



The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 14, No. 10 <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>

October 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



Dearest Lord, slow me down so that I can hear You in the quiet moments of every day. Draw me into Your quiet strength so I can find Your presence.

Help me so that I find the time to adore You as You so deserve. Never let me neglect to take those moments when I need to hear Your guidance. Let me whisper sweet exclamations to You. Open Your Sacred Heart to grace me with Your sweet anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Let me see with new spiritual eyes the mighty works that You wish me to help You with. Use me as You so desire, for my heart belongs to You, and You alone.

Replenish my life and renew me Lord, for I long to be humble in Your gentle and loving arms.

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

GALA FUND RAISING CONCERT with FATHER MICHAEL SEMANA and GRACE MARKAY – 11/15/03

Tickets now available. We must have paid reservations by October 30th

November 15, 2003 will be our first **Fund Raising Concert and Gala Dinner** to be held at the *Holiday Inn* in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Our cutoff date for reservations is *October 30th* and all reservations must be made to assure us of enough participants to hold this event.

Father Michael Semana and Grace Markay are planning a wonderful evening of song and audience participation. Father Mike has sung at our Annual

MESSAGES for September, alleged to be from the GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to a visionary from Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, are presented beginning on page 14 (centerfold page) with REFLECTION and PRESS BULLETIN items.

Retreat Conferences for years now, and as the “singing priest” he always brings a special joy to everyone’s hearts. Grace has a very beautiful style of song that will delight you all evening.

Join in a Cocktail Reception of Complementary Hors d’oeuvres with assorted cheeses, assorted fruit, crackers, breads, brushchetta, and garlic toast from 6 PM to 7 PM. A Cash Bar will be open. About 7 PM, you will be escorted to the Grand Ballroom for a festive candlelight Buffet Dinner and Dessert Bar, with dinner music.

You are invited to an **all you can eat dinner** consisting of Salad Bar, Seafood Newburg with rice pilaf, Southern fried chicken, Prime Rib au jus, glazed baby carrots with sautéed green beans, and roasted bliss potatoes. There will be an assortment of cakes, pies, and puddings for dessert with coffee or tea.

Dress is Sunday Best or Cocktail, and Tables will be set for 10. Requested ticket donation is \$50 person. Please reserve your tables early as a limit of 300 people has been set.

Use the enclosed green sheet for your reservation with donation by check or credit card, or call the volunteers at (856) 768-9228 to sign up using a credit card. (A 3% handling fee is added to all charges).

PLEASE JOIN US and SIGN UP NOW – DON’T BE LATE!

(Kathleen and the Reservation Volunteers)

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Every month we put out over 2300 issues of “The PILGRIM.” The work involves printing, stuffing with inserts, inserting each packet into a plastic bag and sealing it, and then labeling and sorting for mailing. When there are few volunteers, it has taken several days to complete the job.

“The PILGRIM” for October 2003 is dedicated to “Mary, Valley of Benediction.” See page 3 for the Table of Contents / “IN THIS ISSUE . . .” list.

We know that you the readers enjoy “The PILGRIM” but without your help to process the mailing, we will have to think about other ways, if any, to put out the mailing. We need your hands **for one hour to one day** to do this mailing each month.

Please we beg you, if you can help us with any amount of time, come to the PFMC Epiphany House. Let us know your phone number and your days of availability. We will call you several days to one week before the scheduled days for assembling the bulk mailing. This enables you to check your schedule and commit to helping us. We currently aim to have the work on Tuesday and Wednesday because that seems to fit in with the current volunteers availability. There is work from about the 29th of the month through the actual day of mailing usually a Thursday in the first or second week of the month.

Please won't you call us and leave us your number and days available to volunteer. Some people come from as far away as the New York border, others from Delaware and Pennsylvania. We can put a limited number of people up overnight, if that is necessary. Epiphany House has three bedrooms that are currently not occupied. Your hands and heart are so vital to putting out “The PILGRIM.” We cannot do it without more help every month.

Please call (856) 768-9228 and tell us you want to be called and will make every effort to come on the days needed or that you have indicated that you are available. Thank you and God Bless you.

(Kathleen Werner-editor).

DIVINE PROVIDENCE

We seldom ask for help with finances to operate the PFMC and put out “The PILGRIM.” We want to thank everyone who has helped us with their financial support. The expenses of the PFMC, “The PILGRIM,” and PFMC events are undergoing budget tightening but still exceed \$6000 every month. If everyone who receives “The PILGRIM” could send us at least \$3 every month, we would never have to ask for anything to support the electricity, phones, building and grounds maintenance, supplies, and all the other things that go into keeping up a huge office and related property.

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.

Would you be willing to help us every month?

Enclosed in every issue is an envelope and cut sheet. We ask you to put down your petitions and needs, and we lift them up in prayer with our daily prayers, Holy Masses and Holy Communions. When we go on pilgrimage, we take every petition we have accumulated, and bring them to the religious site, or to the Holy Father in Rome where we leave them for more prayer.

Please do not neglect this appeal.

The summer months showed a falling off in donations, both in numbers and in amounts. We really need your help this fall and through the winter months. Please make a commitment and put a check in the mail to us the next time you are writing your bills out. We will be extremely grateful.

Thank you and God's blessings be with you.

(The PFMC volunteer staff)

12-14 MARCH 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) / YOUTH TRACK (YT) and 15-17 MARCH 2004 3 DAY EXTENSION (3-DX)

**JOIN BABSIE BLEASDELL, FATHER
ANDREW APOSTOLI, CFR, FATHER
JOHN McFADDEN, FATHER MICHAEL
SEMANA, SISTER CLAIRE MARIE, AL
BARBARINO, and the “PEOPLE OF
PRAISE PRAYER COMMUNITY”
GOSPEL SINGERS for the 2004 RC**

**YOUTH TRACK (YT) WILL BE LED BY
J.P. KASPEROWICZ**

**15-17 MARCH 2004 3 DAY EXTENSION
(3-DX) FEATURES FATHER JOHN
HAMPSCH, C.M.F.**

The theme for 2004 is **“Behold, I am sending
you like sheep in the midst of wolves”
(Matthew 10:16 [NAB])**

Make your hotel reservations at the **Hilton Hotel** in

Cherry Hill, NJ IMMEDIATELY. Our block of rooms at the \$94 rate must be booked by 2/12/2004.

The dates for the RC and YT will be *Friday, 12 March 2004, Saturday, 13 March 2004, and Sunday, 14 March 2004.*

The 3-DX led by **Father John Hampsch, C.M.F.,** will be held on *Monday, 15 March 2004, Tuesday, 16 March 2004, and Wednesday, 17 March 2004.*

The Retreat Conference will feature **Babsie Bleasdel** from Trinidad, **Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR,** who appears on EWTN, **Father Michael Semana, Father John McFadden,** and **Sister Claire Marie de l'amore Crucifie** of the *Marian Community Oasis of Peace* our EMCEE and singer **Al Barbarino,** and music by **REFUGE.** **Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ,** has contacted us with apologies in that he managed to overbook his commitment to us and will be in **New Orleans** that weekend.

On Saturday night a concert with **Father Michael Semana** and with the **Gospel Singers from the "People of Praise Prayer Community"** of Brooklyn, NY. The concert will be followed by a healing service with individual prayer and anointing.

Father John Hampsch, C.M.F., will conduct the 3DX on *the "Holy Spirit Alive in Your Life"*. He will be accompanied by **Sister Claire Marie de l'amore Crucifie** from the *Marian Community, Oasis of Peace* headquartered in **Passo Corese, Italy.**

J. P. Kasperowicz, "Ministry of the Single Hearted" from **Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish in Yardley, PA,** has agreed to lead the Youth Track.

Please review the enclosed **YELLOW** information sheet, fill out the reservation form or forms, and return them with your donation check or charge card information to the **PFMC** as soon as possible.

Make your PFMC RC, YT, and 3DX reservations using the YELLOW PFMC forms enclosed in this issue of "The PILGRIM."

Do not wait to make your Hilton Hotel reservations with the hotel via 1-800 HILTONS or (856) 665-6666. MANY WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE, AND THEN CANNOT GET A ROOM IN THE HOTEL. . Our block of rooms at the \$94 rate must be booked by 2/12/2004. All sessions are held in the **Hilton Hotel** itself. Hot lunches are available through advance reservations with the **PFMC.**

Consider giving reservations to this event as a Christmas gift. But **PLEASE** do not wait until Christmas to register with the **PFMC** or reserve your rooms at the **HILTON HOTEL.**

(Kathleen and the Reservation Volunteers)

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11TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WEEK of PRAYER and FASTING

FOR CONVERSION of NATIONS, END to ABORTION, and WORLD PEACE

5-16 October 2003, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. **(703) 327-2277, www.sign.org.** See enclosed flyer.

A REQUEST from the POPE

His Holiness is specifically requesting that we pray for him in the knowledge that his time among us is limited.

Pope John Paul II made this request in late August while praying the Angelus before the pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square. He says that only through prayer will he be given strength from those who prayed.

Let us help the Pope, whose prayers have helped so many of us.

(e-mail)

HOLY MASSES for POPE JOHN PAUL II on the 25th ANNIVERSARY of his PONTIFICATE – 10/16/2003

Even though nearly all of the local parish Holy Mass schedules are now full for October 16th, 2003, there is a world-wide movement to have special Holy Masses said for the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, on this the 25th Anniversary of his pontificate.

As we go to press, we know of one special Holy Mass being celebrated by Father John O'Leary at Assumption Church in Atco, NJ.

See if your pastor or parish priest will say an extra Holy Mass that day for this special intention.

THE POPES and the ROSARY

Leo XIII

Leo XIII is frequently referred to as *the Rosary Pope*...Pope of the workingman and of the Rosary.

In his Encyclical *Supremi Apostolatus*, September 1, 1983: "And do you, Venerable Brethren, the more you have at heart the honor of Mary and the welfare of human society, the more diligently apply yourselves to nourish the piety of the people toward the great Virgin and to increase their confidence in Her? We believe it to be part of the designs of Providence that in these times of trial for the Church, the ancient devotion of the August Virgin should live and flourish amid the greatest part of the Christian world.

"May now the Christian nations, roused by Our exhortations and inflamed by your appeals, seek the protection of Mary with an ardor growing greater day by day; may they cling more and more to the practice of the Rosary, to that devotion which our ancestors were in the habit of practicing...not only as an ever ready remedy for their misfortunes, but as the very badge of Christian piety.

"The heavenly Patroness of the human race will receive with joy these prayers and supplications, and will easily obtain that the good shall grow in virtue,

and that the erring shall return to salvation and repent...and that God, Who is the avenger of crime, moved to mercy and pity, will deliver Christendom and civil society from all dangers, and restore to them the peace so much desired."

Pius IX

"Tell your faithful people that the Pope is not satisfied with simply blessing the Rosary, but that he prays his Rosary, but that he prays his Rosary every day and invites all his children to do the same.

"We do not wish here to pass over in silence the fact that the Blessed Virgin Herself, even in our times, has solicitously recommended this manner of prayer, when She appeared and taught it to the innocent girl in the Grotto of Lourdes.

"If you desire peace in your heart, in your home, and in your country, then each evening pray the Rosary in common."

Pius X

"Give me one million families reciting the Rosary every day, and the world is saved."

