting and prayer. According to the witness of the visionaries, Our Lady has invited us all to peace, to fasting and prayer, to conversion and a strong faith. From the beginning of the apparitions to August 14, 1984, people were fasting one day a week. On the

The PILGRIM

vigil of the Assumption 1984, through the visionary Ivan, she gave us this message: "I would like the people to pray along with me these days. And to pray as much as possible! And to fast strictly on Wednesdays and Fridays, and every day to pray at least one Rosary: the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries."

There are many other messages in which Our Lady invited us to fast: On September 20, 1984, Our Lady invited us: "Dear children! Today I call on you to begin **fasting with the heart**. There are many people who are fasting, but only because everyone else is fasting. It has become a custom which no one wants to stop." On September 26, 1985: "Dear children! ... Especially **live the fast**, because by fasting you will achieve and cause me the joy of the whole plan, which God is planning here in Medjugorje, being fulfilled." On September 4, 1986: "Dear children! Today again I am calling you to **prayer and fasting**. You know, dear children, that with your help I am able to accomplish everything and force Satan not to be seducing to evil and to remove himself from this place. ... Therefore, dear children, my call to you is that your day would be only **prayer and complete surrender to God...**"

In the message of July 25, 1991, Our Lady said: "Dear Children! ... At this time peace is being threatened in a special way, and I am seeking from you to **renew fasting and prayer** in your families. Dear children, I desire you to grasp the seriousness of the situation and that much of what will happen depends on your prayers and you are praying a little bit. Dear children, I am with you and I am inviting

*you to begin to **pray and fast** seriously as in the first days of my coming...*

In the message of April 25, 1992, she told us: “*Dear children! Today also I invite you to **prayer**. Only by **prayer and fasting** can war be stopped...*”

We need to recall Our Lady’s words, but even more to take them to our heart and put them into practice in our lives. It happens that we forget the words, but if we take them seriously, they will lead us to the source, to Jesus, from whom Mary takes and brings the desired peace of heart and soul.

The Blessed Virgin Mary invites us often to fasting, but even more often to prayer. Fasting is a prayer of the body. Fasting cannot go by itself. It is always linked to prayer, to almsgiving and works of charity. Jesus himself speaks about the power of fasting (cf. Mk 9,29). In her messages, Our Lady says that through prayer and fasting war also can be stopped. Our Holy Father John-Paul II also invited and keeps inviting all Christians to prayer and fasting for peace in the world. This is the only way for overcoming difficult and deep crisis in the world: through fasting to obtain the conversion of hearts, and to stop the wars that are begotten in human hearts. Those who pray are more useful for the world than those who fight, and if things are bad in the world or become worse and worse, it is because there are more warriors than those who pray. Let us become warriors in Our Lady’s school of prayer and of love, so that – from day to day – we may come closer to God, belong more to God, and with us also this world.

(Father Ljubo Kurtović, OFM, February 26, 2003,
<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 3/25/03

Also in this message, the Blessed Virgin Mary tells us: “*Pray with the heart and do not lose hope*”. It may happen that we lose hope, that we have the impression that God does not hear, as if he withdrew from this world and from his creatures. But can God forget what he has created?

In Our Lady’s words, we can feel an indestructible hope in spite of all the menaces of war, catastrophes and dark prognostics that fill the newspapers. Mary tells us that we are also responsible for peace. Peace does not come without our implication. Surely it is easier to remember God when we are struck by a hardship or a calamity. War threat and threat against life itself awaken us from spiritual sleep and we remember that there is someone who is absolute,

almighty and not threatened as we are. This is why we have to find again the foundations and the source of our life, the rock on which we shall build our life and this world, and on which we shall lean.

In Holy Father’s Apostolic Letter “At the beginning of the new millennium”, we can also feel hope in spite of all that does not awaken any hope in a better future.

In Jesus Christ, our God lived on this earth and had the body, just as us, walked on the paths of our life. Jesus and Mary were not spared from suffering, cross, sorrows and joys of life. We can either give in to despair or cling to faith. Discouragement or faith. We can lean on God, on the world of God, without any other support, just like St. Peter when he jumped into the water counting on the world of Jesus, who said, “Come!” (cf. Mt 14,29) He believed in Jesus. Faith and hope are very close, almost identical.

