



# The PILGRIM

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November 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



*My God, sometimes You seem far off, and I need to see brighter days. I know that this can only happen if I follow You. I know You want to purify me from all my imperfections, and to be in a fatherly relationship with me always. Show me more profoundly Who You are.*

*Speak O Lord to my heart through the inspirations of the Holy Spirit. Teach me to walk holding on to You through Your great anointing. Help me to lean on Your gentle breast, and to lay aside all that disturbs my spirit. Remind me that You are with me through every inner movement of my soul.*

*Help me not to flinch from difficulty or feel rejected. Heal my doubts, and brighten the times of dullness. Lift any oppression with the sword of Faith.*

*Accept Lord, my offering of all my sufferings, for I long to endure them in the Joy of the Cross. Lead me from this journey of darkness into a journey of faith and holiness.*

*Come Lord in mercy, and take possession of my soul. Give me the Glory of Your own self. Come and live in this soul.*

**AMEN**

**(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)**

## PLEASE REMEMBER the PFMC in YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS

Please remember to support the PFMC with your donations, prayers, and prayer requests as we pass through this month of All Saints and All Souls through the American Thanksgiving time, into Advent and preparations for Christmas. We pray for all of our readers in this time of seasonal transition.

The PFMC is a vibrant healing ministry. The all volunteer staff sets up and conducts retreats and

October MESSAGES, alleged to be from GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to visionaries from Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, are presented beginning on page 10 (centerfold page) with REFLECTION and PRESS BULLETIN items.

conferences, puts out "The PILGRIM," and promotes the teachings of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, and the Magisterium Holy Roman Catholic Church obedient to him. We need your support to keep the PFMC open and functioning with the bills paid. Our expenses have been over \$6,000 every month. We are cutting costs as much as we can but need the prayers and monetary donations of all the readers of "The PILGRIM" or we cannot continue to help you. We are all volunteers, and we need your support. Please, will you help us with your prayers and donations particularly as we approach Christmas?

**(Kathleen and Keith Werner and all the other volunteers on the staff of the PFMC)**

## FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO SIGN UP for the 11/15/03 GALA DINNER and CONCERT with FATHER MICHAEL SEMANA, GRACE MARKAY, and RICHARD ROME

The reservation response to this gala evening of music and dinner is very low. We need to have more people register, as this is our major holiday gathering. Those who attend will get back so much more from these great entertainers. See page 2 for a biographical sketch on Richard Rome, Doctor of Music, who has agreed to join Grace Markay and Father Michael Semana with his very talented keyboard skills.

Reservations are being kept open through 11/11/03 for this wonderful evening of musical entertainment with a sumptuous buffet dinner for just \$50 donation per person. It seems amazing that a family going to a movie with popcorn and other snacks would pay more than this. Couples going out to dinner and an evening of entertainment would often pay more than a couple does for this night of dinner and entertainment.

**"The PILGRIM" for November 2003 is dedicated to "Mary, Mother Expectant." See page 3 for the Table of Contents / "IN THIS ISSUE . . ." list.**

We need your support and thought this would be a great opportunity to get together before the holidays. These wonderful singers and musicians are a gift to the world. The dinner will prove to be more than you can begin to enjoy in an evening.

Please see the green information sheet and reservation form for details and consider joining us on 11/15/03. We need prepaid reservations for final meal count NO LATER THAN Wednesday, 11/12/03.

Call the PFMC at (856) 768-9228 to sign up using a credit card. (A 3% handling fee is added to all charges). Please support this event. Thank you.

**(Kathleen and Keith Werner and all the other volunteers on the staff of the PFMC)**

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## **RICHARD ROME, DOCTOR of MUSIC, at the KEYBOARD during the CONCERT on 11/15/03**

For anyone who has watched television, viewed a motion picture, listened to a record, or attended a live musical performance over the past 30 years, it would be virtually impossible not to have heard the musical contributions of Richard Rome as a pianist, conductor, arranger, and recording artist.

Rome has arranged, conducted and/or accompanied artists that have included Patti Labelle, Burt Bacharach, Tony Bennet, Dionne Warwick, Leslie Uggams, Jane Oliver, Melba Moore, Dusty Springfield, Mike Douglas, Bob Hope, Carol Burnett, Sammy Davis, Lou Rawls and Tony Orlando.

As a ground-breaking recording artist and producer, he was almost single-handedly responsible for the disco craze via his recording of "Brazil" (number one in six European countries and in the Top Five in 12 others), and the follow-up hit, "The Best Disco in Town." And also in the disco arena, Richard Rome was the talent who created the million-plus selling recording act, The Ritchie Family. He was also the force behind the gold albums of Lou Rawls, Dionne Warwick, Blue Magic, the Blue Notes and Teddy Pendergrass (Grammy Award Nomination).

In the area of motion pictures, serving as Assistant to Music Director Dominick Fronterie at Paramount Pictures, Rome scored films like "The Love Machine" and "The Happy Hooker;" scored the television pilot for Andrea McArdle (CBS); and was seen leading the orchestra on Simon and Garfunkel's fondly-remembered television special, highlighted by Rome's classic arrangement of "Bridge Over Troubled Waters."

Rome is also a Clio Award-winning artist in the area of television and radio commercials, with credits that include jingles for General Electric, Olympia Beer, the Sheraton Hotel chain, Campbell Soup, City of Aspen, the Bahamas, Thom McAnn Shoes, Kinney Shoes, Valley Bank and Pepsi-Cola.

He has shared his many talents by way of his extensive work as a music educator, serving as a lecturer and clinician at Philadelphia's prestigious Combs College of Music. Rome, in fact, was awarded the Honorary Doctorate in Music Degree at Combs for his contributions to music and music education.

Through all these years of activity in every field of show business, Richard Rome has been consistently cited for his mastery as a piano soloist in classical and pop music, and jazz. His superb playing, composing and arranging can be heard to great advantage on his own album for Warner Brothers Elektra Label, entitled, "Deep."

**(from Richard Rome, Doctor of Music)**

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

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 volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the PFMC recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the alleged Marian apparitions, locutions and related messages at, and to the recipients from, Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as all other private revelations, rests with the Holy See, to whose judgment we willingly submit. We give total allegiance to our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and its Magisterium, particularly Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. See page 5 for additional PFMC information. While those presenters who work with the PFMC are selected for their personal qualifications and commitment to the Church, their comments and presentations are those of individual Catholics and no endorsement by ecclesiastical authority is to be presumed.

The 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, 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**, managed to overbook his commitment to us for this year and will be in **New Orleans** that weekend.

On Saturday night there will be a concert with **Father Michael Semana** and 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 (YT). We need volunteers to assist with the YT. Please call (856) 768-9228 and sign up to help.

Please review the **YELLOW** information sheet enclosed in this and previous issues of *"The PILGRIM,"* 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. If you do not have a form, please call (856) 768-9228 and we will send you one. You may use the Internet [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04RET3CF.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04RET3CF.pdf). Please make your **PFMC** RC, YT, and 3DX reservations using the forms provided by the **PFMC**.

Do not wait to make your Hilton Hotel reservations with the hotel via **1-800 HILTONS** or **(856) 665-6666**. **MANY WAITS UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE AND THEN CANNOT GET A ROOM IN THE HOTEL.** 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. Ask you family to support your desire to attend even if they will not attend with you. **PLEASE** do not wait until Christmas to register with the **PFMC** or reserve rooms at the **HILTON HOTEL**.

**(Kathleen and the Reservation Volunteers)**

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**IN HIS SIGN (IHS) MINISTRY "HELP WAKE UP AMERICA" DINNER – SUNDAY, 12/7/03**

Ferdinand Roccanti will return to help with this annual event. Call (888) 34 FAITH (343-2484).

**POPE EXPRESSES GRATITUDE for PRAYERS for JUBILEE ANNIVESARY**

VATICAN CITY, OCT 15, 2003 (VIS) - In today's general audience, celebrated in Saint Peter's Square, the Pope continued with the catechesis on the liturgy of Vespers which began last week.

"While Lauds are prayed in the morning, Vespers are recited at dusk, the hour when the evening sacrifice of incense was offered in the Temple of Jerusalem. At that hour, Jesus, after His death on the Cross, lay in

the tomb, having offered Himself to the Father for the salvation of the world.”

