



The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 16, No. 1

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

January 2005

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



O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we implore you to be with us in all we do to help others.

Your Father has allowed the earthquake in the Indian Ocean and the resulting tsunami waves that spread from the earthquake for reasons beyond our human knowledge. Our prayers go out to all the families who have lost loved ones in the areas devastated by the tsunami waves. Please help all trying to assist in the recovery. Guide them to provide aid in the appropriate places.

We have been praying for unbelievers for many years. We have offered special prayers on the 2nd of each month as requested by Your Mother. Please help the Christian aid groups to provide great example along the shores of the Indian Ocean where there is great unbelief in You as Our Lord and Savior.

Please help all those who are struggling with their decision to attend the 2005 Retreat Conference, Youth Track, and/or 3-Day Extension, 4 February – 9 February 2005. We need reservations with us as well as with the hotel.

Thank you Lord for hearing and answering our prayers. AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue. This one is from Keith as Kathleen is currently in need of prayer herself. See article below right and on pages 2 and 3.)

NO FEBRUARY 2005 ISSUE of “**The PILGRIM**.”

The volunteer staff of the **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)**, A Religious Association, Inc. decided to work towards a

The **December** MESSAGE, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, is presented beginning on page 16 (centerfold page) with REFLECTION and PRESS BULLETIN.

February-March 2005 issue of “**The PILGRIM**” rather than issues for both months. This is due to the preparations for and conduct of the **2005 Retreat Conference (RC), Youth Track (YT), and 3-Day Extension (3DX)** during late **January** and early **February 2005**. We still need volunteers to sign up for various activities during these events. Please call (856) 768-9228 if you can assist in any way.

The *February-March 2005* issue of “**The PILGRIM**” should be mailed in the second week of **March 2005**. We will need volunteers for assembly on **Wednesday, 9 March**, and **Thursday, 10 March, 2005**. Come join in on the volunteer camaraderie.

It is our intention to make the **January 2005** message and reflection available to attendees at the **2005 RC, YT, and/or 3DX**.

Please help us increase pre-registered attendance at the **2005 RC, YT, and/or 3DX**. Call your friends and relatives, parish office, local prayer groups, etc. These events are early this year with the **RC** and **YT** running from **Friday, 4 February 2005** through **Sunday, 6 February 2005**, and the **3DX** running from **Monday, 7 February 2005** through **Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005**. The **Hilton Hotel** is holding our room block through **1/27/05** even though the enclosed orchid colored information packet may indicate **1/7/05**. Reserve your room with them and register with us. If you are unable to attend any of these events, please contact us with a verification of your mailing address so we can make sure you continue receiving each issue of “**The PILGRIM**”.

(The **PFMC** Volunteer Staff)

PRAY for KATHLEEN

On **Thursday, 12/16/04**, **Kathleen** was wrapping **Christmas** presents at home. She was sitting on the couch with boxes on one side of her, wrapping them

“**The PILGRIM**” for **January 2005** is dedicated to “**Mary, Mother of God, Mother of the Church**.” See page 3 for an “**IN THIS ISSUE . . .**” Table of Contents listing.

on her lap, and setting them on the other side of her. This frequent bending, twisting, and turning motion apparently aggravated some old disc problems in her lower back. On *Friday, 12/17/04*, she visited her favorite chiropractor. He has been able to keep her back aligned and to minimize pain in the lower back. He gave her some relief and told her to swim in warm water. We did that together on *Friday, Saturday, and Sunday* but the pain in **Kathleen's** left leg persisted.

On *Monday, 12/20/04*, she had several tests performed and saw her chiropractor again while I searched for a new pain management doctor. My retired insurance was not accepted by the pain management doctor who cared for **Kathleen** so successfully since the piriformis muscle and sciatic nerve injury in *February 2000* that laid her out for that year's **Retreat Conference**.

By NOON, **Kathleen** had so much pain in her left leg from walking that she could hardly make it into the office where we thought we had an appointment at 1 PM. We arrived to find that we were misinformed and could not be seen that day. We were given an appointment at 3 PM on *Tuesday, 12/21/04*.

We proceeded to see our primary physician for a scheduled appointment at 3 PM on *Monday, 12/20/04*. By this time **Kathleen** had so much pain in her left leg from walking that she had great difficulty making it into the office and would not allow me to use the available wheel chair. After a thorough examination with agreement to follow through on the use of the new pain management team, we started to leave with **Kathleen** in so much pain that her doctor ordered her to go out in a wheelchair and advised me to take her to the Emergency Room. I asked if she had suggestions and she told me to use my closest one. We had never gone to **West Jersey Hospital in Berlin, NJ** but found it to be very good. The new pain management team had suggested that they would use this hospital if an epidural injection was required.

The Emergency Room team was great and put **Kathy** on some pretty strong pain medication by intravenous injection. I tried to get them in touch with the new pain management team to go for an admission. Word came back that they could not admit for pain only. **Kathleen** was sent home with several prescriptions for oral pain medication. The oral pain medication could not make her comfortable so we were faced with returning to the Emergency Room early in the

morning of *Tuesday, 12/21/04*. They kept her until it was nearly time to go for the 3 PM appointment with the pain management team. We were forced to transport her in our car and did not think to take a wheelchair so she had to walk into the office using a walker. She was in great pain. They arranged for us to return to the Emergency Room with justification for admission via the Emergency Room. We never saw what that justification was but we think they claimed need to investigate a hip injury. We used the reason that she "could not walk" on the paperwork.

Once again the Emergency Room team answered the call and made her comfortable. It seemed to take forever to get her a real bed in the hospital. An epidural injection in the operating room was scheduled with all the tests done even by transport for magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) outside the hospital. **Kathleen** had great care. She got some immediate relief from the epidural injections late in the afternoon of *Wednesday, 12/22/04*. These injections were done in the L4-L5 and L5-S1 lumbar vertebrae disc and facet areas where the nerves exit to the left buttocks, piriformis muscle, hip, and leg. Unfortunately the pain returned as soon as the local anaesthetic wore off. After some additional tests to rule out all other possible causes, the hospital asked the pain management doctor to consider another set of epidural injections. He came in on *Christmas Eve, Friday, 12/24/04*, and recognized the need. He called for opening the operating room even though there were no operations scheduled. He injected L4-L5, L3-L4, and L2-L3. He demonstrated that **Kathleen** had full mobility of her left leg under local anaesthetic. He went off for his *Christmas* vacation thinking he had relieved her pain and that she would go home for *Christmas*. Unfortunately, the pain returned as soon as the local anaesthetic wore off. The misery continued through *Christmas, Holy Family Sunday, and Monday* through *Thursday*. The hospital staff was trying to get a neurosurgeon to review the total picture and consider surgery for relief of the nerve compression that seemed to be evident to all. Our daughter, **Katherine**, and her husband, **Ralph**, did all they could to help us with the best neurosurgeons in the area but many were on vacation. We waited with all the patience we could muster for a neurosurgeon to visit **Kathleen**. I faxed the MRI reports to several orthopedic and neurosurgery teams. I even carried the films to one doctor who was willing

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the **PFMC** recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the alleged 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**.

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.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

A PRAYER, NO FEBRUARY 2005 ISSUE of "The PILGRIM:", PRAY for KATHLEEN..... 1
PLEASE REGISTER NOW for the PFMC 2005 RC, YT, and 3DX 3 "THÉRÈSE" – THE 2004 MOVIE, PLEASE SUPPORT the PFMC EVENTS and PILGRIMAGES 4
PLEASE MARK YOUR 2005 CALENDARS for PFMC EVENTS, PILGRIMAGES for 2005 5
A SPECIAL FRIEND, JESUS OUR HEALER..... 6
DE PROFUNDIS for the MARRIED MAN, ELIMINATION of POVERTY INCREASES SOCIAL COHESION..... 8
HOW WE TREAT PEOPLE, PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING LIST 9
LIVING COMPASSION..... 10
VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT, HELPER'S OFFERING AND INVOCATION FOR PRIESTS, CISTERCIAN MONKS, A PRAYER for VOCATIONS, HOLY MASS TIMES 11
A PRAYER for PRIESTS, CONFLICTING VIEWS of the VALUE of CELIBACY, A SIMPLE, BLESSED EXAMPLE 12
THE BEST DAY of MY LIFE, MARRIAGE, A SIGN of the FATHER'S LOVE for HUMANITY 13
MAN IS CAPABLE of KNOWING NORMS of MORAL BEHAVIOR, "THE TITLE of BISHOP IS ONE of SERVICE, NOT of HONOR"..... 14
PRAYER of SAINT PAUL of the CROSS, FOUNDER of the PASSIONIST ORDER, THE FRAGRANCE of GOD, PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS 15
MESSAGE of 12/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti, REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 12/25/2004, A REFLECTION from FATHER ED CHALMERS on OUR LADY'S MESSAGE of 12/25/2004..... 16
PRESS BULLETIN 205, 12/26/2004 18
POPE JOHN PAUL'S APOSTOLIC LETTER "MANE NOBISCUM DOMINE", EUCHARISTIC ADORATION..... 21
EUCHARIST, LIGHT and LIFE of the NEW MILLENNIUM..... 22
AUDIENCE: WE WERE CREATED to BE SAINTS OUT of LOVE, HOLY SEE OBSERVER SPEAKS on RESPECT for HUMAN PERSON, THE EUCHARIST and SAINT JOHN BOSCO 23
THIS IS THE DAY 24
MURDER of the PETERSONS' SON RAISES RIGHT-TO-LIFE ISSUES, LAY FAITHFUL HAVE "DISTINCTIVE DIGNITY and MISSION" 25
SPREAD the SOCIAL DOCTRINE of the CHURCH in ITS ENTIRETY, THE FAMILY'S CONTRIBUTION to SECURITY and DEVELOPMENT..... 26
MAY OUR LADY OBTAIN PEACE and SALVATION for ALL. 27
BUILDING UP the CHURCH in COMMUNION and MISSION, CHRISTIANITY and the CHALLENGES of SECULARISM, UNBELIEF, DISCOVER the TRUTH about MAN in the EUCHARISTIC MYSTERY 28
RESPECT and PROMOTE the LIFE of PEOPLES and INDIVIDUALS 29
PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)..... 30
PFMC PRAYER, CONFERENCE CORNER, BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS..... 31
CALENDARS:, AROUND the PFMC AREA, POPE JOHN PAUL II PRAYER INTENTIONS for JANUARY .. 32

to review them. He told me that **Kathleen** was not a candidate for surgery and showed me why using the MRI films. He offered to see her as an outpatient and get members of his team to evaluate another set of epidural injections. I talked to many doctors who had told me on **12/23/04** that epidural injections should not be repeated without a three to four week wait for the steroids to be absorbed. The repetition we authorized on **12/24/04** was with risks but we had to try and relieve the pain.

An orthopedic surgeon, a specialist in spine surgery, saw **Kathleen** at 6 AM on **Thursday, 12/30/04**. He was willing to perform a nerve decompression surgery in the **Spine Center at West Jersey Hospital in Marlton, NJ** on **New Year's Eve, Friday, 12/31/04**. **Kathleen** was transferred to **Marlton** very late on **Thursday, 12/30/04**, and voluntarily prepared herself for surgery even though she was not listed on the operating room schedule. The doctor came in as promised and worked wonders to fit her into the operating room schedule. He worked on her back from about 1:30 PM until about 6:30 PM. He first went in with a tube for microscopic surgery but had to shift to conventional surgery. He opened the facet areas on L4 and L5 and removed a small bulge in the disc at L4-L5. He thinks that she will have some pain in her left leg for several days while the compressed nerve relaxes. She will have facet bone pain from the scraping, muscle pain where they had to be retracted, and incision pain for several days. The physical therapy staff will work with her to get her left leg working again. She had to come off the anesthesia, sedatives, and strong pain medication.

Kathleen was able to stand up, take a few steps, and sit in a chair on **Monday, 1/3/05**. She moved from **West Jersey Hospital – Marlton to West Jersey Health and Rehabilitation Center – Berlin** on **Wednesday, 1/5/05**. We hope that she will not have a long stay in the rehab center.

We thank you for all your prayers, your Christmas cards and notes. Please forgive us for not answering immediately. Our attention has obviously been on **Kathleen**. We offer our prayers for you through Mary to Jesus and the entire Holy Trinity. I wish I could communicate with and thank everyone personally but I must put my focus on **Kathleen**.

(Keith Werner)

PLEASE REGISTER NOW for the PFMC 2005 RC, YT, and 3DX

Please review the orchid colored four page information packet with reservation forms for the

2005 RC, 3DX, YT from Friday, 4 February 2005 through Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005.

We need advance registrations at the **PFMC** and room reservations at the **HILTON HOTEL** before **1/27/2005**. Walk-ins are welcome.

If we are unable to meet our room block commitment (496 room-nights over the six days), this may be our last **RC/3DX/YT** in a hotel setting.

The costs to arrange for events in a hotel or convention center environment thus allowing more people than fit in a local Catholic retreat house setting to come together for prayer and good teaching for a 3 to 6 day retreat conference are staggering and mind boggling. We need lots of help and prayers.

Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Ask your pastor to post bulletin notices and allow information sheets to be put out in church. Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his official and authorized representative.

“**THÉRÈSE**” – THE 2004 MOVIE

This movie is opening in more theaters nationwide based on its initial success in just 34 theaters. Please try to see it in a theater near you. Visit www.theresemovie.com or print a list of theaters from http://www.theresemovie.com/en/showing/theatrical_print.html.

If you miss it in the theaters, plan to buy it on videotape or DVD and watch it with your family.

PLEASE SUPPORT the **PFMC** EVENTS and PILGRIMAGES

Dear Friends in the Lord, we write this *January* note to express our sincere thanks for your outpouring of greetings during the Christmas Season.

We are still in need of your support to help us continue to succeed in fulfilling our goals and objectives as spelled out in *1989* when we were called to “Bring pilgrims to my Son through **Medjugorje**” and “Bring pilgrims to me through **Medjugorje**.”

The **PFMC** was established with many goals and objectives because we were guided by the **Holy Spirit** to be as inclusive as possible.

From the beginning we worked with **Healing Prayer** to expand the power of the **Sacrament of Confession, Penance, or Reconciliation** to all those in need of **Healing**.