This is what Peguy writes: “*I am not surprised, says God, that people believe in me. It is enough for them to look at my creatures and they will believe. Love also does not surprise me, because it is a gain for them if they love one another, it is useful for them. But hope, hope amazes me.*”

Great saints were not tempted directly against faith or against charity. Jesus himself in the garden of Gethsemane was tempted against hope. Little Teresa from Lisieux, on her deathbed, was also tempted against hope when the devil told her: “My dear, do you really think that there is something after death?” The Cure of Ars, who packed several times his luggage to run away from Ars, has not done it because he was losing faith or love, but because he saw no hope at all.

There is one means to make us learn to hope, the same that Jesus used when he was tempted against hope or provoked to be unfaithful from the will of the Father, which was often so rigid: he spent night in prayer. The source of hope is prayer, and prayer demands from us to be awake. In order to practice hope, we have to become permanently available as Mary, who expressed it through her YES to the will of God. Through her yes, God has done great things. A human yes opens the door to God so that he may enter into this world and save it. Today also, Mary pronounces this yes through her coming here, inviting us on the path of holiness.

Our Holy Father invites us on the path of holiness. In his letter “Novo Millennio Ineunte” (31), he says: “*It would be a contradiction to settle for a life of mediocrity, marked by a minimalist ethic and a shallow religiosity.*” In his Speech on the Mountain, Jesus says: “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is

perfect" (Mt 5,48). As if he wanted to tell us: be happy as your heavenly Father is happy. In the words of Mary, our Mother, let us hear the echo of the words of Jesus, and let us allow her to lead us to him.

(Father Ljubo Kurtović, OFM, Medjugorje, March 26, 2003, <http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>)

MICHAEL D. O'BRIEN, AUTHOR of the BESTSELLER "CHILDREN of the LAST DAYS" VISITS MEDJUGORJE



Michael D. O'Brien, Canadian writer and author of the bestseller "Children of the Last Days", was in Medjugorje on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th of March. This famous writer climbed the Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain and participated in the entire Evening Prayer Programme. During an encounter with the Medjugorje Franciscans, he asked to know more about the

Medjugorje events. In an interview given to Radio "Mir" Medjugorje, he spoke about his book, about peace in the world and his personal experience of Medjugorje. *"I heard about Medjugorje from my co-parishioners who came here. I saw in their lives conversion and the gift of prayer. Many experienced here a change of life, and some chose a spiritual vocation. Led by these experiences, I wanted to come personally to this place of great graces."*

Answering to the question about his personal attitude towards the apparitions of Medjugorje, O'Brien said: *"I came here with an open heart and mind. I accept the possibility of the apparitions, and like others, I listen to the voice of the Church."* Talking about his book "Children of the Last Days", he spoke about Croats who are represented in his book through the emigrant Jacob. He also addressed an appeal to prayer and committed action in favour of the peace in the world.

Michael D. O'Brien also visited the place of martyrdom of the Franciscans in Siroki Brijeg. (More about Michael D. O'Brien: <http://studiobrien.com>)

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

PRESS BULLETIN 184, 3/26/2003

BEAUTY of OUR SPEECH

This year, we started Lenten time in Medjugorje with a highly important action: we declared this Lenten time a time of nice words and speech. In this way, we wanted to attract the attention of every believer and of every pilgrim to the words that we pronounce. Jesus said to his companions once: "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies." (Mt 15:18-19)

These words of Jesus show us the importance of our words, which often become a language of judgement, of hatred, of slander, of lies... In words and in speech, every person, especially a believer, should be a voice of God for our time. Jesus invites us to use a blessed speech that will create in every person a space for the Good News - the Word that became flesh.

The psalmist recommends us to retain our tongue from evil and our lips from deceitful words. We are eyewitnesses of how much evil in the hearts of men can provoke just one word that was pronounced irresponsibly. Harsh and false words provoke wars, trouble, disputes. This is why, in our inner being, we have to be deeply responsible for what we say. We have to evaluate every word in the light of our conscience, and bring it in accordance with it. A pronounced word motivated by anger and vengeance hurts first and foremost the conscience of the person who pronounces it, but the person to whom it was addressed, also bears consequences.