John Paul II recalled that after the invocation “My God, come in my aid,” the hymn which is an expression of “praise of the Church in prayer” is recited. Afterward, there are two psalms and a scriptural canticle. After a short reading from the New Testament, the Magnificat is sung in order “to express the sense of the praise and action of the grace of God for the gift of Redemption.”

“The liturgy of Vespers,” he continued, “concludes with the prayer of Jesus, the Our Father, a synthesis of every praise and petition of God’s children, regenerated by water and the Spirit. At the end of the day, the Christian tradition has made a link between forgiveness, asked of God in the Our Father, and the fraternal reconciliation of men among themselves: the sun must not set upon anyone’s anger.

“The vespertine prayer,” said the Holy Father, “concludes with an invocation that, in line with Christ crucified, expresses the abandonment of our existence into the hands of the Father, conscious that His blessing is always with us.”

“I thank you with all my heart,” the Pope told the Polish pilgrims during his greetings in various languages, “for your presence, today and during these 25 years, for your prayers and for all expressions of good will and communion. I am happy to be able to count on your spiritual help.” Speaking in Italian, he thanked everyone for their wishes and prayers on the 25th anniversary of his pontificate.

(AG/VESPERS/... VIS 031015 (330))

## **CARDINALS ARE SERVANTS to ALL in order to FULFILL THEIR MISSION**

VATICAN CITY, OCT 21, 2003 (VIS) - During a ceremony celebrated in Saint Peter’s Square this morning, John Paul II created 30 new cardinals from 23 countries in what was the ninth such consistory of his pontificate.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the Pope read the formula for the creation of the new cardinals of the Holy Roman Church. Then newly created Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran thanked the Pope on behalf of all the cardinals. Later the liturgy of the Word was celebrated and the homily was read by Archbishop Leonardi Sandri, substitute for General Affairs of the Secretariat of State. The Holy Father began by noting that in this consistory he will impose the beret upon

30 “worthy churchmen, keeping ‘in pectore’ the name of another.”

“Enriched by its new members, the College of Cardinals reflects the diversity of races and cultures that characterizes the Christian people, and highlights once again the unity of every part of the flock of Christ with the Seat of the Bishop of Rome.”

The Pope affirmed that “in carrying out his ministry, the Successor of the Fisherman of Galilee counts on your faithful cooperation; he asks you to accompany him in prayer, while he invokes the Holy Spirit so that the communion among those whom the Lord ‘has elected vicars of His son and has made pastors’ may never be broken.”

“The deep red of the cardinal’s robe evokes the color of blood and recalls the heroism of the martyrs. It is the symbol of love for Jesus and for His Church, a love which knows no limits: love even to the point of sacrificing one’s life, ‘usque ad sanguinis effusionem’.”

“For this reason, the gift that you receive is great, as is the responsibility that it comes with it.” After underscoring the duty of “preaching with word and example,” the Pope added that “this applies to every pastor, but especially to you, dear and venerated members of the College of Cardinals.”

Pointing to the example of Jesus Christ Who became the servant of those around him, the Holy Father emphasized that this “logic” of service is “in clear contrast with that of the world: to die unto oneself in order to become humble and detached servants of your brothers and sisters, rejecting ever temptation to advance your career or benefit personally.”

“Only if you become servants to all around you will you fulfill your mission and help the Successor of Peter to be the ‘servant of the servants of God,’ as my beloved predecessor Gregory the Great loved to call himself.”

At the end of the homily, John Paul invited the new cardinals to make a profession of faith and to swear fidelity and obedience to the Holy Father and his successors. Then each cardinal, according to the order of creation, approached the Pope who imposed the biretta on him and handed him the Bull of Creation as cardinal and assignment of the title or diaconate church in Rome, as a sign of participation in the pastoral solicitude of the Pope in the city. After exchanging a sign of peace with the Pope, each new cardinal greeted all the others.

Prayers were offered for the Holy Father, the Church, the new cardinals and for peace during the universal prayer. John Paul II imparted the apostolic blessing

upon all and at the end sang the Marian antiphon  
“Sub tuum praesidium.”

(JPII-CONSISTORY/.../... VIS 031021 (600))

## POPE JOHN PAUL II, 25 YEARS, 16 OCTOBER 2003

“Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo”

“I will sing the mercies of the Lord forever” - Ps 89:1

**Pope John Paul II**

Unceasingly the Church implores from God mercy for everyone. “At no time and in no historical period - especially at a moment as critical as our own - can the Church forget the prayer that is a cry for the mercy of God amid the many forms of evil which weigh upon humanity and threaten it...The more the human conscience succumbs to secularization, loses its sense of the very meaning of the word ‘mercy’, moves away from God, and distances itself from the mystery of mercy, the more the Church has the right and the duty to appeal to the God of mercy ‘with loud cries’”

**Dives in misericordia, n.15**

Thank you for the Year of the Rosary and the new Mysteries of Light; thank you for all your Audiences and our new Cardinals; thank you for all your Apostolic Letters and Encyclicals...you are our luminous light in the darkness, our inexhaustible source of hope.

Thank you on your 25th anniversary!! We pray unceasingly!!

(Karen (Australia) IIPG e-mail [karnala@dodo.com.au](mailto:karnala@dodo.com.au))

## INVENTORY PICTURE and ORDER FORMS ENCLOSED

See page 18 for more discussion of the inventory picture and order forms enclosed as removable center pages in this issue of “The PILGRIM.” Livia and Vince Nocella have been working extra hard to get ready for the holidays and for the 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE. Please consider using the PFMC as one of your sources of religious Christmas presents.

## DISCERNMENT

When we least expect His presence, He shows up around the corner and say to us: Here I am !

Now, what does it say to us? How can we understand the message that He brings? What does He look for with so much insistence?

I believe that it must exist the basic plea for discernment, the capacity to choose the good and to reject the bad or evil, or maybe to make an adequate decision in an inspiration.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are all needed, but the most precious ones are Wisdom and Discernment, without them we cannot do anything right. By God giving us these gifts. Our intelligence, will, and desires are enriched considerably. Without realizing, we amaze ourselves with that word, that fact, that decision, which fit perfectly in the empty place left by our limitations.

However, do we truly ask for them? or are we too proud to accept that Other tells us what we have to do? We also don't pay attention because we concentrate in our own ways only.

What beauty would result if we continuously invoked the gifts of the Holy Spirit!

His breath is a clear and creative energy, able to overthrow mountains and at the same time take us down to humility.

Lord, is not enough the time we spend asking You to listen to our prayers. Our hearts are full of foolishness and unnecessary wealth. Our voice is weak and our efforts are not enough to be in Your presence and company.

Lord we need You, we want You to be our protection, make us understand that your Spirit is always praying

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**Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich, Pittsburgh, Scranton, Trenton and**

**Wilmington Dioceses. Father Hartman is reviewing every issue.**

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

with cries that we still cannot perceive.

Send Your Spirit that is MYSTERY, but a mystery that enlighten and guide us and never disappoint us.

Come Holy Spirit, come, instill in us Your grace and let us know the will of God. We don't know what He wants from us, but we do know that we must accomplish a mission. Lord, what is Your will? Give us the strength to fulfill it, now, without delay. This is the most important grace, don't let us give in to the laziness, make us leave everything to just joyfully do what You want us to do.

No project can be done without Your assistance, there is no peace and happiness when You are absent. Come, come and give us peace, cleanse us of our most hidden faults and light that mysterious spark that never should disappear, or everything would be lost... the spark of YOUR PRESENCE, every day and every hour. Lord, despite my faults, never stop giving us the grace to wish Your presence, then in any situation we might be, You will save us and lift us.

Lord, that your Spirit break our hearts of stone so we can reborn to the supernatural, to the water of charity and to the bread of tenderness.

Come Holy Spirit, I just call You to help me to be different and to accomplish in life what it seems impossible to my nature.

Come Holy Spirit, give us the gift of prayer and take away the human tendency of asking us why and what for, we must always pray.

Wash away the original sin which doesn't let us turn to You, our Creator and Sanctifier.

Grant us the gift of great happiness, to be able to smile and forget our troubles to surrender ourselves to You and to Your assistance.