We have learned from experience that the **Effects of Sin** linger on even after a good **Confession**.

The last words of the **Act of Contrition** have taken on new meaning for us and those who have approached us for **Healing Prayer**. Remember them: “**confess my sins, do penance, and amend my life, Amen.**”

Those who have professed their willingness to “**amend my life**” are progressing well with **Healing**

Prayer. This is a key ingredient in the effort of **Healing Prayer**. Another key ingredient is **Intercessory Prayer**. Not only do we need the prayers of the **PFMC Intercessory Prayer Teams** but also those of your friends and relatives.

The **PFMC** is totally run on your donations and Divine Providence. This is why we put into each edition of “**The PILGRIM**” an envelope and a donation slip. We also ask for your prayers of petition. The petitions are collected, and brought to a shrine of pilgrimage. Until that time, we pray for you and the petitions submitted daily.

We realize that there are numerous causes and organizations that ask you for donations, and this makes us even more grateful for your support. You honor us with your gifts. We want you to know that we do not take your generosity for granted.

Any gifts of money go directly to helping us pay the bills of keeping the **PFMC** and **Epiphany House** open. We also ask that if any wish to give gifts of annuities or make us beneficiaries of life insurance policies or IRA accounts that you honor us with your gifts and make possible the events that we hold, such as retreats and conferences, and days of recollection and various classes. We try hard to support the local parishes by bringing in speakers and holding healing services. And with pilgrimages, we bring people the memorable gift of opening of the heart, mind, and soul to God.

We thank you again for making all this possible, and give to you our promise to work with zeal in the service of our **Roman Catholic Church**. We ask Our Lord to bless you abundantly, and to envelope you in His most Sacred Heart through His Mother’s most Immaculate Heart.

“**The PILGRIM**” has been written, organized, published, and mailed only through your generosity and the generosity of volunteers that have come month after month to put it into the mail for you.

Many have suggested establishing a subscription rate but we have felt that so many who read “**The PILGRIM**” could not afford the rate we would have to ask that we have resisted establishing a subscription rate at all.

Would you subscribe at \$30 per year for *10* issues? We know that we are going to have a *February-March 2005* issue mailed in *March* and an *August-September 2005* issue mailed in *September*. This latter may combine with *July* if we are on pilgrimage in early *July 2005*.

(Kathleen and Keith for the PFMC Volunteer Staff)

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2005 CALENDARS for *PFMC* EVENTS

See **Conference Corner** on page 31 as well as **Bulletin Notices** on page 31. Most *PFMC* events will be preceded by their own *PFMC* information sheets with reservation forms.

January 2005

27 January 2005, Friday: Deadline for reservations in *PFMC* block of rooms at **HILTON HOTEL**.

28 January 2005, Friday: **Father Bill Halbing** plans to visit the **Upper Room** of the *PFMC* and hold a **Healing Service** after he celebrates **Holy Mass**.

February 2005

4-9 February 2005, Friday through Ash Wednesday: 2005 Retreat Conference (RC), 3-Day Extension (3DX), and Youth Track (YT) events will take place in the **HILTON HOTEL, Cherry Hill, NJ**. The RC and YT run from **Friday, 4 February 2005** through **Sunday, 6 February 2005**. The 3DX runs from **Monday, 7 February 2005** through **Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005**.

Father Bill Halbing will speak on **Friday** and **Saturday**. **Linda Schubert** from *Miracles of the Heart Ministries* and author of "**Miracle Hour**" will be the keynote speaker for **Saturday night** and stay for the 3DX. **Father Michael Semana** will sing **Holy Mass** on **Saturday** and **Sunday mornings**. **Father John McFadden** will speak on **Sunday afternoon**. **Vinny Flynn**, founder of *Still Waters* and *Spirit Song Ministries* will lead the **Divine Mercy Chaplet** on **Saturday** and **Sunday**. He will also share his witness for the **Year of the Eucharist**. **Father Glenn Hartman** has agreed to bless the participants and the facility as he did last year.

The enclosed orchid color information packet with registration forms is also available at:

www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf.

Please consider registering with the *PFMC* as early as possible so we can make better plans to accommodate you. Pray that those called will register early.

Please call the **HILTON HOTEL** at **1-800-HILTONS (445-8667)** or **(856) 665-6666** with your reservation for hotel rooms within the *PFMC* room block. They will not charge your credit card for more than the first night until you arrive, check-in and are ready to check-out. Our room block has been extended to **1/27/05** so we need reservations before that date made with the **HILTON HOTEL**.

If you would like a group of information packets for the **2005 RC/3DX/YT**, please call **(856) 768-9228**.

March 2005

25 March – 3 April 2005: Divine Mercy Novena. Let us know if your church has it scheduled.

28-30 March 2005: **Vinny Flynn** will present on "**The Year of the Eucharist**" at **Epiphany House** of the *PFMC* or at local churches to be announced in the **February-March** issue of "**The PILGRIM**."

PILGRIMAGES for 2005

We are still in the planning stages for our **2005** pilgrimages and hope to have at least one pilgrimage to **Medjugorje**.

We know there will be a **New Jersey** based pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** from **5 to 13 September 2005**. This pilgrimage will be coordinated by **Rafael Villongco**, **(732) 441-0567** or **(732) 441-1513**. The **Spiritual Director** will be **Father Donald Calloway, MIC**. Please visit the **206 Tours** hosted: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/frcalloway> for more information.

The volunteers of the *PFMC* will coordinate several pilgrimages in **2005**:

9 to 14 October 2005: San Giovanni Rotondo (Saint Pio of Pietrelcina) with **Father Glenn Hartman, Saint John Neumann Parish** in **Sicklerville, NJ** as **Spiritual Director**. The **Double Occupancy Package Price is \$1899** with a **Single Supplement of \$200**. The Package price includes everything but **Medical / Traveler's Insurance** the cost of which is age

The PILGRIM is normally a Monthly Publication of the **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) A Religious Association, Inc.**

Non-Profit and **IRS** Code 501 (c)(3) Tax-Exempt

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. 08043-4963

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

DISTRIBUTION: To more than **2400** addresses in most of the **50 United States (U.S.)**, U.S. territories and many foreign countries.

President / Editor / Co-Director: Kathleen Werner

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

Books and Religious Articles / Inventory: Vince and Livia Nocella

Events / Programs / Vocations: Elizabeth Wisniewski

Secretary: Fay Ramos / Edwina Jardinico / Colleen Thomas

Accounting / Bookkeeping / Treasurer /: Colleen Thomas / Dot Lyons

Youth Ministry: Judy Polistina "Lion of Judah" / J. P. Kasperowicz /

Bill Skorko / Carl and Martie Granieri with "Hearts Afire"

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

Communications: Colleen Thomas, Networks: Bob Van Horn

CAMDEN DIOCESE LIAISON: Father Joseph Byerley

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE: Father Glenn Hartman, Father John

Tino, Father John McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, Father

Robert DeGrandis, SSI, Father John Hampsch, CMF, Father

Brendan Williams, as well as many of Mary's other beloved priests

from the Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the

Brooklyn, Camden, Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich, Pittsburgh,

Rockville Center, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses.

Father Glenn Hartman, is reviewing every issue.

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

dependent. Add-on fares from other cities to *Newark, NJ* are available. Information sheets will be mailed to anyone who asks for them. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/frhartman> hosted by *206 Tours* for more information.

1 to 7 August 2005: Lourdes via Frankfurt, Toulouse, and Pau. We are working with Father Ronan Murphy as **Spiritual Director** for this pilgrimage but may have to adjust the dates to match the **Spiritual Director's** availability in late *June* or early *July*. This would still be good for those who cannot pilgrimage during the school year. Let us know if you wish to make such a pilgrimage.

What would you like to do with regard to visiting **Medjugorje** or any other shrine or holy place recognized by the **Magisterium** of the **Roman Catholic Church** as a worthy place of pilgrimage?

Please let us know the times of the year you might want to go on pilgrimage and interim stopover points. We can go via a number of airports with moderate layovers in the airport. We have always preferred to spend at least a day visiting holy places around the airport by arriving early and departing late.

If you would like us to set up a pilgrimage or a retreat cruise for your prayer group, parish, or school, with or without **PFMC** coordination, please call (856) 768-9228 for estimates on your ideas.

(The Volunteer Staff at the **PFMC**)

A SPECIAL FRIEND

When I was little, I used to believe in the concept of one best friend, and then I started to become a woman. And then I found out that if you allow your heart to open up, God would show you the best in many friends.

One friend's best is needed when you're going through things with your children. Another friend's best is needed when you're going through things with your Momma. Another when you want to shop, share, heal, hurt, joke, or just be.

One friend will say let's pray together, another let's cry together, another let's fight together, another let's walk away together.

One friend will meet your spiritual need, another your shoe fetish, another your love for movies, another will be with you in your season of confusion, another will be your clarifier, another the wind beneath your wings.

But whatever their assignment in your life, on whatever the occasion, on whatever the day, or where

ever you need them to meet you with their shoes on and hair pulled back or to hold you back from making a complete fool of yourself... those are your friends.

It may all be wrapped up in one woman, but for many it's wrapped up in several... one from 7th grade, several from high school, several from the college years, a couple from old jobs, several from church, on some days your mother, on others your sisters, and on some days it's the one that you needed just for that day or week that you needed someone with a fresh perspective, or the one who didn't know all your baggage, or the one who would just listen without judging... those are good best friends.

I thank my girlfriends, those who honor intimacy, those who hold trust, and those who hold me up when life is just too heavy! The special bond we share is unique.

Thanks for the words we've shared. The prayers we've sent up. The laughs, the tears, the phone calls, the emails, the shopping, the movies, the lunches, the dinners, the talking, talking, talking and the listening, listening, listening.....

So whether you've been there 20 minutes or 20 years, I love you!

(from Dotty Lyons)

JESUS OUR HEALER

When you are sick who do you visit to help you get better? You go to your doctor. How do you meet your doctor? You go to the surgery. When do you go to the surgery? The doctor has surgery hours and you go during these hours. There is another doctor, Jesus. He will also help you to get better. How and where do you go to meet him? You can meet him anytime you turn to him in prayer but his special surgery times are the sacraments, especially the Mass.

Mary Ann Cortes, a manic depressive, after seventeen years of treatment enjoyed no improvement but was healed through the Mass. This is her account.

I am coming to know that the Eucharist is the greatest healing sacrament and that every Mass is a healing service. For seventeen years I was in and out of every mental hospital in the region of New Orleans, Louisiana. I was diagnosed as manic depressive and given almost every treatment available to psychiatric patients. The doctors gave up hope of my recovering my mental health, and doomed me to a life of mood-altering drugs. When I went to bed at night I was afraid of waking up to another day of terror. After I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to attend healing Masses, I became mentally, emotionally and

physically well. Today I am a new person in Christ. I'm not afraid of the morning anymore. In each Mass I unite all that I am with Jesus' sacrifice. In that union with Him I receive into my being the risen life of Jesus, which transforms me more and more. I identify with Him and receive His life. The more I actively participate in the Mass, the more real He becomes to me. Jesus Himself enters into me and heals from the inside. (Taken from **Healing through the Mass** pages 3-4 by **Robert DeGrandis**, published and copyright 1992 by [Resurrection Press](#) and used here by permission of the publishers. The book contains other stories of healing and should be available in your local religious bookshop or can be ordered there.)

Father Richard Woldum of Los Angeles, California was ordained in 1979. Shortly afterwards he was assigned as hospital chaplain for one year to St Joseph's Hospital in Alton, Illinois. This is his account.

One morning I received a call to come to the emergency room to see an 11-year old boy named Johnny who was dying. I found him on a breathing machine, his head swollen very large.

Johnny's parents told me that he had been riding his bike on a gravel road near his home when a truck came flying over the hill and hit him head-on. The collision caused him to be thrown into the nearby field. When the ambulance arrived the medics found his head cut wide open with half his brains scattered in the field. They literally picked up the pieces of his brain, shoved them into his head, and took him to the hospital.

When I asked Johnny's parents if he had been baptized, they said, 'No.' They informed me they attended no church but prayed at home as a family. I asked them if they would like me to baptize Johnny. They glanced at each other as if to say, 'It couldn't cause any harm,' then said to me, 'Go ahead.' They also said if I wanted to I could baptize him into the Catholic faith. That night, with the parents and two nurses as witnesses, I baptized Johnny.

The next morning I was doing communion rounds when my beeper went off. Johnny's doctor wanted me in the intensive care unit. 'What you do last night?' he asked in broken English, as I met him outside Johnny's room. I explained to the doctor, a Buddhist, that I had baptized Johnny (with the permission of his parents) so that he could go to heaven. When I asked him why he was so concerned, he informed me that the boy's swelling had disappeared. The doctor was still convinced that the boy would die, however; or if he lived, remain a vegetable, never moving, talking or even moving his eyes.

That night Johnny's parents thanked me for baptizing him. I then explained about the anointing of the sick, and asked if they would like Johnny to receive that sacrament. With their agreement and in their presence, I anointed Johnny.

The next morning during communion rounds the doctor again paged me on my beeper. He met me at the door of intensive care and directed me to Johnny's room, explaining on the way that he had heard from the nurses that I had again prayed for Johnny.

Then he pointed to Johnny's eyes and asked, 'What you do?' I saw that Johnny's eyes were moving. 'It is just the power of Jesus through prayers for the sick,' I responded. He gave a faintly sarcastic grin and said, 'It no matter. Boy no talk or move. He remain vegetable.'

It was now the third night, counting the night of the accident. I suggested to the parents that they permit me to give Johnny the sacrament of confirmation. They agreed.

The following morning his legs and arms were moving. The doctor said to me in front of the parents, 'I no longer in control.' He was simply unable to explain what was happening. The parents turned to me and said they wanted to become Catholics. I recommended that they wait and see what happened to Johnny before making a final decision.

That evening when I explained to them about the Eucharist, they said they wanted this for Johnny too. I gave him some Precious Blood with an eye dropper. The next morning he was making sounds.

Fr Woldum was away for the weekend and when he returned he continues his account

When I checked in on Johnny upon my return, I learned he had been transferred to the third floor, which was the surgery unit. I went upstairs to see him, fearing that he had gone back to surgery. He was sitting on his bed, talking to his mother.

