



# The **PILGRIM**

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February - March 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



*Lord Jesus continue to fill us with Your Holy Spirit, so that our lives may be vitally and richly filled with strength and mercy. Teach us to forgive one another and turn away from any temptations to sin. Help us to know that only You can lead us to the littleness of a small child, and to the beauty and the glory of a strong Christian life. Within our families, Lord, show us how to model Your Life, particularly on the Cross. Show us how to bear our crosses with Love. AMEN*

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

## PRAY for KATHLEEN

Although **Kathleen** is getting better every day. She still has pain in her back and left leg. The pain management specialist is working to minimize the pain through use of trigger point injections in the back muscles as well as additional epidural injections for pain blocking. Physical therapy is returning more and more use of **Kathleen's** left leg. She still must use a walker or a wheel chair because of instability in the left leg. I try to keep the information on our web pages as up to date as possible. Please refer to the [Kathleen Back Problems](#) link on the left side at <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>. Many are calling to get details from **Kathleen** or the volunteers without reading what was printed in the *January* issue of "**The PILGRIM**" or updated at this link.

We thank everyone for their prayers and concerns but it is impossible to relate the details and thank everyone personally.

(Keith)

The *January* and *February* MESSAGE, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, is presented beginning on page 12 (centerfold page) with REFLECTION and PRESS BULLETIN.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The volunteer staff of the **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)**, A Religious Association, Inc. has rested from 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 regular assistance at the **PFMC**. Please call (856) 768-9228 if you can assist in any way.

(The **PFMC** Volunteer Staff)

## A PRAYERFUL THANK YOU

It has been a most difficult time for me and for my family. Hospitalization and the seriousness of the compression on the nerves to my left hip and leg was extremely painful. This has left me unable to get my left leg to do much walking and is in constant pain, even now. The battle is not over. There is a possibility of more surgery. We are waiting now for swelling and seroma in my spine to settle down. This must happen so we can assess things better.

I have received so many beautiful cards, letters of encouragement, and Holy Masses for my healing from all of the readers. I just wanted to thank you all for caring so much, especially for your prayers for me, and for support to **Keith** during this time.

Because of so many of our volunteers that came forth without being asked, the **2005 Retreat Conference (RC), Youth Track (YT) and 3 Day Extension (3DX)** was very beautiful, and attendees were able to bring so much back home with so many challenges and lessons in forgiveness and love.

I especially thank all the staff because without each of them giving so much of their time, the **RC, YT, and**

**"The PILGRIM"** for *February - March 2005* is dedicated to "**Mary, Co-bearer of the Cross of Jesus.**" See page 3 for an **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."** Table of Contents listing.

**3DX** never could have been held. Each one gave in their own gifts, and even assisted each other to make sure that everything flowed well. The football game may have drawn many, but the remnant few were there to soak in the many graces of each session of the **RC, YT, and 3DX**. Some didn't come because they feared a snow-storm, which never got there.

As I spoke in my talks, fear paralyzes and you miss out on life itself because of the inability to trust.

The **RC, YT, and 3DX** events are unique to the whole **Delaware Valley**, and are very expensive to host when attendance is low. There was a year's time to save to attend and we know that it is difficult. But again that sacrifice i.e., bag of potato chips, a lighter lunch, or a candy bar each day or week was well worth the treat to the soul that these **RC, YT, and 3DX** events provided. We hope that you will begin to save and think about attending next year. We will have events next year and will participate with other ministries in their events. We need to recover from the losses suffered in **2005** and evaluate how much risk we are willing to take for **2006**.

Our speakers were so anointed and we encourage you that if you did not attend the retreat, that you order a set of tapes from the **PFMC**. We have a large supply in our display area. You can share in the beautiful messages of healing and evangelization.

We also thank the many that put a little extra in the collection baskets or wrote checks to help us with the cost overruns of the **2005 RC, YT, and 3DX**. Because we did not meet the quota of the hotel room rentals, the bill was thousands of dollars over the donations we collected in advance. Many have rushed to help us out, but we still have an enormous bill to pay. This, right at this time, prevents us from planning **2006 RC, YT, and 3DX** events. Yet after fifteen years of doing these **RC, YT, and 3DX** type events, we do know that if one person had a conversion experience no amount of money can or should inhibit planning again. So we ask you to remember us in your prayers and if you are able to send us a donation in the enclosed donation envelope. Please do not forget us. We'd love to hear from you regularly with a monthly donation if that is possible.

So thank you all again and again, and I ask for your continued prayers. I miss being able to work in the **PFMC**. We have so much planned for **2005**. If you think you can help out even for just a few hours a

week, please call **Keith** or **Colleen** or **Livia** and **Vince** at the **PFMC**. We will show you around, and teach you how to answer phones, take orders or information, and to bring a big smile to Our Lady's face with other volunteer work. We would truly like to have one or more volunteers present at the **PFMC** from about **9 AM** until about **5 PM** every day except **Sunday**. Pray if you and a friend could volunteer regularly to give us a presence in the **PFMC** at least until I get back on two feet.

God bless you. We ask your prayers that we may have **RC, YT, and 3DX** events again in **2006**. Know that I pray and offer up my suffering for all of your intentions every day. Suffering is a gift given to us so we are allowed to grow in graces and purification.

(Kathleen Werner)

## I TOUCHED YOU

"And Jesus said, 'who touched me?'"

It was I, Lord, I touched you. I touched you with my weakness and with my failures. And in your infinite kindness You turned to me and looked at me. And Your Eyes wrapped me in your Mantle of Love! For Your Love is a greater good than life.

And Jesus said 'who touched me?'

It was I, Lord, I touched you. I have laid down my weapons, my pride, and my anger, my fear, and mistrust and stand defenseless and vulnerable, stand naked before You. my every sore is exposed. For I have nothing with which to clothe myself. And You gave me your robe. Your leper returns to give you thanks. I give you my nothingness; and You give me Your All.

And Jesus said 'enter into My rest',

It is the movement of Love. Love surges, Love pulsates, Love dilates, Love enlarges, Love enflames, Love unifies, Love transforms, even when we are still. For Love is ever active and the nature of Love is to serve. Because I was nothing, You came to me. Your wrapped Your Arms around my heart to save me from myself. Jesus, keep me always in the freedom of your Love. For I have fallen safely to sleep beneath Your Shadow, and my heart watches."

(Sister Judith - Srjmvhm@aol.com)

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.

## THE LITTLE ROOM of SILENCE

There is only time right now, as we step back in Lent to look in silence at the life of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is up to each of us to take this time, and to reflect all that He has done for us, and all that He carries out in Mercy and forgiveness by asking us to join Him in being a mirror of Him on that Cross.

But many rush around to this church or that retreat, or this function or that group, and they miss the real meaning of the silence they can find in their own hearts. It is a corner of prayer that allows you to be together with God, your own little monastery. Here you can drink of the Holy Spirit in the Psalms or breathe in rest and quiet of a little place to reconcile. Here you can nourish yourself on the word of God more and more.

God is in the silence within, just waiting patiently to be found. He is in the silence of the Cross and the silence of the tomb. In your corner of little self-monastery, you can look at your wounds and be healed by His wounds, healed in obedience and humbleness. Here you find communion with God. It keeps your hearts set apart from your hurried life and allows you to seek him.

Do not be so busy this Lent that you do not recognize the Beloved in your midst. When you find yourself longing for a contemplative life, remind yourself that you can find it right inside yourself. You can crave for the tiny morsels with the Divine there, and there you keep your heart hungry for God. Here you can die to yourself, deny yourself, and take up your Cross and follow Him. Here you can find or lose yourself.

Here in your own little monastery, your heart, is the silence of the desert. It is barren of all bloom or movement, but as you search and confront yourself in authenticity of the silence, you will begin to see that desert come alive, and bloom abundantly. Jesus often went to His desert monastery of silence, and spoke to His Father. You can too.

(Kathleen Werner)

## PLEASE MARK YOUR 2005 CALENDARS for *PFMC* EVENTS

See **Conference Corner** on page 23 as well as **Bulletin Notices** on page 23. Most *PFMC* events will be preceded by their own *PFMC* information sheets with reservation forms.

### March 2005

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

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can keep a list of churches for reference by those who read “*The PILGRIM.*”

## PILGRIMAGES for 2005

We are still in the planning stages for our 2005 pilgrimages and now are coordinating pilgrims for two pilgrimages to **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina** and one to **San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte San Angelo, and Lanciano, Italy.**

Both pilgrimages to **Medjugorje** are using the services of **206 Tours** who have been organizing such pilgrimages since 1985. **206 Tours** has set up a special web page for the *PFMC* at: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/pfmc/>.

**17 to 25(27) May 2005:** A *PFMC* coordinated **Medjugorje** pilgrimage group from **Queens, NY**, will join pilgrims already signed up with **206 Tours.**

The **Spiritual Director** will be **Father Fulgencio Gutierrez**. See enclosed blue information sheet with reservation forms. The base price is **\$1499** plus **\$199** for travel / airport taxes and **\$199** for the extension for two nights in **Medjugorje** to support excursions from **Medjugorje** to places like **Mostar** and **Dubrovnik**. Add-on air fares from other cities to **Newark** or **JFK, NY** are available. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/pfmc/starofthesea/> or <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05PPM05.pdf> for additional information.