When Jesus speaks and warns us, he always does it out of love. Even when Jesus raises his voice, it is because he wants to lift up and awaken the other, to bring him back from a wrong path, but never to humiliate him. Jesus always and at every occasion speaks with love for those who listen to him. We also have to speak in this way, because we are called Jesus' disciples and we are Jesus' disciples.

We hear often that Our Lady speaks in a motherly way. In Medjugorje, through the visionaries, she addresses herself to the whole world in kind words. She speaks most tenderly, and this is visible in her words addressed to the visionaries, "little children". Let us also be carriers of such a good and nice word, because it opens all the doors, the doors of every heart. May our speech be a speech of love, a language that will be a new hope and a sincere motivation for others to live according to the plan of God.

May every anger and every ugly word, especially blasphemy, stay far from us!

Father Mario Knezovic

COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of February, 25,000 received Holy Communion and 669 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for LEADERS

As we have written in the last issue of the Bulletin, the 10th International Meeting for Guides and Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity Groups took place in Medjugorje from February 23 to 27. There were 150 leaders and priests who lead the Medjugorje Associations all over the world. They adopted a common declaration, which we publish entirely:

“Gathered in a place of prayer and of peace, following the voice of Our Lady and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, 150 of us gathered for the 10th International Meeting for Guides and Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity Groups. In an atmosphere of prayer and in brotherly and sisterly union, we reflected on the theme “The Essential of Medjugorje”.

Knowing the powerful message that comes from Medjugorje to the Church, to the world and to each individual, we considered it important to consider once again the power of this message and of what it means today. Our Lady's messages from Medjugorje come to us for almost 22 years now. Our Lady wants to tell us to come back to Jesus, the source of our life. “I desire to draw you ever closer to Jesus and to His wounded heart that you might be able to comprehend the immeasurable love which gave itself for each one of you.” (Our Lady's message, November 25, 1991) This is why, inspired by the experiences of many individuals, we consider that the ambience of Medjugorje is a new stimulation and invitation to go to the source of our faith and to seek our Saviour. “There is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4,12).

Without Jesus, the world in which we live and whose destiny we share goes into the unknown. In such a world, the paths trodden by millions of people who pray inspired by Medjugorje, can only be a new hope and a prophetic voice. As such, Medjugorje obliges all those who have heard and understood the voice of God, to announce and to witness to others. In this sense, in this year of the Bible, we invite all those in

the world who venerate Our Lady, to be the most beautiful bearers of the Good News by their own lives. In this task, God will surely not leave us alone. “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.” (Mk 16,20)

During this meeting, we reflected also on the role of the Church in new forms of evangelization and on its openness in observing the apparitions of Medjugorje. In the year of the Rosary proclaimed by the Holy Father John-Paul II, “it is our duty to invite all the pilgrims of Medjugorje to put this invitation into their daily practice. May the Rosary, as a powerful weapon from heaven, be the answer of Christians to the increasing peacelessness and divisions in the world. This is why, in the spirit of this meeting, which was filled with prayer and sharing, we invite all men of the world to open themselves to Jesus through Mary and to become active members of the Church.”

Medjugorje, February 27, 2003, The participants

PRAYER for PEACE in the WORLD

From February 17 to 23, the faithful gathered for the Evening Mass prayed for a special intention: for peace in the world. In these days, as peace is threatened in a special way, we invite all the friends and pilgrims of Medjugorje all over the world to be united in prayer for peace.

“MAY THIS LENTEN TIME BE a TIME of a GOOD WORD”

In the time of Lent, we started in Medjugorje a prayer initiative under the title, “May This Lenten Time be a Time of a Good Word”. During Holy Mass in the parish church, preachers will speak about the bad habit that is cursing. A special holy picture was printed with Jesus' face and an inscription, “I have done everything for you, why do you curse me?” All the families from the parish and pilgrims of Medjugorje received this image. We invite all of you to pray during Lent for a pure and blessed speech of every person, especially of Christians.

A CANADIAN WRITER VISITED MEDJUGORJE

See article with picture on page 14.

THE ANNUAL APPARITION of OUR LADY to MIRJANA DRAGICEVIC- SOLDO on MARCH 18, 2003

See article with picture on page 11.

SEMINARS in “DOMUS PACIS”

During the last period, there were three “Prayer and Fasting” seminars for pilgrims from Russia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and France. Franciscan sisters led two seminars for 80 young girls from Herzegovina. There were also two seminars of spiritual recollection for young people from Central Bosnia and for

Prayer Groups from south Dalmatia, as well as a spiritual renewal for altar boys from Herzegovina, led by their catechists.