After his recovery they took another x-ray of his head and found that the part of his brain that had spilled out in to the field had grown back.

When I eventually talked to Johnny's parents about becoming Catholics, they informed me they would continue praying at home. The doctor in the case started looking into Christianity. Three nurses converted to Catholicism. (Taken from **Healing through the Mass** pages 13-15 by **Robert DeGrandis**, published and copyright 1992 by [Resurrection Press](#) and used here by permission of the publishers.)

In our Gospel today we heard of Jesus curing Peter's mother-in-law in Capernaum, and curing many others

who were sick. Jesus who healed so many one evening in Capernaum is willing to heal you too in this Mass and every Mass. The greatest moment for healing is when you receive Jesus in Holy Communion. During those precious minutes when you and Jesus are united very specially ask him in faith for the healing you need and adore and praise him for all he has done for you. As well as going to your doctor, when you get sick, go to Jesus.

(Homily for the Fifth Sunday Year B by Fr Tommy Lane, Ireland)

DE PROFUNDIS for the MARRIED MAN

The Catholic husband is torn between the moral discipline of his faith and the values of his culture. His Church exhorts him to conjugal chastity. In negative terms, conjugal chastity means no sex with anyone other than his spouse, no forced sex with his spouse, no contraception, masturbation, pornography, lustful glances, or divorce. Viewed positively, these negative precepts are conducive to great growth in conjugal love and mutual appreciation; they are the base condition for totally giving oneself, “a school of the gift of the person” (Catechism, no. 2346). Taking conjugal chastity seriously inevitably means much self-abnegation, which demands tender love free from self-absorption.

Meanwhile, American culture submerges the Catholic husband in a sea of contradictory ideals. Everywhere he sees images of seductive women calculated to arouse his desires; these snares cannot be entirely avoided. They are on movie, television, and computer screens, they peer at him from magazine covers as he stands in line to buy milk, they are in newspapers, store windows, and mailboxes. These images do not age as his spouse does; they do not fight with him over finances, complain about aches and pains, or look frightening in the morning. In short, they are very alluring; they hold out the deceitful promise of pleasure without responsibility, and Satan offers them with the temptation that immediate self-gratification is the greatest good. Abstinence appears as an anti-value, and marriage is viewed as a purely human and entirely dispensable institution that can be readily dissolved when it is no longer convenient or pleasurable.

The contrast is striking. Yet Catholic husbands are buying (literally and figuratively) the cultural understanding of sex and casting aside the virtue of conjugal chastity. One need only consider the surveys indicating that Catholics use contraception, divorce,

and pornography at the same rate as non-Catholics in the general population-and that rate is quite high. This trend is destructive of family life, causes untold pain for spouses and children, and is exceedingly dangerous for immortal souls.

Despite the glaring need, the Catholic Church currently offers few pastoral aids for the spiritual formation of husbands and fathers. Moreover, today’s emphasis on the importance of expanding women’s roles in the Church at times has the effect of alienating men from the Church and her doctrine of conjugal chastity. The current decline in the cult of the saints has deprived husbands of a great source of inspiration and intercession. Saint Joseph. In view of this lacuna, perhaps the following prayer, inspired by the *De profundis* (Psalm 130), will prove a spiritual resource to husbands struggling with sexual purity.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord hear my prayer. The enemy has hedged me in with fleshly temptation in the mail, in the stores, on electronic screens of all sorts. Everywhere I turn, lo! I am confronted with wickedness, and the weakness of my own flesh. Wherever I flee he overtakes me, that ancient serpent who strives to put enmity between husband and wife, between spouses and the Lord. Why have you turned your back on me, that even on my own bed I am assailed with thoughts of selfish pleasures that drag my soul into the pit, and my sin is exposed before you. My heart yearns for your saving help, infuse it with manly virtue. Send forth your holy angel to cast into the pit that devil who lays snares for my life and the life of my family. Strengthen, I beseech you, my arms for battle, set my feet on the path of righteousness, for by your grace only can man prevail. I trust in the Lord, who supplies aid to my weakness And I praise his name in the presence of the faithful. Grant, Lord, that with clean hands and a pure heart I may receive you in the assembly, and render you due worship with all my life, refreshed by your holy sacraments

(by Daniel Van Slyke, Page 56 Lay Witness, May-June 2004. Doctor Van Slyke is a professor at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL.)

ELIMINATION of POVERTY INCREASES SOCIAL COHESION

VATICAN CITY, JUN 22 (VIS) – Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, C.S., represented the Holy See in the 11th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), celebrated in Sao Paulo, Brazil from June 13 to 18. This organization, which the Holy See has been a member of since its founding in 1964, studies international commercial and financial relations and guides states

and international organizations in formulating just economic policies which respect the human person.

Archbishop Tomasi recalled that the UNCTAD “remains a valid instrument to achieve its initial aspirations and to promote development and dialogue between developed and developing countries.”

“The elimination of poverty,” he continued, “increases social cohesion and becomes a means for sustainable growth. To this effect we must forcefully stress the importance of ‘poverty education’ as a common goal, and the road to achieve it passes through the strengthening of national markets and, above all, through investment in the development of human resources and through improving the capacity to participate in the opportunities offered by economic integration to the active population at first and then to the whole community.”

The Holy See delegate emphasized that “the sole goal of development is not to make persons ‘more productive’ but rather to guarantee their dignity and improve their capacity to act freely.”

(DELSS/TRADE:DEVELOPMENT/BRAZIL:TOMAS I VIS 040622 (220))

HOW WE TREAT PEOPLE

Five (5) lessons to make you think about the way we treat people.

1. - First Important Lesson - Cleaning Lady. During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school? “Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50s, but how would I know her name?”

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

“Absolutely,” said the professor. “In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say “hello”. I’ve never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.”

2. - Second Important Lesson - Pickup in the Rain. One night, at 11.30 PM, an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rainstorm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car.

A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960s. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him. Seven days went by and a knock came on the man’s door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home.

A special note was attached. It read: “Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband’s bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others. Sincerely, Mrs. Nat King Cole.”

3. - Third Important Lesson - Always remember those who serve. In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 -year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

“How much is an ice cream sundae?” he asked.

“Fifty cents,” replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. “Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?” he inquired. By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient.

“Thirty-five cents,” she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. “I’ll have the plain ice cream,” he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You

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. Please respond now for 2005.

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.

see he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

4. - Fourth Important Lesson. - The obstacle in Our Path. In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse laying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

5. - Fifth Important Lesson - Giving When it Counts. Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz, who was suffering from a rare & serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheek. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded.

He looked up at the doctor and asked with a tiny, trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

"Work like you don't need the money, love like you've never been hurt, and dance like you do when nobody's watching."

(Angelo La Bruna Sr SR@labruna.com)

LIVING COMPASSION

If there's one thing I've learned since becoming a mom, it's that my kids have a lot more to teach me than the other way around.

One of these lessons is compassion. You see, my five-year-old nephew, Russell, is a handful. He has a number of developmental delays and disorders. He can throw some monster tantrums. At times it can be a physical challenge to calm him down. But not for my daughter, Maddie, who is also five.

On more than one occasion when Russell is having trouble coping, I have watched her take his hand, speak softly in his ear and accomplish what two or more adults could not. Or when someone doesn't understand what he's saying, she steps in and verbalizes what he can't. That's not to say they don't fight at times like brother and sister, but when the time comes, Maddie steps up as Russell's protector, comforter and confidante.

On the flip side, what Russell has taught Maddie is just as important. He has taught her how to be compassionate. As a five-year-old, it would be very easy for Maddie to just shake her head and go about her own business when Russell acts out. Instead, she has learned to take an active role in making the situation better—especially for Russell

An Act of Faith

According to Merriam-Webster's 10th Edition Collegiate Dictionary, compassion is "sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate

The thing that excites me about this definition of compassion is that not only does it call us to recognize difficult situations in people's lives, but it also calls us to try to do something to make the situation better.

It's more than just saying, "That's too bad!" or "I wish there was something I could do." By showing compassion, you can do something. And it doesn't always have to be on a grand scale.

For example, I was at a friend's house not long ago on her birthday. During the course of the day it became apparent that her parents had forgotten her birthday. I asked what her plans were and she said she had none. I felt horrible, and knew I had to do something. I invited her to dinner with my family to celebrate her birthday. She was thrilled.

And if the wonderful feeling you get from being compassionate isn't enough to compel you to engage in compassion, take your lead from our faith.

In many ways, the Catholic Church is a wonderful example of compassion. Organizations such as Catholic Relief Services put into action our desire to help.

And the Church is not the only reminder that we should display compassion. The Bible is filled with many stories of compassion, such as the Good Samaritan.

Living Compassion

We are called to compassion through our faith. Here are some suggestions for finding a way to demonstrate compassion in your everyday life.

How would you define compassion? Talk with your family about what each of you believes being compassionate means and ways in which you can demonstrate compassion.

Practice compassion. Instead of just saying, "That's not right" or "Isn't that too bad," do something about the situation. For instance, volunteer at a home for battered women and offer a listening ear, or serve dinner at your local homeless shelter.

Look for little ways to practice compassion. Maybe you can't volunteer at your local hospice or nursing home. Try to practice compassion in ways that you're able, no matter how small. Cook meals for a family with a loved one in the hospital. Take your friend's kids for a day so they can have some time for themselves after a particularly tough day or week. Just let someone vent to you about whatever it is he or she is struggling with. Even small acts of compassion can have a big effect.

Find examples of compassion in the Bible and reflect on them or discuss them with your friends or family. Put yourself in the situation. Would you have acted the same way? Why or why not?

Seek out and support organizations that display compassion, such as the Red Cross or a local program that provides support for young pregnant women. You can do this through monetary donations, donations of goods or volunteering.

(Susan Hines-Briggger, Assistant Editor, Saint Anthony Messenger, August 2004, www.americancatholic.org.)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

If you need vocation information and you do not find it in your local parish or diocese, please call **Elizabeth Wisniewski** at (856) 768-9228. She has been acquiring pamphlets for distribution from

religious communities, particularly those who have Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

(Kathleen, Keith, Liz, and all the *PFMC* Volunteers)

HELPER'S OFFERING and INVOCATION for PRIESTS

MY God and Father, in response to the word of Your SON on the Mount of Olives, "Watch and Pray with Me", we ask YOU to accept us as special helpers for Your priests, on behalf of whom, we offer You each Thursday as a sacrifice of love.

With a fervent desire of being such a helper of priests, I _____, offer You FATHER, in complete confidence, each Thursday as a sacrifice of love on behalf of all priests. Take this sacrifice of my poor love and transform it in YOUR HEART into the wine for the Chalice of Strength. Then, FATHER send Your angels out with this chalice to all priests!

(Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall 2004)

CISTERCIAN MONKS

See enclosed information packet on the Contemplative and Parish Ministry published for **Our Lady of Fatima Monastery, Mount Laurel, NJ.**

A PRAYER for VOCATIONS

O God, Who have chosen the Apostles to make disciples of all nations and Who by Baptism and Confirmation have called us to build up Your Holy Church, we earnestly implore You to choose from among us, Your children, many priests, deacons and religious brothers and sisters who will love You, with their whole heart and will gladly spend their entire lives to make You known and loved by all. Amen.

(Archdiocese of Winnipeg – Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall 2004)

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 currently located, please call **1-410-676-6000**.

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

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

A PRAYER for PRIESTS

Keep them I pray Thee, Dearest Lord, Keep them for they are Thine; Thy priests whose lives burn out before Thy consecrated shrine. Keep them for they are in the world though from the world apart, When earthly pleasures tempt, allure – shelter them in Thy heart. Keep them, and comfort them in hours of loneliness and pain, When all their life of sacrifice for souls seems but in vain, Keep them, and remember, O Lord, They have no one but Thee. Yet they have only human hearts, with human frailty. Keep them as spotless as the Hosts, that daily they caress. Their every thought and word and deed, deign dearest Lord, to bless. Amen.

(Anonymous– Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall 2004)

CONFLICTING VIEWS of the VALUE of CELIBACY

Question: There seem to be conflicting views today as to the value of celibacy in regards to the priesthood. Some claim that it is merely a discipline while others disagree. What does the Church base its celibate commitment for priest on and what does such a commitment say about our world today?

AnsWER: First, it should be clearly stated that priestly celibacy is not a matter of Divine Revelation in the sense that Jesus and/or the Holy Spirit revealed that all priest must be celibates, i.e., unmarried. In fact, there are married priests today in the Catholic Church. This is especially true in the Eastern Catholic Churches. There are also some married Catholic priests in the Western Church who were formerly married Protestant ministers. These were given permission by the Holy See to be ordained while retaining their wives. But this latter case is by way of exception to the centuries-old rule of priestly celibacy in the Western Church.

One might ask then, “Why are most priests in the Western Church required to maintain chaste celibacy?”

We answer that priests who belong to consecrated life make vows or commitments to chaste celibacy since poverty, chastity (chaste celibacy), and obedience are the very essence of the consecrated life. These men have freely accepted a way of life closely resembling that which Jesus lived. They have accepted this vocation, in addition to their vocation as priests.

There are also those in the Western Church whom we normally call diocesan or secular priests. These, prior to being ordained deacons, believe God has called

them not only to the priesthood, but also to a lifelong chaste celibacy. Thus we see that chaste celibacy is not simply a rule or mandate imposed upon these priest by the Church. It is also a gift from God that accompanies the vocation to the transitional diaconate and to the priesthood in the Western Church.

Pope Paul VI wrote that those who are admitted to the sacred priesthood in the West have “the gift of consecrated celibacy” (*Sacerdotalis Caelibatus*, 62).

This gift is mentioned by the Apostle Paul, who himself possessed it. He writes: Indeed, I wish everyone to be as I am, [i.e. a chaste celibate] but each has a particular gift from God, one of one kind and one of another. (cf. 1Cor 7:32-34, and 37).

Jesus Himself also noted that some have renounced marriage for the sake of the Kingdom of God, and added that they would therefore be richly rewarded

In light of the above, we can say that both for priests who belong to institutes of consecrated life and for those who are diocesan priests, they have been given not only a priestly vocation by Our Lord and also the accompanying gift of chaste celibacy.

It should be noted, however, this gift of chaste celibacy must be cultivated daily (cf. *Sacerdotalis Caelibatus*, 62). Simply having the gift does not imply its constant and proper use.