Pope Benedict XV

"This prayer is perfect because of the praise it offers, because of the lessons it imparts, because of the graces it obtains, and because of the triumphs it achieves."

Pius XII

"Nevertheless, if men in our century, with its derisive pride, reject the Holy Rosary, there is an innumerable multitude of holy men of every age and every condition who have always held it dear. They have recited it with great devotion, and in every moment they have used it as a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight, to preserve the integrity of life, to acquire virtue more easily, and, in a word, to attain real peace among men.

"not are there lacking men, famous as to doctrine and wisdom, who, although intensely occupied in scientific study and researches, never even for a day fail to pray fervently on bended knee, before the image of the Virgin, in this most pious form.

"The fathers and mothers of families particularly must give an example to their children, especially when, at sunset, they gather together after the day's work, within the domestic walls, and recite the Holy Rosary on bended knees before the image of the Virgin, together fusing voice, faith, and sentiment. This is a beautiful salutary custom, from which certainly there cannot but be derived tranquility and abundance of heavenly gifts for the household.

“Venerable Brethren and beloved sons, while running your fingers over the beads of the Rosary, do not forget those who languish miserably in prison camps, jails, and concentration camps.

“We do not hesitate to affirm again publicly that We put great confidence in the Holy Rosary for the healing of evils which afflict our times.

“There is no surer means of calling down God’s blessings upon the family, than daily recitation of the Rosary.”

Pope John XXIII

“The Rosary, as it is known to all, is in fact a very excellent means of prayer and meditation in the form of a mystical crown in which the prayers ‘Our Father,’ ‘Hail Mary,’ and ‘Glory Be to the Father,’ are intertwined with meditation on the greatest mysteries of our faith, and which presents to the mind, like many pictures, the drama of the Incarnation of Our Lord and the Redemption.

“Oh, blessed Rosary of Mary, how sweet it is to see You taken up in the hands of innocent children, of holy priests, of pure souls, of young and old, of all those who appreciate the value and the efficacy of prayer, taken up like an emblem and a banner of good omen for the peace of hearts and the peace of all humanity.

“My day must be one long prayer; prayer is the breath of life. I propose to recite all fifteen decades of the Rosary every day, and, if possible, to do so in the chapel before the Blessed Sacrament.”

Pope Paul VI

“The Rosary puts anyone who has trust in it, into communication with Our Lady, sets up a dialogue with Her as it were, and puts him beside Her. It obliges him to feel Her power, Her evangelical style, and Her example, which instructs and transforms. It is a school that makes us Christians.

(from *Fundamentals of Our Faith*, by “For My God and My Country, Inc.” and *The 101 Times*, #53)

CAMDEN DIOCESE ROSARY RALLY / PILGRIMAGE – 10/9/2003

Pilgrims praying the Rosary will travel from all points in the Camden Diocese via the Atlantic City Boardwalk to the old Convention Center on Thursday, October 9, 2003. The culmination of the Year of the Rosary will involve music and singing as well as prayers. Friends of the PFMC, such as Carl and Marti Granieri with HEARTS AFIRE, are taking part in this great honor to and time with Mary.

***The PILGRIM*, Volume 14, Number 10– October 2003**

Even though Bishop DiMarzio will be installed as Bishop of Brooklyn on Friday, 3 October 2003, he plans to lead part of this pilgrimage and attend the final rally in the old Convention Center.

Come join this event. Many parishes have chartered motor coaches for the trip to Atlantic City.

JOHN PAUL II GREETSS AUDIENCE PILGRIMS from CASTELGANDOLFO

VATICAN CITY, SEP 24, 2003 (VIS) - During this Wednesday's general audience, celebrated in the Paul VI Hall, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Secretary of State, read the catechesis prepared by the Pope who was unable to come from Castelgandolfo due to an intestinal problem.

Before reading the text, Cardinal Sodano told the pilgrims present: “Due to being ill, the Holy Father will not be able to be present during this general audience. Together we will pray for him, trusting that he may quickly recover. His Holiness would like you to know that he is following us via television and, at the end of this gathering, he will speak to us.”

Today's commentary on Psalm 8, “The Greatness of God and the Dignity of Man,” concludes the cycle of meditations started by the Pope on the psalms and canticles “which are the center of the Liturgy of the

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

Lauds.”

In Psalm 8, the Holy Father writes, “a double experience emerges. On one hand, man feels almost crushed by the grandeur of creation” and yet “God watches over man and crowns him as his viceroy. ... God even entrusts the whole universe to this creature, so fragile, so that he may know Him and be sustained by Him.”

“The Psalm,” he continues, “makes us aware of our grandeur, but also of our responsibility in relation to creation.”

In conclusion, John Paul II affirms that “God weaves for us a 'crown of justice' that will reward our fidelity to Him, sustained even during the storms that agitate our heart and mind. He is always attentive to His creatures and would like the divine 'image' to always shine in them, so that they know how to be a sign of harmony, light and peace in the world.”

After Cardinal Sodano read greetings in different languages, the Pope, via an audio linkup from Castelgandolfo, greeted and then blessed the pilgrims:

“I regret not being able to be with you for this weekly gathering. I hold you all in my heart and bless you with affection.”

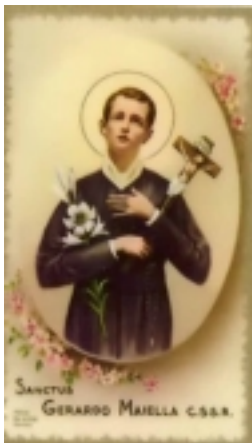
(Vatican Information Service (VIS), AG/PSALM 8/SODANO VIS 030924 (360)

http://www.vatican.va/news_services/press/vis/dinamic/he/a1_en.htm)

SAINT GERARD MAJELLA

Feast Day is October 16th

Holy card of Saint Gerard Majella, artist unknown



Profile -Son of a [tailor](#) who died when the boy was 12, leaving the family in [poverty](#). Gerard tried to join the Capuchins, but his health prevented it; accepted as a [Redemptorist lay brother](#) serving his [order](#) as [sacristan](#), [gardener](#), [porter](#), [infirmarian](#), and [tailor](#).

Wonder worker.

When falsely [accused](#) by a [pregnant](#) woman of being the father of her child, he retreated to silence; she later recanted and cleared him, and thus began his association as patron of all aspects of [pregnancy](#).

Reputed to bi-locate and read consciences. His last will consisted of the following small note on the door of his cell: “*Here the will of God is done, as God wills, and as long as God wills.*”

Born -[23 April](#) 1725 at Muro, [Italy](#)

Died -1755 of [tuberculosis](#)

Canonized -[11 December](#) 1904 by [Pope Saint Pius X](#)

Patronage -[childbirth](#), [children](#), [expectant mothers](#), [falsely accused people](#), [good confessions](#), [lay brothers](#), [motherhood](#), [mothers](#), [pregnant women](#), [pro-life movement](#), [unborn children](#)

Prayer to Saint Gerard

Great Saint Gerard, beloved servant of Jesus Christ, perfect imitator of our meek and humble Savior, and devoted child of the Mother of God, enkindle in my heart one spark of that heavenly of charity which glowed in yours and made you a seraph of love.

Glorious Saint Gerard, because, like your Divine Master, you bore without murmur or complaint the calumnies of wicked men when falsely accused of crime, you have been raised up by God as the patron and protector of expectant mothers. Preserve me in the dangers of motherhood, and shield the child I now bear that it may be brought safely to the light of day and receive the sacrament of baptism.

Prayer to Saint Gerard Majella, CSSR

Dear Redemptorist Saint, model Priest and Religious compassionate toward suffering Mothers, intercede for this expectant Mother. Let her not be selfish like those who are willing to put an end to the life they bear within themselves. Instead let her remain ever conscious that she is privileged to be the instrument through whom God brings another life into the world. Encourage her for the good of her child and the glory of the Lord of life. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Gerard Majella - for Motherhood

Good Saint Gerard, powerful intercessor before the throne of God, wonder-worker of our day, I call upon you and seek your aid. You know that our marriage has not as yet been blessed with a child and how much my husband and I desire this gift. Please present our fervent pleas to the Creator of life from whom all parenthood proceeds and beseech Him to bless us with a child whom we may raise as His child and heir of heaven. Amen.

Prayer to Blessed Trinity and Intercessor Saint Gerard

Most Blessed Trinity, I, Your child, thank You for all the gifts and privileges which You granted to Saint Gerard, especially for those virtues with which You adorned him on earth and the glory which You now impart to him in heaven. Accomplish Your work, Oh Lord, so that Your kingdom may come about on earth. Through his merits in union with those of Jesus and Mary, grant me the grace for which I ask *{mention your petition}*.

And you, my powerful intercessor, Saint Gerard, always so ready to help those who have recourse to you, pray for me. Come before the throne of Divine Mercy and do not leave without being heard. To you I confide this important and urgent affair *{mention your petition}*. Graciously take my cause in hand and do not let me end this prayer without experiencing the effects of your intercession. Amen.

Readings

The Most Blessed Sacrament is Christ made visible. The poor sick person is Christ again made visible. - *Saint Gerard Majella*

I see in my neighbor the Person of Jesus Christ. - *Saint Gerard Majella*

Consider the shortness of time, the length of eternity and reflect how everything here below comes to an end and passes by. Of what use is it to lean upon that which cannot give support? - *Saint Gerard Majella*

Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart? - *Saint Gerard Majella*

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintg06.htm>

WOUNDED MOTHERS

A large billboard along a rural highway in East Central Missouri declares: "ABORTION = ONE DEAD CHILD AND ONE WOUNDED MOTHER." The billboard invites us to consider abortion in a way most of us seldom do.

We're accustomed to thinking of abortion as a "dead child." Do we ever consider the "wounded mother"? Do we ever see these women as guilty sinners deserving of damnation? Most of them are confused, misguided, and frightened, and if we fail to see their "woundedness," we miss the opportunity to help them.

According to recent statistics, one in four American women have had at least one abortion. That means

there are wounded women in our workplaces, our clubs, our homes, and our churches—women who suffer from guilt, loneliness, anxiety, and depression associated with post-abortion grief. And they generally suffer alone. Afraid of what people would think if they knew about the abortion, such women are alienated from friends, family, and Church. Many of these women believe they have committed the unpardonable sin! They don't need our judgment. They do need our compassion and they need to know we are a forgiving Church.

I was 20 and living in a small Missouri town when I chose to have my abortion. I'd love to say I agonized over the decision, but it wouldn't be true. I already had a three-year-old son, a five-month-old daughter, and a miserable marriage. It was February 1972. Abortion had just been legalized in my state the month before. I've often wondered if my doctor felt guilty--the IUD he inserted hadn't worked. I'll never really know, but I do know when I showed up in his office pregnant that day he immediately presented the perfect "solution" to "my problem."

"I can send you to Kansas City for an abortion," he said.

"Okay," I responded. End of discussion. He made the appointment for the following week, and I left the office.

I have no memory of the passage of that week or of the five-hour drive to Kansas City for the abortion. I never allowed myself to think about the baby growing in what should have been the safest place in the world, her mother's womb. As the doctor had said, this was a problem to be solved, and solve it I would. My husband was somewhat opposed to the abortion, but I didn't give him a chance to argue. Having given no real thought to the decision, I'd made up my mind and refused to discuss it. Nor did I talk with anyone else about it. Fifteen years would pass before others would know it happened.

