



The PILGRIM

Vol. 16, No. 5

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May 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



Dearest Mother, We come before you, on our knees searching for the path to holiness. Help us on this road of endless search and resignation to the will of God.

Wrap us in your mantle and take us to the Heart of your Son, Jesus. Guide us in the daily effort to pray with our hearts, and to live in purity and joy.

Mother of Jesus and spouse of the Holy Spirit bring us to full repentance for our daily sins and strengthen us with the great virtues.

Mother of our hearts, embrace us daily with thy Heavenly protection. Embrace us with thy care and with protection of thy mighty warrior angels.

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

HABEMUS PAPAM - POPE BENEDICT XVI

Praise God for the quick election of **Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger** as our new **Pope**. He chose **Benedict XVI** as his papal name. The news coverage, particularly that of **Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN)**, has been overwhelming even though the secular networks have tried to look at the negatives of both **Pope John Paul II** and the new **Pope Benedict XVI**.

Hear are the first words of the new **Pope Benedict XVI** excerpted from **"CARDINAL RATZINGER IS ELECTED AS NEW POPE, BENEDICT XVI"** VATICAN CITY, APR 19, 2005 (VIS):

"Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"After the great Pope John Paul II, the Lord Cardinals have elected me, a simple and humble worker in the vineyard of the Lord. I am consoled by the fact that the Lord knows how to act, even with inadequate instruments and above all I entrust myself to your

The *April* MESSAGE, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Hercegovina**, is presented beginning on page **14** (centerfold page) followed by **REFLECTION** and **PRESS BULLETIN**.

prayers. In the joy of the Risen Lord, trusting in His permanent help, as we go forward the Lord will help us, and His Mother, Mary Most Holy, is on our side. Thank you."

(OP/ELECTION BENEDICT XVI/ VIS 050419 (380))

BENEDICT XVI - BIOGRAPHY

VATICAN CITY, APR 19, 2005 (VIS) - Following is the official biography of the newly elected Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger:

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, former prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, President of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and of the International Theological Commission, Dean of the College of Cardinals, was born on April 16, 1927 in Marktlam Inn, Germany. He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1951.

His father, a police officer, came from a traditional family of farmers from Lower Bavaria. He spent his adolescent years in Traunstein, and was called into the auxiliary anti-aircraft service in the last months of World War II. From 1946 to 1951, the year in which he was ordained a priest and began to teach, he studied philosophy and theology at the University of Munich and at the higher school in Freising. In 1953 he obtained a doctorate in theology with a thesis entitled: "The People and House of God in Saint Augustine's doctrine of the Church." Four years later, he qualified as a university teacher. He then taught dogma and fundamental theology at the higher school of philosophy and theology of Freising, in Bonn from 1959 to 1969, in Munster from 1963 to 1966, and in Tubinga from 1966 to 1969. From 1969, he was professor of dogmatic theology and of the history of dogma at the University of Regensburg and vice president of the same university.

He was already well known in 1962 when, at Vatican

"The PILGRIM" for May 2005 is dedicated to **"Mary, Our Mother"** and the success of the papacy of **Pope Benedict XVI**. See page **3** for an **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."** Table of Contents listing.

Council II at the age of 35, he became a consultor to Cardinal Joseph Frings, Archbishop of Cologne. Among his numerous publications, a particular post belongs to the "Introduction to Christianity," a collection of university lessons on the profession of apostolic faith, published in 1968; and to "Dogma and Revelation" an anthology of essays, sermons and reflections dedicated to the pastoral ministry, published in 1973.

In March 1977, Paul VI appointed him Archbishop of Munich and Freising and on May 28, 1977 he was consecrated - the first diocesan priest after 80 years to take over the pastoral ministry of this large Bavarian diocese.

Created and proclaimed cardinal by Paul VI in the consistory of June 27, 1977, he assumed the titles of the suburbicarian Church of Velletri-Segni (April 5, 1993) and of the suburbicarian Church of Ostia (November 30, 2002).

On November 25, 1981 he was nominated by John Paul II as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; and as president of the Biblical Commission and of the Pontifical International Theological Commission.

He was relator of the 5th General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (1980).

He was president delegate to the 6th Synodal Assembly (1983).