As in the past, these priests, as faithful followers of Jesus Christ, are anticipating the life in Heaven, since those in Heaven are neither married nor given in marriage (cf. Mt 22:30; SC, 34).

We might say that chaste celibacy for the Kingdom of God is not “natural.” Rather it is “supernatural.” It is a sign of divine grace working among men in the world who sacrifice marriage for God’s greater glory and honor and the salvation of souls.

(By Rev. Burns Seeley, S.S.J.c., Article from *Religious Life Magazine*, P.O. Box 410007, Chicago, IL 60641, 1-773-267-1195 -- Printed with permission. Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall 2004)

A SIMPLE, BLESSED EXAMPLE

In formally beatifying Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II has bestowed the Church’s formal recognition on one who in her years ministered to the destitute and multi-handicapped. By extension, he has also blessed all in this world who knew her or even enjoyed the blessing of a casual meeting with this amazing woman. To the former, she ministered to body and soul; to the latter, she elevated and inspired the soul and heart.

Blessed Teresa was remarkable for her faith in humanity and her respect for human life. No person was too destitute, too sick or disabled, too abandoned to escape her notice. In fact, it was their seemingly hopeless condition that drew her to the needy in the first place.

She began on the streets of Calcutta, but her ministry soon spread to the ghettos everywhere. To visit one of her hostels in person was to come face-to-face with human grief and human suffering in shocking proportions. But it was also to stand side-by-side with the most caring, the most unbelievably caring of persons.

The Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order that Blessed Teresa founded, mirror her concern in a wonderful, dare we say, almost miraculous manner. People look for the miracles of Mother Teresa to support her candidacy for sainthood. They need only look into the eyes of her Sisters, the remarkable women who are continuing her work right here in Brooklyn and throughout the world.

Or perhaps they can observe the inevitable evolution of those who visit one of her facilities. They come as visitors, even tourists. But they leave transformed by the experience in ways they cannot begin to describe. They have experienced a bit of heaven here on earth - the wretched and the needy being transformed by angels.

Beatification is a formal Church procedure, complete with pomp and pageantry as only the Church can do it. In many ways, such ceremony is strangely out of tune with the simple virtue of the Sister being honored in this case. Yet it is appropriate that as we honor this special life on this special occasion, we draw attention to it as well, for it serves as an example for us all.

(from "The Tablet" Queens and Brooklyn, NY, Vol. 96, No. 31, 10/25/03)

THE BEST DAY of MY LIFE



Today, when I awoke, I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever!

There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did!

And because I did I'm going to celebrate!

Today, I'm going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far:

the accomplishments,

the many blessings,

and, yes, even the hardships

because they have served to make me stronger.

I will go through this day with my head held high and a happy heart.

I will marvel at God's seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds.

Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people.

I'll make someone smile.

I'll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don't even know. Today, I'll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I'll tell a child how special he is, and I'll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don't have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I'll remember that to worry is just a waste of time because my faith in God and his Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.



And tonight, before I go to bed, I'll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As the day ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life.

And I will sleep the sleep of a contented child, excited with expectation because I know tomorrow is going to be the best day of my life, ever!

I'D RATHER HAVE 30 MINUTES OF WONDERFUL THAN A LIFETIME OF NOTHING SPECIAL.

(By Gregory M. Lousig-Nont, Ph.D.)

bunn413@comcast.net 10/13/2004 1:09:58 PM)

MARRIAGE, A SIGN of the FATHER'S LOVE for HUMANITY

VATICAN CITY, OCT 6, 2004 (VIS) - In today's general audience, which took place in Saint Peter's Square, the Pope spoke about the second part of Psalm 44, "The Kingdom and the bride."

Addressing a crowd of 13,000, the Holy Father said that “we can dedicate this nuptial song to all couples who live their marriage with intensity and interior zeal, ... which is a sign of a great mystery, ... the love of the Father for humanity and of Christ for His Church.”

The psalmist, he said, exalts the beauty of the bride “as a reflection of God’s splendor.” In addition, he continued, “genuine joy, deeper than simple happiness, is an expression of love which participates in the good of the person loved with serenity of heart.”

John Paul II indicated that the psalm makes reference to fertility. “It speaks about ‘children’ and ‘generations.’ ... It is a relevant theme in our days, in the West so often incapable of entrusting its own existence to the future by generating and caring for new creatures that they might continue the civilization of peoples and fulfill the history of salvation.”

Many fathers of the Church, he concluded, have applied the figure of the royal bride to Our Lady, Mother of God, who received “the joyous announcement of the redemption of the world.”

When greeting Polish pilgrims present, the Pope recalled that tomorrow is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. “I entrust the Holy Church and my ministry to her protection. I also entrust her with my hopes for peace in the world, as well as in families and in the human conscience.”

Before the audience, the Pope blessed a statue of the Chilean saint, Teresa of Jesus of the Andes, canonized in 1993, that was placed in an external niche of the Vatican basilica.

(AG/PSALM 44/... VIS 041006 (320) Vatican Information Service visform@pressva-vis.va
Wednesday, October 6, 2004)

MAN IS CAPABLE of KNOWING NORMS of MORAL BEHAVIOR

VATICAN CITY, OCT 7, 2004 (VIS) - Today John Paul II received members of the International Theological Commission which is celebrating its annual plenary in the Vatican.

Referring to one of the commission’s themes of study, the fate of children who die without receiving baptism, the Pope said that “it is not just simply an isolated theological problem” since there “are many other fundamental themes that are closely related to this one: the universal saving will of God, the unique and universal mediation of Jesus Christ, the role of the Church, the universal sacrament of salvation, the

theology of the sacraments, the meaning of the doctrine on original sin.”

The Holy Father recalled that the second theme of reflection is natural moral law. “It has always been the Church’s belief that God gave man, with the light of reason, the capacity to be able to know the fundamental truths on life and its destiny and specifically the norms of moral behavior. Making our peers aware of this possibility is very important for dialogue with men of good will and for coexistence in all levels on a common ethical foundation.”

“Christian revelation,” he concluded, “does not render this search useless, on the contrary, it pushes us to search, lighting up the path with the light of Christ in whom everything is consistent.”

(AC/.../COM-TI VIS 041007 (230) Vatican Information Service visform@pressva-vis.va Thurs., Oct. 7, 2004)

“THE TITLE of BISHOP IS ONE OF SERVICE, NOT of HONOR”

VATICAN CITY, OCT 8, 2004 (VIS) - Bishops of the ecclesiastical province of New York were received by the Pope this morning as they conclude their “ad limina” visit. He focused his talk to them on the “munus regendi,” the “great responsibility of governing the faithful,” and he noted the words spoken during Episcopal ordination: “The title of Bishop is one of service, not of honor, and therefore a Bishop should strive to benefit others rather than to lord it over them. Such is the precept of the Master.”

“Your immediate function as pastors,” he noted, “cannot be isolated from your wider responsibility for the universal Church; as members of the College of Bishops, ‘cum et sub Petro’, you in fact share in solicitude for the entire people of God.” He stressed that governing “is more than mere ‘administration’ or the exercise of organizational skills; it is a means of building up the Kingdom of God,” leading by example, and evangelizing the faithful so that they in turn can evangelize.

John Paul II remarked on “the deep affection of American Catholics for the Successor of Peter, as well as their sensitivity to the needs of the Holy See and the Universal Church. ... These devoted sentiments are a fruit of the hierarchical communion linking all members of the episcopal College with the Pope” and they “constitute a great spiritual resource for the renewal of the Church in the United States.”

Turning to the question of episcopal collegiality, the Pope focused on the activity of episcopal conferences and said that “Bishops today can only fulfill their

office fruitfully when they work harmoniously and closely with their fellow Bishops. ... I pray that you will work diligently with one another, in that spirit of cooperation and unanimity of heart that should always characterize the community of disciples." Quoting Saint Paul, he said: "I beg you, Brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to agree in what you say. Let there be no factions; rather, be united in mind and judgment." There must be "unity of praxis" with "underlying consensus," attained "through frank dialogue and informed discussions, based on sound theological and pastoral principles."

The Holy Father told the bishops of his appreciation "for all that you have already accomplished together, particularly in your statements on life issues, education and peace." He invited them to "turn your attention to the many other pressing issues that directly affect the Church's mission and her spiritual integrity, for example the decline in Mass attendance and in recourse to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the threats to marriage and the religious needs of immigrants. Let your voice be clearly heard."

(AL/.../USA VIS 041008 (440) Vatican Information Service visform@pressva-vis.va Friday, October 8, 2004)

PRAAYER of SAINT PAUL of the CROSS, FOUNDER of the PASSIONIST ORDER

Gentle Lord,
Please help me remember to always reach out to the least of your children.

Let my heart be filled with the love that you showed the world in offering up your only Son so that we might know eternal life.

Give me the strength and the patience to accept your Will in all things.

Let me grow in grace by sacrificing what I have from you for others who have less.

And let me stand always ready to say "Yes" when you call. Amen.

(The Passionist Missionaries, 526 Monastery Place, Union City, NJ 07087)

THE FRAGRANCE of GOD

A certain fragrance fills the air
As Summer turns to Fall.
It takes me back to yesteryears

And times I still recall.
The crispness of an evening walk
As days begin to wane.
Preparing for a brand-new year
And giving thanks again.
For holidays just up ahead,
What will these moments hold?
We pray for peace upon our land
And joy within our souls.
The memories embrace my heart
As seasons come and go.
Thank You, Father, for each day
That You alone bestow.

(Jill Lemming, *Salesian Inspirational Books. A Salesian Missions Publication #51626.*)

PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS



Kathleen and Keith are available to participate in parish or 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 on display.

Displays may be set up without a presentation.

We are willing and have offered to set up displays in parishes for all the weekend Holy Masses. We'll come on Saturday afternoon in time (about 2 hours) to set up before the first vigil Holy Mass and stay through Sunday afternoon or evening until after the last Sunday Holy Mass (Volunteer staff pending).

Displays in parishes are particularly beneficial when good Catholic religious goods or book stores are not convenient to the parishioners. With Lent, Easter, and other Holy Days coming up along with school events as well as First Communion, Confirmation, etc., consider religious gift shopping.

Ask your pastor if he would allow the **PFMC** to set up a display in the basement, school cafeteria, or gymnasium, or wherever we could have about 20 large tables with display material on them.

(Keith and Kathleen Werner)

MESSAGE of 12/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! With great joy, also today I carry my Son Jesus in my arms to you; He blesses you and calls you to peace. Pray, little children, and be courageous witnesses of Good News in every situation. Only in this way will God bless you and give you everything you ask of Him in faith. I am with you as long as the Almighty permits me. I intercede for each of you with great love. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 12/25/2004

I CARRY MY SON JESUS IN MY ARMS TO YOU

Mary is joyful because she is coming from the joy, the glory, from the celestial fatherland, which we must still join. She appears because she wants that we also arrive and be where she is. Her maternal desire to see us where she is, is as great as the joy that she is carrying in her heart. As on the first day of the apparitions, today also, she is carrying in her arms Jesus, her Son and our Saviour. In her arms and in her heart, she is carrying God, she is giving him to us and she is leading us towards him. Mary, our Mother, desires that we also can hear and listen to the words of the angel, like the shepherds: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Lk 2,10-11) The Saviour of the world is born for you and for me, for each person.

God is born, "and to as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God." (Jn 1,12)

Jesus is unique in all the history of humanity. Because he lived, because he existed, we do not have the right to despair, whatever our cross, our illness and our suffering may be.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (Jn 3,16) God gave his Son Jesus to save you, to save me. God so much loved the world that he desired to become man and to take upon oneself human life, human sufferings, even death, to destroy it.

We celebrate Christmas, the birthday of Jesus. It is a day of joy and of blessing for the earth, for all humanity. Since his coming, nothing is the same any more in the history of humanity.

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined." (Is 9,1) We also, we can leave our darkness, our illnesses and our fears, because God came in our darkness, in our sins and in our illnesses to destroy them.

The birth of Jesus was neither pleasant, nor idyllic. He was born in a manger, among the animals, "because there was no room for them in the inn." (Lc 2,7) The manger inside of us, it is the space in which live the animals. It is the space which we would like to hide of ourselves and of others. We are ashamed of it, because it is not clean and it does not smell good. But he wants to be born today in the manger of our heart, where all is not perfumed or pleasant. But Jesus wants to come in our hearts, to illuminate everything by his blessing, by himself.

It is such a God that Mary, our Mother, brings to us and offers to us today. We can be united with Jesus, because he is within us. We have the possibility of becoming almighty by the faith in him, because he is the Almighty and the Highest. Then, we can become courageous witnesses of the presence of God, and his Almightyness on this earth, in our situations and in the circumstances in which we live.

The Mother is with us, and with her, we are in safety. We are under her protection and her intercession. Let us do all that we can to be day after day closer to the heart of Jesus and of Mary. Let us allow her to take us by the hand and lead us to peace that God gives us.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje 26.12.2004
(<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>)

A REFLECTION from FATHER ED CHALMERS on OUR LADY'S MESSAGE of 12/25/2004

"Dear children! With great joy, also today I carry my Son Jesus in my arms to you; He blesses you and calls you to peace." As we celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem with another Christmas season,

this first sentence of Our Lady's message of December 25, 2004 seems so appropriate. Our Lady is filled with joy as She brings, "*little Jesus,*" to us. May we truly accept this blessing from Jesus and be willing to embrace His call to peace.