I have begun to recover some disconnected memories of the clinic. I remember sitting in a room full of women in white hospital gowns. It seemed no one dared look anyone else in the eye. And I remember the abortionist holding up the IUD that had been lost in my womb and proudly proclaiming it had been removed.

Many women admit to feelings of guilt even prior to actually having the abortion. I often think I'd have felt some, too, if I'd had any faith on God at the time, but I didn't. I had abandoned my belief in God at 12, and wouldn't recover it until years later. In retrospect, I know the guilt was there, but I wasn't able to face it. My suppressed guilt manifested itself

in various ways that devoured almost everything in my life.

Statistics show most marriages are destroyed by abortion. My marriage was pretty much destroyed before it even began. But it did end soon after I murdered our child. Alcohol and illegal drugs began to consume my life. My relationships with my other children suffered horribly. My children and I had lived for awhile with my parents, and eventually my father took my children to their dad and said, "Here, keep them until Deb. straightens up." It would be 10 years before I regained custody of my daughter, and my son never lived with me again. I can't say that none of this would have happened had I not had the abortion, but I'm convinced my abortion played a huge role.

About a year after my divorce I married a drug addict and convicted felon, who, not surprisingly, was abusive as well. My faith in God had been dead for years, my emotions had died with the abortion, and I was slowly killing myself. Two ectopic pregnancies (caused by scarring from the abortion) also left me incapable of having any children in the future.

I later began to suspect that my destructive pattern of behavior might be the result of guilt over the abortion, so I tried psychotherapy. I was diagnosed as clinically depressed and given Elavil. Weekly counseling sessions provided little help. The psychotherapist continuously admonished me for dwelling on a problem that was "over and done."

A dedicated and caring alcohol counselor would lead me to rediscover my long-lost faith in Christ. I can't claim a miraculous, instantaneous transformation, but my life began to improve gradually. I'd been forgiven for my drunkenness, promiscuity, and pride. But as my faith grew, the guilt over murdering my own child grew as well.

My search for peace led me from one Protestant church to another. Each, it seemed, had a little more to offer than the one before. "God has drowned your sins in the sea of forgetfulness," the preachers intoned. So why couldn't I? I never discussed the guilt with any of my pastors. Only God could forgive sin. I believed, or maybe I just couldn't humble myself enough to admit to anyone else what I'd done. So I plodded on, "Father, forgive me, for I knew not what I did."

Twenty-two years after my abortion, the miracle that would save me from its aftermath began on my 42nd birthday, when my best friend gave me a book about apparitions of the Virgin Mary. With my Protestant fundamentalist background, I began to read the book only to "save" my friend from what I considered to be

her new "unholy obsession" with the Virgin Mary. Instead, I soon found my own heart opening up to Mary as well.

My eyes were gradually opened to the truth of Catholicism. Having to confess my sins to a priest was one of the last doctrines I embraced. The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the communion of saints, the "workings" of grace, all came more easily than the "public" confession of sin. When I eventually entered the confessional for the first time, the first words from my mouth were "I murdered my own child."

I'd love to say my feelings of guilt were immediately relieved that day, but they remained. Hearing the priest say that I was absolved from my sin helped a little, but I still wasn't convinced. A few weeks after my first Confession I was praying my daily Rosary. An interior vision interrupted the prayer, and I saw a young girl running through a field of flowers with the wind in her hair.

"This is your daughter," I heard the Blessed Mother say. "God has forgiven you, and so has Elizabeth Anne" Tears of relief flooded my eyes and my heart lifted to heights I'd never known. I received further confirmation the next day when I came across an article discussing post-abortion trauma. I'd never named my aborted child, and until that day had never known that naming the child was an important step toward recovery. But the Blessed Virgin Mary had known, and had named her for me. At the time, I thought my healing was complete. Now I know it had just begun.

The healing process for post-abortion trauma is not easy. Women must allow long-buried emotions to resurface. Today, more than four years after the vision of my daughter, I still struggle even to write this story. But I must. It's not only a part of my own healing process, but an appeal to others who may suffer from the same guilt, or know someone who does.

In his encyclical *The Gospel of Life*, Pope John Paul II wrote:

I would like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influence your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly.

If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is already to give you His forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will come to be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living with the Lord. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life.

(by Deborah Danielski, Laywitness, Jan./Feb. 2002)

WHEN the TIME COMES

The clock seems to move so quickly," said the woman to the person in the room with her. "I never have known time to go so fast."

"Relax if you can; watching the clock is not going to make time go any slower. It will just make you more anxious," replied the other woman in the room.

"I can't help it; it will soon be time, and I can't seem to do anything except to watch time while I wait. Funny isn't it, I didn't think too much about time before," mused the woman.

"Are you sure there is nothing I can get for you?" asked the other.

"Will the priest be here soon?" replied the first woman, questioningly.

"He is on his way. He shouldn't be too long," confirmed the other.

"He is a kind man. He brings me great comfort," said the woman, with a smile.

"Priests do that, don't they?" agreed the other.

"He keeps telling me God loves me and cares for me; that Jesus will be with me when the time comes," explained the woman. She continued, "I will go to confession and receive Communion beforehand, and he tells me my soul will be cleansed and then filled with Jesus, so I will be in a state of grace for whatever happens. I know it's true, so really, I shouldn't be afraid should I? But I am a little."

"Try to be strong. Lean on Jesus; He will carry you through," said the priest, who had just entered the room, as the woman was saying this.

"Father, you're here. I'm glad," smiled the woman. "I was waiting for you."

"My child, I am glad to be with you, for your courage and faith in this difficult time strengthens me, you

know," stated the priest, as he gave the woman a gentle hug.

I Will Celebrate Mass for You

"Will you hear my confession now, Father?" asked the woman, nervously.

"Of course, my child, and after that I will celebrate Mass for you," replied the priest, as he took his stole out of his case.

"Will you give us a few moments alone please? Asked the priest of the other woman.

"I will be just outside the door, if you need me," she replied as she got up and walked through the doorway.

After the confession was over, the priest called the other woman back into the room, saying, "Do you want to join our Mass?"

"Yes, please, Father; it would be a privilege," she replied, looking at the now peaceful woman who had just confessed her sins.

"You seem at peace," she said to her.

"I am. It is good to confess all your sins. It is as if a weight has been lifted from me," responded the woman.

They Will Be Coming Soon

When the Mass had finished, all three of them sat there quietly for some time, reflecting on the Sacrament they had just received. The other woman looked at the clock and jumped up, saying, "Look at what time it is. We had better get you ready; they will be coming for you soon."

"Father, will you stay with me until they take me away?" asked the first woman, with still a little fear showing in her voice.

"I will, of course. God love you, my child," answered the priest.

Within a short time, the woman had changed into a gown and lay down on the bed in her room. The other woman came over with a syringe in her hand saying, "I will give you this; it will relax you and make you sleepy before they come."

"Thank you, Sister," said the woman, as she held out her arm to the nurse.

She Is Safe With God

"Father," said the woman, looking at the priest. "I know Jesus is with me, and I know whatever the outcome, I am safe."

The priest smiled gently at the woman, now slipping into her drug-induced sleep, and said, “You always were, and you always will be.”

A few moments later, when they came and took the woman to the operating room, the priest asked the nurse, “There is not much hope, then?”

“No, Father; the tumor is so large, it is unlikely she will survive the operation, but if she does, she will be incapacitated for the rest of her life. The doctors give only a 10% chance of success, so I doubt if she will come through the operation,” explained the nurse.

“That’s a shame,” said the priest. “She had a promising future as a nun; you could see it, even though she has only been a sister for less than a year. Anyway, she is safe with God now...Let’s leave it to Him.”

The nurse nodded in agreement, and then said to the priest, “In life, she is God’s, and if she dies, in death she will be His, too. That’s a happy thought to hold onto, isn’t it, Father?”

“Yes, my child, it is. A happy thought I would like to have about all people,” suggested the priest, as he said in his mind, “If only, Lord...if only.”

(The 101 Times, #53, from “Stories of Love” p. 156)

YOU ASK ME

You ask me, friends, to explain the Rosary,
That masterpiece of wisdom, to the great
Hearts of those we hold so dear!
Well then, dear friends, I do so with a fear
That I will not do justice with my pen
To this great mystery from Heaven.

Why, think you, did Mary come to say
That we should finger beads blest, one by one,
While praying to the Father of all lights
And to herself? We greet her, “Hail”!
Ah, yes! And why not “hail” as angel greets?
For this is how he greeted her of yore:
“Hail, full of grace; the Lord is with thee!”

Blessed is she among women; and why?
Because blessed is the Fruit of her dear womb!
And so why should not all of mankind,
Lost amid the pleasures of this earth,
Repeat this message from angelic lips?
It is salvation’s message, is it not?
Christ came within the temple of her flesh.

Christ came within that flesh, conceived immaculate,
And full of God’s own grace. And set

Was her beloved will to His own plan
To rescue this world’s children from the grave
Of their own flesh desires, so dark, depraved!

And so, in each new mystery we find
Our thoughts are centered on a loving scene
Of her Son’s life; as we pray with our lips
Over and over, those gracious words:
The one prayer formed by Christ Himself
And given to the apostles, loved and true.
The other was formed first by angel lips.

With Saint Elizabeth we say in truth:
“Blessed is she who has believed,
Because the things promised her by the Lord
Shall be accomplished.” Holy words!
And then we meditate on that great Birth,
When Christ came forth from temple pure
And entered into earth’s poor mean abode:
A stable and a manger filled with hay!

And as we pray, “Our Father, Who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come,”
We know that this is why He sent His Son
Among us! Thy Will be done
On earth as it is on Heaven.”
He has come to show the way back home
To us poor souls, to long gone astray
From God’s own bosom, far away
From our true heritage, of spirit worth.

I could go on to show how, as we pray
Over and over, that reminder sweet;
The “Hail” of angel voice to humble maid,
We are but showing gratitude to Him
Who sent that angel, for had that not been,
That greeting and that great acceptance
Of God’s Will,
By Mary, with, “Be it done to me according to thy
word,”
Where would our salvation be?

So we acknowledge in the Rosary—masterpiece
Composed by Christ and His angelic host,
And woven by the love of God for man.
We are grateful that God’s Son
Came on our planet to save everyone.
And so we think of His life, all the way
From Birth to Death and Resurrection day.
The beads become as stepping stones to Him,
Who is surrounded by the Seraphim.

(by Sister Mary Agatha, O.S.F., Maryfaithful, Spring-Summer 2002)

HOLY SPIRIT, GOD of PEACE

The Divine Guest of Your Soul

What does the Holy Spirit do within you? Each good and holy thing you do was inspired by the Holy Spirit, was prompted by Him. Each time you whisper, “I believe in God”, each time you whisper, “My hope is in the Lord” each time you whisper, “I love you God, above all things,” the Holy Spirit is in that whisper. Each time you murmur your words of sorrow, “Forgive me Lord for I am a sinner,” the Holy Spirit moves your lips and your heart.

Simply said, He formed in your heart the beginning of every good thought, of every good desire, the beginning of every good action. So, what does He do within you? Literally, there is nothing good in you that He does not help you do.