**1 to 7 August 2005:** A **PFMC** coordinated pilgrimage to **Lourdes** via **Frankfort, Toulouse, and Pau** is on hold awaiting the requestor for final arrangements. 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.

**5 to 13 September 2005:** **PFMC** pilgrims may join a pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** coordinated by **Rafael Villongo, (732) 441-0567** or **(732) 441-1513**. The **Spiritual Director** will be **Father Donald Calloway, MIC**. The base price is **\$1499** plus **\$160 - \$200** for travel / airport taxes. Add-on air fares from other cities to **Newark, NJ** are available. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/fralloway> or [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/Villongo.PDF](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/Villongo.PDF) for more information.

**9 to 14 October 2005:** **San Giovanni Rotondo (Saint Pio of Pietrelcina), Monte San Angelo, and Lanciano, Italy, with Father Glenn Hartman, Saint John Neumann Parish in Sicklerville, NJ as Spiritual Director.** See enclosed gold information sheet with reservation forms. The Double Occupancy Package Price is **\$1899** with a Single Supplement of **\$200**. The Package price does not include: Medical / Traveler's Insurance the cost of which is age dependent; alcoholic beverages, lunch, snacks, laundry and / or dry cleaning, room service, tips, etc. which are individual preference; and transportation to **Newark International Airport (EWR)**. Add-on air fares from other cities to **EWR** are available. Ground transportation information and coordination is also available. Information sheets will be mailed to anyone who asks for them. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/pfmc/frhartman> or <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/FrHartmanFlyer.PDF> for more information.

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**)

## PLEASE SUPPORT the **PFMC** EVENTS and PILGRIMAGES

Dear Friends in the Lord, we write this **February - March** note to express our sincere thanks for your outpouring of greetings during **Kathleen's** health problems.

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.

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.

**(Kathleen and Keith for the *PFMC* Volunteer Staff)**

## **POPE, HOSPITALIZED with BREATHING DIFFICULTIES, IS STABLE**

VATICAN CITY, FEB 2, 2005 (VIS) - Holy See Press Office Director Joaquin Navarro-Valls released the following statement this morning to journalists with regards to the current state of health of the Holy Father John Paul II:

“During the night, respiratory assistance therapy was continued which allowed for a stabilization of the clinical picture. Cardio-respiratory and metabolic parameters are currently within normal range.

“Thus the diagnosis of an acute laryngeal tracheitis with episodes of laryngeal-spasms, which I communicated last evening, is confirmed.

“During the night the Holy Father rested for several hours.

“During his stay the Holy Father’s condition has been monitored by Prof. Rodolfo Proietti, the director of the emergency department.”

In remarks made to journalists this morning at Gemelli Polyclinic, Navarro-Valls noted that Pope John Paul, after resting fairly well during the night, celebrated Mass from his hospital bed at 10:15 this morning with his secretary, Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz and even had a light breakfast “and some coffee.” His fever is “very, very slight.” He said that last evening’s hurried admission to the hospital was “a precautionary measure” given that the 84-year old Pope had difficulty breathing. He told the press that John Paul II was transported to Gemelli by Vatican ambulance at approximately 10:50 p.m.

Navarro-Valls, who is also a medical doctor, denied reports that the Pope had lost consciousness, had a CAT scan, or underwent a tracheotomy.

The content of this morning’s statement to the press, said the papal spokesman, was coordinated with the Pope’s personal physician, Doctor Renato Buzzonetti. He added that no further medical bulletins are expected today.

Navarro-Valls left the hospital in late morning, about an hour after the Pope’s physician had arrived. The spokesman said “I am going home, the situation is calm. There is no reason for alarm.” He added that “a sign that the Holy Father’s situation is not especially

worrisome is that his personal doctor arrived” only in mid-morning.

Last evening Press Office Director Joaquin Navarro-Valls, in a declaration to journalists, had stated: “The flu that the Holy Father has been suffering for three days was complicated this evening by an acute laryngeal tracheitis and laryngeal-spasms. For this reason it was decided to urgently admit him to the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic at 10:50 p.m. this evening.”

Navarro-Valls added: “The Pope is in the room reserved for him on the 10th floor of Gemelli hospital. He has not been admitted to the intensive care unit of the hospital.”

This is the ninth time the Holy Father has been admitted to a hospital during his pontificate: Two of those occasions - July 1993 and August 1996 - were only for a few hours to undergo a CAT scan.

Previous times in hospital:

1981: May 13, admitted to Gemelli Hospital after being shot in Saint Peter’s Square, undergoes a six-hour operation.

1981: June 20, Pope is readmitted to Gemelli and undergoes a second surgery on August 5.

1992: July 15, surgery for benign tumor in colon.

1993: July 2, undergoes CAT scan as a follow-up to 1992 surgery; in Gemelli for several hours in the evening.

1993: November 11, in Gemelli polyclinic

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**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.

following fracture of his right shoulder.

1994: April 29, admitted to Gemelli following a fall the previous evening during which he broke his femur.

1996: August 14, at Regina Apostolorum Clinic in Albano, undergoes a CAT scan.

1996: October 8, undergoes an appendectomy at Gemelli Hospital.

**OP/POPE:HEALTH/GEMELLI:NAVARRO-VALLS  
VIS 050202 (570)**

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## **POPE SPENT RESTFUL NIGHT, GENERAL CONDITIONS ARE “POSITIVE”**

VATICAN CITY, FEB 3, 2005 (VIS) - Holy See Press Office Director Joaquin Navarro-Valls released the following statement late this morning to journalists about the Holy Father's health:

“The Holy Father's general and respiratory conditions show positive developments.

“The acute laryngeal-tracheitis is regressing and there have been no repetitions of the episodes of laryngospasm that were the reason for his being admitted to the hospital.

“The Holy Father spent the night resting quietly.

“At 12 noon tomorrow, Friday, a new communique will be published.”

Navarro-Valls arrived at Gemelli Polyclinic shortly before 9 this morning. Following a visit to the papal apartments, he met with reporters, telling them that “the Holy Father rested well last night, and laboratory results are satisfactory.” He said, “it will be the doctors who decide” how long the Pope will remain at Gemelli. Navarro-Valls, also a doctor, added that, “from my experience, I think his stay could be about seven days.”

Prayers, and wishes for a speedy and complete recovery have arrived from around the world for John Paul II, who was hospitalized in Rome Monday evening with respiratory problems.

More than 700 Polish pilgrims who expected to attend yesterday's weekly general audience offered two bouquets of red and white roses, the colors of the Polish flag, to the Pope. A priest and a nun from the Pope's native land delivered them. Those pilgrims gathered in prayer in Saint Peter's Square, whereas a number of Poles residing in Rome have decided to undertake a pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo to the shrine of Saint Padre Pio. Prayer vigils were held

in a number of Roman churches, including the Polish church of Saint Stanislaw.

Fifteen red roses were also brought to the hospital for the Pope by a delegation of residents of towns that have been built on land, now part of Poland, adjacent to the Auschwitz concentration camp.

**OP/HEALTH POPE/NAVARRO-VALLS VIS 050203  
(330)**

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## **POPE RECALLS WORDS OF CHRIST: “FEED MY SHEEP”**

### **First Public Appearance After Spiritual Exercises**

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 20, 2005 (Zenit.org).- In his first public appearance in a week, John Paul II emerged energized from his spiritual retreat expressing his intention to continue in his Petrine ministry.

Reading the Angelus message today in Saint Peter's Square, the Pope stated his commitment to be of “service to the unity of the Church.”

After recalling the risen Jesus' words to Peter “Feed my sheep,” the Pope said: “I feel this invitation of Jesus particularly alive in my spirit, when I contemplate the Eucharistic mystery.”

“The Eucharist is the source from which communion among the members of the Mystical Body of Christ, always draws new vigor,” he clarified.

“It is in this perspective that the peculiar task entrusted to Peter and his successors becomes fully evident: the Petrine ministry is essentially service to the unity of the Church.”

“You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church,” he affirmed, quoting Matthew 16:18.

“This promise of the Lord is echoed in his other comforting words: ‘I have prayed for you [Simon], that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren,’” he added.

The Pope prayed for “the whole people of God in this Lenten journey towards Easter.”

Last week Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, substitute of Vatican Secretariat of State read the message for the Pope as he was still recovering from the flu.

Archbishop Sandri led the Marian prayers, but the Pope intoned the Latin blessing and greeted the groups of pilgrims present, in particular groups from Slovakia and Italy.

As in other years, John Paul II did not hold any audiences last week as he participated in the retreat preached by Italian Bishop Renato Corti of Novara.

(Code: ZE05022003, Date: 2005-02-20)

## SISTER LUCIA DIES

I have a feeling that the process for her canonization, as with Mother Theresa's, will go very quickly.

From the Scotsman:

Sister Lucia Marto, the last of three children who claimed to have seen the Virgin Mary in a series of 1917 apparitions, has died, Portuguese media reported today. She was 97.