The reality of accepting Jesus' call to peace is a significant challenge for anyone of us as we live in this world. However, to be successful in this endeavor, we must become more like Jesus. This process can begin when we become one with our dear Blessed Mother. Being so humble Herself, Our Lady can teach us to become humble as Jesus is. Also, Jesus was very willing to accept his Mother's love. Are we willing to do likewise? May we answer this question with a resounding yes? Again, let us open our hearts to the love of Our Lady. It is in this way that She will lead us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

"Pray, little children, and be courageous witnesses of Good News in every situation." In this second sentence of Her Message of December 25, 2004, Our Lady is placing before us the opportunity to be a devoted disciple of Jesus. As always, prayer is the key to developing a personal relationship with the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. We need to find more time to pray. As one becomes a prayer warrior of Our Lady he or she will be more willing to witness to the Gospel message of Jesus. One can be filled with joy as he or she lives each day in faith, hope, and love. With much zeal, we can live out and proclaim Jesus' message of love and mercy. When we are devoted to prayer, become like Jesus and reject those selfish habits that prohibit us from being Christ-like, we can do wonderful things in becoming a disciple of Jesus

As we reflect upon these first two sentences of Our Lady's message of December 25, 2004, we come to another crossroad in our personal journeys of faith. The questions can be asked, which way will we go? Will we accept Jesus' blessing and His wonderful gift of peace? Also, are we ready to pray more while being, "*a courageous witness of Good News in every situation?*" This is God's way. It is the only way. In the third sentence of Her message of December 25, 2004 Our Lady reinforces Her requests in the previous sentences: "***Only in this way will God bless you and give you everything you ask of Him in faith.***"

In this message of December 25, 2004, Our Lady is again calling us to Christian discipleship and we have been shown the way by Her words. As we contemplate these realities in our inner being, let us pray to the Holy Spirit for His precious gift of understanding. It becomes quite apparent that it is only through the intercession of the Holy Spirit and

the motherly embrace of Our Lady that we can become one with the unconditional love of the sacrificial and crucified Jesus. The apostles, martyrs, and all the saints throughout the history of the Church realized that the essence of the Faith was and is the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As they offered themselves to Jesus they knew they had to carry our dear Lord's cross. It was only in that way that the Church would grow and be able to spread Jesus' message.

In our world, as we begin a new year, the means of spreading the message of Jesus has not changed. The results that can arise from one offering him/herself to Jesus can be astounding. In these early days of our new year of 2005, are we ready to embark upon this journey? This work for our dear loving God and Our Lady is most important. We must pray, pray, and pray some more. May we offer our prayer for Our Lady's intentions, for the conversion of sinners and for the salvation of souls? Also, let us offer prayers of thanksgiving to God the Father for the gift of Our Lady's apparitions to the visionaries of Medjugorje. For twenty-three and half years, these apparitions have been a beautiful grace from God to the world.

In the next two sentences of Her message of December 25, 2004 Our Lady said, "***I am with you as long as the Almighty permits me. I intercede for each of you with great love.***" This profound gift from God of these daily apparitions of Our Lady in Medjugorje will not continue forever. However, may we be forever grateful to God for this gift and let us serve the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with our total being.

Be filled with joy while contemplating the Blessed Mother's unconditional love. She is our mother. She is with us. May we bind ourselves to Her Immaculate Heart, and with much love may we always be, "***Her little children.***" As Mary treasured all of those things regarding Jesus' birth, with a strong faith let us treasure the opportunity that we have to be God's devoted servants.

I hope you had a blessed Christmas. May this year of 2005 be filled with the peace of Jesus for you and your families? Stay well and know that you are constantly in my prayers and thoughts. May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever and ever. Amen.

God's love and prayers always,

Father Ed

HEdwardChalmers@aol.com Tuesday, January 4, 2005

THE LIGHTS of MEDJUGORJE

The Lord told us: "I am the light of the world. Who follows me will have the light of life." (Jn 8,12) People do not like darkness. Darkness and obscurity are places of doubt. To be in darkness means to be blind in spite of the eyes that we have. So, what should we do? Go to the light. Be light.

All recently, in Dubrovnik was organized the first presentation of the documentary "The lights of Medjugorje". This title immediately raises the question: which are these lights and who are these lights? Three young men who came to Medjugorje almost by chance made this documentary. Here, they decided to bring light to the life of the their colleagues, and wherever there is darkness. Flooded with light, they want to carry the light to the others. This light, they encountered it in Medjugorje through the intermediary of Our Lady. Inspired by this light, they made the documentary "The lights of Medjugorje". A title which hides and which reveals much. This title contains all the children of Marie who came to know Jesus and who broke darkness of their own life. Millions of people received the light in Medjugorje itself, and thus, carrying light, they transmit to the whole world the message of Jesus who is the Light of the world.

A new year is beginning. A new time is given to us. We have a new chance given by God. Let us make use of it. It is a challenge to be a lamp in a dark corner. To be light means first and foremost to be a witness of hope and of joy, that come from the faith in Christ. In his message for this New Year, the Pope Jean-Paul II writes: "Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but be victorious over evil by good." Yes, the evil does not sleep. The hope is threatened and darkness is spreading in an aggressive way, as if it wanted to darken the rays of the sun. In such a context, only people of faith and people that are enlightened in the spirit can be mediators of God. Guided by Mary towards Jesus, let us make our own film of testimony, with the title that we will give. This new year gives us a chance for that.

Father Mario Knezovic

COMMUNIONS and PRIESTS

During the month of November, 33,600 received Holy Communion and 927 priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

**THE FOURTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of FR. SLAVKO BARBARIC**

The fourth anniversary of Father Slavko's death was commemorated in Medjugorje on November 24. He died on November 24, 2000, at 3.30 pm, after the weekly prayer of the Way of the Cross. Numerous parishioners and pilgrims climbed Cross Mountain praying the Way of the Cross. At the place of Father Slavko's death, between the 13th and the 14th station, they remembered the moment of his passing into eternity. The Way of the Cross was led by Father Mario Knezovic and Father Ljubo Kurtovic. The evening Mass at the parish church was presided by Father Ljubo Kurtovic and concelebrated by numerous local and foreign priests. During the whole day, parishioners and pilgrims were coming on Father Slavko's grave, which has become one of the evident prayer places of Medjugorje.

Father Slavko Barbaric was born on March 11, 1946. He entered into the Franciscan order at the age of 19. He was ordained a priest in 1971. He had a doctorate in religious pedagogy and the title of psychotherapist. He was at the service of Medjugorje pilgrims from the time when he finished his studies and came back to the country, in 1982.

During his service in Medjugorje, he wrote numerous books that were translated into more than 20 languages and published all over the world. He was tireless in giving conferences for pilgrims, leading adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, veneration of the Cross, the rosary up the Apparition Hill, the Way of the Cross on the Mount Krizevac, where he finished his earthly life. He animated annual international meetings for priests and youth; he started the seminar for married couples; in the house of prayer "Domus Pacis" he led "Fasting and prayer retreats". The destructions of the war inspired him to found and lead an institution for the education and care of the young, the "Mother's Village". His psychotherapeutic education allowed him to work in a competent way with drug addicts in the Community of Sister Elvira. For young men in need, he founded the Community of the Merciful Father. He directed the help received from the whole world in two Foundations: for young talented people and for war orphans.

Father Slavko has traveled throughout the whole world, spreading Our Lady's message of peace and reconciliation. He had wonderful gifts: knowledge of languages, facility of communicating with people, education, simplicity, care for human beings in need, inexhaustible energy, diligence, and above all piety, humility, charity. He prayed and he fasted a lot, he loved Our Lady with a childlike love. The essence of

his life was to bring souls to God through Mary, the Queen of Peace, by means of prayer and fasting.

We will always miss him.

MEDJUGORJE YOUTH in the FOOTSTEPS of ST. FRANCIS

Within the framework of the Parish Medjugorje is gathering also the Franciscan Youth Fraternity - FRAMA, which brings together young people who desire to follow Christ according to the example of Saint Francis. On the First Sunday of Advent, 26 young members of the Parish were received in the Fraternity, 21 made their first promises and 11 renewed their promises of living according to the example of Saint Francis. The Eucharistic celebration was presided by the Chaplain for youth of the Province Father Sreten Curic, who also received their promises, and concelebrated by Father Boze Milic, the spiritual assistant of the Medjugorje-FRAMA. Young FRAMA-members from several parishes from Herzegovina sung during Mass. After Mass, they remained in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament together with the parishioners, and then they went to the Parish house to celebrate together.

FRANCISCAN NOVICES

The novices of the Franciscan province of Bosnia and the Herzegovinian province came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje on December 4. They came with their educators, Father Vitomir Silic and Father Ivan Sesar who also presided the evening Mass. The novices animated the songs during Mass.

CHRISTMAS

The parishioners, the faithful from neighboring parishes and the pilgrims prepared themselves for Christmas by a novena. In addition to the evening prayer program in church, the Rosary was prayed on Apparition Hill.

During Advent, two fasting and prayer seminars were conducted at "Domus Pacis", the House of Prayer. About 100 Croatian and German pilgrims participated in these seminars, desiring through prayer and fasting to prepare for Christmas. The days before Christmas confirm that Medjugorje is "the confessional of the world": large crowds come from everywhere to receive here the sacrament of reconciliation.

During the Christmas holidays, peace prevailed at the shrine of the Queen of Peace with an atmosphere of prayer and unity among the faithful who arrived from all parts of the world. For Christmas itself, there were several hundreds of foreign pilgrims. On Christmas Eve, several thousands of pilgrims participated in

***The PILGRIM*, Volume 16, Number 1 – January 2005**

evening Holy Mass. The Vigil began at 10 p.m. and ended with Holy Mass at midnight. The feast of Christmas itself passed in the Christmas peace and joy of pilgrims and parishioners gathered around Mary, their Mother.

On December 19, the Children's Choir from Dubrovnik "Little Singing Dubrovnik" and the small parish choir from Medjugorje "Little Doves of Peace" gave their 5th Christmas Concert. The choirs so wished a Merry Christmas to the faithful and to Medjugorje pilgrims from all over the world.

Again, this year, the members of the "Cenacolo" community (former drug addicts) presented to the parishioners and the pilgrims a production of the Living Manger three times. Through a specific musical and scenic presentation, they showed to the faithful their desire to come from darkness to light.

ANNUAL APPARITION to JAKOV on DECEMBER 25TH 2004

At the last daily apparition to Jakov Colo on September 12th, 1998, Our Lady told him that henceforth he would have one apparition a year, every December 25th, on Christmas Day. This is also how it was this year. The apparition began at 2:30 PM and lasted 7 minutes.

Our Lady gave the following message:

Dear children! Today, on a day of grace, with little Jesus in my arms, in a special way I call you to open your hearts and to start to pray. Little children, ask Jesus to be born in each of your hearts and to begin to rule in your lives. Pray to Him for the grace to be able to recognize Him always and in every person. Little children, ask Jesus for love, because only with God's love can you love God and all people. I carry you all in my heart and give you my Motherly blessing.

SEMINARS AT "DOMUS PACIS"

In 2004, 44 different seminars for 1515 faithful took place in the house of prayer "Domus Pacis".

22 "Prayer and Fasting" seminars were held for 728 pilgrims from Austria (3), Germany (2), Poland (2), France (3), Ukraine (1), Russia (1), Lithuania (1), Slovakia (1), the Czech Republic (1), Italy (2), Korea (1), Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia-Herzegovina (4). During 6 days, the faithful were deepening their faith in the Lord, while answering Our Lady's call to prayer, fasting and inner silence. Father Ljubo Kurtovic held these seminars.

245 members of the Franciscan Youth Fraternity as well as the altar boys from Herzegovina gathered together for 7 spiritual recollections.

The Franciscan School sisters led 6 seminars for 190 young girls.

Different spiritual movements organized 11 other seminars for 352 participants.

ILLEGAL COPYING, DISTRIBUTION and SELLING of CD's, AUDIO and VIDEO CASSETTES EDITED by the SHRINE

The Parish Office Medjugorje, the Information Center "Mir" Medjugorje and Mother's Village Bijakovici-Medjugorje kindly ask organizers and guides to inform the pilgrims that they have given to nobody the right to copy, distribute or sell CD's, audio and video cassettes edited by them. The exclusive copyright for these works belongs to the Parish Office Medjugorje, the Information Center "Mir" Medjugorje and/or Mother's Village Bijakovici-Medjugorje, and the income is used to carry on humanitarian activities and the development of the Shrine. The originals can be purchased only at the Souvenir shop of the Parish Medjugorje. Production, selling and reselling of cheaper copies that can be found in other shops is entirely private and illegal. We thank all the pilgrims and friends of Medjugorje for their understanding.

YOUTH FESTIVAL 2005: THE EUCHARIST - INVITATION to the COMPOSERS

The Youth Festival 2005 will have for the theme the EUCHARIST. The organizers of the Festival invite young authors to compose songs inspired by this theme, and to send their partitions by fax to: 00 387 36 651 444. The text should be short and concise, in the spirit of the Adoration led in Medjugorje, so that the song may be translated and sung in different languages. The chosen songs will be sung during the Festival. Contact: medj.lidija@medjugorje.hr

THE 12TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for LEADERS of PEACE CENTERS and MEDJUGORJE PRAYER, PILGRIM and CHARITY GROUPS

This meeting will take place in the New Hall in Medjugorje from *March 6 to 10, 2005*. The theme is: "THE GUIDE AND THE PILGRIM"

[Note: The Program and a List of Speakers is available on the Internet or in print from the PFMC.]

The number of places is limited, and the number of participants is increasing from year to year. This is why we ask you kindly to make your registration as soon as possible, at the latest by the end of *December 2004*. You can send your registrations by Tel + 387 36 651 988, by fax + 387 36 651 999 (for Marija Dugandzic), or by e-mail: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr or personally in the Information Office.

Simultaneous translation is available for all language groups. This is why we ask you kindly to take with you a small FM radio with headphones.

The price of the seminar is 60 € per person. This includes all the fees for the organization and running of the seminar (lecturers, translations of texts, simultaneous translation and lunch the last day). When you register and pay at the beginning of the seminar, you will receive a badge, which will allow you to participate in the seminar. We ask you kindly to organize personally your accommodation in Medjugorje. We believe that this is not a problem for you, because you have come to Medjugorje for many years now and have friends and acquaintances here.

We are looking forward to your reservations and to welcoming you at this meeting!

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for PRIESTS

This meeting will take place in Medjugorje from *July 4 to 9, 2005*. The theme is "The Eucharist and Mary – Do whatever He tells you!" (Jn 2:5)

[Note: The Program and Speaker Information is available on the Internet or in print from the PFMC. The full text of this notice was printed in November 2004.]

You may make reservations by e-mail: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr, or by FAX: +387-36-651-999 (for Marija Dugandzic).

[NOTE: The PFMC can make air and land arrangements for attendance at Medjugorje events. It is best to travel in groups of at least 3 or 4 due to cost of transport from either Split or Dubrovnik, Croatia. Call (856) 768-9228.]