Yes, this Holy Spirit can transform lives, if you will only let Him do so. It pays to remember the words of Christ; “Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you.” (John 16: 7) This is your peace the gift of God to you, this Holy Spirit: the realization that in sinlessness you hear heaven within you, the realization that if you love God, God lives in you. That is the peace which no can take from you. Only one thing can destroy this peace and that is sin. Only one thing can preserve this peace and that is love! It is the greatest dignity that mortals can possess!

(Excerpts form Homily given by Rev. E.B. Brueggeman S.J.
Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall, 2003)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

NAZARETH HOUSE

A place of discernment and formation for men aspiring to priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, Nazareth House is located on the campus of Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill. It houses the Diocese of Camden formation program to help young men investigate whether God is calling them to a priestly vocation.

The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation. The staff provides them with the foundation for seminary theologate formation, through a shared community life of prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service. It now houses the Camden Diocese Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Director of Vocations, Diocese of Camden,

The PILGRIM, Volume 14, Number 10– October 2003

Father Cadmus Mazzarella,
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or visit:

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Nazareth House,

300 Cuthbert Boulevard,

Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

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HEAR GOD’S CALL — A WORD of ENCOURAGEMENT for CATHOLIC HISPANIC WOMEN

Did you know that at least one out of every four Catholics in America is of Hispanic origin? Our families’ religious celebrations and traditions — holidays, births, marriage, even naming a child — play a paramount role in our lives. However, even though the Catholic Church is central in our lives, we are often influenced more by our Hispanic culture than by our religious beliefs – especially when we think about “what to do” with our lives.

I know first hand what it means to be Latina and Catholic. I was born and raised in Malaga, a rural community in New Mexico. While the Mendoza family did not attend church regularly, we did attend church on special days. My family and our community considered Ash Wednesday to be the most important day of the year. Long lines of people stood to receive the ashes, a principal symbol of our connection to the earth.

I gave little thought to a more involved role in the Catholic Church as I was growing up. I finished high school, helped an aunt with her children for a while, and ended up returning to my hometown at age 20. There I found myself at Cristo Rey Parish helping Sister Margarita with the young children and taking older youth on field trips.

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.

Sister Margarita also asked me to help her with religion classes. Little did I know that I was really becoming involved in youth ministry and serving others! When Sister Margarita opened “Formation House,” a home for Hispanic women in Carlsbad, NM that was affiliated with the Adorers of the Blood of Christ (ASC), I joined her and began my exploration of religious life. God was calling me; I just had to listen.

My experience with Sister Margarita taught me much. What first drew me to the Adorers was their combination of prayer, community and service to others. These three pillars remain the foundation of my life. They help me feel very connected to life and I continue to grow spiritually every day.

As a Sister with the Adorers, I work as a licensed social worker and my ministry is at the La Clinica de Familia in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Here I assist pregnant women and follow up with mothers of newborns to provide help when it is needed. My life is very fulfilling as a Sister.

In some Hispanic families, not much thought is given to “listening to God’s call.” Women are rarely encouraged to consider a religious vocation — often because of both limited information and lack of understanding of all the exciting options available. When I decided to become a religious sister, I was fortunate that my family was very supportive and proud. My first step toward learning more was through Sister Margarita.

If you are restless about what to do with your life, you need not feel alone. My community, the Adorers, has a wonderful spiritual discernment program which helps women and men make the right choices for their lives. It doesn’t matter what God is calling them to do. LifeChoices® is a unique program combining both spiritual and vocational counseling to explore “big picture” questions about career, lifestyle and spirituality.

Even though we are a religious order, we don’t push religious life. We never assume that you are headed for a life in the ministry when you enter the LifeChoices® program—only God knows what your path will be. The Sisters help you sort through your options and help explore how you might serve God’s people. As you listen to God’s call, the Adorers will support you in prayer. You decide for yourself but not by yourself.

Typically it takes about three to six months to go through the program. Customized and flexible, the LifeChoices® program is designed to fit into your current lifestyle. Participants are welcome to come to our location; however, many prefer to participate by

phone or e-mail. Course books and workbooks are provided and we often hold online retreats or communicate using conference phone calls and internet chat rooms.

The Adorers have helped over 400 people through the LifeChoices® program. Some are serving in church ministry, others hold professional business positions, still others work in social justice and with children... the list goes on, but all are confident about what God has called them to do with their lives.

To reach my home of Malaga or to visit the women I help through my work, I must pass through the desert – literally. Symbolically, too, the desert speaks to my soul. A passage in Scripture from the prophet Hosea has especially inspired me as I live out my calling: I will lead you into the desert and speak to your heart. I know that God is with me. I encourage Hispanic women not to fear, but to seek out opportunities to listen to God calling. LifeChoices® is an opportunity to explore that call—to open the door to see what’s on the other side. You, too, will find fruits in the desert.

(by Sister Josie Mendoza, ASC. To learn more about LifeChoices®, visit our web site at www.adorers.org. Sister Josephina (Josie) Mendoza can be reached at (915)203-4323 or mendozaj@adorers.org.)

THE PRIEST and the ROSE

A young new priest was walking along with an older, more seasoned preacher in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older priest for some advice.

The older priest walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals. The young priest looked in disbelief at the older priest 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.

Because of his great respect for the older priest, 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 priest's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older priest 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
Isn't known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so sweetly,
While in my hands it would 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 me
Every moment of my day.
I will look to him for
His guidance
Each step along the way.
For the path that lies before me,
Only my Heavenly Father knows.
I'll trust Him to unfold each moment,
Just as He unfolds the rose.

(Bernadette S.)

WHY GO TO CHURCH?

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: they all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing ... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

(Author Unknown)

FOR EVERY SORROW

For every sorrow You bestow,
You also send a sweetness.
Diluting each and every pain,
By You dear Love's completeness.

You always keep reminding me,
As long as each man lives,

That while one hand may take away,
... Your other always gives.

For every rock that cuts my foot,
You move a stone away,
And when life asks too much, You find
A price that I can pay.

When my cries are loudest,
And seem to no avail,
And walls rise up to block my path,
... You blaze another trail.

Each time my heart grows weary,
You send Your blessed peace,
And when my boat is tempest-tossed,
You bid the storm to cease.

So side by side we walk along,
My Lord and dearest Friend,
For every cross I carry,
... You lift the other end.

(by Grace E. Easley, Salesian Inspirational Books,
1990, and

<http://www.xooper.com/allan/hawaii/poetry/forev.htm>)

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(Kathleen and Keith Werner)

INPUTS for "The PILGRIM"

We truly appreciate all the wonderful inputs that we receive for printing in "The PILGRIM" periodical.

In order for us to maintain our relationship with the authors and the periodicals from which we have permission to reprint material, we must have identification of the magazine, newsletter, periodical, etc. along with the author's name in order to track down the necessary permissions.

(continued on page 18)

MESSAGE of 9/25/2003 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also today I call you to come closer to my heart. Only in this way, will you comprehend the gift of my presence here among you. I desire, little children, to lead you to the heart of my Son Jesus; but you resist and do not desire to open your hearts to prayer. Again, little children, I call you not to be deaf but to comprehend my call, which is salvation for you. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(The PFMC upholds the final decision of the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church led by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, as to the authenticity of messages to alleged visionaries from Medjugorje.)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 9/25/03

Mary, our Mother, invites also today her children who have ears to hear her call. She isn't calling us yesterday or tomorrow, but today, at this moment, which is the most important moment of our life. We can stop neither life nor time. Time goes towards its end, or rather towards its new beginning. Our Mother wants that we start to prepare ourselves for our eternity. Our future and our eternity depend on our decision today. The "today" of God resounds in the whole Bible until our days, until our "today" here through Marie.

Our Mother draws us to her immaculate, holy and maternal Heart. It is the heart that loved Jesus, which believed in Jesus, and with this same heart she loves each one of us. How many times, as today, she already said: *"I desire, little children, to lead you to the heart of my Son Jesus"*. The path that leads to Jesus is the path of faith and of prayer, to which Mary invites us.

Mary knows well the desires and the aspirations of the human heart. We cannot mislead our heart while proposing to it dead things, food and drink, comfort and pleasure. We need another food, the food that God offers to us. We need God's love and His word. Today still, human beings are hungry for God, hungry for true and pure love, seek them more than things. Nothing less than God can satisfy human beings or fill their vacuum, release them from restlessness, slavery, fear and sin.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us: *"The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for: The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God. This invitation to converse with God is addressed to man as soon as he comes into being. For if man exists it is because God has created him through love, and*

through love continues to hold him in existence. He cannot live fully according to truth unless he freely acknowledges that love and entrusts himself to his creator." (CCC 27)

It is not only man who desires God; today, in a very special way through Marie in this very place, God desires man. God wants to make man happy, content, filled, but he won't do it by force or with a stick, but with love, to which we are invited to open our doors in full freedom.

The heart of God was pierced. The sword of pain pierced the heart and the soul of Mary. The heart of Jesus and the heart of Mary do not cease bleeding and suffering because of our sins: our blasphemy, our deafness, our blindness, our resistances and our refusal to receive them. Despite everything, God calls, because he cannot keep silent seeing his creature – human being – going astray.

God did not withdraw himself from man; let us not withdraw from God, because thus, we would withdraw from ourselves and from life.

May the desire of Mary, expressed in one of her messages: *"I wish that my heart, the heart of Jesus and your heart one heart of love!"* (July 25, 1999) be carried out in the world and in our families in us and through us.

(Father Ljubo Kurtović, OFM, September 26, 2003,
<http://www.medjugorje.org/sb0903.htm>
<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>)

PRESS BULLETIN 190, 9/26/2003

SPIRITUAL OLYMPICS

So many cultural, economic and sporting organizations nowadays endeavor to gather people around the same thing. By all the means, including the media support and the investment in publicity, they seek to gather into one flock people of different feelings and orientations. In spite of the efforts, the success is always below the awaited level. Thus, after

almost all the sport games, we have “games” around injustices, erroneous decisions, falsifications, offences, etc. News of the economic fairs speak about competitions which comply with neither the rules of the game nor the others. All want to be exclusive merchandise at all costs. The sale and the profit push aside all the values of communion and respect of those, which are beside us. In the foreground always appears the battle for the first places, which, generally, is not concerned with means to use to obtain the indicated goal. Ambitiousness, rolling under, insincerity and fascination of power destroy all the primary intentions related to a true gathering around the same goal.

When we situate Medjugorje and the people who gather here within the framework of such a reality, we can notice that the logic of the gatherings here is completely different. People invited by Our Lady gather without being motivated by a competition in worldly things. The pilgrims who come from everywhere do not compete for the first places, rather, how to put Jesus at the first place in their lives. The sacrament of confession recalls that all the human competitions and the competitions in momentary successes should be put aside. The Mass as centre of Christian prayer announces a true communion where each one receives the most excellent reward of Heaven. Here, one seeks the eternal crown of glory. Recognizing their smallness in front of the greatness of God, people seek His presence on Cross Mountain and on Apparition Hill. They compete in forgiveness, prayer, purity of heart, and acceptance of life by love... There are no “games” which push others aside and into anonymity. They reach out their hands to one another to uplift those who need assistance to arrive at the goal. It is the competition where all are united in the same effort to arrive at the same goal. All divergences and all differences are alleviated by the power of the Holy Spirit. The call of Jesus to unity is carried out in Medjugorje. (Jn 17:22)

Christians should never think that they could arrive to Jesus alone, while making their personal race towards their individual goal. We are called to take care of the others. As brothers, we have to be one and to be the Church. Jesus came into the world to unite and to save the world in love. Satan wants to break, divide and impose the pursuit of perishable treasures. Let us make a competition in the Spirit. Let our life be spiritual Olympics in which there are no low blows. Spiritual Olympics request victory over oneself by which we leave the first places to the others and ensure for the others the podium of the winner of eternal salvation.