Sister Lucia, a Roman Catholic nun, had been ill for the past three months and died at the Convent of Carmelitas in Coimbra, north of Lisbon, TSF radio reported, citing family sources.

Prime Minister Pedro Santana Lopes called Lucia's death "very emotional news".

Lucia and two of her cousins, siblings Jacinta and Francisco, said in 1907 that the Virgin Mary had been appearing to them once a month and predicting events, such as a world war, the fall of Russian communism, and the eventual persecution of Catholics and the Pope. The appearances took place on the 13th day of each month in Fatima, a town about 70 miles north of Lisbon.

The first sighting was May 13, and the appearances took place for another five months, ending abruptly in October that year.

Shortly after, both Jacinta and Francisco died of respiratory diseases. But Lucia became a nun and penned two memoirs while living in convents.

The Catholic Church later built a shrine in Fatima, which is visited each year by millions of people from around the world. More than 100,000 people from dozens of countries routinely attend the annual commemorations of the sightings.

Pope John Paul II has visited three times since becoming pontiff, spending a few minutes with Lucia during a 1991 trip to the site. He has claimed the Virgin of Fatima saved his life after he was shot by a Turkish gunman in St Peter's square in 1981. The May 13, 1981, attack coincided with the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, and John Paul credit's the Virgin's intercession for his survival.

In 2000, he visited Fatima to beatify Jacinta and Francisco.

## PRIORESS OF CONVENT REMEMBERS SISTER LUCIA

### Fatima Visionary Lived Humbly

COIMBRA, Portugal, FEB. 21, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Sister Lucia was the "jewel" of the Carmelite convent of Coimbra, but within its walls she lived exactly like the other women religious, says the prioress.

"Age had made her very frail and the doctor advised her not to catch cold, so she heard Mass from her cell and we took her Communion," said the prioress, Sister Maria Celina of Jesus Crucified, in an interview on the program "Ecclesia" broadcasted by the agency of the same name.

Sister Maria Lucia of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart, the last witness of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917, died Feb. 13 in Saint Teresa's Carmelite convent in Coimbra, where she had lived since 1948. She was 97.

According to the prioress, "In these last days, especially since June 15, one of us was always with her, 24 hours a day. She became much more intimate, from this point of view," something that "occurs with all sisters who are dying, because -- none has yet died suddenly -- when they are in need of our help, there is a greater bond."

"Since November 21, when her health conditions worsened, she became more dependent on us," continued the prioress.

Sister Maria Celina noted Sister Lucia's simplicity,

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saying that not even the “burden” of the Fatima secret, which the visionary kept for decades, affected her humility.

The prioress, who lived in the same convent with Sister Lucia for 28 years, also recalled the “normality” of her conversations, adding that the other nuns “did not ask questions.”

The visionary’s lack of prominence was such that when Sister Maria Celina arrived at the Carmel convent, she went “eight days without knowing that it was Lucia of Fatima.”

With the passing of the years a close bond was established between them, so much so that the prioress said she saw Sister Lucia “as a niece.”

The death of the witness of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin caused great sadness among the religious of her community, the prioress said. “She was part of our lives and, as you can well understand, in a Carmelite convent, in a cloistered life, one is in contact 24 hours a day.”

Regarding the mission entrusted to the then little shepherdess of Fatima, the prioress said: “It was not Sister Lucia who wanted to give that message; she was entrusted with giving it to others.”

Speaking about the future without the visionary’s presence, Sister Maria Celina expressed the certainty that “she is with us in another way.”

“Passing by her cell, one feels like going in, but she is no longer there,” she said. She is “not there at the sensible level understood by our nature, but we know in faith that she is with us.”

The prioress sees as possible an eventual flowering of vocations to the contemplative life, motivated by the example of the little shepherdess’ life. “It might happen. God makes use of everything. It is he who calls.

“It was no accident that my vocation was born when I heard talk about the house where the little shepherdess lived only to pray, and I said: “I also want to be like that.”

(Code: ZE05022101, Date: 2005-02-21)

## VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

If you need vocation information and you do not find it in your local parish or diocese, please call (856) 768-9228. See enclosed item from the **Jesuits**.

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

## BECOMING A JESUIT

### The First Steps

The first steps in considering life as a Jesuit are very informal and without obligation. A Jesuit vocation is ultimately a fraternal relationship, and so the best way to learn more about us is to meet a “live” Jesuit and to have a simple conversation with him. [Brother Christopher Derby, S.J.](#), the Director of Vocations, would be more than happy to help arrange a meeting with a Jesuit Vocation Coordinator in the inquirer’s local area. The vocation office can also refer inquirers living in other provinces to the vocation director for their province. [Visit our USA map for more information.](#)

### Discernment and Application

After a period of reflection and conversation, the local Jesuit contact may invite the man to join in a formal discernment program entitled, [the Jesuit Associates](#). As an Associate, a man is offered several opportunities to learn about and experience what life and ministry in the Society of Jesus involve.

Through this process, the two strive with the help of the Holy Spirit to discover the will of God, and they commit themselves to a faith-filled response to it.

If admitted, the ordinary course of formation will take ten to eleven years for most scholastics, and seven to eight years for most brothers, entering the Society in the Maryland and New York Provinces. As the Church and as the world around us change, the fundamental thrust of our formation is to prepare [priests and brothers](#) who are well educated, trained in the Spiritual Exercises, with skills to minister in a diverse and ever changing environment.

### The Novitiate

The first two years of a Jesuits life are spent in the novitiate program. The four, fundamental goals during this time are verification of one’s vocation, a more intimate relationship with the Lord, growth in authentic self knowledge and an increasing love for the Society of Jesus.

For the first-year novices, the first two weeks in the Novitiate are a time for reading, discussion, and reflection in order to affirm the man’s desire to be incorporated into the Jesuit Novitiate. During their first semester, they participate in three classes: conferences on Jesuit Life, its History and its



© Brother Hall, the Novitiate for the NY, MN and NE Provinces



Customs; an introduction to the person of Jesus in Scripture; and basic or intermediate-level Spanish. They also participate in a local ministry.

In January, the novices make the Spiritual Exercises, a thirty-day, silent retreat developed by Saint Ignatius Loyola. Following the long retreat, they make a pilgrimage to either Guadalajara, Mexico; Kingston, Jamaica; or Pine Ridge, South Dakota; where they live, work, and pray alongside Jesuits in another culture.

The first-year novices reunite in late spring to work at [Calvary Hospital](#), located in the Bronx. At Calvary, novices work together with hospital caregivers to meet the basic, physical needs of terminal cancer patients. Early June brings each novice to his respective province for Ordinations and Province Days. Finally, he returns to Syracuse for a period of reflection and rest, and later the opportunity to visit his family.

The second-year novices also live in Syracuse during the first semester and participate in two classes plus selected seminars. In addition, they engage in local ministry. From January through May, each novice works full-time at a Jesuit apostolate. In June, they return to Syracuse for a vow retreat lasting eight days in preparation for their profession of perpetual vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Society of Jesus.



### First Studies

The ordinary program for [men in first studies](#) entails two years of graduate level philosophy study and one year of graduate level theology study for scholastics. Brothers will usually take several theology courses and work on a Masters Degree in a field of interest. There are three First Studies programs in the U.S. that men are sent to: [Saint Louis University](#); [Loyola University Chicago](#), and [Fordham University \(Ciszek Hall\)](#). Some men engage in international programs of first studies.



They are full-time graduate students and give about six to eight hours a week to apostolic work in the surrounding-neighborhood (catechism, tutoring, youth groups, etc.). The ordinary course work for scholastics is: 36 graduate hours of philosophy, 24 graduate hours of theology, and 12 graduate hours of electives. This is four graduate courses each semester. Brothers follow a similar schedule of studies in a field other than

philosophy. One, of the theology courses focuses on “social analysis” and how to integrate study, reflection and action.

### Regency

The three years of regency are a time for men to be fully involved in the apostolic work and community life of the Provinces. Men are assigned to two or three years of regency depending on their age, apostolic needs of the Provinces, and individual apostolic desires. Over the years about 50% of the men are assigned to high schools, 30% to universities, and 20% to social and pastoral ministries.

### Theology Studies

Since scholastics did one year of theology during First Studies, they now need to do three more years to fulfill the Church’s four-year requirement for priestly ordination. Usually men will complete the Master of Divinity degree and an S.T.L. during these three years. Brothers will often complete a one or two year degree program in theology or religious education at this time. In addition to their studies each man will give six to eight hours each week to pastoral ministries (spiritual direction, campus ministries parish work, etc.) under the guidance of the field education supervisor. Most men go to either [Weston Jesuit School of Theology](#) or [Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley](#) with a few studying outside of the U.S.A.

Since 1981 the Society has required that each man seeking ordination participate in an “Arrupe Experience.” This experience of retreat, discussion and reflection on priesthood is done during the summer before the second year. Afterwards, men formally petition the Provincials for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood.



Ordination to the diaconate ordinarily occurs in the

### 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](http://www.masstimes.org) in the white box near the top of your browser.