Holy Spirit, mysterious grace and the most precious gift of the mercies of our Lord.

We trust in You, we wait in You and we suffer in You.

Wake us up in the morning and cover us with your Shadow.

Unfold Your wings and rest in our window.

And if we are worthy, whisper in our ears Your tender suggestions.

We are not clean, You know, but Your touch will make us !

Your Merciful Grace is able to forget the opaque color of our hearts and leave them light blue and dilated.

We wait for You, come, a little bit closer... without You we can do nothing and we are nothing.

(by Gustavo Daniel Gopar Echeverría

<http://www.netgate.com.uy/~ggopar/prayers.html>)

## NEW BILLBOARDS

New billboards are getting attention in Arizona. Some reported seeing one or two messages, but the newspaper listed all of them. Here's a list of all variations of the "God Speaks" billboards. The billboards are a simple black background with white text. No fine print or sponsoring organization is included. These are awesome... enjoy.

-----  
Tell the kids I love them.

-God

-----  
Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game.

-God

-----  
C'mon over and bring the kids.

-God

-----  
What part of "Thou Shalt Not..." didn't you understand?

-God

-----  
We need to talk.

-God

-----  
Keep using my name in vain, I'll make rush hour longer.

-God

-----  
Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage.

-God

-----  
That "Love Thy Neighbor" thing.... I meant it.

-God

-----  
I love you and you and you and you and...

-God

-----  
Will the road you're on get you to my place?

-God

-----  
Follow me.

-God

-----  
Big bang theory, you've got to be kidding.

-God

My way is the highway.  
-----  
Need directions?  
-----  
You think it's hot here?  
-----  
Have you read my #1 best seller? There will be a test.  
-----  
Do you have any idea where you're going?  
-----  
Don't make me come down there.  
-----  
[david.cantera@iacnet.net](mailto:david.cantera@iacnet.net)

## THE BLESSING of THORNS

Sandra felt as low as the heels of her shoes as she pushed against a November gust and the florist shop door. Her life had been easy, like a spring breeze. Then in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor automobile accident stole her ease. During this Thanksgiving week she would have delivered a son. She grieved over her loss. As if that weren't enough, her husband's company threatened a transfer.

Then her sister, whose annual holiday visit she coveted, called saying she could not come. What's worse, Sandra's friend infuriated her by suggesting her grief was a God-given path to maturity that would allow her to empathize with others who suffer. "She has no idea what I'm feeling," thought Sandra with a shudder. "Thanksgiving? Thankful for what?" she wondered aloud. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when he rear-ended her? For an airbag that saved her life, but took that of her child?

"Good afternoon, can I help you?" The shop clerk's approach startled her. "I...I need an arrangement," stammered Sandra. "For Thanksgiving?" "Do you want beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer favorite I call the Thanksgiving Special?" asked the shop clerk. "I'm convinced that flowers tell stories," she continued. "Are you looking for something that conveys 'gratitude' this Thanksgiving?" "Not exactly!" Sandra blurted out. "In the last five months, everything that could go wrong has gone wrong." Sandra regretted her outburst, and was surprised when the shop clerk said, "I have the perfect arrangement for you."

Then the door's small bell rang, and the shop clerk said, "Hi Barbara...let me get your order." She politely excused herself and walked toward a small workroom, then quickly reappeared, carrying an arrangement of greenery, bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses. Except the ends of the rose stems were neatly snipped...there were no flowers. "Want this in a box?" asked the clerk. Sandra watched for the customer's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems with no flowers?! She waited for laughter, but neither woman laughed. "Yes, please," Barbara replied with an appreciative smile.

"You'd think after three years of getting the special, I wouldn't be so moved by its significance, but I can feel it right here, all over again," she said as she gently tapped her chest.

"Uhh," stammered Sandra, "that lady just left with, uhh... she just left with no flowers!" "Right...I cut off the flowers. That's the Special... I call it the Thanksgiving Thorns Bouquet."

"Oh, come on, you can't tell me someone is willing to pay for that?" exclaimed Sandra.

"Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling very much like you feel today," explained the clerk.

"She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing, her son was into drugs, and she was facing major surgery. That same year I had lost my husband," continued the clerk, "and for the first time in my life, I had to spend the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too great a debt to allow any travel." "So what did you do?" asked Sandra. "I learned to be thankful for thorns," answered the clerk quietly. "I've always thanked God for good things in life and never thought to ask Him why those good things happened to me, but when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask! It took time for me to learn that dark times are important. I always enjoyed the 'flowers' of life, but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God's comfort. You know, the Bible says that God comforts us when we're afflicted, and from His consolation we learn to comfort others."

Sandra sucked in her breath as she thought about the very thing her friend had tried to tell her.

"I guess the truth is I don't want comfort. I've lost a baby and I'm angry with God."

Just then someone else walked in the shop. "Hey, Phil!" shouted the clerk to the balding, rotund man. "My wife sent me in to get our usual Thanksgiving arrangement ....twelve thorny, long-stemmed stems!" laughed Phil as the clerk handed him a tissue-wrapped arrangement from the refrigerator. "Those are for your wife?" asked Sandra incredulously. "Do

you mind me asking why she wants something that looks like that?" "No...I'm glad you asked," Phil replied. "Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we were in a real mess, but with the Lord's grace and guidance, we slogged through problem after problem. He rescued our marriage. Jenny here (the clerk) told me she kept a vase of rose stems to remind her of what she learned from "thorny" times, and that was good enough for me. I took home some of those stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specific "problem" and give thanks to Him for what that problem taught us." As Phil paid the clerk, he said to Sandra, "I highly recommend the Special!"

"I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life." Sandra said to the clerk. "It's all too... fresh." "Well," the clerk replied carefully, "my experience has shown me that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God's providential care more during trouble than at any other time. Remember, it was a crown of thorns that Jesus wore so we might know His love. Don't resent the thorns."

Tears rolled down Sandra's cheeks. For the first time since the accident, she loosened her grip on resentment. "I'll take those twelve long-stemmed thorns, please," she managed to choke out. "I hoped you would," said the clerk gently. "I'll have them ready in a minute." "Thank you. What do I owe you?" asked Sandra. "Nothing," said the clerk. "Nothing but a promise to allow God to heal your heart. The first year's arrangement is always on me." The clerk smiled and handed a card to Sandra. "I'll attach this card to your arrangement, but maybe you'd like to read it first." It read:

"Dear God, I have never thanked you for my thorns. I have thanked you a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorns. Teach me the glory of the cross I bear; teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed closer to you along the path of pain. Show me that, through my tears, the colors of your rainbow look much more brilliant."

(Author Unknown)

## ADVENT and PREPARATIONS

Few times are more sacred for a family or household than Christmas. Along with the Advent Season, Christmas time is rich in traditions which, despite modern commercial exploitation, still stir our hearts and imagination. The Christmas tree, the manger scene, the music and carols, the lights shining in the winter darkness joyfully proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ and call us to come and adore him.

Christmas and Advent can be a **spiritual feast** for those who live these seasons spiritually. And where better to live them spiritually than in our own homes and households? This site's purpose is to help families and households celebrate Advent and Christmas in a Christian way.

Christmas and Advent customs appear everywhere today. True symbols that they are, the living traditions of the season bring peoples and families together and connect us with our ancient faith.

And they respond surprisingly to modern needs as well. The Christmas and Advent seasons uphold so many precious realities presently endangered: birth, children, family, the earth itself. In celebrating Christmas and Advent, keep their **message for today** in mind.

In a world where **nature and our environment** are threatened, let us make our Christmas tree and manger scene reminders of the beauty and sacredness of nature. How closely at his coming did Jesus bind himself to the animals of the field, as well as to the earth and the open sky!

Remembering **the poor** shepherds and the circumstances of Christ's birth, so marked by poverty, let us make them reminders of the forgotten poor of our world.

Let the Child and Joseph and Mary teach us the **dignity and importance of children and families** in a society so neglectful of them.

The Christmas season's rich traditions come from peoples throughout the world, from Spain, South America, Eastern Europe, and so many other places. Let them remind us of the **unity of all people as children of God**.

May the Internet site below and "The PILGRIM" bring you, your family and friends closer to the mysteries we celebrate.

## Advent Wreath

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light.

Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.



Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet and the fourth is rose, but four white candles or four violet candles can also be used. Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal--one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. A short prayer may accompany the lighting.

### **A Rite for the Beginning of Advent at Home**

*The first day the wreath is in the home, the leader may say:*

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short, we look on these earthly signs--light and green branches-- and remember God's promise to our world: Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come. Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them gladness; they rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil. *Is. 9:1-2*

*Then all pray:*

O God, rejoicing, we remember the promise of your Son. As the light from this candle, may the bless of Christ come upon us, brightening our way and guiding us by his truth. May Christ our Savior bring life into the darkness of our world, and to us, as we wait for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

*Then the first candle is lighted.*

Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal -- one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. The rose candle is usually lighted on the third Sunday of Advent. As the candles are lighted, a prayer may be said.

### **Daily Prayers for Lighting Candles on an Advent Wreath**

#### **First Week**

O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, desire of every nation, Savior of all peoples, come and dwell among us.

#### **Second Week**

O King of all nations, Jesus Christ, only joy of every heart, come and save your people.

### **Third Week**

O Key of David, Jesus Christ, the gates of heaven open at your command, come and show us the way to salvation.

### **Fourth Week**

O Wisdom, holy Word of God, Jesus Christ, all things are in your hands, come and show us the way to salvation.

(from "Christmas Prayers and Customs" Regina Press, New York, 1990, by Father Victor Hoagland, C.P. and <http://www.cptryon.org/prayer/adx/index.html>)

## **POPE SUGGESTS WAYS to AVOID CONSUMERISM at CHRISTMAS**

### **Points to Simplicity of the Nativity Crib**

John Paul II urged the faithful to contemplate the mystery of Christmas and to offer help to the needy as a way to counteract the consumerism of the season.

"The simplicity of the Crib is very much in contrast with that concept of Christmas so often expressed in advertisements," the Pope said today when he addressed thousands of pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square.

"Even the beautiful tradition of exchanging gifts among relatives and friends for Christmas has been affected by a certain consumer mentality, which risks losing the true meaning of Christmas," he added.

In fact, gifts are a reminder that "the person of Christ is a gift of God to humanity, of which our gifts in this feast are a reflection and expression."

"For this reason, it is all the more opportune to favor those gestures that manifest solidarity and acceptance of the poor and the needy," John Paul II emphasized.

In the second place, the Holy Father suggested that Christians live Christmas like Mary: with a contemplative spirit.

He urged, "first of all, inner silence and prayer, which allow one to contemplate the mystery that is commemorated. In the second place, the willingness to accept the will of God, regardless of how it is manifested."

"May Jesus, who in a few days will come to make our Crib radiant with joy, be able to find a generous welcome in every Christian family, as happened in Bethlehem on that holy night," the Pope concluded.

(VATICAN CITY, DEC. 22, 2002) (Zenit.org)

## **MESSAGE of 10/25/2003 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti**

*Dear Children! I call you anew to consecrate yourselves to my heart and the heart of my Son Jesus. I desire, little children, to lead you all on the way of conversion and holiness. Only in this way, through you, we can lead all the more souls on the way of salvation. Do not delay, little children, but say with all your heart: "I want to help Jesus and Mary that all the more brothers and sisters may come to know the way of holiness." In this way, you will feel the contentment of being friends of Jesus. 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.)

## **MESSAGE of 10/2/03 to MIRJANA**

At her monthly apparition [Prayer for Unbelievers] on October 2, Mirjana reported that the Blessed Mother gave her this message with tears in her eyes:

*Dear Children, give me your hearts completely. Allow me to take you to my Son, Who is the true peace and happiness. Do not allow the false brightness that is surrounding you and being offered to you, to deceive you. Do not allow Satan to reign over you with the false peace and happiness. Come to me, I am with you.*

(Our Lady Speaks from Medjugorje, Internet and e-mail)

## **REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 10/25/03**

### **WITH MARY, on the WAY of CONVERSION and HOLINESS**

Today also, in this message, Mary, our Mother, pours out her heart full of love through these simple words. It is almost impossible to express in the words all that Mary, as a Mother, feels towards us who are her children. She wants us to be holy, which means happy, normal and healthy people. Only this is worth to be, only for that to fight with all our strength.

The desire and the prayer of Jesus and Mary are addressed to us, here and now, through Our Lady's message. I would dare to say that Our Lady implores each one of us to begin finally to believe that God wants our good, that He loves us. God does not love only the good ones and the holy ones, but also wicked people. The problem is that all do not respond to this love. Without love, human life on earth is difficult and almost impossible - not only without the love of God, but also without human love, without human warmth, comprehension and goodness. We could not live if we had not received this love from our very

birth in so many ways and in so many occasions. Love is the ground, the soil on which we can lean our life. It is the fundamental condition of life for all.

Every human being asks: "Does God love me?" If it is true that He loves me, and if I allow this truth to enter into my heart, into my thoughts, into my feelings, if I allow it to overwhelm my whole life, then my life becomes different and more beautiful. Unfortunately, there are so many negative experiences, so many experiences of evil and wickedness, which tell us the opposite and put on trial our faith in the love of God, in the love that was proved to us by Jesus and His own life. Jesus himself experienced infernal wickedness, but He did not refrain from men or from His love for men. God did not spare His own Son Jesus in order to convince us that we are loved. He allowed Himself to be crucified so that we may realise what God is ready to do for us. As for us, we should answer to the truth of this event with trust. If we respond with faith to the love of Jesus, we become eternal and indestructible.

Saint Paul says: "*The Son of God loved me, and gave himself for me.*" (Gal 2,20) Jesus loved us all with a human heart, not with a plastic heart, but with a heart that feels suffering, pain and joy, that feels all that we feel. There is no human feeling that Jesus did not feel; he felt them all, except sin.

In the heart of Mary, the desire *to take us on the way of conversion and holiness* does not vanish. Since the moment when - through the apostle John - Jesus entrusted each one of us to her, "Woman, behold your son!", Mary is a Mother who does not give up, who is not afraid of such a heavy and responsible task: to lead us on the way of holiness towards God, towards life, and not just any life, but life in fullness.

"*Do not delay*", Mary warns us, because a waste of time is also a loss of grace. Jesus and Mary need us, they need you and me, so that the others also, all of them, may reach life, may reach God. The one who has made the experience of the love of God cannot remain passive and uninterested in all those who have





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**All Pictured Rosaries were Obtained and Blessed in Medjugorje**

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**Jade Small Bead \$12**



Stones from Podbrdo (Apparition) Hill and Mount Krizevac (Cross Mountain).



Green Jade Colored Beads. Our Lady of Tihaljina picture on center medal and "Medjugorje 24-06-1981" on back. Trinity Cross

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**Ladder in Silver Colored Metal \$20**

**Ladder in Gold Colored Metal \$20**



Pictured is a Light Blue bead. Colors available include Blue, Green, Red, Multi-Colored Crystal. Center Medal of Our

Pictured is a Blue bead. Colors Available include Multi-Colored Crystal. Medal of Our Lady Queen of Peace contains a vial of dirt from Podbrdo (Apparition) Hill

Lady Queen of Peace contains a vial of dirt from Podbrdo (Apparition) Hill.

**Florentine Holy Water Fonts 7" \$13**



**Holy Spirit**



**Saint Michael, Archangel**



**Immaculate Conception**



**Saint Joseph and Jesus**

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**Holy Spirit, Silver Doves, Blue Dots \$15**



A Miraculous Medal in the position of every bead.



A Silver Dove with a Blue Dot in the position of every bead.