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

POPE JOHN PAUL'S APOSTOLIC LETTER "MANE NOBISCUM DOMINE"

VATICAN CITY, OCT 8, 2004 (VIS) - Pope John Paul's Apostolic Letter "Mane Nobiscum Domine" ("Stay with us, Lord"), addressed to the bishops, clergy and faithful of the Church on the occasion of the October 2004-October 2005 Year of the Eucharist, was presented today in the Holy See Press Office by Cardinal Francis Arinze. The Letter, in Italian and dated October 7, feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, has an introduction, four chapters and a conclusion.

The prefect of the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments, recalled that the Holy Father announced the celebration of a Year of the Eucharist throughout the Church during Mass at Saint John Lateran Basilica on the June 10, 2004 solemnity of Corpus Christi. Calling today's 30-page Letter "beautiful and incisive," the cardinal added that it "will help guide the Church to celebrate this special year with the greatest possible fruits."

Cardinal Arinze pointed out that "the underlying theme of the Apostolic Letter is the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus." In fact, the Apostolic Letter starts: "Stay with us, for it is towards evening". This was the heartfelt invitation that the two disciples, walking towards Emmaus the very evening of the Resurrection, issued to the Wayfarer who had joined them along the road. Filled with sad thoughts, they could not imagine that that stranger was their very Master, by now risen."

"The Year of the Eucharist," he added, "will see the Church especially committed to living the mystery of the Holy Eucharist. Jesus continues to walk with us and to introduce us to the mysteries of God, opening us up to the deep meaning of Sacred Scriptures. At the summit of this encounter, Jesus breaks for us 'the bread of life'."

"Many times during his pontificate," said the cardinal, "John Paul II has invited the Church to reflect on the Eucharist, ... especially last year in the Encyclical 'Ecclesia de Eucharistia'. ... The Pope mentions two principal events that illuminate and spell out the beginning and the end of the year of the Eucharist: the 48th International Eucharistic Congress that will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico the week of October 10 to 17 and the 11th General Assembly of the Synod of bishops which will take place in the Vatican October 2-29, 2005."

In Chapter One, "In the Wake of Vatican II and the Jubilee," said the prefect, "the Holy Father underlines

that the Year of the Eucharist strongly expresses the focus on Jesus Christ and the contemplation of His face that is marking the pastoral path of the Church, especially since Vatican Council II. In Christ, the Word made flesh, not only is the mystery of God revealed, but the mystery of man is also revealed to us." The Pope writes, in fact: "Christ is at the center not only of the history of the Church, but also the history of mankind."

Chapter Two is entitled "The Eucharist, Mystery of Light." The cardinal pointed out that "Jesus spoke of Himself as 'the light of the world'. In the obscurity of faith, the Eucharist becomes for the believer a mystery of light because it introduces him to the depth of the divine mystery. The Eucharistic celebration nourishes the disciple of Christ with two 'meals', that of the Word of God and that of the Bread of Life. When minds are enlightened and hearts burn, signs speak. In the Eucharistic signs the mystery is in some way open to the eyes of the believer. The two disciples of Emmaus recognize Jesus as they break bread."

Cardinal Arinze went on to explain that in Chapter Three, "'The Eucharist, Source and Sign of Communion,' the disciples of Emmaus prayed the Lord to remain 'with' them. Jesus did even more. He gave Himself in the Eucharist to remain 'in' them: 'Remain in Me and I in you'. ... Eucharistic communion promotes unity among those who receive communion. ... The Eucharist also shows ecclesial communion and calls the members of the Church to share their spiritual and material goods. ... During this Year of the Eucharist special importance must be given to Sunday Masses in parishes."

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Spend some time with our **Eucharistic Lord** in the **Monstrance**, if only for 5 or 10 minutes. Please check out the **Directory of Eucharistic Adoration** maintained by **The Real Presence Association**: <http://www.therealpresence.org/chapels.htm>.

Consider sending them a donation for the maintenance of this wonderful **Directory of Eucharistic Adoration**. They receive mail and donations at:

The Real Presence Association, Inc.
7030 West 63rd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60638.

If you need a printout of pages from the **Directory of Eucharistic Adoration** for your state or area, send us a note at the **PFMC** with a small donation and we will print what you ask for and send it to you.

In the final chapter, "Eucharist, Principle and Project of Mission," says the prefect, "the two disciples of Emmaus, having recognized the Lord, 'left without delay' to communicate the good news. The encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist drives every Christian to give witness, to evangelize the Church. We must thank the Lord and never hesitate to show our faith in public. The Eucharist compels us to show solidarity towards others, becoming promoters of harmony, peace, and, especially, of sharing with the needy."

In the Conclusion, states Cardinal Arinze, "the Holy Father prays that this Year of the Eucharist will be for everyone a precious occasion for a renewed awareness of the incomparable treasure that Christ has entrusted to His Church. ... The Holy Father does not ask for anything extraordinary, but rather that all initiatives be marked by great spiritual intensity. Priority must be given to Sunday Masses and to Eucharistic adoration outside of Mass."

Archbishop Domenico Sorrentino, the secretary of the Congregation, expounded on the historical reading of John Paul II's text.

In the first part of his talk, "Begin again from Christ," the archbishop recalled that "the Church depends on our faith in Christ. In other historical periods, but perhaps even more today, the temptation of man is to reduce the Master to his own dimensions. Sometimes with the best intentions for dialogue, we risk 'diminishing' Christ, undermining the faith in its mystery in the Word made flesh." In explaining the second point, "A contemplative Christianity," he spoke of the signs of regression in spirituality in modern times and he said that "in this new historic situation, the Pope has emphasized the urgency of making the Christian community aware of the treasures of Christian contemplation."

In his last point, "The urgency of example", the prelate affirmed: "The Pope is concerned about reminding the Christian community that the faith must be translated into witness. ... We must not be surprised that an Apostolic Letter on the Eucharist does not touch upon the contemplative and celebratory aspects but makes strong statements about the Christian commitment in history, especially in building up peace and in service to the needy."

Msgr. Mauro Parmeggiani, secretary general of the vicariate of Rome, spoke about initiatives organized by the Church in Rome in order to celebrate the Eucharistic Year. From October 1 to 10, he said, a mission of young people, aimed at their peers, is taking place in downtown Rome, entitled "Jesus downtown." He also noted that the catechesis this year will focus on the rediscovery of the importance of the Eucharist. Other initiatives will include Masses,

Eucharistic adoration and confession in Saint Agnes in Agone in Pza. Navona. Msgr. Parmeggiani indicated that in all the patriarchal basilicas there will be Eucharistic adoration in one of the side chapels.

(.../MANE NOBISCUM DOMINE/ARINZE VIS
041008 (1170) Vatican Information Service
visform@pressva-vis.va Friday, October 8, 2004)

THE EUCHARIST, LIGHT and LIFE of the NEW MILLENNIUM

VATICAN CITY, OCT 12, 2004 (VIS) - The 48th International Eucharistic Congress, which opened with a solemn Eucharistic liturgy the evening of October 10 in Guadalajara, Mexico, began six days of formal meetings yesterday morning in the presence of Cardinals Juan Sandoval Iniguez, archbishop of Guadalajara and Josef Tomko, the Holy Father's legate this event, and thousands of delegates from throughout the world. The theme of the congress is: "The Eucharist: Light and Life of the new Millennium."

Each day starts with a plenary session and has a specific theme: Monday, October 11 was dedicated to "We want to see your face, Oh Lord!"; Tuesday: "Eucharist, Viaticum on the Journey, Accompanies Our Pilgrimage"; Wednesday: "Eucharist, Mystery of Communion and Mission"; Thursday: "Eucharist, Center of Church Life"; Friday: "Eucharist, Exigency and Model of Sharing"; Saturday: "Eucharist, Fount of Evangelization."

At the start of the congress, special reports were given on the ecclesial importance of the Eucharist on each of the continents. The program features perpetual Eucharistic adoration at designated sites of adoration, recitation of the rosary in various pastoral centers in October 12, and a solemn procession with the Most Holy Sacrament on the streets of Guadalajara and a blessing in Liberation Square in the historical center of the city on October 14.

Today, October 12 there will be a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Zapopan in Guadalajara, starting at 6 a.m. local time and concluding with Mass at 10 a.m.

The Eucharistic Congress will close in Mexico on Sunday, October 17, with Mass at 10 .m. in Jalisco Stadium. Simultaneously there will be a television linkup with Rome and Saint Peter's Square during which time Pope John Paul will open the Year of the Eucharist.

AUDIENCE: WE WERE CREATED to BE SAINTS OUT of LOVE

VATICAN CITY, OCT 13, 2004 (VIS) - Today the Pope spoke about the canticle that opens the Letter to the Ephesians, "God my Savior," during the catechesis of the general audience which was held in Saint Peter's Square.

John Paul II told the crowd of 16,000 that through this hymn "the faithful can contemplate and savor this great icon of Christ, heart of spirituality and Christian worship, but also the principle of unity and meaning of the universe and of all of history."

Referring to "the salvific work of the Son," he said this "starts from the eternal divine design that Christ is called to fulfill. In this design shines forth, above all, our being chosen (by God) to be 'holy and blameless people' ... in love. It is therefore, a holiness and a moral, existential and interior purity."

God our Father, he continued, "through Christ, destines us to accept the gift of filial dignity, becoming children in the Son and brothers of Jesus. ... Through this path, the Father realizes a radical transformation in us: a complete liberation from evil, 'redemption through the blood' of Christ, the 'remission of sins' through the 'riches of His grace'. ... We are transfigured creatures: our sin has been erased and we fully know the Lord," and this knowledge "introduces us to the 'mystery' of the divine will."

The Pope concluded by emphasizing that this "'mystery' is a transcendent and perfect project; whose content is an admirable salvation plan: 'to unite all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth.'"

(AG/CANTICLE LETTER EPHESIANS/... VIS
041013 (250) Vatican Information Service
visform@pressva-vis.va Wednesday, October 13, 2004)

HOLY SEE OBSERVER SPEAKS on RESPECT for HUMAN PERSON

VATICAN CITY, OCT 13, 2004 (VIS) - Made public today was the speech given in Paris the afternoon of Friday, October 8 by Msgr. Francesco Follo, Holy See permanent observer to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization on the occasion of the 170th session of UNESCO's Executive Council. His talk focused on the need for a basic reflection on respect for the human person.

"If UNESCO wishes to be able to promote the universality and efficacy of ethical norms as stipulated in the document on the ethics of the economy," he noted, "it must dare to engage in a more basic reflection on the universal need to respect the human being." He pointed to what he called a "weak point," that is, "reducing moral problems to purely ethical-technical questions and forgetting the question of the universality of the proposed norms."

Msgr. Follo listed three reasons for introducing philosophical reflections into ethics: "philosophy as a discussion on reality and meaning is the mediating agent of the dialogue that can take place between science and ethics"; it is a means of "debating the validity and universality of norms"; a philosophical reflection "on the totality of the field of experience must help in articulating ethics of the cultural and religious patrimony of different human communities."

(DELSS/RESPECT:HUMAN
BEINGS/PARIS:FOLLO VIS 041013 (230) Vatican
Information Service visform@pressva-vis.va
Wednesday, October 13, 2004)



THE EUCHARIST and SAINT JOHN BOSCO

For sixty years St John Bosco received remarkable dreams which were almost visions. Probably his best-known dream vision was that of the Church like a ship taking refuge between two pillars in the sea.



In May 1862 he shared his experience of this dream. He could see a very big ship in the sea which he understood as the Church. There were many smaller ships drawn up to do battle against the big ship, they were the enemies of the Church and persecutions. Two pillars or columns were protruding from the sea a little distant from each other. On the top of one was a statue of Our

Lady with 'Help of Christians' written beneath. On

top of the other pillar was a host beneath which was written 'Salvation of the Faithful.'

The commander of the ship was the Pope. He was directing all his energies to steering the ship between those two columns or pillars. All the enemy ships moved to attack. Sometimes the large ship, the Church, got large, deep holes in its sides but no sooner was the harm done than a gentle breeze blew from the two columns and the cracks closed up and the gaps were stopped immediately. In a battle the Pope fell gravely wounded. Immediately those who were with him helped him up. A second time the Pope was struck, this time he fell and died. The new Pope was so promptly elected that the enemies begin to lose courage.

The new Pope overcame all obstacles and enemies and guided the ship right between the two columns. He fastened a chain from the bow of the ship to the column on which stands the host, and fastened a chain from the ship's stern to the column on which stands a statue of Our Lady. All the ships which had fought against the Pope's ship were scattered and broken to pieces and other smaller ships which had fought for the Pope's ship now bound themselves to the same two columns.

We can identify with so many elements of that dream vision. We remember Pope John Paul II falling wounded and rising again. The Church is undergoing trials at this time in the western world. Elsewhere the Church is also suffering. A book I purchased recently gives an account of Catholics all over the world, who were martyred during the twentieth century, more than in any previous century. In this remarkable dream vision experienced by St John Bosco the Church has two means to save itself in the midst of her persecutions, devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and devotion to Our Lady. On this feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Jesus, we highlight one of those two pillars, devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist.

I ask you to think again about the importance of Jesus in the Eucharist in your life. Make Jesus in the Eucharist the center of your life once again. In a short while the bread and wine will become the Body and Blood of Jesus during the consecration of the Mass. The bread and wine will not be symbols but will be changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. Jesus will be really present although under the form of bread and wine.

That is why we talk about the "real presence" of Jesus in the Eucharist. Because we love Jesus in the Eucharist so much, in the Catholic Church, we have the privilege of being able to adore Jesus in the Eucharist outside of Mass also. So we have Perpetual

Eucharist Adoration in most of the towns of this diocese and most parishes have a period of adoration of the Eucharist sometime each week or month. We all know how popular healing Masses are. Almost always during those healing Masses the healing occurs when people are blessed with Jesus in the monstrance. So let us place Jesus in the Eucharist at the center of our lives.