Elected vice dean of the College of Cardinals November 6, 1998, the Holy Father approved his election, by the order of cardinal bishops, as dean of the College of Cardinals on November 30, 2002.

As President of the Commission for the Preparation of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, after 6 years of work (1986-92) he presented the New Catechism to the Holy Father.

He received an honoris causa degree in jurisprudence from the Free University of Maria Santissima Assunta on November 10, 1999.

He became an honorary member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, November 13, 2000.

Curial Membership:

- Secretariat of State (second section).
- Oriental Churches, Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, Bishops, Evangelization of

Peoples, Catholic Education (congregations).

- Christian Unity (council).

- Latin America, Ecclesia Dei (commissions).

(OP/BIO:BENEDICT XVI... VIS 050419 (590))

PLEASE CONTINUE to PRAY for KATHLEEN

Although **Kathleen** is getting better every day. She still has pain in her back and left leg. Physical therapy is returning more and more use of **Kathleen's** left leg. She still must use a cane because of instability and lack of strength in the left leg.

Many are calling or sending e-mails to get details from **Kathleen** or the volunteers without reading what was printed in the *January* or *February* – *March* issues of "**The PILGRIM**" or updated at the [Kathleen Back Problems](#) link on the left side at <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>. Please understand that we cannot give personal responses for **Kathleen** and she is still not up to answering all the mail and calls personally.

We thank everyone for their prayers and concerns and wish we could relate the details of **Kathleen's** care, status, and thanks to everyone personally.

(Keith)

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Pope John Paul II

Prince Ranier of Monaco

Mary Anlage

Teresa Mosier

Please send us death notices, prayer cards, etc. so we can pray for the deceased who are beloved by our readers.

(Requested by Colleen Thomas, PFMC Volunteer)

PFMC FUND RAISER

We wish to thank **Shelly** and friends for setting up a **Fund Raiser** to benefit the **Pilgrims of Faith**

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 Benedict XVI**.

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.

Marian Center (PFMC). An information sheet has been distributed around the **Flushing, NY** area.

This event will be a **LATIN DANCE** featuring **Disc Jockey (DJ) Luis Orlando**. It will be held from **8 to 12 PM, Saturday, 21 May 2005**, at **Knights of Columbus Club, 35-79 160th Street, (between Northern Blvd and 35th Avenue), Flushing, NY**. Donation is **\$25** per person, **\$45** per couple. There will be an Open Bar and Food Available.

For more information call: **Olga (917) 723-1505, Shelly (718) 229-3867, Carmen (718) 224-5274, Edgar (718) 343-5311, or Mercedes (718) 423-3534.**

(from a letter signed Shelly and Friends, 3/30/05)

WE WILL HAVE A 2006 RETREAT CONFERENCE

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW and PLAN AHEAD

We have prayed and talked, talked and prayed, and discerned that we are to have a **2006 Retreat Conference**. Because of the difficulties with our turnout in **2005** and the great cost including penalties for not meeting our room-night quota, we are moving the **2006 Retreat Conference** to the newly renovated **CLARION HOTEL** on **Route 70** next to **Interstate 295** in **Cherry Hill, NJ**. Many will remember this site for when it was the **Sheraton Poste** and **Four Points** we held our **Retreat Conferences** there.

Please mark your calendars for **February 17, 18, and 19, 2006**. We will NOT have a **3-Day Extension** right now, and as of this time we are still deliberating on having or not having a **Youth Track** program.

The **Clarion Hotel** can accommodate **700-800** in their **Windsor Ballroom**. We feel the bedrooms are more comfortable with the majority of the **188** rooms having two Queen beds. The rest of the rooms have one King bed. All rooms have a microwave unit and a refrigerator in addition to normal hotel room amenities. There is no extra charge for these amenities. Rooms will be **\$90** for **1 or 2** to a room and **\$95** for **3 or 4** in a room.

Donations to the **PFMC** to cover the costs of the **Retreat Conference** program will not go up, but will remain the same as last two years.