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**Holy Trinity 8" \$39.95**

**Infant Jesus 4" \$4**

**Infant Jesus of Prague**



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**Saint Gabriel** 8" \$24.95  
12" \$39.95, 15" \$59.95



**Saint Anthony of Padua**  
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**Holy Family** 8" \$29.95  
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Religious Articles

Article Name	Type, Size, Color, etc.	Donation	Postage	Qty	Total
Chain - Lightweight, Gold Color	Chain - 24 inch	\$4.00	\$2.37		
Crucifix for Wearing - Plain	Cross, Crucifix - or with Saint Benedict Medal	\$12.00	\$2.37		
Crystal Rosary - Aqua	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$10.00	\$2.83		
Crystal Rosary - Black	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$10.00	\$2.83		
Crystal Rosary - Blue	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$10.00	\$2.83		
Crystal Rosary - Deep Red	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$10.00	\$2.83		
Crystal Rosary - Deep Red	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$15.00	\$2.83		
Holy Oil of Gladness	Sacramental - Plastic Bottle with Prayer Sheet	\$5.00	\$4.67		
Ladder Rosary - Blue Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$20.00	\$3.06		
Ladder Rosary - Blue Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Gold Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$20.00	\$3.06		
Ladder Rosary - Green Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$20.00	\$3.06		
Ladder Rosary - Light Blue Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$20.00	\$3.06		
Ladder Rosary - Multi-Colored Crystal Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$20.00	\$3.06		
Ladder Rosary - Multi-Colored Crystal Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Gold Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$20.00	\$3.06		
Ladder Rosary - Red Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$20.00	\$3.06		
Pix for Holy Eucharist	PIX - Gold Case with Silver Last Supper	\$35.00	\$3.29		
Pix for Holy Eucharist	PIX - IHS with Small Cross	\$35.00	\$3.29		
Rosary Case - Zippered	Rosary Case	\$5.00	\$2.37		
Rosary with Holy Spirit / Doves for Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Beads, Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$15.00	\$3.06		
Rosary with Jade Colored Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$12.00	\$2.37		
Rosary with Medjugorje Stones and Rose Buds	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$12.00	\$2.83		
Rosary with Miraculous Medals for Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Beads, Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$20.00	\$2.83		
Rosary with Olive Wood Beads	Rosary, Medjugorje - Silver Colored Links, Cross, and Center Medal	\$10.00	\$2.37		

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Statues

Statue Name	Type, Size, Color, etc.	Donation	Postage	Qty	Total
Anthony of Padua, Saint - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$24.95	\$5.95		
Anthony of Padua, Saint - FR12	Florentine Collection - Resin - 12 inch	\$39.95	\$7.30		
Divine Mercy - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$24.95	\$5.95		
Divine Mercy - FR12	Florentine Collection - Resin - 12 inch	\$39.95	\$7.30		
Divine Mercy - FR15	Florentine Collection - Resin - 15 inch	\$59.95	\$7.30		
Francis of Assisi, Saint - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$24.95	\$6.75		
Francis of Assisi, Saint - FR12	Florentine Collection - Resin - 12 inch	\$39.95	\$6.75		
Gabriel the Archangel, Saint - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$24.95	\$5.95		
Gabriel the Archangel, Saint - FR12	Florentine Collection - Resin - 12 inch	\$39.95	\$7.30		
Gabriel the Archangel, Saint - FR15	Florentine Collection - Resin - 15 inch	\$59.95	\$7.30		
Holy Family - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$29.95	\$5.95		
Holy Family - FR12	Florentine Collection - Resin - 12 inch	\$49.95	\$7.30		
Holy Spirit - FHWF	Florentine Holy Water Fonts - Hanging, Resin - 7 inch	\$13.00	\$5.95		
Holy Trinity - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$39.95	\$6.75		
Immaculate Conception - FHWF	Florentine Holy Water Fonts - Hanging, Resin - 7 inch	\$13.00	\$5.95		
Infant Jesus - FR04	Florentine Collection - Resin - 4 inch	\$4.00	\$3.06		
Infant of Prague - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$24.95	\$5.95		
Infant of Prague - FR12	Florentine Collection - Resin - 12 inch	\$39.95	\$6.75		
Infant of Prague - FR15	Florentine Collection - Resin - 15 inch	\$59.95	\$7.30		
Joseph, Saint and Jesus - FHWF	Florentine Holy Water Fonts - Hanging, Resin - 7 inch	\$13.00	\$5.95		
Jude, Saint - FR05	Florentine Collection - Resin - 5.5 inch	\$10.00	\$5.13		
Jude, Saint - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$24.95	\$5.95		
Jude, Saint - FR12	Florentine Collection - Resin - 12 inch	\$39.95	\$6.75		
Jude, Saint - FR15	Florentine Collection - Resin - 15 inch	\$59.95	\$3.52		
Michael the Archangel, Saint - FHWF	Florentine Holy Water Fonts - Hanging, Resin - 7 inch	\$13.00	\$5.95		
Padre Pio, Saint - FR08	Florentine Collection - Resin - 8 inch	\$24.95	\$5.95		
Padre Pio, Saint - FR12	Florentine Collection - Resin - 12 inch	\$49.95	\$5.95		
Padre Pio, Saint - P12	Plaster - 12 inch	\$29.95	\$7.30		
Padre Pio, Saint, Hearing Confession	Florentine Collection - Resin - 9 inch	\$49.95	\$6.75		

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not yet made this experience. The love of God cannot be kept for oneself; one cannot take pleasure in it alone. It wants to be given to all, so that all may experience it, seek it and desire it with the whole heart. Each Christian is a missionary there where he lives, for people whom he meets and who surround him. Let us not become weary and let us not stop on the way on which calls us Mary, our Mother.

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

## PRESS BULLETIN 191, 10/26/2003

### THE GREATNESS of SMALLNESS and THE POWER of WEAKNESS

In October 2003, the Church had the joy of celebrating the 25 years of the pontificate of the pope Jean-Paul II and the beatification of Mother Teresa.

*Many common points link these two characters.*

*First of all, it is their devotion to Christ and the Church, their love towards each human being, their discrete presence, their humble service, their courage and audacity in witnessing Christian love... The Pope and Mother Teresa became thus a challenge for the whole world. They showed, in fact, the only manner of conquering the world. Their choice is not the weapons; the love is the force with which they carry out the struggle for Christ and for the small ones of this world. Independently of human options, of national or religious leanings, nobody can remain indifferent in front of these two characters. They are a spiritual provocation to the proud, to the selfish ones, to the licentious, to the greedy... They touch and they bring into movement. They love humanity and they always seek Christ in the human person. They are a continual sermon. They are a flame that burns in the darkest recesses of the earth and of the broken hearts. Hand in the hand, they are the kind of the disciples of Christ who were ready to leave everything to gain Christ and to show Christ by their own life.*

*The Pope and Mother Teresa are the way for the contemporary Church and they show it the way. They pave the road to reach Christ. They teach us - at our time when everyone is in a hurry - how to stop next to the concrete person, how to bring hope where despair seems to be only reality, how to carry love where hatred knocks on the door, how to believe when it seems to us that there are other easier ways to reach the meaning and obtain earthly success. Paul exclaimed: For me, to live is Christ, to die is gain! It is the message that these two beloved of Jesus send to the world through their life. By all their being, they*

**The PILGRIM, Volume 14, Number 11– November 2003**

*announce the culture of life and the civilization of love. For them, death is not the end but the beginning. For them, illness is not a punishment but a chance, a gift. They can conceive and live their life in this manner because they do not live for themselves - Christ lives in them.*

*The Pope, who still resist the illness in this heartless world, and Mother Teresa, who takes care of us in heaven, are the power that would need precisely those who consider themselves as the strongest. They are a symbol of smallness that should acquire those who seem to be the greatest. They are the powerful ones of the Spirit, whom should invoke the powerful ones and those who are attached to the flesh. They lived and they live the echo of the words of the Blessed Virgin: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord!" Their availability to enter into the adventure of the Spirit shows that it is necessary to leave all that the world promises to us and to sail on the waves.*

*They tell us today the most beautiful of all the stories: the story of Jesus and the merciful Samaritan.*

.....  
**Father Mario Knezovic**

### COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of September, 160,000 received Holy Communion and 3384 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

### AN IRISH BISHOP in MEDJUGORJE

Monsignor Donal McKeown, Auxiliary Bishop of Down and Connor (Ireland), came on private visit to Medjugorje in the beginning of September 2003. Monsignor McKeown has been a priest for 26 years and was ordained a bishop in 2001. For ten years he was director of his diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes, and to the Irish Marian shrine at Knock.