A most special moment of Eucharistic Adoration for all of us is when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Then as Jesus said in our Gospel (Year A), "he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him." There are no words to describe that most precious moment when you return to your seat to spend quiet moments with Jesus. You are one with Jesus and he is one with you. It is a moment of intimacy with Jesus, when you and Jesus are 'all wrapped up in each other', "he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him." During healing Masses the healings have also occurred during this moment after receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. Treasure these personal intimate moments between yourself and Jesus, "he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him." One of the pillars to save the Church in St John Bosco's dream was the Eucharist. May Jesus in the Eucharist be the center of the lives of each of us.

http://www.frtommylane.com/homilies/years_abc/corpus_christi-3.htm#John_bosco_dream

THIS IS THE DAY

This is the day that the Lord has made-
I will rejoice and be glad in it.

I will start out this day with a song in my heart
To face any trial and to win it...

For I know that I walk with His hand in mine,
He will guide every step of my way.

If I fail or I fall, He will lift me up,
The Lord is my strength every day.

This is the day that I will be glad-
I can smile, I can win and achieve.

For I've given my heart to my God this day
And I trust in His word-I believe.

I believe that He has a plan for me,
That my life will be changed for the best.

He has washed all my sins, He has made me whole.
I'm at peace, I am calm – I am blessed.

This is the day that I overcome
All the burdens that weighed on my heart.

My spirit will soar and I will succeed,
For I'm given a fresh new start.
I will walk with pride with my head held high,
And fear cannot enter my sphere.
For this is the day that the Lord has made-
All is well, all is good...God is near.

**(Patience Allison Hartbauer. Salesian Inspirational
Books A Salesian Missions Publication #51626.)**

MURDER of the PETERSONS' SON RAISES RIGHT-TO-LIFE ISSUES

The jury's sentence of death for Scott Peterson grabbed the most media attention, but another issue related to the celebrated case could have a lasting legal effect: abortion.

The case "put the unborn child on the map for everyone to see," Randy Thomasson of the Campaign for California Families told USA Today.

He was right. The murder of Conner Peterson was a key factor in the jury's decision to impose the death penalty on his killer, and the state law that allowed an unborn child to be deemed a murder victim created a serious legal problem for the abortion industry, which thrives on the fiction that unborn babies are not human life and are therefore expendable and cannot be treated as victims.

According to juror Richelle Nice, of all the horrendous factors in the Peterson case, the killing of Conner - whom she called "little man" - hit her the hardest. "That was his daddy that did that to him," she said, adding that she decided on the death sentence because of the nature of the crime.

The other two jurors to speak out on the case also stressed Conner's murder as key factors in their decision to impose the death penalty.

According to USA Today, the debate over legal protections for the unborn had an impact on a national issue. Conner, an unborn infant, perished with his mother, and the state of California, along with 29 other states, recognizes the killing of an unborn baby as homicide. As a result, prosecutors charged Peterson with double murder under California law, and multiple murder is a criterion that permits the death penalty.

The decision to charge Scott Peterson with murder of his unborn son has already had an impact on the abortion debate. As USA Today noted, anti-abortion activists had tried in vain for five years to get a federal Unborn Victims of Violence Act passed —

until publicity over the Peterson case and lobbying on Capitol Hill by Laci's family got it through Congress. Sen. John Kerry, for one, voted against it.

On April 1, President Bush signed the measure, by then dubbed "Laci and Conner's Law."

Under that law an assailant can be charged with a crime against a fetus if the fetus is harmed during a kidnapping, bombing, interstate stalking or other federal offenses.

Will ACLU Support These 'Civil Liberties'?

As reported in NewsMax.com on Dec. 8, Kathleen Antrim, a weekly columnist for the San Francisco Examiner and author of the political thriller "Capital Offense," noted in her column "Could the Peterson Conviction Overturn Roe v. Wade?" that California's 34-year-old fetal homicide law and the national Unborn Victims of Violence Act "reinforce the 'personhood' of an unborn child and affirm that the not-yet-born have rights, and provide protection for babies still in the womb."

Wrote Antrim: "Essentially, this conviction, and others like it, recognizes the fetus as a separate entity with its own civil liberties. ... [T]he Peterson conviction makes the murder of an unborn child very public."

**(Reprinted with permission from NewsMax.com,
www.newsmax.com/archives/ic/2004/12/14/125210.shtml)**

LAY FAITHFUL HAVE 'DISTINCTIVE DIGNITY and MISSION'

VATICAN CITY, DEC 4, 2004 (VIS) - Completing their "ad limina" visit, 22 prelates from the ecclesiastical provinces of Louisville, Mobile and New Orleans in the United States were received today by Pope John Paul, who spoke to them about "some aspects of your relationship with the lay faithful."

Quoting "Christifideles Laici," he said that "each bishop is called to acknowledge the 'essential and irreplaceable role of the laity in the Church's mission' and to enable them to carry out their proper apostolate. ... A clear pastoral priority" of each bishop is to help the lay faithful "in understanding and embracing the 'munus regale', the kingly office, they received by their baptism incorporation into Christ."

"Lay men and women," said the Holy Father, "must be encouraged, through sound catechesis and continuing formation, to recognize the distinctive

dignity and mission which they have received in Baptism and to embody in all their daily activities an integrated approach to life which finds its inspiration and strength from the Gospel. This means that the laity must be trained to distinguish clearly between their rights and duties as members of the Church and those which they have as members of human society, and encouraged to combine the two harmoniously, recognizing (as stated in "Lumen Gentium") that 'in every temporal affair they are to be guided by their Christian conscience, since there is no human activity - even of the temporal order - that can be withdrawn from God's dominion'."

The Pope underscored that "a clear and authoritative reaffirmation of these fundamental principles of the lay apostolate will help to overcome the serious pastoral problems created by a growing failure to understand the Church's binding obligation to remind the faithful of their duty in conscience to act in accordance with her authoritative teaching. There is urgent need for a comprehensive catechesis on the lay apostolate which will necessarily highlight the importance of a properly formed conscience, the intrinsic relationship between freedom and moral truth, and the grave duty incumbent upon each Christian to work to renew and perfect the temporal order in accordance with the values of God's Kingdom. While fully respecting the legitimate separation of Church and State in American life, such a catechesis must also make clear that for the faithful Christian there can be no separation between the faith which is to be believed and put into practice and a commitment to full and responsible participation in professional, political and cultural life."

He encouraged the bishops "to foster among the laity a shared sense of responsibility for the life and mission of the Church" which, when "rooted in the principles of a sound ecclesiology," will ensure genuine collaboration "without the danger of distorting this relationship by the uncritical importation of categories and structures drawn from secular life."

John Paul II closed with special words of appreciation and gratitude for young people, married couples and "the countless men and women who strive each day to bring the light of the Gospel to their homes, workplaces and to the whole of society."

(AL/BISHOPS:LAITY/USA VIS 041206 (510))

SPREAD the SOCIAL DOCTRINE of the CHURCH in ITS ENTIRETY

VATICAN CITY, DEC 4, 2004 (VIS) - This morning the Holy Father received participants in a

conference of the Vatican's "Centesiumus Annus-Pro Pontifice" Foundation which has been reflecting on the recently-published Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church.

After recalling that the foundation's objective is to combine concrete aid for the activities of the Pope and the Holy See and the transmission of the doctrine of the Church on major social issues, John Paul II said: "There is still much to do so that the rich contribution of Church doctrine may be a coherent criterion of wisdom and an inspiring and convincing force of the social action of Catholics."

"For this reason it is very important," he continued, "to make the social doctrine of the Church known in a precise, clear and complete way in order to avoid that only one aspect or another is emphasized, according to one's sensitivity and preconceived ideas so that one ends up by losing the unitary consideration and using it in a manipulative fashion. In addition, it is necessary to educate people to use this doctrine as a stimulating point of reference for family, professional and civil responsibilities, assuming it as a shared criterion of personal and communitarian choices and activities in continuity with the beautiful witness ... of humble and great Christians who have passionately lived for the cause of man in light of the Gospel."

The Pope underscored that the great questions that afflict humanity "in an ever-more 'global' and 'interdependent' context, must be confronted with a clear vision of man and his personal and social vocation on the common foundation of natural law."

"The social doctrine of the Church," he concluded, "highlights the basic values of an ordered and solitary human coexistence with the light of the Revelation, freeing these values from obscurities and ambiguities. Lay Christians, open to the action of God's grace, are the lively instruments so that values effectively permeate history."

**(AC/CHURCH SOCIAL DOCTRINE/... VIS 041206
(340))**

THE FAMILY'S CONTRIBUTION to SECURITY and DEVELOPMENT

VATICAN CITY, DEC 7, 2004 (VIS) - Archbishop Celestino Migliore, apostolic nuncio and Holy See permanent observer to the United Nations, spoke yesterday in New York before the plenary of the 59th General Assembly as it celebrates the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

Addressing the assembly in French, he noted that the U.N. debates and programs "focus on a broad concept of security, comprising what in our U.N. parlance we

call the 'hard threats', like terrorism and weapons of mass destruction; and the 'soft threats', namely unemployment, poverty, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, exploitation of children and women, scarce access to housing and sanitation, education and medicines, the things that affect the whole of human society in its daily life."

"In this context," said the nuncio, "my delegation would like to lend its support to the family, the fundamental unit of society by its nature and by the indispensable contribution that it is called to make in the achievement of security and development. The family, that is the stable and lasting union of a man and a woman, appears first of all as the most natural and the best suited way to assure the procreation and thus the renewal of the generations."

Archbishop Migliore went on to say that "it is not only about bringing children into the world, but also about educating them; the economic notion of 'human capital' is particularly well suited here: as the first place of formation of human capital, the family appears truly indispensable to development. ... There can only be action in favor of the family if there first exists a real political will to promote a model."

He underscored that family policy must be "clearly distinguished from social policy" and "should permit a durable economic development: the objective would certainly not be to 'suppress' the family! Ultimately, family policy ... must promote a model that at the very least does not penalize those who wish to have children," should include "a just compensation of the costs linked to education and a true recognition of domestic work" and requires "a long-term action, based on criteria of justice and of efficiency because the family is an investment for tomorrow."

(DELSS/FAMILY/UN:MIGLIORE VIS 041207 (370))

MAY OUR LADY OBTAIN PEACE and SALVATION for ALL

VATICAN CITY, DEC 8, 2004 (VIS) - At 9:30 a.m. today, solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary and the 150th anniversary of the dogmatic definition, the Pope presided at a Eucharistic concelebration with members of the College of Cardinals in the Vatican Basilica. The principal celebrant was Cardinal Camillo Ruini, vicar general of the Holy Father for the diocese of Rome, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his priestly ordination today.

After recalling that Blessed Pius IX proclaimed "this admirable dogma of the Catholic faith" on December

8, 1854 in Saint Peter's Basilica, John Paul II greeted representatives of the National Mariological Societies who have been participating in an International Marian Mariological Congress organized by the Pontifical Marian Academy. He congratulated Cardinal Ruini for his priestly jubilee, and expressed his gratitude for "the service that he has rendered and continues to render with generous dedication to the Church as my vicar general for the Diocese of Rome and as president of the Italian Episcopal Conference."

"With what a special blessing God referred to Mary from the beginning of time!" he exclaimed. "Truly blessed, Mary, among all women! The Father chose her in Christ before the creation of the world, so that she would be holy and immaculate before him in love, predestining her as the first fruit to filial adoption through Jesus Christ."

The Holy Father affirmed that Our Lady's "yes to the Angel's annunciation is situated in the concreteness of our earthly condition, in humble gift to the divine will of saving humanity not from history, but in history. In fact, immune from every stain of original sin, the 'new Eve' benefited in a singular way from the work of Christ as most perfect Mediator and Redeemer."

Addressing Mary, the Pope today renewed in a special way "the entrustment of the whole Church" to her and asked her to "guide your children on the pilgrimage of faith, making them ever more obedient and faithful to the Word of God. May you accompany every Christian on the path of conversion and holiness, in the struggle against sin and in the search for true beauty, which is always the sign and reflection of divine Beauty. May it be you, again, to obtain peace and salvation for all peoples."

At noon, the Pope appeared at the window of his study to pray the Angelus with the thousands of people in Saint Peter's Square. The Holy Father emphasized that the Immaculate Conception "is like a beacon of light for humanity for all times. At the beginning of the third millennium, she leads us to believe and hope in God, in His salvation, and in eternal life. She illuminates particularly the path of the Church committed to the New Evangelization."

After the Marian prayer, John Paul II referred to violence in Mosul, Iraq and to the destruction of both an Armenian-Apostolic Church and the Chaldean archbishopric. "I express my spiritual closeness to the faithful, shaken by the attack, and implore the Lord, through the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin, that the beloved Iraqi people may at last know a time of reconciliation and peace."

**(HML/IMMACULATE CONCEPTION/... VIS 041209
(540))**

BUILDING UP the CHURCH in COMMUNION and MISSION

VATICAN CITY, DEC 10, 2004 (VIS) - The Holy Father today welcomed bishops from the ecclesiastical provinces of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, noting that this is his last encounter with U.S. bishops making their “ad limina” visit. He also pointed out that “our meetings have fittingly come to an end during the week in which the Church celebrates the sesquicentenary of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of the Church in the United States.”

The Pope said that the ad limina visits over the past eight months have been both “a source of consolation” and a time to “share the deep pain which you and your people have experienced in these last years, and I have witnessed your determination to deal fairly and forthrightly with the serious pastoral issues which have been raised as a result.” He underscored the bishops’ duty of “building up the Church in communion and mission.”

“I leave two charges to you and your brother bishops.” The first is a fraternal encouragement to persevere joyfully in the ministry entrusted to you, in obedience to the authentic teaching of the Church, Can we not see in the pain and scandal of recent years both ‘a sign of the times’ and a providential call to conversion and deeper fidelity to the demands of the Gospel. ... In her own way, the Church in the United States has been called to begin the new millennium by “starting afresh from Christ” and by making the truth of the Gospel clearly the measure of her life and all her activity.

“In this light, I once more praise your efforts to ensure that each individual and group in the Church understands the urgent need for a consistent, honest and faithful witness to the Catholic faith, and that each of the Church’s institutions and apostolates expresses in every aspect of its life a clear Catholic identity”.

“The second charge is a heartfelt appeal to keep your gaze fixed on the great goal set before the whole Church at the dawn of this third Christian millennium: the proclamation of Jesus Christ as the Redeemer of humanity.” Citing “Ecclesia in America,” he said: “The Church in America must speak increasingly of Jesus Christ, the human face of God and the divine face of man”, devoting the best of her efforts to a more compelling proclamation of the Gospel, the growth of holiness, and the more effective transmission of the treasure of the faith to the younger generation.”