It is only then that we deserve our medal - the eternal crown of glory. Only thus, our Olympic fire will be always lit.

.....
Father Mario Knezovic

COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of August, 218,000 received Holy Communion and 4609 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

PARISH CHOIR in ITALY

The large choir of the parish Medjugorje “Kraljica Mira” under the direction of Sr. Slavica Kozul went from August 28th to September 1st to Italy and accompanied the prayer program in the parishes Mondova and Lavesuola, province of Ravenna. Fr. Pietro Zorza led rosary, Mass and Adoration. A multitude of the faithful and pilgrims of Medjugorje assisted. Jakov Colo spoke to the faithful about his encounters with Our Lady and about his experiences. It was the second visit of the choir “Kraljica Mira” to Italy and we hope that such encounters of prayer and unity in the Lord will continue.

During the journey, the members of the choir visited some Italian cities to become more acquainted with the natural and cultural beauties of this country, from which many pilgrims come to Medjugorje and become a part of our parish. Such meetings make possible the knowledge of the culture and the mentality of people who come to us daily, as well as a better knowledge of their needs: They strengthen the members of the choir in their choice to serve the Lord by singing which is a “double prayer”.

Mr. Roberto Ponzo, whom we thank in particular, guaranteed the lodging for the members of the choir.

Our thanks also to the members of the parish choir, to Jakov Colo and Fr. Pietro Zorza who helped with the organization of these meetings requested by the faithful and by the friends of Medjugorje. In this way even those who cannot come on pilgrimage can feel the presence of God through the call of Mary given in Medjugorje.

BISHOP of PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Msrgr. Hermann Raich, Bishop of Wabag/Papua New Guinea, came on a private visit to Medjugorje in the beginning of September 2003.

Msrgr. Raich, an Austrian from Tyrol, has been a bishop for 20 years now. In 1964, as a young priest, he went as a missionary to Papua New Guinea. He was sent into a region where at that time there were no Christians. Starting at ground zero, he worked patiently and founded a missionary station. Sixteen

years later, he was named an Episcopal vicar, and when the region became a diocese, he became its bishop. The Diocese of Wabag numbers about 300,000 inhabitants. One-third of them are Christians today.

This is what he said about Medjugorje:

“In my diocese, people know very little about Medjugorje. Lourdes and Fatima are much more famous, but the information about Medjugorje comes through. Personally, whenever I come on holiday to Europe, people ask for my opinion. This is why I wanted to come and see personally. This is my second coming to Medjugorje. I was here two years ago, I promised to come back and I am glad that I could really do it!

In Medjugorje, people plunge into an atmosphere of prayer and silence. This is very positive. They pray a lot, go for confession; the Eucharistic celebration is beautiful and alive, which is not the case everywhere.

I would say: look at the fruits! The fruits show the quality of the tree. The fruits that I see and experience, that I hear about, are so positive and so convincing that I am personally convinced that Our Lady is at work here, that she appears. The visionaries are so authentic; I even admire them how they managed to keep up with all this for such a long time. The atmosphere that reigns here impresses me. I had the occasion to speak once with the visionary Marija in Vienna. We understood each other very well. I told her that in New Guinea we begin to know Our Lady's messages, and that we want to follow and to live them.

I would give a general recommendation: be open for what the messages announce and for what the Holy Scripture says. The messages are completely oriented towards the Holy Scripture; they do not say anything new. They maintain an underlining of what is already written in Holy Scripture. In her messages, Our Lady spoke often about holiness. “Decide yourselves for holiness.” It is not so easy, but it is the call of Christ Himself. He says: “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect”. The apostle Paul says: your sanctification is the will of God. The urge for holiness is a call for each one of us.”

AN AUSTRIAN BISHOP

Msgr. Dr. Ludwig Schwarz, auxiliary bishop of Vienna (Austria), came on a private visit to Medjugorje in the beginning of September 2003. Msgr. Schwarz, a Salesian of Don Bosco, has been an auxiliary bishop in Vienna for two years now. Before that, he spent 20 years in Rome. He taught ancient philology and archaeology at one of the Pontifical

Universities, and he was rector and provincial of the Salesians.

This is what he said about Medjugorje:

“Very soon after the beginning of the apparitions, when I was in Rome, I heard about Medjugorje. We priests spoke often about it, and we also had among us young priests and students from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina who gave us complementary information about the events. There were two opposite positions towards Medjugorje: at one hand those who were in favor of Medjugorje, who were impressed and enthusiastic by it, and at the other those who were skeptical, and kept a distance.

Many Austrians came to Medjugorje during these years; many speak about it positively and with enthusiasm, because they experience a personal change. In this place of grace of Our Lady, they made a deep experience of Jesus Christ in the sacraments, especially in confession and the Eucharist. This atmosphere of liberation impresses them. They speak about peace, about harmony between God and men and between men: Harmony brings peace, and the most beautiful fruit of peace is joy. Many come back home filled with joy. There are also some skeptical opinions about Medjugorje. Many say: let us wait for the judgment of the Church.

From the first moment, I was impressed by the pilgrims here, as well as by the atmosphere of prayer, of inner-joy and peace that radiate everywhere. As Christ himself says, I believe that a good tree can be recognized by good fruits.

Dying on the cross, Jesus Christ gave us in heritage His own Mother. Mary, Mother of God, is our heavenly Mother who loves us as she loved her divine Son.

The Second Vatican Council says that the Blessed Virgin Mary, after her Assumption, remains close to her children, helps them and leads them. This is why there is the possibility of apparitions of the Mother of God.

We know that the Church has recognized the apparitions in La Salette, in Lourdes and in Fatima. The Mother of God is the model of the Church, she loves us, she loves her children and she leads us towards Salvation, towards Jesus Christ. “Per Mariam ad Jesum”. Her most important themes in Lourdes and in Fatima, which we find also here in Medjugorje, are prayer, Eucharist, penance, conversion, the sacrament of reconciliation, involvement in favour of peace. These are the intentions that we find also in the Gospel, Jesus' own intentions.”

ART COLONY “MEDJUGORJE 2003”

Again this year, St. Francis' Garden in Medjugorje was the gathering place of numerous artists in the context of the Second Art Colony “Medjugorje 2003”. They created works for the needs of the construction of a Rehabilitation Centre - a Hippotherapy - within the Mother's Village in the parish Medjugorje.

This Art Colony - which is becoming a traditional summer gathering of artists - about thirty artists from Bosnia-Herzegovina and from Croatia created works of art with sacral themes and the Medjugorje landscape. Among about thirty artists who were working in St. Francis' Garden during the last week of August, were Vlado Puljic, a famous painter from Mostar, Stjepan Perkovic from Vitez, an artist who - because of his handicap - paints with his feet, Anto Mamusa from Novi Travnik, Jure Jovica from Ploce, Velimir Penovic from Zagreb, and Vladimir Mario Davidenko from Split.

Auction of these art works will take place in December in Medjugorje, and the entire income will be used for the needs of the construction of the Rehabilitation Centre

FEAST of the EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS

On the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated in Medjugorje on the first Sunday after the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, about 50,000 local and foreign pilgrims gathered at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace. As every year, rivers of pilgrims arrived at Medjugorje even during the night. Many of them traveled hundreds of kilometers, some of them barefoot.

Solemn Holy Mass on Cross Mountain concelebrated by 40 priests as well as the Evening Mass concelebrated by 60 priests were presided by Prof. Dr. Tomislav Ivancic, professor at the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Zagreb, founder of the Community “Molitva i Rijec” (Prayer and Word) and of the Centre for Spiritual Help, as well as leader of numerous renewal seminars in Croatia and abroad.

Prof. Ivancic also led a triduum for parishioners and for pilgrims as a preparation for the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the construction of the cross on Cross Mountain. The triduum was translated into nine languages.

For those who could not climb Cross Mountain, there was a Holy Mass celebrated in the parish church at 12 PM presided by Fr. Tomislav Pervan.

As a visible sign of the eternal light shining from the Cross, ten days before the feast, the cross on Cross Mountain was illuminated, reminding us of its significance, and preparing parishioners and pilgrims for this feast. For the 70th anniversary of the beginning of its construction, the cross was renovated and the paths were ameliorated.

THE 9TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for PRIESTS

The 9th International meeting for priests will take place in Medjugorje from July 5 to 10, 2004. The theme of the meeting is “THE IDENTITY OF THE PRIEST”. A schedule is available.

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).

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 Centers 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.

Lecturer at this year's meeting is Prof. Dr. Fr. Tomislav Ivancic.

Prof. Dr. Tomislav Ivancic was born in 1938 in Davor, Croatia. After his studies of philosophy and theology, he was ordained a priest in 1966 for the archdiocese of Zagreb. Having obtained his master's degree in philosophy and his doctorate in theology at

the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome, he came back to Zagreb, where he became a professor at the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb. He is the director of the Cathedra for Fundamental Theology, editor of magazines, he writes for many local and foreign theological magazines, and is a member of the Society of Croatian Literary Translators. His scientific and professional articles have been published in local and foreign magazines, and many of his numerous books were translated into other languages. He is a Dean of the Zagreb Metropolitan Chapter, a member of the Counsel of the Presbyters of the Archdiocese of Zagreb and a member of the Counsel for the Doctrine of Faith of the Croatian Bishops' Conference. Since 1971, he has been a Students' Chaplain at Zagreb, initiator of a movement of prayer in the Croatian Church, founder of the Association of the Faithful called "Prayer and Word Community" (Zajednica Molitva i Rijec - MiR) and a leader of numerous seminars for spiritual renewal and evangelisation, in Croatia and abroad. For 10 years now he has been training collaborators to work in the Centre for Spiritual Help and leaders of Seminars for Evangelisation. Since 1988, he has been the Dean of the Catholic Faculty of Theology at the Zagreb University.

Subjects of his scientific work are philosophy, theology and literature. He is especially interested in the research pertaining to the human existential and spiritual dimension. He has developed a contemporary way of evangelisation and a method of spiritual medicine, which - together with the somatic and psychological - is unavoidable in healing of the whole person, and especially in healing of spiritual illnesses and addictions. His method is called hagiotherapy. In Zagreb, in 1990, he founded a Centre for Spiritual help, of which he is a director.

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

(continued from page 13)

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Thank you for your inputs. Keep sending them in. Please remember to support us with the source information.

(Kathleen and Keith Werner)

CHAPLET of the PRECIOUS BLOOD - FOR A HOLY DEATH

This Chaplet is made up of five decades. An ordinary chaplet can be used. Make the sign of the Cross with the Crucifix.

On the single beads, instead of the Our Father , the following is recited:

V. Blood of Christ sustain my life;

R. Blood of Christ bless my death.

On the small beads, instead of Hail Mary, the following is recited:

V. My Jesus, pardon and mercy;

R. By the merits of your precious Blood.

After each decade:

V. Eternal Father, I offer you the most precious Blood of your beloved Son;

R. In atonement for my sins, for the needs of the Holy Church, the conversion of sinners, and the relief of the souls in purgatory.