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

fall semester of the last year, and to the priesthood in June of the last year of studies.

## Summer Experiences

During the course of formation most men will have [seven summers](#) available after novitiate. These summers are utilized to further the individual's formation in four particular areas: the study of Spanish or another language; an experience of the international Society; further ministry with those who are poor; and training in the Spiritual Exercises and Spiritual Direction.

## Graduate Studies

Usually men will do further graduate studies at the Masters or Doctoral level after they have completed the ordinary course of formation. Proposals for graduate studies are submitted to the Provincials' Assistant for Formation and these are reviewed by the studies committee for recommendation to the provincials. This review of the studies proposal critically examines the man's aptitude for studies, the Province's apostolic needs, and the appropriateness of the proposed university and degree program.

## Tertianship

The Provincial usually invites men to begin tertianship three to five years after finishing formation or graduate studies. There are two types of tertianship programs offered in the U.S.A. The first is a seven to nine month program that runs during the academic year, and the second is a two-year program that runs during two consecutive summers. In both programs, tertians study the foundational documents of the Society of Jesus, make the 30-day retreat, study the Spiritual Exercises, and participate in an apostolic experiment chosen by the tertian master.

## Final Vows

After the tertianship period, the Jesuit is called to final vows in the Society of Jesus.



<http://www.jesuitvocation.org/Information/become.htm>

## POPE URGES CHURCH to RETHINK ITS ATTITUDE toward MEDIA

### Publishes Apostolic Letter "The Rapid Development"

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 21, 2005 ([Zenit.org](#)).- John Paul II in a new apostolic letter calls the entire

Church to a pastoral and cultural "revision" of its presence in and attitude toward the media.

In the letter, made public today, the Pope says that ecclesial dynamism in the "global village" depends on this revision. The media, he observed, can be used "to proclaim the Gospel or to reduce it to silence within men's hearts."

The document, entitled "The Rapid Development," is addressed in particular to those in charge of social communications. Its themes recall those of the Second Vatican Council decree "Inter Mirifica."

"The current phenomenon of communications impels the Church towards a sort of pastoral and cultural revision, so as to deal adequately with the times in which we live," states the Pope.

"The Church is not only called upon to use the mass media to spread the Gospel but, today more than ever, to integrate the message of salvation into the 'new culture' that these powerful means of communication create and amplify," he explains.

"Pastors, above all, must assume this responsibility. Everything possible must be done so that the Gospel might permeate society, stimulating people to listen to and embrace its message," writes the Pontiff.

The exhortation is also addressed to "consecrated persons belonging to institutions which, having the charism of using the mass media, have a particular responsibility in this regard. Spiritually and professionally formed towards this end, these institutions 'should willingly lend their help, wherever pastorally appropriate [...] in order to offset the inappropriate use of the media and to promote higher quality programs, the contents of which will be respectful of the moral law and rich in human and Christian values.'"

"The appreciation of the media is not reserved only to those already adept in the field, but to the entire Church community," the Holy Father writes. "If, as has already been noted, the communications media take into account different aspects of the expression of faith, Christians must take into account the media culture in which they live."

John Paul II adds that "those individuals in the Church community particularly gifted with talent to work in the media, should be encouraged with pastoral prudence and wisdom, so that they may become professionals capable of dialoguing with the vast world of the mass media."

"In the same way, it is important to assure that media professionals receive the necessary formation and pastoral attention to confront the particular tensions and ethical dilemmas that arise in their daily work,"

he writes. "Often these men and women 'sincerely desire to know and practice what is ethically and morally just,' and look to the Church for guidance and support.

"Such is the importance of the mass media that, fifteen years ago, I considered it inopportune to leave their use completely up to the initiatives of individuals or small groups, and suggested that they be decisively inserted into pastoral programs."

(Code: ZE05022103, Date: 2005-02-21)

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## WHY USE UNNAMED SOURCES? ASKS VATICAN OFFICIAL

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 21, 2005 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- The head of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications questioned why newspapers use unnamed Vatican sources when reporting on the Holy See.

"If a person expresses his view, his first and last names should appear," Archbishop John Foley said. "If this is not done and anonymity is requested, I think he either is afraid or wants to manipulate the journalist."

The prelate expressed this conviction today at a press conference when he presented John Paul II's new apostolic letter on the media, "The Rapid Development." The document is addressed to those in charge of social communications.

The American archbishop said he favored "fluid" communication between the Church and the media, and was perplexed when newspapers quote "an authoritative Vatican source" without naming names.

For his part, the secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, Bishop Renato Boccardo, answered a journalist who asked him if the Vatican took the hint from the Pope's words to "not be afraid of the media."

"The Pope writes that communication calls for transparency," he said, "and the invitation is for all, for those who are within and those who are outside."

(Code: ZE05022104, Date: 2005-02-21)

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## STATIONS of the CROSS

Where did the **Stations of the Cross** come from?

After Jesus died and rose from the dead, many people reflected upon his passion and death. They began to make visits to **Jerusalem** and walk in Jesus' footsteps.

The street Jesus walked is still called **Via Dolorosa**, the way of pain.

People would stop along the way and remember what had happened to Jesus.

It is likely that they marked the places for those who came after them to follow as well.

These people became known as "pilgrims."

As Christianity spread throughout the known world, distance made it nearly impossible for people to make the trip to **Jerusalem**.

That didn't stop their need to know and remember.

By the *twelfth century* the fervor of the **Crusades** and a heightened devotion to the **Passion of Jesus** created a demand in **Europe** for representations of the last events in Jesus' life.

When the *Franciscans* took over the custody of the shrines in the **Holy Land** in *1342*, they saw it as their mission to encourage devotion to these places.

In **western Europe** a series of shrines erected to help the faithful remember Christ's passion became commonplace. They were erected outside churches and monasteries and in other places as well. For many years there was a considerable variety in the number and title of these "stations." The current number of *fourteen first* appeared in the Low Countries in the *sixteenth century* and became standard in the *eighteenth century* with a series of papal pronouncements.

The chief promoter of this devotion was the **Franciscan Leonard of Port Maurice** [died *1751*], who set up more than *five hundred* sets of stations, the best known being the one in the **Coliseum of Rome**. Modern liturgists have emphasized that devotion to the **Passion** is incomplete without reference to the **Resurrection** and have thus fostered the addition of a "*fifteenth* station," the **Resurrection of Jesus**.

The **Season of Lent** is a natural time for this devotion. As the years passed, many **Catholic Churches** had the **Stations of the Cross** along the walls of their worship space. "Pilgrims" can come to Church any time, pray and move from station to station. We tell our children that the **Stations of the Cross** are like railroad stations because we stop at every one. The **Church** may have books available too, to help us reflect on these **Stations**. Sometimes parishes schedule a time for people to gather and pray the stations together.

Have a blessed **Lent!**

(<http://frpat.com/stations.htm>)

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## **MESSAGE of 1/25/2005 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti**

*Dear Children! In this time of grace again I call you to prayer. Pray, little children, for unity of Christians, that all may be one heart. Unity will really be among you inasmuch as you will pray and forgive. Do not forget: love will conquer only if you pray, and your heart will open. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

## **MESSAGE of 2/25/2005 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti**

*Dear Children! Today I call you to be my extended hands in this world that puts God in the last place. You, little children, put God in the first place in your life. God will bless you and give you strength to bear witness to Him, the God of love and peace. I am with you and intercede for all of you. Little children, do not forget that I love you with a tender 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 1/25/2005**

### **PRAY FOR UNITY OF CHRISTIANS**

Today also, the compassionate heart of our Heavenly Mother is speaking to us. We are her children, and she knows well that we are still on the way towards our celestial fatherland. This is why she is coming to help us, so that we choose the way, which she took, to arrive where she is now.

Mary calls us to prayer. Prayer is the precondition of realisation of all that God can wish for us, of all that He wants to give us. There is not another way towards God and the gifts of God except prayer. This is why Saint Theresa of Avila said: "If somebody tells you that there is another way towards God except prayer, do not believe in it." Mary repeats assiduously and unceasingly this first lesson of faith and walking towards God. Through her messages and her apparitions, she is showing that she is walking with us. She is our Mother and the Mother of the Church, and this is why she invites us to pray for the unity of Christians, so that all may be one heart. The Mother knows that this unity is possible and that we can and must implore it from God. This unity is a gift of God, a gift which He wants to grant to his children.

Today, on the feast of the conversion of Saint Paul, is ending the week of prayer for the unity of Christians. Our obligation, our prayer and our desire of unity of those who confess the faith in Christ should not however stop.

January 19, 2005, at the general audience of Wednesday, our Pope said: "Since the reconciliation of Christians exceeds human forces and possibilities,

the prayer expresses the hope which does not disappoint, trust in God who makes all things new. Prayer must be accompanied by the purification of the intelligence, of feelings and of memories. The unity is a gift of God, and must be beseeched unceasingly in humility and in truth."

Only Jesus Christ, the only foundation of the Church, can unite us. Saint Paul says this to us in his epistle to the Corinthians: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward." (1 Co 3,11-14).