John Paul II closed by noting “two urgent tasks” facing the Church in the U.S.: “the need for an evangelization of culture in general” and “the need for Catholics to cooperate fruitfully with men and women of good will in building a culture of respect for life.”

(AL/COMMUNION:MISSION/US VIS 041210 (480))

CHRISTIANITY and the CHALLENGES of SECULARISM, UNBELIEF

VATICAN CITY, DEC 10, 2004 (VIS) - The Pontifical Culture for Culture, in a press release published today in English on the December 10-11 visit of council president, Cardinal Paul Poupard, to Minsk, Belarus, summarized the cardinal’s keynote speech on “Christianity and the Challenges of Secularism, Unbelief and Religious Indifference.” He will speak at 5 p.m. today at a conference on spiritual values in Europe, organized by the Saints Cyril and Methods Theological Institute and hosted by the Orthodox Church.

“In his talk, Cardinal Paul Poupard states that the Christian faith is an essential factor of Europe and the Churches today are faced with the challenge of confronting secularism, indifference and unbelief among Europeans in order to ensure that Europe continues to be a community that thrives on veritable values. He examines what we mean by values and underlines that true values have their source in God. The natural law can be found at the basis of all values, which are universal but lived out in different cultures.”

“In order to combat relativism, secularism and indifference, producers of grave social problems and deniers of the values of truth, of the dignity of the human person, and of the inspiration of beauty, he suggests that due attention be given to the meeting between the Gospel and cultures. He points out how the faith is still a factor for Europe in the restoration of values through both lungs of Christianity, particularly through Christian cultural.”

**(CON-C/CHRISTIANITY
EUROPE/MINSK:POUPARD VIS 041210 (240))**

DISCOVER the TRUTH about MAN in the EUCHARISTIC MYSTERY

VATICAN CITY, DEC 15, 2004 (VIS) - Thousands of students and faculty members from Roman universities, delegates from other European

universities and civil and religious authorities were in Saint Peter's Basilica last evening for their annual Mass with the Holy Father. The Pope thanked them for their presence saying, "as 'sentinels of the morning', you wish to be vigilant - today, during these weeks of Advent, and throughout life - to be ready to welcome the Lord Who comes."

"Dear university students," he said, "we are in the year of the Eucharist and, in preparation for World Youth Day, you have been reflecting on the theme 'Eucharist and the Truth about Man'. This is a demanding theme. In fact, before the Eucharistic mystery, we are moved to verify the truth about our faith, our hope and our love. We cannot remain indifferent when Christ says: 'I am the living bread, come down from heaven'. Into our minds comes the question He asked: 'Do you believe it is I? Do you really believe?' In light of His words: 'Whoever eats this bread will have eternal life', we cannot not ask ourselves about the meaning and value of our daily lives."

Noting that the greatest love was that of Christ "Who sacrificed Himself for the life of the world", the Holy Father said we must ask ourselves if we live our lives for others. "Is my humanity, my existence filled with the love of God and love for my neighbor? Or is it rather imprisoned in the oppressive cycle of selfishness?"

The Pope said that the search for "truth about man is not reached only by the means that science offers us," but also "thanks to Christ's gaze filled with love. It is He, the Lord, Who comes to us in the mystery of the Eucharist. Never stop looking for Him and you will discover in His eyes an attractive reflection of the goodness and beauty that He Himself has placed in our hearts with the gift of His Spirit."

(HML/MASS STUDENTS/... VIS 041215 (340))

RESPECT and PROMOTE the LIFE of PEOPLES and INDIVIDUALS

VATICAN CITY, DEC 16, 2004 (VIS) - This morning in the Holy See Press Office, Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, presented Pope John Paul II's Message for the 38th World Day of Peace which will be celebrated on January 1, 2005.

Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi and Msgr. Frank J. Dewane, secretary and under-secretary of the same dicastery, also participated in the presentation.

Cardinal Martino explained that this year the Pope has chosen a verse from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans as a theme for reflection: "Do not be

overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." The apostle, he said, "invites us to a discernment, both personal and communal, on the crucial questions of evil and its dramatic influence on human lives and admonishes us to take up, with mature responsibility, the good and its diffusion."

The Message is composed of three parts. In the first section, the cardinal said that "peace is considered in its rapport with moral good. In the second, peace is seen in its rapport with a classic principle of the social doctrine of the Church, the principle of the common good. In the third, peace is treated in its close connection with the use of the goods of the earth and with a very pertinent reference to another great principle of the social doctrine, the universal destination of goods."

"At the center of the drama of evil there is a protagonist: the human person with his liberty and his sin." In this sense, the Pope indicates that "in order to face the multiple social and political manifestations of evil, modern humanity must treasure the common patrimony of moral values received as a gift from God." John Paul II recalls the appeal he made in 1995 before the General Assembly of the United Nations referring to the "grammar of the universal moral law, the only capable way to unite people among themselves in their diversity of cultures."

In the Message, the Holy Father condemns the violence that is so rampant in our age and he highlights the "conflicts in Africa, the dangerous situation of Palestine, terrorism which seems to push the whole world towards a future of fear and anxiety, and the Iraqi drama which multiplies uncertainly and insecurity."

"After calling for everyone's commitment to the common good and, above all, the commitment of public authorities, the Holy Father binds the promotion of the common good to respect for the person and his fundamental rights, as well as to respect for the rights of Nations in a universal perspective, asking for the commencement of real international cooperation." The Pope urges everyone not "to reduce the common good to mere socio-economic well-being. This is possible if the common good remains open to the transcendental dimension."

Cardinal Martino indicated that the third part of the Message is dedicated to the use of the goods of the earth which the Holy Father considers in the context of the social doctrine of the universal destination of these same goods. The principles of the universal destination of the goods of the earth and world citizenship "constitute two beacons capable of illuminating political choices of the international community for the promotion of the development of

peoples from an ethical and cultural perspective cast towards an integral and solitary development of humanity.”

In this ethical-cultural context, Cardinal Martino continued, the Pope confronts some very urgent questions. Their “solution is generally bound to the affirmation of the right to peace and the right to development,” he said. The first question regards “the use and destination of those new goods which are the fruit of scientific knowledge and technological progress.” The second one, he added, refers to the “public goods, goods which all citizens enjoy automatically without having made precise choices and which are however expressions of common interests.” The third question is “the fight against poverty, which remains the principle objective of the action of the International Community at the outset of this Millennium.”

In order to deal with poverty, John Paul II indicates that the first priority is to resolve the issue of the foreign debt of poor countries. In addition, he adds, “a renewed international commitment in financing for development” is necessary through “a new impulse” to public aid development.

Cardinal Martino said that, at the center of the fight against poverty, the Holy Father places the African continent, which is “blocked in its development by many difficult problems; armed conflicts, pandemic diseases, conditions of misery, political instability and social insecurity.” The solution to these problems lies in “respect for the promises related to official development assistance, a substantial alleviating of the weight of international debt, the opening of markets and an increase in commercial exchange.”

The cardinal concluded by saying: “In the face of terrible scenarios drawn from the presence of evil, the Holy Father invites everyone to raise their eyes to God who, in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, has rendered possible for all the victory of good over evil.”

(OP/MESSAGE WORLD PEACE DAY/MARTINO
VIS 041216 (860))

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, Creator of the Universe.

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**.

The ***PFMC*** was established in the home of **Keith and Kathleen Werner** 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. Our inventory is quite extensive. The inventory management volunteers, currently **Vince and Livia Nocella**, are always happy to find something for you.

The ***PFMC*** is NOT a store and does not sell anything. We strongly support the use of Catholic stores wherever they are convenient to our readers.

For books, pamphlets, and religious articles, the ***PFMC*** operates like a church pamphlet or book rack where selections are made and donations offered based on value posted or received. Most of the other outlets are operating on a for profit basis. Your gifts from the ***PFMC*** may be a tax break for you.

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 **December 2003** <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/12OF03.pdf>.

Copies are available if you did not get yours or if you need extras. We need volunteers to help us get the entire inventory available for production of order forms. We eventually want to take pictures and load up a shopping cart program. If you have inventory or computer skills we would love to have your help.

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***. 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 display and inventory management mentioned above.

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 any of the various funds. 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, Keith, and the PFMC Volunteer Staff)

PFMC PRAYER

O Precious Mother of God, I come before you this day in union with your most Immaculate Heart and the most Sacred Heart of your Son, Jesus. I ask for special blessings upon the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center, as well as all Marian Centers. Bless them in their work of spreading your messages of Prayer, Fasting Reconciliation, Conversion and Peace. Bless them with the gifts of Charity to all who seek their guidance, of love for all hearts both hardened and converted, for healing of the wounded areas of all aspects of physical, emotional, and spiritual life. Fill each person with a desire to serve you and your Son in wisdom, and as ambassadors to bring forth the Kingdom of God. Allow each Marian Center to work with a freedom in the fullness of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit .so that every soul who comes in contact with them will be touched with His gentle hand, His truth, His Knowledge and His Justice. I invoke the spiritual warfare armor of Saint Michael, the Archangel, and all the angels and saints. May they protect this Center of Peace, and enable it to function and prosper with Heavenly guidance. AMEN.

(The above PFMC Prayer was originally written by Joe Bridgeman in the middle 1990's. It may be printed from or sent electronically to others using: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/PFMCPrayer.htm)

CONFERENCE CORNER

We need conference or meeting notices no later than the **25th of the month** before the event. The earlier the better so we can make space for it.

Please FAX any printed notices to **(856) 768-9428** or mail them to the address on page 24.

BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out the following BULLETIN NOTICE and take it to your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator? Ask them to publish any portion of the notices to support **PFMC** events for which you have an interest.

We send "**The PILGRIM**" to many parishes and ask them to post our Bulletin Notices. We are told that they get so many requests from outside the parish that they simply cannot respond to them all. They respond better to requests from parishioners.

Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Ask your pastor to allow information materials to be put out in church. Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his representative. We are trying to network with other ministries in support of bringing people to Jesus either directly, through Mary, or through her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

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

2005 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC), 3-DAY EXTENSION (3DX), and YOUTH TRACK (YT)

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host its annual Marian RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) for 2005 at the Hilton Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ. The RC and the Youth Track (YT) will run from Friday, 4 February 2005 through Sunday, 6 February 2005. The 3-Day Extension (3DX) will run from Monday, 7 February 2005 through Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005. This will be an excellent opportunity to prepare for Lent 2005.

The speakers include: Father Bill Halbing, Father John McFadden, Father Michael Semana, Father Glenn Hartman, Father John Tino, Vinny Flynn, Keith and Kathleen Werner, and Linda Schubert, author of "Miracle Hour."

More information is available on the Internet at: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/retreat05.htm>.

Information packets with reservation forms are available on the Internet at: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf.

For more information call (856) 768-9228.

Thanks again for anything you can do to post notices in parish bulletins or even with local prayer groups.

(Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff)

CALENDARS:

In *January*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *Mary, Mother of God (1)*, *Epiphany of the Lord (2)*, Feasts of *Baptism of the Lord (9)* and *Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle (25)*, Memorials of *Saints Elizabeth Ann Seton (4)*, *John Neumann (5)*, *Anthony, Abbot (17)*, *Agnes (21)*, *Francis de Sales (24)*, *Timothy (26)*, *Titus (26)*, *Thomas Aquinas (28)* and *John Bosco (31)* and Optional Memorials of *Saints Genevieve (3)*, *Raymond of Penyafort (7)*, *Hilary (13)*, *Pope Fabian (20)*, *Sebastian (20)*, *Vincent (22)*, *Angela Merici (27)*, and *The Most Holy Name of Jesus (3)* as well as *Blessed Andre Bessette (6)*. Most Church calendars recognize **Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (15) (observed) (17)**.

In *February*, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of **Ash Wednesday (9)**, Feasts of **Presentation of the Lord (2)**, and **Chair of Saint Peter Apostle (22)**, Memorials of *Saints Agatha (5)*, *Jerome Emiliani (8)*, *Josephine Bakhita (8)*, *Scholastica (10)*, *Cyril and Methodius (14)* and *Polycarp (23)*, Optional Memorials of *Saints Blase (3)*, *Ansgar (3)*, and *Peter Damian (21)* as well as *Our Lady of Lourdes (11)*, and **Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (17)**. Most Church calendars show **Presidents' Day (21)** and **Saint Valentine's Day (14)**.

In *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **SAINTE JOSEPH, HUSBAND of MARY (19)**, the Optional Memorials of *Saints Katherine Drexel (3)*, *Casimir (4)*, *Perpetua and Felicity (7)*, *John of God (8)*, *Frances of Rome (8)*, *Patrick (17)*, *Cyril of Jerusalem (18)*, the **Easter Triduum - Holy Thursday (24)**, **Good Friday (25)**, and **Holy Saturday (26)** and **Easter Sunday (27)**.

AROUND the *PFMC* AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 3 through 6, and the orchid four page information packet with reservation forms for the **2005 RC, 3DX, YT** from *Friday, 4 February 2005* through *Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005*. We need reservations at the ***PFMC*** and the **HILTON HOTEL** before **1/27/2005**. If we are unable to meet our room block commitment (496 room-nights over the six days), this may be our last **RC/3DX/YT** in a hotel setting.

Please help get the word out on ***PFMC*** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Ask your pastor to post bulletin notices and allow information sheets to be put out in church. Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his official and authorized representative.

POPE JOHN PAUL II PRAYER INTENTIONS for JANUARY

VATICAN CITY, JAN 1, 2005 (VIS) - **Pope John Paul II** general prayer intention for the month of *January* is: "That all those working in the Middle East may intensify their efforts for peace."

His mission intention is: "That in mission lands holy and generous apostles may be raised up, eager to proclaim the Gospel of Christ to everyone."

JPII-PRAYER INTENTIONS/JANUARY/... VIS
050103 (70) e-mail: Monday, January 3, 2005

Page 32

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

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

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

Kathleen PFMCkmw@comcast.net and

Keith keithwerner@comcast.net Werner, Co-Directors

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963

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

The PILGRIM, Volume 16, Number 1 – January 2005

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,
Thursday, 1/13/2005**

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

PLEASE DON'T THROW THIS AWAY!!

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

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