At the end say:

V. Lamb of Calvary, the only salvation of my soul, I beg you, let your precious Blood erase the sins of my whole life and, by virtue of this same Blood, protect me from the evils of this world, especially from a sudden and unexpected death;

R. By the merits of your hour of agony.

V. Jesus, Mary, Joseph,

R. I give you my heart, my spirit and my soul.

V. Jesus, Mary, Joseph,

R. Assist me in my agony.

V. Jesus, Mary, Joseph,

R. May I die peacefully in your holy company. Blessed be the Holy and Immaculate Conception of

the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. O most sweet Jesus, be not my Judge, but my Savior.

THE ULTIMATE RECONCILIATION

If, having reached the end of our lives, the faithful ones cannot be assisted by a priest who would give the sacraments and an apostolic blessing with a plenary indulgence at the moment of death, on the condition that they are in the proper state, and that, they regularly recited such prayers during their lives.

Decree of Pope Paul VI on Indulgences

... By the express authority of Christ (Mt. 16:19), the Church has the power to “bind and to loosen”, that is, that of applying to her faithful the treasure of the repertory acts of the Saviour and his saints plenary indulgence thus allows them to participate in the same grace of total remission that the good thief benefited from the cross (Lk 23:39ff). In other words, this means that these souls could be dispensed from spending any time in purgatory. That is, they are free from any sin, even venial, for the love of God. ...

(from “*Seven Chaplet Devotions*” *PrayCard Publications, 15-101 Don Quichotte Blvd, Suite 234, Ile-Periot, Qc (Canada) J7V 7X4 1-888-246-7729*)

NO GREATER TALENT

I have no greater talent Lord,
Than love I hold for You.
I hold You close within my heart
In all I ever do.

There is no day that e'er goes by
You do not lead the way.
You make my life far more enriched
And brighten up each day.

I thank You for your blessings Lord,
That You bestow on me.
Within my life upon this earth
You will forever be.

(Harold F. Mohn, *Salesian Inspirational Books, 1990,*
and
http://www.globalwebpost.com/farooqm/my_misc/poems/talent.htm)

THE ART of PRAYER

How many married saints can you name? And canonized single persons? Were these people raised to

the altars before or during the reign of our present Holy Father?

This scarcity of canonized or beatified lay people might be attributed to the fact that sanctity has largely been considered the province of religious and other consecrated persons. However, living a virtuous life deep communion with God is not only for Catholic professionals”. Forty years ago, Vatican II reminded us that *all* the children of Mother Church are called to holiness. Two thousand years before this Jesus made it clear with the words: “be perfect” (Mt. 5:48).

Prayer is a sure way to come closer to Christ. Through prayer we respond to the Lord’s call holiness. God asks us to be perfect and He leads and teaches us in prayer. Holiness of living must be rooted in prayer.

Fundamentally, God wants to reveal Himself to us. Stop. This fact cannot be stressed enough. It should really shock us. Why would God want this? We think He should be attending to the universe, but thankfully, that is not God’s only plan (cf. Is. 55:8). Sacred Scripture is an unfolding drama in which our loving God shows us His heart. It seems He cannot do enough to show us what He is like. And in the end, there is one Word expressing all we need and want to know — *Jesus* “In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets; but in these last days he has spoken to by a Son” (Heb. 1:1-2). In Christ we here, see, and touch “the word of life” (1 Jn. 1:1). This mystery alone is worthy of a lifetime’s contemplation!

Engaging Encounter

God wants an encounter with us far more than we do with Him. This meeting between God and ourselves defines our relationship with our Creator and develops our skills in the “art of prayer.” The Rosary, Mass, meditation, and contemplation are some of the many ways to become closer to Our God, who knows and loves us.

Faith is the foundation of all prayer. We must have faith that God is with us, that He calls us to know and love Him better, that He truly speaks in Scripture. Prayer begins in faith, continues in faith, and ends in an increase of faith. The virtue of faith is itself a gift of God. Thus, at the beginning of a time of prayer, it is necessary to express our faith in God’s presence, in His invitation to put our lives before Him, to pour out our hearts. Were we to omit this act we could run the risk of taking God and His nearness for granted. It is truly a wondrous thing that God is so close to us and wants to reveal Himself to us. God knows that for us, complete happiness can only be had by knowing Him.

Pray as You Are

There is a great deal that could be said about various methodologies of prayer. This would require a book, and there are many good books on the subject already. Let us assume here, to develop one sort of prayer, that we are attracted to praying with Scripture, for as St. Jerome put it, “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ”. Our attractions are not insignificant. When we are humble and sincere, God leads us by implanting desires in our hearts. A certain word, phrase, or incident from God’s revealed Word draws us in. Once we’ve disposed ourselves to being with God in faith, we turn to a Scripture passage or story which seems to burn in our hearts (cf. Lk. 24:32) and allow God to speak, to lead us ever so gently. It could be that God has shown us His special solicitude and we are full of thanksgiving. Perhaps then we could praise and glorify the Lord with Psalm 103, or perhaps the Magnificat (Lk. 1:46-55). Maybe at the time of our prayer we are burdened and full of worries. In this case our good God may give us solace in Luke 12:6-7, assuring us that even the hairs of our head are counted and known to Him. Isaiah 43:1-3 contains a promise that we are God’s and He tells us “Fear not....you are mine.”

It is a tenet of honest prayer that we should pray as we are and not as some saint we admire (consider, for example, the Pharisee and the tax collector of Luke 18:9-14). If one has a very sick child, for instance, it’s a good bet that a time of prayer would be spent in supplication or tears and trust, rather than contemplation of the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. God is far more concerned with our lives and cares than even we are. Wisdom beckons us to pray as *this* particular parent with *this* individual child and under *these* specific circumstances.

Listening To The Word

Praying with God’s Word also means that we ought to *listen* to what He is saying. “Speak, Lord, for thy servant hears” (1 Sam. 3:9). Merely reading is superficial. Scripture, because it is God speaking, has the power to penetrate our hearts, and God’s Word is “living and active” (Heb. 4:12). Our listening is not passive. “[T]he words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (Jn. 6:63). These are terms of animation. If we listen in this way God’s Word can change us (cf. Mt. 7:24-27). In this case we are good ground for the seed of God’s Word (cf. Mt. 13:1-9, 18-20). Our receptivity to the Word of God means, for example, that His peace and consolation—or perhaps His light and guidance—will reach us. The Word from the mouth of God will achieve the end for which He sent it (cf. Is. 55:11).”God wants an

encounter with us far more than we do with Him. This meeting between God and ourselves defines our relationship with our Creator and develops our skills in the ‘art of prayer’ The Rosary, Mass, meditation, and contemplation are some of the many ways to become closer to Our God who knows and loves us.”

Just as we prepare for prayer with Scripture by opening ourselves to the presence of God who wishes to communicate Himself to us, it is well to conclude our time of prayer with thanksgiving or praise. It may be that God invites us to kneel in silent adoration, resting, as it were, upon the heart of our soul’s Beloved. Words are not always necessary or desirable. There are times when God calls us to intimate silence. What matters is to correspond with His desire.

Being with the Lord who loves us, allowing His love to take the initiative, leading us into dialogue or silence, is something we can learn with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In union with Mary, we say our humble “*Fiat*”.

Lisieux, a work that should get the attention of the Hollywood crowd. The film is to be released in theatres on October 1 (St. Therese’s feast day.)

Mother Angelica and her sisters have built one of the largest television networks in the world since their start in 1982.

As we learn once again to master the things of the world for the sake of the Gospel, it becomes clear that grace truly builds on nature. Grace will sustain and enhance our apostolic efforts. We are not merely talking about cleverly devised advertising techniques or cutting edge graphic design, but rather the employment of our skills—with the guidance of prayer and grace—for the ultimate cause or (dare I say) product.

We need to learn how to be relevant without compromising the truths of the faith. We must trust that if we present Catholic teaching in its fullness—always with love and in a way that the current age can understand—it will be compelling and attractive. One example of this is the new radio program hosted by Jeff Cavins through Starboard Broadcasting Network. Billed as “relevant radio”, this show engages the culture using an upbeat, fast paced radio format featuring segments that are both secular and sacred. This program will be effective in preaching to groups beyond those Catholics who are already deeply committed to the faith.

If we are hungry to reach souls for Christ, we must become as savvy in media and marketing as the unbelievers. After all, we do not want to hear a rebuke similar to the one given by Jesus, when he said

that the “children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light” (Lk. 16:8).

To grow spiritually, we should read the Scriptures and the spiritual classics. To become effective promoters of the Gospel, we should also make room on our bookshelf for such books as *Positioning: The Battleground for the Mind*, *The 22 Immutable Laws of Branding*, and even *Guerilla Marketing*, to name a few. These books are certainly not an end unto themselves, but can help us better serve the most important end—namely, the salvation of souls for the kingdom. As the Holy Father says, “Our success is not a formula, but in a Person (*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, np. 29). Being the media Pope that he is, I’m also sure he believes that, along with prayer, these effective formulas or media can be used to bring people to that Person.

(by Sister Chiara Marie, P.C.C., *Laywitness*,
July/August 2003)

THE CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

PART FOUR: CHRISTIAN PRAYER, SECTION ONE: PRAYER in the CHRISTIAN LIFE, CHAPTER TWO: THE TRADITION of PRAYER, ARTICLE 2: THE WAY of PRAYER

2663 In the living tradition of prayer, each Church proposes to its faithful, according to its historic, social, and cultural context, a language for prayer: words, melodies, gestures, iconography. The Magisterium of the Church¹⁵ has the task of discerning the fidelity of these ways of praying to the tradition of apostolic faith; it is for pastors and catechists to explain their meaning, always in relation to Jesus Christ.

Prayer to the Father

2664 There is no other way of Christian prayer than Christ. Whether our prayer is communal or personal, vocal or interior, it has access to the Father only if we pray “in the name” of Jesus. The sacred humanity of Jesus is therefore the way by which the Holy Spirit teaches us to pray to God our Father.

Prayer to Jesus

2665 The prayer of the Church, nourished by the Word of God and the celebration of the liturgy,

teaches us to pray to the Lord Jesus. Even though her prayer is addressed above all to the Father, it includes in all the liturgical traditions forms of prayer addressed to Christ. Certain psalms, given their use in the Prayer of the Church, and the New Testament place on our lips and engrave in our hearts prayer to Christ in the form of invocations: Son of God, Word of God, Lord, Savior, Lamb of God, King, Beloved Son, Son of the Virgin, Good Shepherd, our Life, our Light, our Hope, our Resurrection, Friend of mankind. . . .

2666 But the one name that contains everything is the one that the Son of God received in his incarnation: JESUS. The divine name may not be spoken by human lips, but by assuming our humanity The Word of God hands it over to us and we can invoke it: “Jesus,” “YHWH saves.”¹⁶ The name “Jesus” contains all: God and man and the whole economy of creation and salvation. To pray “Jesus” is to invoke him and to call him within us. His name is the only one that contains the presence it signifies. Jesus is the Risen One, and whoever invokes the name of Jesus is welcoming the Son of God who loved him and who gave himself up for him.¹⁷

2667 This simple invocation of faith developed in the tradition of prayer under many forms in East and West. The most usual formulation, transmitted by the spiritual writers of the Sinai, Syria, and Mt. Athos, is the invocation, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners.” It combines the Christological hymn of *Philippians* 2:6-11 with the cry of the publican and the blind men begging for light.¹⁸ By it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior’s mercy.