He told us:

*"The Gospel constantly speaks about healing of soul and body. Though there are many different forms of spirituality within the Church, God may always bring healing to us in different ways and contexts. Now, as throughout the history of the Church, God's grace works in strange and unimagined ways.*

*Everywhere in the Church there are such manifestations of God's surprising grace. However, many of them can be difficult to understand and the Church is always cautious how it responds to them. There is always a need for discernment by the whole Church family.*

*One of the striking features of the groups of Irish pilgrims is that there are numerous men, younger and older, and that this is precisely the population that the*

Church in Ireland finds difficulty in bringing to Church. Many of them tell of taking drugs, alcohol, or being addicted to gambling, or having been away from the Church for long periods of time. Through God's grace they are convinced that they have been healed here from these vices. Sometimes one has to leave his home and his homeland to receive a special grace.

In some countries, the Church seems to be becoming smaller in our times and the temptation of the priests is sometimes only to look after the "small flock", after those who remain. The Gospel, however, calls us to reach out to those who are at the edges and outside. That outreach has grown in very striking ways around Medjugorje. Such outreach seems to be very much in tune with the spirit of the New Testament. The offer of forgiveness and new beginnings in Jesus is a core part of the Good news. Furthermore, those who know forgiveness and healing will be best able to forgive and offer healing in God's name.

However, conversions such as those that happen in Medjugorje are only the first step after which the faithful must receive catechesis and support when they return home to everyday life. The challenge of the local church is to incorporate the experiences lived here back into the local context."

## **BISHOP of SAO TOME and PRINCIPE in MEDJUGORJE**

Monsignor Abilio Ribas, Bishop of the islands Sao Tome and Principe in Africa, came for the first time to Medjugorje in September 2003. On the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, he concelebrated Mass on Cross Mountain.

Monsignor Ribas is Portuguese, and has been [a] missionary in Africa for 45 years already. For 27 years, he was a missionary in Angola, a former Portuguese colony. He has been on the islands Sao Tome and Principe for almost 19 years now, as the third bishop of this young diocese.

He told us:

"I came to know Medjugorje mostly through books written by Father Joaquim Milheiro who came here with me. From the very beginning, I followed these events with much interest. I always wanted to come here, and I was waiting for favorable circumstances.

I do not want to discuss the question of the authenticity of the apparitions. I have my idea about it, but what I see, what impresses me, are people who come and pray. You can really feel that they have been touched by the Spirit. They pray a lot, everywhere, all the time, and this is excellent. This is

really interesting, this is what attracts people and change their behavior. I heard many witnesses from different people. Speaking about Medjugorje, they say: "We have really changed!"

I know that the local bishop is reserved towards the apparitions and I do not want to contradict my colleague. I do not ask myself this question. I see what is happening, what is done, for me this is a sign, a big sign, but I do not want to discuss the positions of my colleague from this diocese.

I can see that people here make big sacrifices. I have experienced it as a pilgrim. If these apparitions had taken place in a rich country, I am sure that there would already be a stairway to the place of the apparitions, in order to facilitate climbing! I see that you leave places as they have been originally and I implore you to leave it this way: let the mountains in themselves be an occasion for a big sacrifice. I have seen people climbing barefoot and this is exceptional.

Here, people share the same ideals and make sacrifices for the Church. Such behavior can help the Church a lot to walk in the spirit of self-giving, and the consequence may be the unity of the world. I admit that personally I feel richer and stronger in my faith.

At our [current] times, there are more apparitions [in the world] than in the past. I think that this is a sign. A sign given by a Mother seeking her children. The [many] apparitions are a sign that people went astray from God's path. This is why the Mother comes with love and warns us, she tells us that we really have to turn to God."

## **WINTER SCHEDULE of the PRAYER PROGRAM at the SHRINE**

On Monday, September 15th, 2002, the winter schedule of the prayer program at the Shrine began. The prayer of the Rosary in the Parish church begins at 5 PM, Holy Mass at 6 PM, followed by the blessings and the third part of the rosary. Eucharistic adoration is on Thursday after the evening Mass and on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 PM. The Veneration of the Cross is on Friday after the Evening Mass.

The [Sunday] Rosary on the [Podbrdo] Apparition Hill and the [Friday] Way of the Cross on [Mount Krizevac] Cross Mountain will begin at 2 PM. The occasion for confessions is every evening during the evening prayer program.

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

## VOCATION DEPARTMENT

### NAZARETH HOUSE

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,  
Father Cadmus Mazzarella,**

[mazzarella@camdendiocese.org](mailto:mazzarella@camdendiocese.org),

or visit: <http://www.beapriest.org>, or

**Nazareth House, 300 Cuthbert Boulevard, Cherry Hill,  
NJ 08002 (856) 910-4930 or FAX: (856) 662-8917**

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### FALSE FEARS: HOW EVIL CAN UNDERMINE GOD'S CALL

When I see bright, well rounded, gifted young men with all kinds of attractive options before them, who feel called by God to a life of evangelical poverty, chastity and obedience in the Society of Jesus, I can only understand this as the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. In fact, I've never experienced the Holy Spirit working as clearly and directly in people's lives as I have in my current ministry as vocation director,

On the other hand, I have also never experienced the work of the evil spirit as palpably as I have in vocation ministry - most likely because the stakes are high when a young adult experiences God's call to serve as a religious. The Synoptic Gospels portray the Reign of God, which Christ introduced on earth, as a cosmic struggle between the forces of good and evil. In his Spiritual Exercises, Saint Ignatius, in the meditation on the Two Standards, similarly portrays the Reign of God as a cosmic struggle between the forces of Christ and those of Satan. And in the meditation on the Kingdom of Christ, Ignatius invites us into total service of Christ, to live according to Christ's values and to work in spreading the Reign of God - a noble endeavor indeed.

As Christians, we believe this cosmic struggle between good and evil is at the core of the spiritual life. And since the vocational discernment process helps enlist people on the side of Christ and the Reign of God, it is not surprising that the evil spirit will do all in its power to undermine the generous, open response of people trying to discern God's call.

What are the weapons for sidetracking people in their vocational discernment process? A master observer of the interior movements of the spiritual life, Saint Ignatius, believed a common ploy is to tempt a person, especially someone young in the spiritual life, into fearing that the cost of following God's call is too high to bear. The focus shifts to all the problems and difficulties of responding to God's call to religious life. The evil spirit rouses a false sadness for things that will be missed and instills anxiety about personal weakness and the inability to persevere in response to God's call. In this dim light, all the obstacles to joyfully say yes to the call are deviously highlighted and the rewards obscured.

All this is powerful ammunition, which our American culture strongly reinforces, making the path to religious life clearly counter-cultural. By contrast, Ignatius observes that the Holy Spirit works to strengthen, encourage, console, inspire and give inner peace to the person who is trying to respond generously and openly to God's call. Personal resolve strengthens with a sense of joy and a feeling of rightness about the choice being contemplated. By focusing on the rewards of religious life, the discerned grows in the courage of his or her convictions and trusts that all obstacles can be overcome with God's help.

Commonly, a person in a vocational discernment process who feels drawn over a significant period to respond openly and generously to God's call will falter when the time for making the decision approaches. This is the time when the evil spirit especially tries to discourage the discernor with false

### 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](http://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.

fears. In order to remain true to God's call, the discernor must work to recognize these temptations for what they are discouragement coming from a negative force that is trying to tempt him or her away from God rather than toward God's peace.

Ignatius offers some very practical advice to discerners in the grips of such discouragement and desolation:

1. Avoid making new decisions or reversing old ones during such periods.
2. Continue to pray, go to Mass regularly, and prayerfully
3. Reflect on your experiences.
4. Don't be tempted into keeping your doubt secret. The best way to address doubt is to explore it and bring these temptations into the light of day by sharing them with one's spiritual director, confessor or some other spiritual person. This helps counter the power of these temptations with sources of personal support.
5. Be aware of your points of habitual temptation. Since the evil spirit attacks areas of greatest weakness, it is important to be vigilant and pay attention to these vulnerable areas. It takes a certain amount of spiritual maturity to have this level of self-awareness,, but it is clearly very helpful in recognizing various temptations for what they are.
6. Cultivate an attitude of patience during times of spiritual desolation and discouragement. It is helpful to recall that everything has its time and that the consolation experience in the past will again be God's gift in the future. All you need to do is patiently, prayerfully and faithfully wait.

As I remarked earlier, given the high stakes for the Reign of God, the most negative of influences are bound to be present during the vocational discernment process. The evil spirit will do all in its power to prevent someone from responding generously and openly to God's call - particularly to religious life.