For “Prayer and Fasting” seminars, contact Fr. Ljubo Kurtovic, Zupni ured Medjugorje, Gospin trg 1, 88266 Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina. (Fax: 00 387 36 651 444)

THE 8TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for PRIESTS

The 8th International meeting for priests will take place in Medjugorje from June 30 to July 5, 2003. The theme of the meeting is “Servant of the Eucharist”.

You may make reservations by e-mail: medjugorje-mir@medjugorje.hr, at the Information Office personally, or by phone/fax: +387-36-651- 988 (for Marija Dugandzic).

We ask all priests who have arranged their own accommodation with a family in Medjugorje to note in their application the name and the phone number of the family where they will be staying. We will arrange accommodation for all the priests who have no direct contacts and have not arranged their own accommodation. (Please note in your application if you wish us to arrange accommodation for you.)

Instead of a monetary payment, we ask you to kindly celebrate five Mass intentions.

It is necessary to bring with you: your celebret given by your superior, an alb and stole, a Bible, a small FM radio with headphones (for simultaneous translation).

You can find the programme of this meeting on our web-page www.medjugorje.hr.

Many priests who do not have access to Internet may not have been informed about the existence of this international meeting in Medjugorje. Therefore, we kindly ask all Organizers of pilgrimages, Prayer Groups and Centres for Peace to publish this information as widely as possible by all means at their disposal, so that as many priests as possible may participate. In as much as it is possible, we also

kindly ask you to financially assist the priests who would like to come but do not have the necessary funds for such a journey.

We thank you in advance and pray for God's blessing and the blessing of the Queen of Peace upon you and your work.

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

A BIT OF HUMOR – BUT OH THE PRICE

Adam was hanging around the garden of Eden feeling very lonely.

So God asked him, “What's wrong with you?”

Adam said he didn't have anyone to talk to.

God said that He was going to make Adam a companion and that it would be a woman.

He said, “this pretty lady will gather food for you, she will cook for you, and when you discover clothing, she will wash it for you. She will always agree with every decision you make and she will not nag you and will always be the first to admit she was wrong when you've had a disagreement. She will praise you! She will bear your children and never ask you to get up in the middle of the night to take care of them. She will never have a headache and will freely give you love and passion whenever you need it.”

Adam asked God, “What will a woman like this cost?”

God replied, “An arm and a leg.”

Then Adam asked, “What can I get for a rib?”

Of course the rest is history....

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

WHY I LOVE THEE MARY.

LAST POEM of SISTER TERESA.

Fain would I sing, O Mother blest! the reasons why I love thee;

Why e'en to name thy name, with joy, O Mary! fills my heart;

And why the glorious thoughts of thee, in greatness far above me,

Inspire no fear within my soul, so dear and sweet thou art.

Yet, if I were to see thee now, in majesty stupendous,
Surpassing all the crowned saints in highest heaven above,

Scarce could I dream I am thy child, (O truth sublime,
tremendous!),

For I should think myself to be unworthy of thy love.

The mother, who desires to be her child's best earthly
treasure,

Must ever share its grief with it, must understand its
pain.

Queen of my heart! how many years, thy sorrows had
no measure;

What bitter tears thine eyes have shed, my worthless
heart to gain!

So, musing on thy earthly life, in Scripture's sacred
story,

I dare to look upon thy face, and unto thee draw nigh;

For when I see thee suffering, - concealed thy
marvelous glory -

It is not hard, then, to believe thy little child am I.

When Gabriel came from heaven's courts, to ask thee
to be mother

Of God Who reigns omnipotent to all eternity,

I see thee, Mary! then prefer to that great grace,
another, -

Through all thy consecrated life a virgin pure to be.

And so I now can comprehend, immaculate white
maiden!

Why thou wast dearer unto God than heaven itself
could be;

And how thy humble, human frame, with mortal
weakness laden,

Could yet contain the Eternal Word, Love's vast
unbounded Sea.

I love thee when I hear thee call thyself the handmaid
only

Of God, Whom thou didst win to earth by thy
humility;

All powerful it made thee then, above all women,
lonely,

And drew, into thy bosom chaste, the Blessed Trinity,

The Holy Spirit, Love Divine, o'ershadowed thee, O
Mother!