So far we are happy to have **Father Bing Arellano** (you have seen him on **EWTN**) and **Linda Schubert** as our main speakers. **Father Semana** and **REFUGE** will return for **Saturday night** concert and for weekend music. We are still planning the rest of the program. We will publish the **Retreat Conference**

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information sheets with reservation forms and include them in future issues of **"The PILGRIM."**

We thank all who have been our encouragement and have been praying for us.

If you attended our **2005** program in **February**, we know that you had a very positive and beautiful spiritual experience.

We ask you to sign up as early as you can for the **2006 Retreat Conference**.

(Kathleen Werner, Director)

GRACE of DAILY COMMUNION

There was a time when I didn't fully appreciate the value of Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Confession, and the grace of belonging to Jesus. Your magazine removed the scales from my eyes. It taught me how to trust in God. Now I go to Confession filled with faith. I attend Holy Mass with a spirit of intense devotion. After Communion, I experience moments of blissful peace.

At work I am less given to quarrelsomeness. I tend to be less conceited, grasping and obstinate. I am able to show greater humility and more kindness. I want to be helpful and share my goods with others. My dreams are also more peaceful. Everywhere I go, I see the Father's many graces. This sense of closeness with God remains with me all day and keeps bringing me back to the Sacrament. My desire to receive Jesus is so strong that I go to Mass every day. When I am unable to go, I miss Him very much. My close bond with Him seems to weaken somehow. Daily Communion helps me to be patient and pure. I try to pray all the time and ask God for the grace not to sin, so that I can receive the Eucharist as often as possible. Jesus heals not only our souls but also our bodies, only we must desire this very much!

(A Reader-Love One Another Catholic Magazine
February 2, 2004)

ANYONE WHO EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE



**CORPUS CHRISTI
(BODY and BLOOD of
CHRIST) – 29 May 2005**

**Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14-16,
1 Corinthians 10: 16-17,
John 6: 51-58**

'Do this in memory of me'. Many of the great things of life are kept alive through the 'remembering' of cherished traditions. Moses says to the people, 'Remember ... do not forget, the Lord fed you with manna'. In the words of John's gospel before the passage we read today, Jesus has recalled this story of the Exodus, and likened himself to the manna given to the people in the midst of their complaining. Now he announces the inauguration of a new tradition – and, as John tells us, it too will be met with complaining. To this point, Jesus has been telling the people that he was foreshadowed in the manna. He

came to nourish their old faith. Now, however, he makes a dramatic announcement. In all that he does, he is giving expression to the ways of his Father – taking up the initiative himself, he will become the nourishment of God's people in a way that could never have been anticipated: 'The bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world'.

John uses the word 'flesh (sarx)' in this reference to the Eucharist. We are accustomed to using another term, speaking of the 'body (soma)' of Christ. In the early Church, both terms were in use. When we recall the Prologue of John's gospel – 'The Word became flesh' – we can recognize the implications of this term. 'All flesh is grass', Isaiah declares, 'The grass withers; but the word of God remains forever' (Is 40:6-8). When the Prologue of John's gospel echoes these words – 'The Word was made flesh' – it is underling the full implications of the Incarnation: the Son of God 'emptied himself', as Paul says, coming to share our humanity in all its frailty. John is presenting the Eucharist as the sacrament of this Incarnation and all that it was to give to the world. He is also affirming the 'healthy materialism' of the biblical tradition. For all its frailty, the human body is God's creation; and in the Incarnate Christ it has become our salvation and the source of eternal life for us.

'This is my body, given, broken, for you. This is my blood poured out for the whole world'. All this is clearly, but subtly, implied in the words of John's gospel. 'Sent by the Father', Jesus is still carrying out – in the eucharistic mystery – the great task he had been given. In John's account of the last days of the Saviour, Jesus declares, 'And when I am lifted up from the earth I shall draw all people to myself' (Jn 12:32). In the Mass, we are given to share in the Savior's return to the Father, making intercession for the whole human family. 'As I draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me' – our sharing in 'this one loaf' is nothing less than a sharing the life of the Father. It is unfortunate that discussion of this passage often does not get beyond a defense of the 'real presence'. The Eucharist is the sacrament of the whole drama of salvation – 'Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day'.

'Communion', the term we have long associated with this sacrament, has implications that have been neglected. Our 'communion' in the Savior's return to the Father – his Paschal Mystery – is what unites us as members of his Church.