If you are in discernment, your challenge is to stay strong during these tempting times of discouragement and anxiety and seek all the help you can to persevere in responding to God's call. The key is to use all available resources to help you determine your true path.

Doubt is an enemy of any important personal journey, especially the path to religious life.

(by Warren Sazama, SJ, Robert E. Reiser, S.J.,  
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[vocations@nvsj.org](mailto:vocations@nvsj.org))

## **HOLY SEE ADDRESSES U.N. on GENERAL, COMPLETE DISARMAMENT**

VATICAN CITY, OCT 9, 2003 (VIS) - Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Holy See permanent observer to the United Nations, spoke yesterday in New York at the general debate of the first committee on Agenda Item 74: General and Complete Disarmament.

"If we are to aspire to general and complete disarmament," he affirmed, "we must first of all show a respect for life and the dignity and human rights of individuals, reject violence, promote freedom, justice, solidarity, tolerance and the acceptance of differences, and develop better understanding and harmony between ethnic, religious, cultural and social groups."

Turning to the question of the "hard" and "soft" threats to world peace mentioned by U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, Archbishop Migliore explained that "among the hard threats are terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, while the soft threats include the persistence of extreme poverty, the disparity of income between and within societies, the spread of infectious diseases, and environmental degradation."

The U.N. must, he said, confront both types of threats, and he added that on the specific question of disarmament, "the importance of dialogue, negotiation, diplomacy and reference to the rule of law in these proceedings cannot be over-estimated."

"Small arms ought to occupy our immediate attention," the nuncio underscored, "for small arms and light weapons kill more than half a million people each year, including 300,000 in armed conflict and 200,000 from homicides and suicides, of which 90 percent are civilians." He said small arms, among other things, augment conflicts, diminish opportunities for development and impede the tasks of aid workers.

He pointed to the "terrifying" premise of the Cold War deterrence concept called MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction), namely, that "one bloc's security can be defended by threatening the annihilation of the other bloc's population. ... The end of the Cold War should have seen the end of MAD policies that held the world in fear, but events over the past year have led to a certain resurgence in this thinking."

The archbishop, noting that the world is threatened not only by nuclear arms but by chemical and biological weapons, decried the fact that "many arms

treaties contain loopholes and weak points in terms of compliance, verification and enforcement.”

In concluding, he stated that “all the steps that must be taken in the disarmament process may seem at times overwhelming. But if they are seen in the context of building a culture of peace, they are not perhaps so daunting. ... What is essential to fulfill the peace agenda is to change the attitude of both States and individuals. We must realize that violence is not the inevitable lot of mankind.”

**(DELSS/DISARMAMENT/UN:MIGLIORE VIS  
031009 (440))**

## CHARITY BEGINS at HOME

It was a gray afternoon, chilly and wet. Donning my chauffeur’s cap reluctantly, I headed out into the rain to pick up my teens from Spanish class. Arriving early, I maneuvered our van behind that of a veteran home schooling mom, Cindy, whose two sons are friends of my older boys. I seized the opportunity for a bit of conversation, even though it meant getting wet all over again as I dashed over to her van.

“How’s it going?”

A frown creased her brow as Cindy related their struggles of the past month. It had been tough. Her nine-year-old was still reading haltingly and the multiplication tables just weren’t sinking in. Nathan, her teen-age son, was in a motivational skimp and chafing under the heavy load of high school work. Both kinds, as well as Cindy herself, were battling discouragement. It sounded as dismal as the weather itself. But after a few minutes of commiserating and exchanging practical ideas, a smile suddenly lit up Cindy’s face.

“But you know what?” She paused. “We’re doing great in the ‘love department’...really loving the Lord and working things out between us with love. And hey, that’s what counts, isn’t it?”

Success in the “love department”—love for God and love for each other—*is* what counts. At times our preoccupation with books, deadlines, and tests clouds our vision, temporarily obscuring the single most important objective for any family. Indeed, the Lord Himself has given us a mission statement that reminds us, day in and day out, of our most important task as parents:

“Hear, O Lord: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently

to your children, and you shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise” (Deut. 6:4-7).

Our mission, quite simply, is to love God with our entire being and to foster this love in our children—no small task in a culture that considers “love” a means to fulfill assorted “needs,” without obligation or restriction. This cheap imitation of true love inevitably deteriorates into superficiality and self-absorption. It shrinks rather than grows, and eventually culminates in the rejection of the other person. Authentic charity, in contrast, is limitless and expansive, rooted in the infinite God. It deepens and expands the more we focus on others rather than ourselves.

So how are we as parents to fulfill this mission? How can we help our children love the Lord their God with their whole heart, soul, mind, and strength? And what, on the practical level, does this look like in the context of family life?

### A Matter of the Heart

Charity is a matter of the heart and our hearts belong first to God. Moms and dads looking for practical ways to help their kids grow in charity may forget to consider the essential foundation of this virtue and focus merely on trying to eliminate their children’s socially unacceptable behaviors. How can they get their kids to fight less? And what is the best way to encourage kindness and concern for others? In the search for better techniques and more profound exhortations, the obvious first step I often overlooked.

Charity is about God, first and foremost, and only then about our relationships with each other. If you want to foster charity in your children, help them build a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

### PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING LIST

We do need to hear from you in writing at least once a year in order to keep you on our mailing list.

Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery address is incorrect.

In Christian charity we do not want delivery to incorrect addresses and wasting of God’s precious resources. There is no “subscription” fee.

We do ask for free will donations to support “*The PILGRIM*” and the operations of the *PFMC*.

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

Encourage their desires for a deeper prayer life and to grow closer to Him. Teach your children to pray with their hearts, not simply to “say prayers”. Help them to see that what God desires is not an external compliance with His laws and precepts, but obedience born out of love. Without a personal encounter with Christ, efforts to foster charity will result in purely cosmetic changes. A veneer of social respectability may sometimes seem welcome, but it is no substitute for authentic charity.

In addition to cultivating their lives of prayer, we need to tend to our children’s sacramental lives. Whenever we have a particularly stormy day at our house, with children grumbling and sniping at each other, I check the calendar. More often than not, they are all overdue for Confession. Increasingly, our older children recognize this for themselves. Often, after a difficult day, they will ask to get to Confession—not simply to confess their sins, but to receive the grace they need to live charitably.

Daily Communion is a big help. When sickness, travel, or too many late nights disrupt our morning Mass routine, our days inevitably are rockier. The children give in to grumpiness and bad moods; selfishness gets full rein. But when our schedule is in place and we make Mass, it is like skating on smooth ice. While we still fall, getting up is so much easier and we’re back to full speed more quickly. Certainly, we continue to sin, but repentance, forgiveness, and self-sacrifice come much more easily. The power of the Eucharist is unbounded in opening our children’s hearts to a greater love for Christ and each other.

But charity is not just a matter of the heart for our children; it must be a matter of the heart for ourselves as well. Scripture teaches that love of God must reign in our hearts if we are to succeed in instilling it in our children’s hearts. Children, especially teens, have built-in hypocrisy detectors. If your love for God is superficial, you can be sure your children will notice. More than that, you can be sure that your own actions have undercut the very mission you are trying to accomplish.

Along the way, as we teach our children about true charity, we must also teach them to recognize false charity. Charity is a matter of the heart, but it is not the same as “feeling like you love someone.” Charity is love for another person, out of love for God—regardless of that person’s endearing qualities, or lack of them.

Our children need to realize the difference between mere human affection and true charity. Human affection is good and can make charity easier to practice, but it is not the same as supernatural charity.

In fact, charity perfects our ability to love on a natural level, imbuing it with the perfection of God’s love.

Authentic charity requires self-sacrificing love rather than a layer of “niceness” that covers self-absorption. As children enter the teen years, the ability to distinguish charity from powerful emotions and selfish desires will be crucial for their purity.

## Love in Action

Fostering charity is a task for all parents. My personal experience is that the home schooling lifestyle comes with some built-in advantages—and a few challenges—for teaching and living charity. On the plus side, we have the time and opportunity to build good relationships. We are with our children for much of the day, allowing us quite literally to instruct our children—by word and example—when we wake up and when we prepare for bed, as we sit for meals and study our lessons, as we venture out for field trips, simple errands, or sports activities. Every aspect of the day affords us the chance to illustrate the love of God and to point out His actions in our lives.