And God the Father's only Son incarnate was in thee.

How many sinful, sorrowing souls shall dare to call
Him - Brother!

For He shall be called: *Jesus, thy first born*, eternally.

And oh! despite my frailties, dear Mary! well thou
knowest

That I at times, like thee, possess the Almighty in my
breast.

Shall I not tremble at the gift, O God! that Thou
bestowest ?

A mother's treasure is her child's: I still my fears to
rest.

For I, O Mary, am thy child! O Mother dear and
tender.

Shall not thy virtues and thy love plead now with God
for me?

Then, when the pure white sacred Host, in all its
veiled splendor,

Visits my heart, thy spotless Lamb will think He
comes to thee.

Oh, thou dost help me to believe that e'en for us, frail
mortals,

'Tis not impossible to walk where we thy footsteps
see;

The narrow road before us now, thou lightest to
heaven's portals.

Who lowliest virtues here below didst practice
perfectly.

Near thee, O Mother! I would stay, little, unknown
and lowly;

Of earthly glory, oh! how plain I see the vanity!

In the house of St. Elizabeth, thy cousin dear and
holy,

I learn of thee to practice well most ardent charity.

There, too, I listen on my knees, great Queen of all
the Angels!

To that sweet canticle that flows in rapture from thy
soul;

So dost thou teach me how to sing like heavenly, glad
evangels

And glorify my Jesus, Who alone can make me
whole.

Thy burning words of love divine are mystic flowers
victorious,

Whose fragrance shall embalm the long, long, ages
yet to be.

In thee, indeed, the Almighty King hath done great things and glorious!

I meditate upon them now, and bless my God in thee.

When good St. Joseph did not know the great archangel's story,

Which thou wouldst fain conceal from men in thy humility,

O tabernacle of the Lord! thou didst not tell thy glory,

But veiled the Saviour's presence in profoundest secrecy,

Thy silence, how I love it now, so eloquent, so moving!

For me it is a concert sweet, of melody sublime;

I learn thereby the grandeur of a soul that God is proving,

That only looks for help from Him and in His chosen time.

Then later still, O Joseph! and O Mary! I behold you
Repulsed in little Bethlehem by all the dwellers there;

From door to door you vainly went, for all the people told you

They had no place to shelter you, no time to give you care.

Their rooms were for the great alone; and in a stable dreary

The Queen of Heaven gave birth to Him Who made both heaven and earth.

O Mother of my Saviour! then, thou wast not sad nor weary;

In that poor shed how grand thou wert! how painless was that Birth!

And there when, wrapped in swaddling bands, I see the King Eternal, -

When of the Word divine, supreme, the feeble cry I hear

O Mary, can I envy e'en the angels' joy supernal?

The Master Whom they worship is My little Brother dear.

What praises must I give to thee, who, in earth's gloomy prison,

Brought forth this lovely heaven sent Flower, be-fore our eyes to bloom!

Though unto shepherds and wise men a star had grandly risen,

These things were kept within thy heart as in some secret room.

I love thee when I see thee next, like other Hebrew women,

To Israel's temple turn thy steps when dawned the fortieth day;

I love thee yielding humbly up, to aged, favored Simeon,

The Lord Who should redeem us all when years had fled away.

And first my happy smiles awake, to hear his glorious singing,--

That "Nunc Dimittis" that shall ring till Time itself shall die;

But soon those joyous notes are changed, and my hot tears are springing;--

"A sword of grief must be thy lot," thus runs his prophecy.

O Queen of all the martyr host! till thy life here is ended,

That sharp, sharp sword shall pierce thy heart! At once, it pierces sore.

That thy dear Child from Herod's wrath may surely be defended,

I see thee as an exile fled to Egypt's pagan shore.

Beneath thy veil thy Jesus slept, thy peace no fears were daunting,

When Joseph came to bid thee wake, and straightway flee from home;

And then at once I see thee rise, as called by angels chanting,

Content, without a questioning word, in foreign lands to roam.

In Egypt and in poverty, I think I see thee, Mary,

All glad at heart, all radiant, with joy beyond compare.

What matters exile unto thee? Thy true home cannot vary.

Hast thou not Jesus, with thee still? and with Him Heaven is there.