This gospel, in its emphatic rejection of the murmuring of those who do not accept the teaching of Jesus, certainly upholds the challenging truth of the

Eucharist in what has been the Church's faith since the beginning. The repeated reference to 'eating and drinking' clearly echoes the eucharistic practice of the apostolic Church.

(by John Thornhill SM

http://www.emmaus.series.perthcatholic.org.au/html/body_blood_a.html)

ROSARY of MARY'S IMMACULATE HEART

At the beginning:

We make the Sign of the Cross five times in veneration of our Savior's five Holy Wounds.

We say on the large (Our Father) beads of an ordinary rosary:

Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for those who seek refuge in you!

On the small (Hail Mary) beads:

Holy Mother, save us through your Immaculate Heart's Flame of Love!

At the end, (three times):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

(<http://www.rosarycreations.com/immacheart.htm> My Treasury of Chaplets , Patricia S. Quintiliani)

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

See Conference Corner on page 27 as well as Bulletin Notices on pages 26 and 27. Most **PFMC** events will be preceded by their own **PFMC** information sheets with reservation forms.

May 2005

17 May –27 May 2005: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

21 May 2005, Saturday, 8 to 12 PM: **LATIN DANCE** at Knights of Columbus Club, 35-79 160th Street, Flushing, NY.

28-29 May 2005: *Life in the Spirit Seminar, PFMC.*

June - July 2005

There will not be a *July* issue of "**The PILGRIM**" due to vacations for **PFMC** volunteers. The *June* messages will appear in a *July August* issue of "**The PILGRIM**" put out early in *August 2005*.

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August 2005

7 August 2005: The annual **PFMC Business Meeting** will take place after **Prayer** at **3 PM** in the midst of a **PFMC Pot Luck Picnic**.

October 2005

9 October – 18 October 2005: Pilgrimage to **San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant' Angelo, Lanciano, and Rome, Italy** with **Father Glenn Hartman**. We are now stopping in **Rome** to visit the grave of **Pope John Paul II**.

PRAYER for the EVENING

In peace and in patience, let us pray to the Lord.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

Based on Psalm 37

Be still, the Lord is God alone,
Let all the world adore him,
And bending low before his throne,
For pitying grace implore him.
His kingdom is within,
O'er hearts made pure from sin,
Where love that casts out fear
Exults to feel him near,
The Lord of hosts is our refuge.

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

Philadelphia and Newark Archdioceses as well as the Brooklyn,

Camden, Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich, Pittsburgh, Rockville

Center, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses. Father Glenn

Hartman, is reviewing every issue of "The PILGRIM."

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

Isaiah 30:15

By waiting and by calm you shall be saved, in quiet and in trust your strength lies.

(Anonymous)

PILGRIMAGES for 2005

We have published information sheets with reservation forms to coordinate pilgrims for pilgrimages to **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina** and to **San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte San Angelo, and Lanciano, Italy**.

We are in the planning stages for a **Spring 2006 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** with **Father John Tino**. Departure will be in the week after **Easter**. Let us know if you are interested and we will send you information sheets with reservations forms as soon as they are printed.

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.

For the schedule 2005 pilgrimages, we are using the services of **206 Tours**, from **Smithville, NY**. They 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: PFMC coordinated **Medjugorje** pilgrims will join pilgrims already signed up with **206 Tours**. The **PFMC 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 to places like **Mostar** and **Dubrovnik**. Add-on air fares from other cities to **JFK, NY** are available. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/pfmc/starofthesea/> or <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05PPM05.pdf> for additional information. There are no seats left for return on **25 May 2005**. There are not group seats left for return on **27 May 2005**. A **\$250**

UPSELL is required to join this pilgrimage plus a **\$50** late registration fee.

1 - 7 August 2005: A PFMC coordinated pilgrimage to **Lourdes** via **Frankfort, Toulouse, and Pau** is on hold awaiting the requestor for final arrangements. A **5 - 12 August 2005** pilgrimage to **Lourdes** (base price **\$1799**) is pre-planned by **206 Tours** and would be an option for those interested. 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. We have had a few requests for a combined pilgrimage to **Lourdes** and **Medjugorje**. The **5 - 12 August 2005** pilgrimage to **Lourdes** could be combined with an already scheduled **11 - 19 August 2005** pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** (base price **\$1699**) with a connection in **Europe** on **12 August 2005**. Estimated base price for the combined pilgrimage would be **\$2799**.