The Holy Spirit, which guides the Church, also inspires it to pray for the unity of Christians in Christ, because it is in Him that we are one.

Our Mother tells us that unity is possible, and that it will take place among us, insofar as we are ready to pray and to forgive. Mary also invites us to open our hearts, because God can come and bring his gifts only to an open heart. Prayer opens the human heart and makes it merciful and filled with compassion for all men, for each creature. Even in the midst of sufferings, prayer floods from such a heart, including for those who do evil. The world of today needs such hearts, opened and sympathizing, such prayers, which rise even in the midst of moaning.

**Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, January 26,2005**

## A JANUARY REFLECTION from FATHER ED CHALMERS

In a very short time, February 9 to be exact, the Church will begin another Lenten Season with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Each year, the ninety-six days between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday are a very significant period for all Christians. During this time, we are encouraged by the Church to nourish and strengthen our faith. We are called to change from the overwhelming impact of our own selfishness to the ways of God. This process is called conversion. Through devoted prayer, worship and sacrifice, we can change and become one with Jesus. However, this conversion must become part of who we are on a daily basis. As one truly begins to focus on our Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, he or she must understand that their “spirit of conversion” cannot end on Easter Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, Trinity Sunday or any other time.

It seems that when we live our lives in a way where we do not adopt this “spirit of conversion” within our hearts, then we are “selling ourselves short.” We are not allowing the love and mercy of God to have a serious impact in our lives. Please, in a very serious way with regard to your personal relationship with God reflect upon these matters of faith. With the innocence of a little child, may we come to the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and Our Lady with all of our strength.

*“Dear children! In this time of grace, I call you to prayer.”* For all of us who have come closer to God through these messages of Our Lady Queen of Peace to the visionaries of Medjugorje, this request of Our Lady in the first sentence of Her message of January 25, 2005 sounds so familiar. We are living in a special *“time of grace,”* and we must respond to this profound gift of God the Father to us by becoming and being men and women of prayer.

For people who believe in Jesus as his or her Lord and Savior, this request by Our Lady in this first sentence of Her message of January 25, 2005 should be understandable. However, we must not fool ourselves and think that we can accomplish this task on our own, or by being the indifferent people our sinful world urges us to be. One can only become a serious prayer warrior for Our Lady when he or she realizes that sin must be rejected in our lives. This includes all sin not just those actions that we think are sins or those we have convinced ourselves are sins. We must not crucify ourselves because we are not perfect, but we must change and find the courage to do all in our power to reject sin. This challenge becomes attainable when we acknowledge our

sinfulness before our loving God in the Sacrament of Penance. We must never forget that all sin is an abomination to the love of God. It is wretched and miserable. Again, it is an affront to our loving God. Thus, we need a “spirit of conversion” in our hearts on a daily basis.

As we contemplate these things, the words of Our Lady on the Medjugorje prayer card should ring in our ears. *“If you knew how much I love you, you’d cry of joy. Dear children, I invite you for your individual conversion. This time is for you! Without you, God’s plan cannot be realized. Dear children, grow day by day closer to God through prayer. I give you the weapon against your Goliath, here are your little stones: 1 – prayer with the heart, the rosary, 2 – the Eucharist, 3 – the Holy Bible, 4 – fasting, 5 – monthly confession.* Our Lady has given us the way to the Sacred Heart of Her dear Son. Again, are we willing to become one with Jesus? This is our calling. It is also a significant challenge.

*“Pray, little children, for unity of Christians, that all may be one heart. Unity will really be among you inasmuch as you will pray and forgive.”* In these next two sentences from Our Lady’s message of January 25, 2005, we are told the importance of unity among Christians. It is very apparent that this unity is needed. Unfortunately, we cannot be unified with all Christians, if we are not unified as Roman Catholics. Are we willing to reject those selfish habits that prohibit us from being unified with Roman Catholics and other Christians? Are we ready to become one with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who through the power of the Holy Spirit will bring us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

### 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 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois 60638.**

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

Let us again read the words of Our Lady in the third sentence of Her message of January 25, 2005. ***“Unity will really be among you inasmuch as you will pray and forgive.”*** To pray and to forgive are two special realities of the essence of what our dear Jesus and Our Lady is all about. I wonder if we are willing to pray and to forgive in a most serious manner. Half-heartedness and a lackadaisical attitude with regards to the faith is not good enough; but the opportunity to serve God and others through prayer, forgiveness and love is a grace from the Holy Spirit that He wishes to shower upon us. Thus, the next sentence of Our Lady’s message of January 25, 2005 is most important for us as we embark upon this journey of serving God and others.

***“Do not forget: love will conquer only if you pray, and your heart will open.”*** These words of our dear Blessed Mother are clear, concise and direct. They are the result of a dear Mother’s love that only wishes to prepare each one of us for Her son in a most personal way. As we come to another Lenten Season, filled with joy at the chance we have to continue to strengthen our relationship with God, may we be, ***“the little children,”*** of our dear Blessed Mother. Let us get off of our “high horses” of pride, arrogance and indifference allowing ourselves to be led by the hand of Our Lady who nourishes us with Her motherly love as She soothed “little Jesus” at His birth and throughout the years as He prepared to become the Savior of the world.

I hope you are well. Give my best to all of your families. May God’s peace and love reign in your hearts. As the days, weeks, and months pass by, be filled with hope that we can be successful in being disciples of Jesus. 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

P.S. I will be going to Medjugorje from April 14-22 on a pilgrimage led by John and Judy Dzerkacz. If you are interested, contact Ketta at 206 Tours (1-800-345-2854 or email at [www.206Tours.com](http://www.206Tours.com)).

**([HEdwardChalmers@aol.com](mailto:HEdwardChalmers@aol.com) January 31, 2005)**

## **PRESS BULLETIN 206, 1/26/2005**

### **TO START ALL OVER AGAIN**

The Franciscans often repeat the words of their holy founder saint Francis who, in his humility, almost denied all his works while saying: “My brothers, let

us start all over again, because we haven’t done anything yet.” This saintly attitude is very seldom among our contemporaries. People and the whole humanity seem to be counting their successes, their accomplishments, their projects, their good works, their merits, their awards... The society works according to visible successes and material rewards. In such a climate, there is no space for those who would like to say: we haven’t done anything yet; let us start from the scratch. Humility is needed for that, but humility seems to have vanished from the hearts.

While walking spiritually with the Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we will be often brought back to our sources and our beginnings. We are called to start again each day - not only to act, but to live from the scratch. One could almost say that we should live each day as if we had never had any merit or success. We should stop living on our old and past merits.

A Croatian basketball player was considered as the best player in Europe during several years. He was admired by the world. He filled the covers of the newspapers and TV and radio broadcasts. Subsequent to these great successes, he went to play in the USA. There, he learned a lesson of the reality of life: in Europe, he was at the center, but he could not obtain the place in the first team of his new club. He was deeply shaken: suddenly, he was not important any more. His success was questioned. He suffered from it. He tells how he came out of this crisis, this depression: when he understood that this was a new game, that he was to start again from the scratch and forget his old successes and his old fame, everything came back in its place. The following year, he became the best player of his new team. He knew to start again from zero and it was the secret of his salvation.

The same applies to life. We can conclude with the words from the psalm: “Each day, Lord, I will praise you, I will sing your name always and forever” (Ps 145, 1). Let each new day be the beginning of our journey with Jesus. Only those who know how to start all over again will be able to have success; this is what the life teaches us.

**Father Mario Knezovic**

### **COMMUNIONS and PRIESTS**

During the month of December, 54,400 received Holy Communion and 956 priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

In 2004, 1,224,000 received Holy Communion and 28,166 priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

**ANNUAL MEETING and  
RECOLLECTION for the RECIPIENTS  
of SCHOLARSHIPS of the  
ASSOCIATION "FATHER SLAVKO  
BARBARIC"**

On December 29, 2004, the Association "Father Slavko Barbaric" organized in Medjugorje the traditional "Day of the Students". The students and the members of the Board of directors began the meeting at 3 pm with the prayer at the tomb of Father Slavko Barbaric, founder of the Association. The meeting continued at Mother's Village at Bijakovici by a conference about communication given by Father Iko Skoko: "How to communicate well?" After the conference, Father Dragan Ruzic presided Holy Mass concelebrated by Father Ivan Sesar. The students were praying for Father Slavko and all the benefactors, giving thanks to God for all the benefits received during the passed year.

The meeting was concluded by a buffet and sharing between the students and the members of the association.

**NEW YEAR in MEDJUGORJE**

This year, several thousands pilgrims from numerous countries and from all the continents gathered together for the New Year's Vigil. The Vigil was presided by Father Mario Knezovic and Father Ljubo Kurtovic. About one hundred priests concelebrated Mass with them. Pilgrims and parishioners were accommodated also in the New Hall, under the tent and at the outside altar, where they could follow on a large screen whatever was happening in the church. The vigil and Holy Mass lasted from 10 pm to 1 am, and they were translated into several languages.