But, oh! in fair Jerusalem, a sorrow, vast, unbounded,

Indeed o'erwhelmed thy mother heart with grief beyond compare; -

For three days Jesus hid Himself; no word to thee was spoken.

Thou truly wast an exile then, and knew what exiles bear.

And when, at last, thine eyes again were thy Son's face beholding,

And love entranced thee, watching Him among the doctors wise,

“My Child!” thou saidst, “now tell me why didst leave my arms enfolding?”

Didst Thou not know we sought for Thee with tear endimmed eyes?

The Child God answered to thee then, to thy sweet, patient wooing,

O Mother whom He loved so well, whose heart was well nigh broken!

“How is it that you sought for Me? Wist not I must be doing

My Father's work?” Oh, who shall sound the depths those words betoken?

But next the Gospel tells me that, in His hidden mission,

Subject to Joseph and to thee was Christ, the Holy Boy;

And then my heart reveals to me how true was His submission,

And how beyond all words to tell, thy daily, perfect joy.

And now the temple's mystery I understand, dear Mother!

The answer, and the tone of voice, of Christ, my King adored.

'Twas meant the pattern thou shouldst be, thereafter to all other

Tried souls who seek, in Faith's dark night the coming of the Lord.

Since Heaven's high King has willed it so His Mother and His dearest

Should know the anguish of that night the torn heart's deepest woe,

Then are not those, who suffer thus, to Mary's heart the nearest?

And is not love in suffering God's highest gift below?

All, all that He has granted me, oh! tell Him He may take it!

Tell Him, dear Mother! He may do whate'er He please with me;

That He may bruise my heart today, and make it sore, and break it,

So only through Eternity my eyes His Face may see!

I know, indeed, at Nazareth, O Virgin rich in graces!

As the lowly live, so thou didst live, and sought no better things;

Of ecstasies and wonders there, our eyes can find no traces,

O thou who daily dwelt beside the incarnate King of Kings!

On earth, we know, is very great the number of the lowly;

With neither fear nor trembling now we dare to look on thee.

By common lot and humble path, our Mother dear and holy,

Thou wast content to walk to heaven, and thus our guide to be.

Through all my weary exile here, I fain would walk beside thee.

O my pure and precious Mother! be near to me each day!

Thy beauty thrills my heart with joy. Deign now to guard and guide me!

What depths of love are in thy heart for me thy child, always!

Before thy kind maternal glance, my many fears are banished;

Thou teachest me to gently weep, and then to sing for joy;

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Thou dost not scorn our happy days, nor hast thou wholly vanished;

Thou smilest on us tenderly, as once upon thy Boy!

When bride and groom at Cana's feast knew well the wine was failing,

And knew not whence to bring supply, their need thine eyes perceived,

To Christ, the Master, thou didst speak, who knew His power availing, -

The Maker of created things, in Whom thy soul believed.

But first He seemed thy mother heart's kind prayer to be denying.

“What matters this, O woman! Unto Me and thee?” said He.

But “Mother,” in His soul's deep depths, His filial heart was crying;

And that first miracle He wrought, Mother, lie wrought for thee.

One day, while sinners crowded round to hear what He was saying,

In His desire to save their souls and them to heaven beguile,

Lo! thou wast there amid the throng, and thou wast meekly praying

That they would let thee nearer come, and speak with Him awhile.

And then thy Son spoke out this word mysterious like that other.

To show us thus His marvelous love for all the souls of men; -

He said: “Who is My brother, and My sister, and My Mother?”

'Tis he who does My Father's will!” The Father's will, again!

O Virgin, pure, immaculate! O Mother, tenderest, dearest!

Hearing these words that Jesus spake, this time thou wast not grieved.

No! thy great heart it leaped for joy, O thou His friend the nearest!

Because our longing souls likewise to kinship He received.

Oh, how thy heart is glad to know His love to us is given, -

The treasure, that cannot be weighed, of His Divinity!

Who shall not love thee well today, and bless thee in high heaven,

Seeing thy tender care for us, thy generosity!

For truly thou dost love us all as thy Child Jesus loves us;

And for our sake thou didst consent to stay when He had risen.

Since, if we love, then all to give, e'en self, both tries and proves us,

So thou, to prove thy love, didst stay in earth's dark, dreary prison.