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/frcalloway> for more information. This pilgrimage has at least **40** pilgrims.

9 to 18 October 2005: San Giovanni Rotondo (Saint Pio of Pietrelcina), Monte San Angelo, Lanciano (Eucharistic Miracle), and Rome, Italy, with Father Glenn Hartman, Saint John Neumann Parish in Sicklerville, NJ as Spiritual Director.

Note the change in dates and the inclusion of **4 days** in **Rome** to visit the grave of **Pope John Paul II**.

The Double Occupancy Package Price and Single Supplement for the entire pilgrimage are being negotiated and will be published in new blue colored information sheets with reservation forms to replace the gold ones previously distributed.

Leaving from **Newark International Airport (EWR)** this pilgrimage still includes round trip air to **Bari, Italy**, via **Rome, Italy**, first class hotels or religious houses, motor coach land transfers with **English** speaking guide, all breakfasts and suppers, baggage transfer of one bag, **PFMC** Coordination, and full daily spiritual program.

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 **EWR**.

Add-on air fares from other cities to **EWR** are available. Ground transportation information and coordination is also available.

We plan to mail the new blue information sheets with reservations forms as soon as we finalize them and get them printed.

(The Volunteer Staff at the *PFMC*)

PLEASE SUPPORT the *PFMC* EVENTS and PILGRIMAGES

Dear Friends in the Lord, we write this *May* note to express our sincere thanks for your outpouring of prayers 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 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 envelop you in His most Sacred Heart through His Mother's most Immaculate Heart.

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

NJ CATHOLIC YOUTH RALLY / FAMILY DAY- 5/15/05

9:00 AM - 8:00 PM

A day for all **Catholic Youth** of New Jersey. It's a family day so bring everybody, we want to pack the place! Also, a great day to bring Altar Servers, Scouts, etc. *Special Ticket Price: \$40* per person (youth and adult) *\$14* with season pass/twicket/return trip ticket - Those with season passes to **Great Adventure, Jackson, NJ**, may meet at **6:30 PM** at the *Garden of Eatin'* for **Holy Mass**.

Both prices also include **FREE** picnic, parking, Safari, and return ticket good anytime during 2005 season.

More than just a day at **Great Adventure ... A Great Adventure with Christ!**

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http://www.dioceseoftrenton.org/department/events_detail.asp?eventid=126

INFANT JESUS of Prague Memorial - 3rd Sunday in May - Profile

The popularity of the Child Jesus grew in Baroque [Spain](#), possibly caused by the visions of Saint [Teresa of Avila](#). Several [Spanish](#) sculptures found their way to [Prague](#); they were made of wax, ivory, and bronze, and dressed in garments reflecting the aristocratic fashion of the period. The exact origin of the Infant

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Jesus statue is not known, but historical sources point to a 28cm high sculpture of the Holy Child with a bird in his right hand carved c.1340, but other sculptures were also carved by masters throughout [Europe](#) in the Middle Ages.

The well-known statue probably came from a [monastery](#) in [Bohemia](#), obtained by Dona Isabella Manrique who gave it to her daughter Marie Manrique as a wedding gift, then to Marie's daughter Polyxena as a wedding gift in [1587](#). In [1628](#), Lady Polyxena presented the statue to the [Carmelites](#) at the *Church of the Virgin Mary the Victorious*. This statue became known as the *Infant Jesus of Prague*. It stands 47cm high, with a 2cm base, and has a long gown around the wax body.

Veneration ceased after [1628](#) when the [Carmelites](#) fled [Prague](#) ahead of invading Saxons and Swedes. In [1638](#) a young [priest](#) named Cyrillus a Matre Dei returned to [Prague](#) and found the statue in the ruins of the church. He cleaned the statue, and placed it in the oratory. While praying before it, he heard the Infant Jesus say, *Have pity on Me and I will have pity on you. Give Me My hands and I will give you peace. The more you honor Me, the more I will bless you.*

Repairing the statue's hand was a miracle as [Father](#) Cyril and his peers had neither the skills to do it themselves, nor the funds to hire it done. [Father](#) Cyril asked that [Our Lady](#) provide funds. The Divine Infant spoke again, saying *Place Me near the entrance of the sacristy and you will receive aid*. Cyril did as he was told, and a few days later the statue was fixed by a man who came by the sacristy.