Teaching our children diligently requires not only that we teach them often and in the natural course of the day, but also that we immerse them in a culture of charity within our homes. The home schooling lifestyle allow us to fashion the daily culture that our children will experience. The Pope often refers to the “civilization of love” created by families within their homes. Such a culture is not accidental, but requires deliberation and forethought. Living charity and cultivating our children’s love for God must be uppermost in our minds. Our family decisions must reflect this priority, as we ask the question, “Will this bring our children closer to the Lord?”

But home schooling also serves up some challenges as we try to instill charity in our children. Precisely, because we are around each other so much, we have many opportunities to irritate each other! My neighbor, in contrast, tells me that her two children rarely bicker anymore now that both are in school and heavily involved in after-school activities. They see each other for minutes each day—usually just at dinner. The greater exposure we have to each other, the more our personality differences need to bend and yield. But this time we have together provides great tutorial in charity, allowing us to work toward the famous description of charity in 1 Corinthians 13.

Home schooling provides an additional challenge in the pursuit of charity. If our efforts to instill charity are long on words, short on example, and lacking any support from outside sources, our children may well turn a deaf ear toward what we say. It’s crucial that we find others—friends, youth group leaders, priests,



and religious—who will sound the same themes to our children. We need to be creative in letting other voices reinforce our own messages.

So, how do we teach our children to live charity? There is no one-size-fits-all solution. Just as we don't explain the theoretical points to our three-year-olds, we don't want to settle for a teenager making the same small gestures acceptable from a three-year-old. On a very practical level, however, parents may find the following points helpful.

### **Practical Tips**

*Give your children the language of charity early on.* Younger children will parrot your manner of speaking to the other children. Is your tone gentle? Do you avoid rudeness, personal criticism, belittling, and name-calling? Eliminate speech that offends another's dignity.

*Call a halt to complaining.* A complaining heart is an ungrateful heart and, like second-hand smoke, the selfishness behind continued complaints pollutes the atmosphere for everyone. Turn baseless complaints into a statement of gratitude, helping the children focus on what they do have instead of what they wish they had. ("I wanted the lemon lollipop! How come I never get the lemon one?") Respond with a big smile that ignores complaint, "How thoughtful of Uncle Joe to bring you a lollipop. Aren't you glad you have one at all?")

*Beware of critical talk,* especially under the guise of "I'm just pointing out the truth," or camouflaged by "humor" (a favorite of the adolescent crowd). Look for the motives, such as envy, that may be underlying the criticisms. Work on the deeper problem.

*Charity rules.* Another's offense—being late, rude, etc.—never excuses uncharitable words or actions in response. Encourage, thank, and praise each other. Add a time of thanks to family prayers. Even the youngest can thank God for his gifts each day.

*Foster a spirit of selflessness and sacrifice.* When children have competing needs or desires, ask them which one of them is willing to make a sacrifice. Ask the question with confidence, showing assurance that one of them will be generous. Sacrifice and self-denial are more profitably drawn out from children themselves, rather than imposed from above. With encouragement, selfishness can change in a flash to generosity. And the attitude is contagious. My three-year-old and six-year-old spur each other on in sacrifice for others in the family. Eagerness to love in this way challenges the older children to respond in kind.

*Help your children look for the best motives in another's actions, rather than assuming the worst.* For example, offer an explanation for the driver who impatiently honks or cuts you off—perhaps he is late or upset about something—rather than pronouncing him an "idiot" or worse.

*Encourage your older children to be generous with their time and attention, focusing on what makes the other person happy.* Read or play football with a three-year-old. Spend an extra few minutes giving Grandma the details of what you've been doing lately.

*Recognize the importance of authenticity.* Two children who fight in the car on the way to Mass need to reconcile before they go into Church. Simply pressing the "pause" button while they go into Mass, without their really forgiving each other, ensures that their fight will resume when Mass is over and, more importantly, tells them that the appearance of fraternal charity is more important than whether it really exists. Similarly, our own ability as parents to be faithful to our prayer time and to seek pardon from family members when necessary emphasizes the value of authenticity.

*Offer a supernatural motivation for difficult tasks.* Remind your children of the value in making sacrifices willingly, of the opportunity to please God by being cheerful when doing a distasteful task, or the value of offering their work or suffering for someone else.

*Make your children aware of the presence of Christ.* Bring Jesus into the situation and make it personal. Life isn't about doing the right thing in the abstract or about being "nice" according to unstated principles. Everything comes back to our relationship to God and, through Him, our relationship with others. "Jesus is right here with us. Do you really want to speak that way?" And the now classic, "What would Jesus do?"

### **Delicate Charity**

Just as the Ten Commandments reflect a minimum standard of faithfulness to God, while the Beatitudes reflect the fullness of Christ's message, encourage your children to live a delicate charity rather than giving only the minimum.

Delicate charity means not just meeting other's needs with love, but anticipating their needs with love. It means going out of the way to excuse others for their failings. It also means noticing the many small things that give another person happiness, such as a favorite pillow, tea prepared in a certain way, the garbage already out on the curb on a rainy morning.

Each of our families is called to build that civilization of love—beginning of course at home. As we reflect on how each of us is doing in the “love department” let’s remember most of all that charity is a matter of the heart and that we must bring our hearts to bear to accomplish this most wonderful goal for ourselves and our children. Let us love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our might!

(by Mary Hasson, *LayWitness*, March 1999)

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## READ YOUR LOCAL DIOCESAN NEWSPAPER and YOUR PARISH BULLETIN!!!

We are fortunate in having readers throughout the United States and many foreign countries. We cannot, however, tailor material to the activities of all the churches and dioceses into which we mail “The PILGRIM.” Please subscribe to and **READ** your local diocesan newspaper.

Pick up and **READ** your parish Sunday Bulletin.

Please look at the bulletin notices on page 19. Help us place notices in your parish Sunday Bulletin.

(Kathleen and Keith Werner)

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## ***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 (Kephias / 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 Internet as printable pages such as the one for this month <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/11OF03.pdf>.

There is a four page information sheet with pictures showing some of the items in our inventory. There is also a copy of this month’s order form included in this issue of “The PILGRIM.” If you wish to order, please determine your order request, make out a check or complete the information for use of a credit card, i.e. card type, number, expiration date, and name on card, sign, and mail 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)**

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## **BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS**

**W**ould 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.

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### **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 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup>, 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/2004/04RET3CF.pdf> 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)**

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## **CONFERENCE CORNER**

### **8th Annual Central California Marian Eucharistic Conference**

**9-11 January 2004** At Mid-State Fairgrounds, Paso Robles, CA. Theme: "*We Believe, We Adore*" Speakers: Father Benedict Groeschel, Father John Corapi, Sister Briega McKenna, Father Pablo Straub, Father Michael Tapajna, Father 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.

Other conferences will be listed as they become known. A visit to the Internet will often provide links to additional conference information sites. A good start is <http://www.medjugorje.org/medconf.htm>.

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## CALENDARS:

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)**.

In *December*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (8)** and **CHRISTMAS (25)**, Feasts of **Our Lady of Guadalupe (12)**, **Saints Stephen (26)**, **John, Apostle and Evangelist (27)**, **Holy Innocents (28)**, and **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (28)**, Memorials of **Saints Francis Xavier (3)**, **Lucy (13)**, **John of the Cross (14)** and Optional Memorials of **Saints John of Damascus (4)**, **Nicholas (6)**, **Juan Diego (9)**, **Pope Damasus I (11)**, **Jane Frances de Chantal (12)**, **John of Kanty (23)**, **Thomas Becket (29)** and **Pope Sylvester I (31)**.

## AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 1 through 3, the information sheets and reservation forms on the 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE and the FUND RAISING DINNER and CONCERT enclosed, as well as the Bulletin Notices on page 19.

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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

## 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!"



Check out the partial inventory order form with pictures enclosed for early Christmas religious gift shopping. 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](mailto:PFMCkmw@comcast.net)  
[Keithwerner@comcast.net](mailto:Keithwerner@comcast.net)



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