Thy love for souls our Saviour knew, that love His heart had sounded;

He left thee to us when He went to God's right hand on high.

Refuge of sinners! On thy prayers how many hopes are grounded!

Christ gave thee to us from His cross; for us He hears thy cry.

For thou - His Mother - there didst stand, that awful day, on Calvary;

As a priest before God's altar, at the cross so thou didst stand.

And to appease the Father's wrath, didst offer up, O Mary!

Thy Jesus, our Emmanuel, at God's supreme command.

A prophet had foretold this thing, O Mother broken-hearted!

“Is any sorrow like to thine?” Thy grief no words can say!

Blest Queen of martyrs! Left on earth when Jesus had departed!

'Twas thy heart's blood for us was given on that unequalled day.

Henceforth thy shelter in thy woe was St. John's humble dwelling;

The son of Zebedee replaced the Son Whom heaven adored.

Naught else the Gospels tell us of thy life, in grace excelling;

It is the last they say of thee, sweet Mother of my Lord!

But that deep silence, oh! I think it means that, up in glory,

When time is past, and into heaven thy children safe
are come,

The Eternal Word, my Mother dear, Himself will tell
thy story,

To charm our souls, thy children's souls, in our
eternal home.

Soon I shall hear that harmony, that blissful,
wondrous singing;

Soon, soon, to heaven that waits for us, my soul shall
swiftly fly.

O Thou who cam'st to smile on me at dawn of life's
beginning!

Come once again to smile on me.... Mother! The night
is nigh.

I fear no more thy majesty, so far, so far above me,

For, I have suffered sore with thee; now hear my
heart's deep cry!

Oh! Let me tell thee face to face, dear Virgin! How I
love thee;

And say to thee forevermore: thy little child am I.

(Saint Theresa the Little Flower, May, 1897)

MAKE SURE YOU WISH YOUR MOTHER – HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!

Mother's Day will be celebrated on Sunday May
11, 2003 (in the U.S.).

<http://www.holidays.net/mother/story.htm>

HISTORY of MOTHER’S DAY

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced
back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in
honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the
1600's, England celebrated a day called “Mothering
Sunday”. Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (the
40 day period leading up to Easter*), “Mothering
Sunday” honored the mothers of England.

*(For more information on Lent/Easter check out -
[Easter on the Net, http://www.holidays.net/easter/](http://www.holidays.net/easter/))

During this time many of the England's poor worked
as servants for the wealthy. As most jobs were located
far from their homes, the servants would live at the
houses of their employers. On Mothering Sunday the
servants would have the day off and were encouraged
to return home and spend the day with their mothers.

A special cake, called the mothering cake, was often
brought along to provide a festive touch.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe the
celebration changed to honor the “Mother Church” -
the spiritual power that gave them life and protected
them from harm. Over time the church festival
blended with the Mothering Sunday celebration.
People began honoring their mothers as well as the
church.

In the United States Mother's Day was first suggested
in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe (who wrote the words to
the Battle hymn of the Republic) as a day dedicated to
peace. Ms. Howe would hold organized Mother's Day
meetings in Boston, Mass ever year.

In 1907 Ana Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a
campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms.
Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West
Virginia to celebrate Mother's Day on the second
anniversary of her mother's death, the 2nd Sunday of
May. By the next year Mother's Day was also
celebrated in Philadelphia.

Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to
ministers, businessman, and politicians in their quest
to establish a national Mother's Day. It was successful
as by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost
every state. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914,
made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's
Day as a national holiday that was to be held each
year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

While many countries of the world celebrate their
own Mother's Day at different times throughout the
year, there are some countries such as Denmark,
Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium which
also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of
May.

<http://www.holidays.net/mother/story.htm>

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.