With the statue repaired, miracles began to be reported, resulting in an increased veneration of the Holy Child. An altar was built for the image in 1641, and the gold and bejewelled crown on the statue was presented by Bernard Ignatius on [14 January 1651](#). In 1654 a [chapel](#) was completed to house it, and the Infant Jesus was coronated on [4 April 1655](#) by [Archbishop](#) Josef Corta.

Though [Prague](#) suffered through wars and unrest, the church and the Infant Jesus [chapel](#) were miraculously protected. The altar was rebuilt in [1776](#) using marble and two huge sculptures of the [Blessed Virgin Mary](#) and Saint [Joseph](#). The Infant was kept in a glass case standing on a pedestal engraved with crystals, and surrounding the Infant were twenty [angels](#) in gold. Since then copies have been distributed throughout [Europe](#), the [Philippines](#), and the [Americas](#), and devotion has continued to spread.

Devotion to this image is actually devotion to the Child Jesus. It is *not* idolatry, statue-worship, or any other slander. This is just a popular image, a way to

visualize Christ, and bring a concrete form to someone who, for many people, needs to be visualized to be addressed.

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/sainti16.htm>

PRAYER to SANTO NIÒO

O miraculous Santo Niòo I come before Your Sacred Image, moved by your love and by hope, and I beseech You to look mercifully into my troubled heart. Let Your own tender love, always inclined to compassion, mitigate my troubles and alleviate my sufferings. Take from me, if it be Your Will, all my affliction and let me never surrender to despair. Grant me Seòr Santo Nino, the special grace I ask You today in all humility and with a loving trust, and for the sake of Your Sacred Infancy, hear always my prayers, be generous with Your aid and consolation, that I may praise You, and the Father, and the Holy Ghost.

Amen

(Prayer Card – Imprimatur: **Julio Rosales, D.D.**
Archbishop of Cebu)

THE POWER of JESUS in the EUCHARIST

There is a great power that flows from frequent reception of Jesus in the Eucharist. I have found that, whenever I have problems in life, the very Jesus whom I receive in Holy Communion comes to my aid.

You have to discover, trust, believe, and understand that the Host embraces the Upper Room, Calvary, the Cross, the Empty Tomb, and the Ascension. In it you truly encounter God.

When I was expecting our second child, I went through a very trying time. The results of the ultrasound were not at all encouraging and every doctor I saw seemed to have a different opinion. There was something “unusual” about my abdomen that specialists told me. Even though I was close to term (which meant theoretically that there was less room in the womb for the baby to move around in), the child was constantly changing the nurses could never detect a heartbeat. I was told the baby might have water on the brain. My considerate ward mates lost no time in informing me of my course of action. One in particular, after telling me of the dangers and abnormalities associated with hydrocephalus, almost talked me into it. But I stuck it out, even though at times I thought I would go mad.

Feeling desperately alone (the hospital was in a different town from where I lived), I attended Mass at the chapel every day, received Holy Communion, and returned to my bed. I tried not to think about things and avoided talking to my neighbors. I entrusted myself to Jesus, asking Him to help me accept whatever lay in store for me. Then I met a young married woman on the same floor, and she gave me the courage I needed. To this day I do not know how such a young person could be so mature. I gave birth to a big, healthy baby. To me and my family it was a miracle. Jesus had heard our prayers.

(by J. A Reader of Love One Another Catholic Magazine, February 2004)

CHASTITY: THE TASK of MARRIED COUPLES

I have long been convinced that chastity before marriage is a preparation for chastity in marriage and that it should continue there. This year my husband and I are celebrating our twelfth wedding anniversary. My husband was 28 when we married. I was 22. By the grace of God, we were both chaste when we entered the state of marriage.

The Sacrament of Matrimony bound us in a new, indissoluble reality. Our hearts were fused in the heart of Jesus and only He can make them pure: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me (Ps 51:12).