2668 The invocation of the holy name of Jesus is the simplest way of praying always. When the holy name

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is repeated often by a humbly attentive heart, the prayer is not lost by heaping up empty phrases,¹⁹ but holds fast to the word and “brings forth fruit with patience.”²⁰ This prayer is possible “at all times” because it is not one occupation among others but the only occupation: that of loving God, which animates and transfigures every action in Christ Jesus.

2669 The prayer of the Church venerates and honors the *Heart of Jesus* just as it invokes his most holy name. It adores the incarnate Word and his Heart which, out of love for men, he allowed to be pierced by our sins. Christian prayer loves to follow *the way of the cross* in the Savior's steps. The stations from the Praetorium to Golgotha and the tomb trace the way of Jesus, who by his holy Cross has redeemed the world.

“Come, Holy Spirit”

2670 “No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.”²¹ Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by his prevenient grace. Since he teaches us to pray by recalling Christ, how could we not pray to the Spirit too? That is why the Church invites us to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, especially at the beginning and the end of every important action.

If the Spirit should not be worshiped, how can he divinize me through Baptism? If he should be worshiped, should he not be the object of adoration?²²

2671 The traditional form of petition to the Holy Spirit is to invoke the Father through Christ our Lord to give us the Consoler Spirit.²³ Jesus insists on this petition to be made in his name at the very moment when he promises the gift of the Spirit of Truth.²⁴ But the simplest and most direct prayer is also traditional, “Come, Holy Spirit,” and every liturgical tradition has developed it in antiphons and hymns.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.²⁵

Heavenly King, Consoler Spirit, Spirit of Truth, present everywhere and filling all things, treasure of all good and source of all life, come dwell in us, cleanse and save us, you who are All Good.²⁶

2672 The Holy Spirit, whose anointing permeates our whole being, is the interior Master of Christian prayer. He is the artisan of the living tradition of prayer. To be sure, there are as many paths of prayer as there are persons who pray, but it is the same Spirit acting in all and with all. It is in the communion of the Holy Spirit that Christian prayer is prayer in the Church.

In communion with the holy Mother of God

2673 In prayer the Holy Spirit unites us to the person of the only Son, in his glorified humanity, through which and in which our filial prayer unites us in the Church with the Mother of Jesus.²⁷

2674 Mary gave her consent in faith at the Annunciation and maintained it without hesitation at the foot of the Cross. Ever since, her motherhood has extended to the brothers and sisters of her Son “who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties.”²⁸ Jesus, the only mediator, is the way of our prayer; Mary, his mother and ours, is wholly transparent to him: she “shows the way” (*hodigitria*), and is herself “the Sign” of the way, according to the traditional iconography of East and West.

2675 Beginning with Mary's unique cooperation with the working of the Holy Spirit, the Churches developed their prayer to the holy Mother of God, centering it on the person of Christ manifested in his mysteries. In countless hymns and antiphons expressing this prayer, two movements usually alternate with one another: the first “magnifies” the Lord for the “great things” he did for his lowly servant and through her for all human beings²⁹ the second entrusts the supplications and praises of the children of God to the Mother of Jesus, because she now knows the humanity which, in her, the Son of God espoused.

2676 This twofold movement of prayer to Mary has found a privileged expression in the *Ave Maria*:

Hail Mary [or Rejoice, Mary]: the greeting of the angel Gabriel opens this prayer. It is God himself who, through his angel as intermediary, greets Mary. Our prayer dares to take up this greeting to Mary with the regard God had for the lowliness of his humble servant and to exult in the joy he finds in her.³⁰

Full of grace, the Lord is with thee: These two phrases of the angel's greeting shed light on one another. Mary is full of grace because the Lord is with her. The grace with which she is filled is the presence of him who is the source of all grace. “Rejoice . . . O Daughter of Jerusalem . . . the Lord your God is in your midst.”³¹ Mary, in whom the Lord himself has just made his dwelling, is the daughter of Zion in person, the ark of the covenant, the place where the glory of the Lord dwells. She is “the dwelling of God . . . with men.”³² Full of grace, Mary is wholly given over to him who has come to dwell in her and whom she is about to give to the world.

Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. After the angel's greeting,

we make Elizabeth's greeting our own. "Filled with the Holy Spirit," Elizabeth is the first in the long succession of generations who have called Mary "blessed."³³ "Blessed is she who believed. . . ." ³⁴ Mary is "blessed among women" because she believed in the fulfillment of the Lord's word. Abraham, because of his faith, became a blessing for all the nations of the earth.³⁵ Mary, because of her faith, became the mother of believers, through whom all nations of the earth receive him who is God's own blessing: Jesus, the "fruit of thy womb."

2677 *Holy Mary, Mother of God:* With Elizabeth we marvel, "And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"³⁶ Because she gives us Jesus, her son, Mary is Mother of God and our mother; we can entrust all our cares and petitions to her: she prays for us as she prayed for herself: "Let it be to me according to your word."³⁷ By entrusting ourselves to her prayer, we abandon ourselves to the will of God together with her: "Thy will be done."

Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death: By asking Mary to pray for us, we acknowledge ourselves to be poor sinners and we address ourselves to the "Mother of Mercy," the All-Holy One. We give ourselves over to her now, in the Today of our lives. And our trust broadens further, already at the present moment, to surrender "the hour of our death" wholly to her care. May she be there as she was at her son's death on the cross. May she welcome us as our mother at the hour of our passing³⁸ to lead us to her son, Jesus, in paradise.

2678 Medieval piety in the West developed the prayer of the rosary as a popular substitute for the Liturgy of the Hours. In the East, the litany called the *Akathistos* and the *Paracletis* remained closer to the choral office in the Byzantine churches, while the Armenian, Coptic, and Syriac traditions preferred popular hymns and songs to the Mother of God. But in the *Ave Maria*, the *theotokia*, the hymns of St. Ephrem or St. Gregory of Narek, the tradition of prayer is basically the same.

2679 Mary is the perfect *Orans* (pray-er), a figure of the Church. When we pray to her, we are adhering with her to the plan of the Father, who sends his Son to save all men. Like the beloved disciple we welcome Jesus' mother into our homes,³⁹ for she has become the mother of all the living. We can pray with and to her. The prayer of the Church is sustained by the prayer of Mary and united with it in hope.⁴⁰

IN BRIEF

2680 Prayer is primarily addressed to the Father; it can also be directed toward Jesus, particularly by the

invocation of his holy name: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners."

2681 "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord', except by the Holy Spirit" (*1 Cor* 12:3). The Church invites us to invoke the Holy Spirit as the interior Teacher of Christian prayer.

2682 Because of Mary's singular cooperation with the action of the Holy Spirit, the Church loves to pray in communion with the Virgin Mary, to magnify with her the great things the Lord has done for her, and to entrust supplications and praises to her.

Footnotes:

15 Cf. *DV* 10.

16 Cf. *Ex* 3:14; 33:19-23; *Mt* 1:21.

17 *Rom* 10:13; *Acts* 2:21; 3:15-16; *Gal* 2:20.

18 Cf. *Mk* 10:46-52; *Lk* 18:13.

19 Cf. *Mt* 6:7.

20 Cf. *Lk* 8:15.

21 *1 Cor* 12:3.

22 St. Gregory of Nazianzus, *Oratio*, 31,28:PG 36,165.

23 Cf. *Lk* 11:13.

24 Cf. *Jn* 14:17; 15:26; 16:13.

25 *Roman Missal*, Pentecost Sequence.

26 Byzantine Liturgy, Pentecost Vespers, Troparion.

27 Cf. *Acts* 1:14.

28 *LG* 62.

29 Cf. *Lk* 1:46-55.

30 Cf. *Lk* 1:48; *Zeph* 3:17b.

31 *Zeph* 3:14,17a.

32 *Rev* 21:3.

33 *Lk* 1:41, 48.

34 *Lk* 1:45.

35 Cf. *Gen* 12:3.

36 *Lk* 1:43.

37 *Lk* 1:38.

38 Cf. *Jn* 19:27.

39 Cf. *Jn* 19:27.

40 Cf. *LG* 68-69.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church

<http://www.scborromeo.org/ccc/p4s1c2a2.htm#2663>)

A PRAYER for PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of President George W. Bush, a prayerful man. You know that people will follow their leaders. In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit tells us how the people of Israel followed their kings. If the king worshipped You, so did the people. When the kings forsook You, again so did the people. We thank You Father for providing a leader who will turn our faces back to

You. May You continue to protect and guide him. Send your Holy Spirit to enlighten his path to Your Holy Will for the United States, a nation taken from all nations and all peoples, to be a beacon shining out to the whole world as “one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all”.

(e-mail from David J. Cantera)

SO LITTLE TIME

So little time to say the things
You'd really like to say
Before you even find the words,
The time just slips away.

So little time to do the things
You feel that you must do.
So treasure, like the purest gold,
The time God's given you.

So little time to dream your dreams,
For youth has passed its prime,
And all too soon you realize
That there's...so little time.

So little time to reach the height
To which you're bound to climb,
For swiftly pass the waning years,
And there's...so little time.

So little time for past regrets,
And less, to make amends,
Yet God can heal the deepest wounds
In chosen, cherished friends.

So little time to share God's love
And beauty here on earth,
And know, before His endless time,
Their meaning and true worth.

Oh, yes, there is so little time
To seek the hidden door
That opens up to heaven's time,
Where time's forevermore.

(Sister Miriam Barker,
Salesian Inspirational Books, 1990 and
http://www.globalwebpost.com/farooqm/my_misc/poems/little_time.htm)

ANNOUNCEMENT of NEW CARDINALS

Consistory to Be Held on October 21

VATICAN CITY, SEPT. 28, 2003 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Here is a translation of the address John Paul II delivered today before reciting the midday Angelus, in which he announced the elevation of 31 new cardinals.

* * *

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

1. The month of October, month of the rosary, is about to begin. I entrust to the Virgin in a particular way the consistory I want to held on October 21, on the occasion of the 25th year of my pontificate. In it, once again going beyond the numerical limit established, I shall create new cardinals.

2. Among them, first of all, are some of my collaborators in the Roman Curia. These are their names:

- Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran;
- Archbishop Renato Raffaele Martino;
- Archbishop Francesco Marchisano;
- Archbishop Julián Herranz;
- Archbishop Javier Lozano Barragán;
- Archbishop Stephen Fumio Hamao;
- Archbishop Attilio Nicora.