In our restless world, where sometimes everything seems to be hopeless, this large crowd of the faithful, especially of young people who represent the majority in Medjugorje for the New Year, are a sign of hope for a better world.

During these days, several concerts were given in the parish church: the choir of children "Little Doves of Peace", the choir of adults "Choir of the Queen of Peace", "Little Singing Dubrovnik" and "Luka Ploce" gave three concerts.

**HOLY MASS and CHARITY for the  
VICTIMS of the DISASTROUS  
EARTHQUAKE in SOUTH ASIA**

The first evening Mass in 2005, at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje, was offered for the victims of the disastrous earthquake in South Asia.

***The PILGRIM*, Volume 16, Number 2-3 – February-March 2005**

The offerings collected during Mass are intended for the needs of the victims. We invite all the friends of Medjugorje to join in the actions of assistance to the population.

**THE QUEEN of PEACE in RIJEKA**

On Saturday, January 8, a prayer group of the Queen of Peace was founded in Rijeka (Croatia) by the pilgrims who are inspired by the call of Our Lady in Medjugorje.

The prayer group will gather together the faithful from several parishes from Rijeka and the surroundings. Father Mario Knezovic and several other priests from Rijeka led the time of recollection of the foundation of this prayer group. The desire of the members is to pray for Our Lady's intentions and to participate actively in the life of their parishes and the local Church. Sinisa Pucic, Ruzica Parkovic and Danijel Patafka will lead the prayer group.

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

**REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of  
2/25/2005**

**PUT GOD in the FIRST PLACE in YOUR  
LIFE**

Today also, the Virgin Mary is calling us. She is inviting us to be her "extended hands in this world". She has extended, and she continues to extend her hands and her heart to us. She desires that we take her by the hand, that we open our heart to her and that we listen to her voice. The glance that we pose on her with the heart helps us to persevere on the path, on which we have to go, on the way that God intended for us. Mary, our Mother, desires to be present in our families, in our human relations, in our conversations through our life and our deeds. She is not expecting from us to do extraordinary things. She did not do any either. She fulfilled her work through simple and ordinary domestic services, but she was doing simple and insignificant things with an extraordinary love. The real greatness is not to do something extraordinary, but to do all that we do with an extraordinary love.

Mary was offering to the Lord small and daily deeds with love. In the privacy of her life, she wanted to please only the Lord. Her will did not waver. For her, God was in the first place, and this is why her life was entirely filled. This is why she is our Mother and our Teacher. As a Mother, she wants to wake us up, and to teach us that it is not important what we do, but how we do it.

Through this message also, she is encouraging us to put God in the first place in our life. When God is in the first place, all the rest finds its right place. The worst of all, it is that human beings have forgotten God, and all the rest that happens to us in life, are only the consequences of this. It is strange that human beings do not notice the creator and author of their lives. Even stranger is that human beings are able to turn away from God, and thus destroy themselves and those who are close to them.

If we put God at the first place, we will certainly find time for prayer, for the encounter with God. If we seek God sincerely, and if we do not know where to find Him, we must begin to pray, to pray daily. It will not always be easy, but it will be salutary. We find time for what we love. If we love ourselves, we will find prayer, the encounter with God who heals, who saves and who gives the strength to live and give witness in favour of God who is love and peace. Without God, we are weak and helpless, unable to forgive, to love and to give witness in favour of God who is alive and who languishes for us, his children. To believe in God means to abandon oneself to Him, to dare to jump into the arms of God. Then, we will experience that He is carrying us and maintaining every instant of our life.

Mary leads us to God, and she is promising us her intercession and her presence. She offers us the love of her heart, the gentle, tender and salutary love. Let us ask Mary, not to be for us a remote and unknown being, but the Mother who is present and who does not refuse anybody who asks her help and her intercession. Let us listen to her in order to experience already here on earth, in our life and in our families, the foretaste of Heaven.

**Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, February 26, 2005**

## **A FEBRUARY REFLECTION from FATHER ED CHALMERS**

***“Dear children! Today I call you to be my extended hands in this world that puts God in the last place.”***

As one reads this first sentence of Our Lady’s message of February 25, 2005 one should ask him/herself do I put God in the last place of my life? This would seem to be an appropriate place to begin a reflection upon this message of Our dear Blessed Mother. As we attempt to understand where God fits in our own personal life, let us ask ourselves some more questions. Do I give the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit the time they deserve in prayer and worship? Have I begun to offer myself to God for my purification and the purification of others? Am I

willing to serve God by serving those people that have been placed in my life? Do I see the face of Jesus in all people especially those folks that I may not particularly like? Can we answer these questions with a resounding like? If we can we would appear to be ready for the Kingdom of Heaven. If not we must again look into our heart and be willing to change. Most importantly, we need to become more like the Blessed Mother embracing Her love and those qualities that make Her, “*the jewel*” of the Father’s creation. Let us begin by being Her “*extended hands in this world.*” Again, Our Lady shows us the way in Her second sentence of this message of February 25, 2005. “*You, little children, put God in the first place in your life.*”

This request from Our Lady, “*to put God in the first place in your life,*” is very direct and most profound. It is at the essence of what it means to be a Christian disciple. Putting God in the first place of Her life is the way that Our Lady responded to Gabriel at the Annunciation and throughout Her life as Jesus’ Mother and beyond. Accepting Jesus’ request to be the mother of all humanity has led Our Lady to call us to be Her “*little children.*” However, to put God in the first place in one’s life becomes a significant challenge for all men and women while living in this world. People want to do, do, and do some more. We are so busy and feel the need to accomplish so much; but developing a personal relationship with God where we make that relationship the first priority in our life involves something much different. We must seek out the presence of the Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in the quietness of our being. The Holy Spirit who dwells within our soul speaks to us in solitude: offering His grace by encouraging us to change from being people of this world to becoming people of God. At some point in our lives, all people of faith must make this choice for God. For us, the time is now. On our own, we can never be successful in this endeavor. However, with God and Our Lady, we can be present day Apostles giving ourselves to God and encouraging others to do likewise.

***“God will bless you and give you strength to bear witness to Him, the God of love and peace.”*** As one reads these beautiful words of Our Lady in this third sentence of Her message of February 25, 2005, he or she can be filled with much hope at the opportunity to serve God and to witness to the faith. During these days, in this holy season of Lent, may we contemplate and reflect upon God’s great love for us. Let us remember that our Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit come to us with an unconditional love that is everything for us.



**THE LANGUAGE of PRAYER and of the  
DESERT**

Again, let us listen to these inspiring words of Our Lady: *“God will bless you and give you strength to bear witness to Him, the God of love and peace.”*

Are we ready to accept God’s blessings and bear witness to Him? We have been given the grace to be Christian disciples, and now may we have the strength to do God’s work. The salvation of our souls means everything to the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Our Lady. We must become more involved in encouraging each other to be real people of faith. This process can only help us to prepare our souls for our loving God.

In this world overcome with sin and evil, lackadaisical faith is not good enough. We must begin to reject all of the excuses that prohibit us from being fully devoted to God. Are we finally ready to listen to the urgings of Our dear Blessed Mother? Reject that blatant selfishness that often envelops our lives. Instead, be filled with the humility of the sacrificial and crucified Jesus.

*“I am with you and intercede for all of you. Little children, do not forget that I love you with a tender love.”* With these words, Our dear Blessed Mother speaks to us from the depths of Her Immaculate Heart. Let us embrace Her love with the enthusiasm of a little child seeking Her precious love with all our being. Become one with Our Lady’s compassion and gentleness while praying to the Holy Spirit for the courage to accept the Sacred Holy Will of the Eternal Father.

I hope you are well. Give my best to all of your families. You are constantly in my thoughts and prayers. Cherish the remaining days and weeks of Lent as a special gift from Jesus. Spend time before the holy Blessed Sacrament reflecting upon the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our dear Lord. Think about those special words of Jesus to St. Thomas during His second resurrection appearance to the Apostles. *“Do not be unbelieving but believe.”* (John 20:28) As we live each day, let us believe in our dear Lord with a profound faith remembering that through faith we have, *“life in His name.”* (John 20:31) May the blessings 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](mailto:HEdwardChalmers@aol.com), March 02, 2005)**

In the time of Lent, we are invited to persevering prayer, to fasting, to penance and to the works of mercy. All these acts are complementary and they become one, all are important and proceed one from the other. The time of Lent is a time of walking through the desert. This desert is not a useless solitude. The desert is the space for our silence and for the word of God. The desert is not a space in which we would be abandoned; it is the space of the encounter. It is important to know how to stop our rushing. It is important to hear the right word in the middle of such an amount of talking. One author wrote: *“So much talking - but only one true word. So many sounds - but which is the right one? So many ways - but only one way is true.”*

The space of the desert has to be filled by the spirit of prayer and so create a spiritual oasis. Only prayer enables us to understand the time of loneliness and of trial. Jesus was praying, and this is how he came to understand the will of the Father. The Virgin Mary is praying and so accepting the plan of God. Moses was praying, and this is how he found the way of the exodus. Prayer is an encounter, the encounter between God and man. It is the encounter, which makes us live. This is why Jesus is saying that we should pray unceasingly. Our Lady is often repeating this in her messages.