“*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

TEN COMMANDMENTS of a MOTHER

1. Develop an intimate personal relationship with Jesus. He is your primary love. Allow Him to love you, forgive you, speak to you, guide you, heal you and fill you. Try to keep a Spiritual Journal of the messages you receive from Him.
2. Keep your priorities in order – Jesus first, husband second, children third, etc. The best thing you can do for your husband is to love Jesus, and the best thing you can do for your children is to love their father, just as he is. Try not to work outside the home. If you do work, try to make sure that work does not interfere with your primary responsibilities. Write up a weekly schedule setting aside prime time for Jesus, your husband and each child.
3. Realize that you are the heart of the home. It is your prime responsibility to work with your husband to make sure his wishes are carried out with love. Love is your greatest gift. Love, Love, Love. Affirm, Affirm, Affirm.
4. Let your husband know the problems and difficulties that you and your children are experiencing in living a Christian life. Work with God and your husband toward solutions. TV is problematic because of the amount of violence and promiscuity. Work out selective watching of TV with your husband. Sports have become a false god in America. Share your insights with your husband.
5. Pray with your husband. Share your journal with him. Allow the Lord to sanctify and purify your relationship with Him. Ask the Lord for the strength to love him with His Love and Purity.
6. Spend quality time with each child – loving them. There is nothing like a mother's love. You will intuitively know their needs and problems. Share openly with them and allow them to be open with you. Their fears, worries and temptations you should know. Pray for guidance and wisdom. Dare to discipline with love and firmness.
7. Support your husband in setting up a place for family devotions. Encourage your family at Family devotions to place everything in God's hands- their worries, fears, doubts, difficulties and temptations. God is really their Father. Mary is really their Mother. The Holy Spirit is really present to each of them. Jesus lives in their hearts, speaking, loving and forgiving.

8. Try to set the tone in living a simple, humble, non-violent lifestyle. This is a challenge in a materialistic, pleasure seeking, individualistic culture. You are called often to heroism. TV heroes, movie stars, and sports heroes are generally not the best role models. Watch over the songs your children are listening to, and the posters they want to hang up. This calls for real wisdom.
9. Try to discern with each child the call of the Lord upon their life. All are called to put Him first and to serve Him with all their hearts. This is difficult and heroic in today's world.
10. With your husband make Sunday the Lord's Day and a day of family togetherness. Encourage your family to frequent reception of the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

(My Father's House, Moodus, CT)

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-Herzegovina, 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.

18-27 APRIL 2003, DIVINE MERCY NOVENA and SUNDAY SERVICES

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) has assisted with the planning for Divine Mercy Novena and Sunday services from Good Friday, 18 April 2003, 7 PM Daily until conclusion on Sunday, 27 April 2003 from 2 PM until 3:30 PM at Assumption Parish Church in Atco. NJ.

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

16-18 MAY 2003, RETREAT WEEKEND for MARRIED COUPLES

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

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

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

PRAYER for an END to TERRORISM and VIOLENCE

Lord, the threat of terrorism and violence affects our lives as never before.

As members of the world family guide us towards a lasting peace and a genuine love and understanding of one another.

This alone will enable use to find just and non-violent solutions to the problems we face.

Where Your peace and love abide, there can be none of the anger, hate, and bitterness which cause a person, race, or nation to strike out against another.

Help us to respect the dignity and rights of each person and nation and to find Your will and Your way in the situations we face.

Amen.

(Assumption Parish, Atco, NJ)

PFMC LIAISON

Father E. 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 Most Reverend Nicholas A. DiMarzio, D.D., Ph.D., Bishop, Diocese of Camden.

CALENDARS:

In *April*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (13)*, and *EASTER SUNDAY (20)*, *DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (27)*, 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)*. *DIVINE MERCY NOVENA* starts on *Good Friday (18)* and finishes on *DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (27)*.

In *May*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *ASCENSION of the LORD (29)* and the Feasts of *Saints Philip and James (3), Matthias, Apostle (14)*, and the *VISITATION (31)* and the Memorials of *Saints Joseph the Worker (1), Athanasius (2), Damien of Molokai (10), Nereus (12), Achilleus (12), Pancras (12), Isidore the Farmer (15), Pope John I (18), Bernardine of Siena (20), Bede the Venerable (25), Pope Gregory VII (25), Mary Magdalene de Pazzi (25), Philip Neri (26)* and *Augustine of Canterbury (27)*. The Church calendar recognizes *Mother Day (11)*, and *Memorial Day (observed) (26)*.

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 that we may return your call. You may FAX your questions to (856) 768-9428.

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 is 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.

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 6 and the Bulletin Notice on page 19. We need everyone to help spread this information with prayer groups and Parish committees as well as to publish it in your Parish Bulletin.

The PILGRIM

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

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

Keith and Kathleen Werner, Co-Directors

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963

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

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,
Wednesday, 4/9/2003**

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NON PROFIT ORG.

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!"