To me, the word “chastity” means not just refraining from marital relations during a woman’s fertile period, but a whole way of living married life. After all, marital sex can also be impure if it is ruled by lust, when we fail to reckon with the needs of our spouse. Our great intercessor on this path of marital chastity is Mary.

Chastity is a marvelous gift for married couples. It enables them to develop other ways of expressing tenderness, of finding time for one another. (It can be worth our while to switch off the TV and talk about ourselves, our children, work goals and most importantly, of God working in our lives.) Our time spent together is time blest!

It is wonderful to live in harmony with God and nature. In our first five years of marriage we had three children. The first two were planned; the third was a special present from God. After our third child, we began seriously practicing NFP (Natural Family planning). We charted my infertile periods, and then decided which days were suitable for intercourse. And that’s how matters stood until quite recently. But there came a time when we realized that NFP had

become a means of contraception for us. Even though it seemed to us that we were always open to future life, for our part, we were doing everything in our power to prevent this from coming about. And yet God had a magnificent plan for us, a magnificent “conception” for our family. Could it be that by our actions we were thwarting His plan? Recently, despite the fact that we are not well off, we decided to open ourselves up to His divine action by not abstaining from marital relations throughout the first phase of my cycle. Given the irregularity of my cycles, this is like an open door to our Creator, since in this matter He is powerless to act without our agency.

A married couple’s practice of chastity reflects on their children. We parents are responsible for rearing our children in chastity. From us they learn all that is good and beautiful. Sadly, however, they also learn the things we have trouble with.

Our lifesaver in this regard is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is there that we overcome all the brokenness that sin brings into our family life. Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, reminds us that the most important thing is the Eucharist, in which Christ’s covenant with His Church is commemorated and renewed. In (the Eucharist), a man and his wife find strength and support for their own marital covenant. To this, we might add the couple’s own prayer life. Without prayer, love dies.

Why am I writing this? Because without a deep relationship with God we are unable to live in love and practice the virtue of chastity, which flows from it.

Let us pray for one another, that we may be true to our marital covenant to the end. Let us draw strength from the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist, that our families may grow strong in God. Let us heed the words of the Holy Father, who appeals to us: May the Holy Family of Nazareth be your example the purity and love-filled tenderness of Mary, the faithfulness, decency and generous hard work of Joseph, and the meekness and obedience of Jesus. May we grow in holiness, and may no one in our families feel the absence of the Heavenly Father in their homes.

Dear young friends, do not allow yourselves to be manipulated by the mass media and secular press, which tell us that abstaining from sex is abnormal and unhealthy. It is the world that is abnormal! Satan uses the sin of impurity to take possession of our souls. This sin cruelly wounds our human dignity. It severs or relations with God and other people. Ultimately, it destroys our capacity for true, sacrificial love.

DON'T BLAME the SENIORS

Senior citizens are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary. We take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.

However upon reflection, I would like to point out that it was not the senior citizens who took:

- The melody out of music.
- The pride out of appearance.
- The courtesy out of driving.
- The romance out of love.
- The commitment out of marriage.
- The responsibility out of parenthood.
- The togetherness out of our family.
- The learning out of education.
- The service out of patriotism.
- The Nativity scene out of cities.
- The civility out of behavior.
- The refinement out of language.
- The dedication out of employment.
- The prudence out of spending.
- The ambition out of achievement.
- God out of government and school
- And we do understand the meaning of patriotism, and remember those who fought and died for our country.

Policemen Magazine - 2004

DIVINE MERCY FIND STRENGTH and LIGHT in MY PASSION

The message of Divine Mercy as conveyed to us by Saint Faustina is inextricably linked with the mystery of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is in the Paschal Mystery that Jesus reveals to us the full measure of God's love. God is love. His is the Saving Love that took upon itself the immensity of the world's suffering. Sister Faustina's Diary is filled with images evoked by her contemplation of Our Lord's Passion.