Our prayer must be humble and free from our personal plans. In prayer, we must be freed from any haughtiness. We should always remember what Jesus said about it: to pray in the secret of the heart. In prayer, we receive everything and we do not give much. We offer an empty heart, and God fills it. In prayer, it is also necessary to know how to wait. The cardinal Michael Faulhaber wrote: *“Be trustful and patient in each prayer, even when the hours of God pass so slowly.”* God never remains silent; he is perhaps speaking the most when we have the impression not to hear anything.

We all desire changes in our environment and in the world, but we have the impression that nothing happens. Thus, we become impatient and oppressed by the thought that the world is evil. That everyone is evil. Then, it is necessary to go into the opposite direction: we are the ones who have to change. We also should know that we cannot change only by our willpower. We must and we have to allow God to change us. In prayer, God is acting, and He is transforming us. This is why in the time of Lent, and

at any time, let us not expect changes in others, but in ourselves. Albert Schweitzer said: "Prayer changes people - and people change the world."

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Father Mario Knezovic

## COMMUNIONS and PRIESTS

During the month of January, 40,000 received Holy Communion and 761 priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

## PRESENTATION of the BOOK "THE CROATIANS KNOW IT"

The book "The Croats know it" written by Ivan Ugrin was presented on January 23 in the video-room of the Information center "Mir" Medjugorje. The book was published by «Matica Hrvatska» Split. This is the third book written by Ivan Ugrin, journalist and redactor of "Slobodna Dalmacija". The distinctiveness of his texts is his Christian approach of the problems of our time.

«Matica Hrvatska» Citluk organized the presentation of this book. The speakers were Father Miljenko Stojic, Josip Botteri Dini, Kresimir Sego and Andrija Stojic.

## FEAST of BLESSED CARDINAL STEPINAC - COMMEMORATION of the MARTYR'S DEATH

On the Feast of Blessed Cardinal Stepinac, February 10, the parish of Medjugorje commemorates the martyr's death of the Franciscans from this parish: Father Krizan Galic, Father Jozo Bencun, Father Marko Dragicevic, Father Mariofil Sivric, Father Grgo Vasilj and Father Jenko Vasilj, six out of 66 Franciscans of the Herzegovinian Province, who were killed by Tito's partisans and communists during and at the very end of the World War II.

The Sacrifice of Mass was also celebrated in memory of all the victims from the Parish Medjugorje, fallen during the World Wars I and II, and during the recent war for the defence of the country, as well as in memory of all those who gave their lives for the faith and the homeland. The Mass, concelebrated by 18 priests, was presided by Father Branko Rados, pastor of Medjugorje. In his homily, Father Branko underlined the unwavering fidelity to Christ and to the Church of these martyrs; their example speaks to us in our times, when it is so easy to make compromises with false values. The parish choir under the guidance of Sister Slavica Kozul sung during Mass. Sanja Komadina from Radio "Mir"

Medjugorje read a short biography of the murdered Franciscans from Medjugorje.

## THE 10<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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>

## MEANING of the WORD "LENT"

The word **Lent** comes from **Anglo Saxon** times which means spring. In **Latin**, **Lent** is *quadagesima* which means forty days. In **Greek**, it is *tessarakoste* (fortieth), a word formed on the analogy of **Pentecost** (*pentekoste*).

### Period of Lent

The season of **Lent** is the period of forty days before the celebration of the great feast of the Church, **Easter**.

In determining this period of forty days the examples below must have exercised a predominant influence, but it is also possible that the fact was borne in mind that Christ lay forty hours in the tomb.

- \* **Israel** (wandering for forty years in the desert, Deut 8:2,4),
- \* **Moses** (who stayed on **Mount Sinai** for forty days and forty nights, Ex 24:18),
- \* **Elijah** (who walked for forty days and forty nights to **Mount Horeb**, 1 Kg 19:8) and
- \* **Christ** (who fasted forty days and forty nights in the desert, Mt 4:1-2)

On the other hand just as **Pentecost** (the fifty days) was a period during which **Christians** were joyous and prayed standing, though they were not always engaged in such prayer, so the *Quadagesima* (the

forty days) was originally a period marked by fasting, but not necessarily a period in which the faithful fasted every day.

In order to have an exact forty days of fasting, **Lent** begins on *Ash Wednesday* and ends on *Holy Saturday* as *Sundays* (even during **Lent**) are considered non fasting days.

### Acts

The famous threefold acts during Lent are fasting (Mt 6:16-18), almsgiving (Mt 6:2-4) and prayer (Mt 6:5-6). These acts are not practiced in order to be seen by people. (Mt 6:1) Rather they are penance for repentance and goodwill towards others.

### Practices

In former days, the forty days of **Lent** were forty days of fasting with only one meal (without any flesh meat) per day usually taken in the evening. However nowadays, the rule has been greatly relaxed with two fasting days, *Ash Wednesday* and *Good Friday*. The faithful is also encouraged to fast from daily pleasure, not necessarily food for example smoking cigarettes, giving up a favorite TV program, etc.

During *Fridays* in **Lent**, the faithful gather as a community for the devotion **Stations of the Cross** in churches. By praying the **Stations**, we reflect on the sufferings of Christ and how we can make use of each station in our daily life.

<http://www.geocities.com/francischinchoy/lenteaster/le nt.htm> by Francis Lim Choi

## EASTER TRIDUUM - HOLY THURSDAY – HOLY SATURDAY (EASTER VIGIL)

Easter Triduum celebrations begin on Holy Thursday or Maundy Thursday (from the word *mandatum*) with the Mass of the Lord's Supper in the evening and end with the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday.

### HOLY THURSDAY

Scripture Readings - Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; Jn. 13:1-15

This day commemorates

\* the great *mandatum* or call to service - John 13:1-20 The *mandatum* of Jesus is his command to follow his example (Jesus washes the feet of the disciples), to do as he has done.

\* the institution of the Eucharist - Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:14-23 Jesus institutes the Eucharist, giving his body and blood to his disciples. As we share the consecrated bread and wine, we experience the fullness of Jesus' gift to us of himself. It is important, especially on this night, to receive the host and the cup, in memory of Jesus.

\* the prayer of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane - Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46 After the meal with his disciples, Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. "Could you not watch one hour with me?" he asks his disciples as they fall asleep on him. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place until midnight when we keep Jesus company.

There is no final blessing or procession to end this Holy Mass because the celebration does not end.

The prayer continues in our homes until we are called together again on Good Friday to remember the next part of the story of our salvation.

<http://www.geocities.com/francischinchoy/lenteaster/le nt.htm> Francis Lim Choi

## GOOD FRIDAY

Scripture Readings - Is. 52:13-53:12; Heb.4:14-16, 5:7-9, Jn. 18:1-19:42

Recalls the death of Jesus on the cross. It is Good Friday because of the good that Jesus did by purchasing redemption for us by his blood.

The Liturgy of this day usually takes place at the traditional death time of Jesus at 3:00 p.m. This is the one day of the year the Church does not celebrate as Communion for today is consecrated at Holy Thursday Mass.

The service begins in silence with no procession or greeting as it is a continuation of what began on Holy Thursday. The priest kneels or more often prostrates himself as a sign of utter humility before God.

The ritual is in three parts:

### 1. Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament reading of Isaiah on the suffering servant and the Passion of Christ from John's Gospel is proclaimed. We listen and remember how Jesus suffered and died for our sins.

After the Passion we are reminded that there are many people in the world who need our prayers, and so in our role as priestly people we pray a more lengthy and elaborate form of the General Intercessions.

## 2. Veneration of the cross

Then a cross, the symbol of our salvation, is brought forward for us to venerate. It is our opportunity to show our respect for this gift of salvation. People will come forward to venerate by genuflecting, touching, or kissing the cross.

## 3. Communion

We participate in a simple reception of the Eucharist and then leave church again in silence to continue our prayer and fasting at home and to return on Holy Saturday evening for the Easter Vigil .

<http://www.geocities.com/francischinchoy/lenteaster/le nt.htm> Francis Lim Choi

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# HOLY SATURDAY

## (EASTER VIGIL)

Scripture Readings - Gen 1:1-2:2; Gen 22:1-18; Ex 14:15-15:1; Is 54:5-14; Is 55:5-11; Bar 3:9-15, 32-4:4; Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28; Rom 6:3-11; Lk 24:1-12

The Easter Triduum begins with the mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday; it reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, celebrated on Holy Saturday night. This celebration is a long one; we have a lot to do this evening.

The Liturgy of Holy Saturday is divided into four parts:

### 1. New Fire and Light of Christ

A fire usually outside the church is brightly burning to remind us that Jesus is our light in the darkness and the new Paschal Candle is blessed and lit from the flames of this fire. All present lights a candle from the Paschal Candle and processes into the darkened church.

[The Easter Proclamation \(Exultet\)](#) is proclaimed.

### 2. Vigil reading of the Old Testament and New Testament

These readings call to mind the stories of creation and the working of God in the lives of the Israelites. A minimum of three readings and a maximum of seven readings (*see above for the readings*) will be used.