Then there are 19 pastors of as many local Churches. Their names are:

- Archbishop Angelo Scola, patriarch of Venice [Italy];
- Archbishop Anthony Olubunmi Okogie, archbishop of Lagos [Nigeria];
- Archbishop Bernard Panafieu, archbishop of Marseilles [France];
- Archbishop Gabriel Zubeir Wako, archbishop of Khartoum [Sudan];
- Archbishop Carlos Amigo Vallejo, archbishop of Seville [Spain];
- Archbishop Justin Francis Rigali, archbishop of Philadelphia [Pennsylvania];
- Archbishop Keith Michael Patrick O'Brien, archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh [Scotland];
- Archbishop Eusebio Oscar Scheid, SCJ, archbishop of Sao Sebastian of Rio de Janeiro [Brazil];

- Archbishop Ennio Antonelli, archbishop of Florence [Italy]
- Archbishop Tarcisio Bertone, archbishop of Genoa [Italy];
- Archbishop Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, archbishop of Cape Coast [Ghana];
- Archbishop Telesphore Placidus Toppo, archbishop of Ranchi [India];
- Archbishop George Pell, archbishop of Sydney [Australia];
- Archbishop Josip Bozanic, archbishop of Zagreb [Croatia];
- Archbishop Jean Baptiste Pham Minh Man, archbishop of Ho Chi City [Vietnam];
- Archbishop Rodolfo Quezada Toruño, archbishop of Guatemala City [Guatemala]
- Archbishop Philippe Barbarin, archbishop of Lyon [France];
- Archbishop Peter Erdő, archbishop of Esztergom-Budapest [Hungary];
- Archbishop Marc Ouellet, PPS, archbishop of Quebec [Canada].

Among the new cardinals in addition are four ecclesiastics with particular merits due to their commitment in the service of the Church. They are:

- Father Georges Marie Martin Cottier, OP, theologian of the Papal Household [Switzerland];
- Monsignor Gustaaf Joos, of the Diocese of Gand [Belgium];
- Father Thomas Spidlik, SJ [Czech Republic];
- Father Stanislas Nagy, of the priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus [Poland].

Finally, I wish to say that I have appointed cardinal another distinguished prelate, whose name I reserve “in pectore.”

3. The candidates to the cardinal's hat come from various parts of the world and carry out different tasks at the service of the People of God. All together, with the multiplicity of their services, they reflect the universality of the Church.

Let us entrust the newly elected to the Holy Virgin, invoking her maternal protection on them and their respective tasks in the vineyard of the Lord.

(Zenit News Agency, Code: ZE03092801, Date: 2003-09-28, <http://www.zenit.org>)

I WISH

I wished the sun would always shine
And skies would not turn gray,
And life would be the way it was
When I knew how to play.

Each day was filled with happiness
A wonderment galore.
The beauty of each passing day
Concealed what lay in store.

As years went swiftly marching by
And troubles reared their head,
I found a Friend who taught me that
Life's trials I should not dread.

He said to bless our heavy loads
Accept them with a smile,
For He would give us strength to bear
And walk with us each mile.

I took Him at His promise,
By faith, He filled all lack.
I gave Him all my burdens,
And I don't ever want them back.

Now, all my days are sun filled
'Cause when the skies turn gray,
I call upon my new found Friend
To brighten up my day.

(by Shirley P. Heinrich, Salesian Inspirational Books,
1990 and
<http://www.xooper.com/allan/hawaii/poetry/iwish.htm>)

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A CHRISTIAN [CATHOLIC]?

A woman was asked the question by a coworker, and her reply shows how one can evangelize with humor.

The co-worker replied,

“It is like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. [Baptism] Then he cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. [Confession] He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., [Spiritual Direction] and then He carves you a new smiling face [Praise and Worship, particularly Holy Mass] and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see. [Holy Eucharist]”

(from e-mail [bracket comments added by Keith Werner])

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

The **PFMC** is not a church, store or travel agency but has aspects of all three. The **PFMC** operates as a non-profit, with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, religious association and ministry whose volunteers are lay persons professing a belief in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, as the Only Begotten Son of God the Father.

Most **PFMC** volunteers profess that faith through the apostolic and universal teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Those volunteers who are practicing Roman Catholics profess allegiance to the Magisterium of the Church founded upon the Rock (Kephas / Cephas or Petros depending on original or translation) of Simon bar Jonah and led by his apostolic successor **Pope John Paul II**.

Keith and Kathleen Werner, co-founders and co-directors of the **PFMC**, have noted that there seems to be a history of 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. They believe that approaching Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through his Blessed Virgin Jewish Mother, Mary, or Miriam, as she is called in the Quran or Koran of Muslims, may be of benefit in gaining a better understanding God's answers to our prayers. They believe that God answers prayers but humans have a difficult time understanding the answers.

The **PFMC** was established in the Werner home based on pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other holy places or shrines worthy of pilgrimage. Books, pamphlets and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and acquire for themselves based on donations. The **PFMC** is NOT a store and does not sell anything.

For books, pamphlets and religious articles, the **PFMC** operates like a church pamphlet or bookrack where selections are made and donations offered based on value posted or received.

The **PFMC** has items from inventory on display at Epiphany House. Order forms have been produced in the past and enclosed in previous issues of "The PILGRIM" as well as loaded on the PFMC Internet Web Site, <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>. If you wish to order, please determine 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.

The **PFMC** is directed and operated by volunteers who monitor the donations made for all activities. These activities include coordination of pilgrimages to holy places and shrines, retreats in local retreat centers or hotels, and days of recollection at the **PFMC** as well as the inventory management mentioned above.

Through coordination with the appropriate members of diocesan staff in Camden, Metuchen, and Trenton, NJ, as well as Harrisburg, Scranton, and Philadelphia, PA, the **PFMC** has been allowed to coordinate events with their diocesan permission and often encouragement.

Operating for many years on a cash only basis, the **PFMC** now accepts DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (CIRRUS) and VISA (PLUS) for all transactions requiring donations to the PFMC. This includes for books and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, seminars, "The PILGRIM," or the office equipment replacement fund. We ask that those who use credit cards assist us with the costs associated with their use, about 3%.

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)

CONFERENCE CORNER

11th Annual International Week of Prayer and Fasting for the Conversion of Nations, the End to Abortion, and for World Peace

5-16 October 2003, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. (703) 327-2277, www.sign.org. See enclosed flyer.

Camden Diocese Charismatic Conference

"Speak Lord, Your Servant is Listening" [1Sam 3:9-10], Wildwoods Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ, **10-13 October 2003**, (609) 522-6586 or (856) 228-3086.

Medjugorje Conference, Irvine, California

At the Bren Events Center on the campus of the University of California at Irvine **24-26 October 2003**. See details at: <http://www.ourladyscall.org>.

Orlando, Florida, Marian Conference

At Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, 7-8 November 2003. Speakers: Father Bill Swengros, Visionary Vicka Mijatovic, and others to be announced. Call (727) 442-9885.

8th Annual Central California Marian Eucharistic Conference

9-11 January 2004 At Mid-State Fairgrounds, Paso Robles, CA. Theme: "We Believe, We Adore" Speakers: Fr. Benedict Groeschel, Fr. John Corapi, Sr. Briege McKenna, Fr. Pablo Straub, Fr. Michael Tapajna, Fr. Santan Pinto, and David Parkes as MC. Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions available. Contact: (805) 461-1367 or (805) 461-5358 or write: PO Box 615 Atascadero, CA.

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.

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

GALA DINNER and FUND RAISING CONCERT with FATHER MICHAEL SEMANA and GRACE MARKAY, Saturday, 11/15/2003

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) is sponsoring this event at the Holiday Inn, 2175 West Marlton Pike (NJ 70), Cherry Hill, NJ, to raise funds for its operations. Donation is \$50 per person.

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

2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE (2004 RC) will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ. The dates are Friday through Sunday, March 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2004.

The 2004 RC theme is "Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves." (Matthew 10:16) [NAB].

Babsie Bleasdel, Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, Father John McFadden, and Sister Claire Marie de l'amore Crucifie of the "*Marian Community Oasis of Peace*" will be featured speakers.

Father Michael Semana, founder of the "*World of Hope Foundation*," will return to sing Holy Mass on Saturday, a concert Saturday evening as well as his very generous work with the youth and young adults in the Youth Track (YT). The YT will be led by **J.P. Kasperowicz**.

The **Metuchen Diocese Charismatic Music Group "REFUGE"** will be back to provide the weekend music. **Al Barbarino** has agreed to EMCEE for the Weekend and will be providing music and witness. Other musicians including **Marty Rotella, "HEARTS AFIRE," "CEDARS in CHRIST,"** and "**VOYAGE**," have been invited.

Father John Hampsch, C.M.F., will lead seminars and workshops in the 3-Day Extension (3DX) on "*The HOLY SPIRIT ALIVE in YOUR LIFE.*"

The 3DX will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 15th, 16th, and 17th, 2004.

Rooms may be booked at the PFMC \$94 rate with 1-4 persons in a room for both the 2004 RC and 3DX as well as up to 7 days before or after the events. Rooms have either one King bed or two Double beds. Roll-away beds are available. This rate and availability of additional rooms expires on 2/12/2004. For Hotel reservations please call NOW: 1-800-HILTONS or locally (856) 665-6666.

Please make your reservations for the 2004 RC, YT, and 3DX with the PFMC as soon as possible.

Please make your reservations for hotel rooms with the HILTON as soon as possible.

Consider making reservations for the 2004 RC, YT, and/or 3-DX and donating for them as a gift to your favorite relative. All donations to the PFMC are deductible from your income tax.

For an information sheet with reservation forms visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith> or call (856) 768-9228.

Thanks for anything you can do to post these notices in parish bulletins or even with local prayer groups. Information sheets with reservation forms are available at or from the PFMC. Please help us to spread the word.

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

CALENDARS:

In *October*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of *Saint Luke, Evangelist (18)* and *Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles (28)*, the Memorials of *Saints Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1) [Lisieux], Francis of Assisi (4), Teresa of Jesus (15) [Avila], Ignatius of Antioch (17), Paul of the Cross (20)*, as well as *The Guardian Angels (2)*, and *Our Lady of the Rosary (7)*, and Optional Memorials of *Saints Bruno (6), John Leonardi (9), Denis and Companions (9), Pope Callistus I (14), Hedwig (16), Margaret Mary Alacoque (16), Paul of the Cross (20), John of Capistrano (23), Anthony Mary Claret (24)*, and *Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (6)*. Church calendars show *Yom Kippur (6), Columbus Day (12) Observed (13)* and the end of *Daylight Savings Time (26) [Set clocks back one hour]*.

In *November*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *ALL SAINTS (1), ALL SOULS (2), CHRIST the KING (23)*, Feasts of the *Dedication of Saint John Lateran (9)*) and *Saint Andrew the Apostle (30)*, Memorials of *Saints Charles Borromeo (4), Leo the Great (10), Martin of Tours (11), Josaphat (12), Frances Xavier Cabrini (13), Elizabeth of Hungary (17), Cecilia (22), Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions (24)* as well as the *Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome (18)*, and the *Presentation of Mary (21)*, and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Martin de Porres (3), Albert the Great (15), Rose Philippine Duchesne (18)*, and *Thanksgiving Day (27)* Church calendars recognize *Election Day (4)*, and *Veterans Day (11)*.

forms on the 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE and the FUND RAISING DINNER and CONCERT enclosed, as well as the Bulletin Notices on page 27. 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 are available to participate in parish or other prayer group meetings with witness, and/or videotape or slide presentations, followed by a question and answer session. The experiences and continuation of the PFMC ministries for Our Lady and her Son in this time of manifestation of Our Lord's mercy and graces are shared at no cost. Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value posted on each article made available at the displays. Displays may be set up without presentations. Call (856) 768-9228.

INTERNET / E-MAIL

Visit our web site:
<http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>
or send us e-mail at:
PFMCkmw@comcast.net



AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 1 through 3, the information sheets and reservation

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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
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PLEASE DON'T THROW THIS AWAY!!

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

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