From the Old Testament Readings we go to the singing of the *Gloria* and the ringing of the bells. Then a New Testament letter is read.

After which the *Alleluia* is joyfully sung for the first time since Lent began, to prepare us for the reading of the Gospel. A homily follows.

## 3. Sacraments of Initiation

Catechumens (those to be baptized) are initiated into the church with baptism and confirmation. During communion, they will receive the Eucharist for the first time.

We give our prayerful support by praying the [Litany of the Saints](#). We welcome our new members into the church and parish community.

## 4. Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Mass continues as usual with the Eucharist.

<http://www.geocities.com/francischinchoy/lenteaster/le nt.htm> Francis Lim Choi

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# EASTER SUNDAY

Scripture Readings – Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

## Alleluia ! Christ is Risen

Every Sunday is an Easter. The first celebration of the Lord's Day was on Easter Sunday when the Lord rose again from the dead, defeating sin and death.

*Alleluia* (Praise the Lord) is sung joyously especially on this day.

Holy Mass is as usual except that the Sequence is sung or said before the Gospel Acclamation.

*Christians to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.*

*The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;*

*and Christ, the undefiled,*

*hath sinners to his Father reconciled.*

*Death with life contended; combat strangely ended!*

*Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.*

*Tell us, Mary, say what thou didst see upon the way.*

*The tomb the Living did enclose;*

*I saw Christ's glory as he rose!*

*The angels there attesting;*

*shroud with grave clothes resting.*

*Christ, my hope, has risen; he goes before you into Galilee.*

*that Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.*

*Victorious king, thy mercy show!*

Amen.

\* Renewal of Baptism Promises is made instead of the Profession of Creed.

## Alleluia Alleluia Alleluia

<http://www.geocities.com/francischinchoy/lenteaster/le nt.htm> Francis Lim Choi

## THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA



**GOOD FRIDAY, 25  
MARCH 2005 through  
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY,  
3 APRIL 2005**

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

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

*“These souls cause Me more suffering than any others; it was from such souls that My soul felt the most revulsion in the Garden of Olives. It was on their account that I said: ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass Me by.’ The last hope of salvation for them is to flee to My Mercy.”*

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

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

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

1. All mankind, especially sinners
2. The souls of priests and religious
- 3 All devout and faithful souls
4. Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him
5. The souls of separated brethren
6. The meek and humble souls and the souls of children
7. The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus’ mercy
8. The souls who are detained in purgatory; and
9. The souls who have become lukewarm.

**The PILGRIM, Volume 16, Number 2-3 – February-March 2005**

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

(compiled from

<http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/mercy/novena.htm>,  
<http://www.thedivinemercy.org/index2.htm>,  
<http://marian.org/divinemercy/faustina/facts.html>)

## LOCAL CELEBRATIONS of the DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Make sure you let your prayer groups, parishes, etc. know of the local celebrations of the Divine Mercy Novena. Many people would like to publicly celebrate this novena but cannot locate like minded people. Call (856) 768-9228 if you have information for the greater **Philadelphia** area.

## FEAST DAY of DIVINE MERCY

### DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, 4/3/2005

In *Saint Faustina’s* vision, Jesus also asked that the Feast of Mercy be celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. In this, our Lord is showing us the close connection between the Easter mystery of man’s redemption and His Divine Mercy. The Feast of Mercy is a day of grace for all people, particularly for sinners.

Jesus attached great promises to this Feast, the greatest of which is tied in with the reception of Holy Communion. He promises complete forgiveness of sins and elimination of punishment if one approaches the Fountain of Life on the Feast of Mercy with an attitude of trust, and if one meets the other requirements that the Lord gave to Faustina. The graces are equal to the ones we receive in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

The greatness of this Feast lies also in the fact that everyone, even those who are converted that very day, may obtain any grace for the asking, if what they ask for is compatible with God’s will.

“I want this image,” Jesus told *Faustina*, “to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.” (*Diary*, 49). “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates

through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.” (*Diary*, 699).

The preparation for this Feast is to be novena consisting of the recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet for nine days, beginning on Good Friday. This novena is in the *Diary of Saint Faustina*.

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

## **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-Hercegovina**, 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 displays and inventory bins are quite extensive.

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 displays, library, and inventory management described in this article.

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%.

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**. The inventory management volunteers, currently **Vince and Livia Nocella**, are always happy to find something for you.

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 so that Internet users can see our Inventory on-line. If you have inventory or computer skills we would love to have your help.

If you wish to order, please determine what you want with as much description as possible. 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. If you have an order form, complete it, 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 everything to the **PFMC** at the address shown on page 24.

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)**

## **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.

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 in advance for acting on this special request for Bulletin Notice support.

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**PFMC Pilgrimage to Medjugorje  
17-25(27) May 2005**

A Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) coordinated Medjugorje pilgrimage group from Queens, NY, will join pilgrims already signed up with 206 Tours. The Spiritual Director will be Father Fulgencio Gutierrez. The base price is \$1499 plus \$199 for travel / airport taxes and \$199 for the extension for two nights in Medjugorje to support excursions from Medjugorje to places like Mostar and Dubrovnik. Add-on air fares from other cities to Newark or JFK, NY are available. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/pfmc/starofthesea/> or <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05PPM05.pdf> or call (856) 768-9228 for additional information.

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**PFMC Pilgrims to Medjugorje  
5 – 13 September 2005**

Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) pilgrims may join a pilgrimage to Medjugorje coordinated by Rafael Villongco, (732) 441-0567 or (732) 441-1513. The Spiritual Director will be Father Donald Calloway, MIC. The base price is \$1499 plus \$160 - \$200 for travel / airport taxes. Add-on air fares from other cities to Newark, NJ are available. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/frcalloway> or [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/Villongco.PDF](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/Villongco.PDF) or call (856) 768-9228 for additional information.

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**PFMC Pilgrimage to San Giovanni  
Rotondo (Saint Pio of Pietrelcina)  
9 - 14 October 2005**

A Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) coordinated pilgrimage to **San Giovanni Rotondo (Saint Pio of Pietrelcina), Monte San Angelo, and Lanciano, Italy**, with **Father Glenn Hartman, Saint John Neumann Parish in Sicklerville, NJ as Spiritual Director**. Double occupancy package price is **\$1899** with a single supplement of **\$200**. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/pfmc/frhartman> or <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/FrHartmanFlyer.PDF> or call (856) 768-9228 for more information.

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

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

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**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 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)**

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**CONFERENCE CORNER**

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

**June 24-25, 2005** - 24th Medjugorje Anniversary Celebration - 2005, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 4600 Belle Terre Pkwy, Palm Coast, FL. Ph: (386) 445-1564 / Fax: (386) 445-1552. Speakers: Father John Corapi, SOLT. Conference Includes: Holy Mass, Reconciliation, Adoration, Crowning Procession, Medjugorje Holy Hour, Full Rosary in multiple languages, Sung Divine Mercy, Music and Song, Witness Talk by Cenacolo Community Members, Benediction, THREE Stores, Door Prizes, Food Wagon, Dinner and more.

<http://www.medjugorje.org/medconf.htm>

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## CALENDARS:

In *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *SAINT 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)*. The *DIVINE MERCY NOVENA* starts on *Good Friday (25)*.

In *April*, the Church celebrates Solemnities of *DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (3)*, the Memorial of *Saint Catherine of Siena (29)*, and Optional Memorials of *Saints Francis of Paola (2), Anselm (21), Adalbert (23), George, Martyr (23), Peter Chanel (28), Louis Mary de Monfort (28), and Pius V, Pope (30)*. *Daylight Savings Time Begins on Divine Mercy Sunday (3) – Set Clocks Ahead.*

## AROUND the *PFMC* AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 3 and 4, as well as the information sheets with reservation forms for the two pilgrimages to *Medjugorje* and the one pilgrimage to *San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant' Angelo, and Lanciano, Italy*.

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.

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*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>

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

## POPE JOHN PAUL II PRAYER INTENTIONS for *FEBRUARY*

VATICAN CITY, FEB 1, 2005 (VIS) - The Holy Father's general prayer intention for *February* is: "That the sick, and especially the poorest of them, may receive the care and medical treatment worthy of human beings."

His mission intention is: "That all missionaries, both men and women, may grow in their recognition that it is only through a fervent love for Christ that the Gospel can be transmitted in an effective and convincing way."

(JPPII-PRAYER INTENTIONS/FEBRUARY/... VIS 050201 (80))

## POPE JOHN PAUL II PRAYER INTENTIONS for *MARCH*

VATICAN CITY, MAR 1, 2005 (VIS) - Pope John Paul's general prayer intention for the month of *March* is: "That governments of every nation, in their policies and development plans, should always take account of the poor, emarginated and oppressed."

His mission intention is: "That each individual Church should be aware of the ever greater urgency of preparing holy Christians, capable of confronting challenges to the new evangelization."

(JPPII-PRAYER INTENTIONS/MARCH/... VIS 050301 (80))

PRIORITY DATED  
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL

Mailed early AM,  
Friday, 3/11/2005

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!*"