On one occasion, after she had completed a Holy Hour, the scourged Jesus appeared to her in a vision. O that unfathomable torment! She noted in her Diary. How terribly Jesus suffered at the scourging post. O

poor sinners, how, on the Day of Judgment, will you be able to meet that Jesus whom you now torment so much? His blood streamed to the ground, and in some places whole pieces of flesh fell away from His body. On His back I saw the odd exposed bone. Jesus uttered quiet moans and sighs (Diary, 188).

Sister Faustina also had visions of Jesus being mocked and crowned with thorns: When I dwell on the Lord's Passion during adoration, I often see Jesus in the following manner: after scourging Him, His tormentors take Him away and remove His garment, which by this time has adhered to His coagulating wounds. In tearing it off, they reopen His wounds; then they throw a rough and dirty red cloak over His shoulders and exposed wounds. In some places the cloak barely reaches His knees. They make the Lord sit down on a broken piece of beam, twist a crown out of thorns, and press it into His sacred head. Then, thrusting a reed into His hand they mock Him, bowing to Him as before a king, and spitting on Him. Others grasp the reed out of His hand and beat His head, while still others pommel Him with their fist; meanwhile, Jesus bears this quietly. Who can comprehend Him-His pain? His eyes look down; I feel what is going on inside His sweetest of hearts. Let every soul reflect on what Jesus suffered at that moment. His tormentors vied with one another to insult Him. Where does such hatred come from, I wonder? It is man's sin that does this. It is here that Love and sin meet (Diary, 408).

Even as His tormentors heaped insults and outrages upon Him, Jesus bore it meekly: Jesus said nothing, and only looked at me. In that look I felt the extent of His terrible suffering that we have not the slightest notion of what He endured for us before the crucifixion. When I see the tormented Jesus, my heart is torn in shreds. I think what will happen to sinners if they do not avail themselves of Jesus' Passion. In His Passion I see an entire ocean of mercy (Diary, 948).

On a Good Friday, a moment before His crucifixion, the tortured Jesus once again charged His apostle of mercy to proclaim God's message to sinners: You are My Heart. Tell sinners about My mercy (Diary, 1666).

Christ often encouraged Saint Faustina to ponder His Passion: Today, during Mass, she notes, I saw the suffering Jesus in His death agony on the cross. He said to me: My daughter, reflect often on the anguish I endured for you. In comparison with this, what you suffer for Me will seem as nothing. You are dearest to Me when you reflect on My Sorrowful Passion; unite you small suffering with My Sorrowful Passion

that they may have infinite value before My Majesty (Diary, 1512).

Contemplating the Savior's suffering face yields many fruits. Not only does it impress upon us the price Jesus paid for our sins and, thus, enable us to fathom the depth of God's love, but it also helps us to bear our daily cross. Jesus told me that I am dearest to Him when I contemplate His Sorrowful Passion. This contemplation will shed much light on my soul. Whoever wishes to be truly meek, let him contemplate Christ's Passion, When I contemplate the Passion of Jesus, many things I was unable to understand earlier become clear to me. I want to be like you, Jesus, like You, crucified, tormented, humiliated. Jesus, stamp Your meekness upon my heart and soul. Jesus I love you to distraction You, in all the prostration the prophet described, when suffering had wiped out all form or comeliness in You. That, my Jesus, is the state in which I love You to distraction. Eternal and unfathomable God, that love should bring You to such a state. (Diary 267).

May every day become an occasion for us to dwell on the immensity of anguish that Christ suffered for us. God lavishes His blessings on those who reflect reverently on His Son's Passion:

(Love One Another A Catholic Magazine, February 2,2004)

MOTHERS WHO ARE NO LONGER AMONG US

These are in memory of my own dear mother who passed away in the autumn of the year 2000. She is still deeply missed.

In tears we saw you sinking,
And watched you pass away.
Our hearts were almost broken,
We wanted you to stay.
But when we saw you sleeping,
So peaceful, free from pain,
How could we wish you back with us,
To suffer that again.
It broke our hearts to lose you,
But you did not go alone,
For part of us went with you,
The day God took you home.

If Roses grow in Heaven,
Lord please pick a bunch for me,
Place them in my Mother's arms
and tell her they're from me.
Tell her I love her and miss her,

The PILGRIM, Volume 16, Number 5 – May 2005

and when she turns to smile,
place a kiss upon her cheek
and hold her for awhile.
Because remembering her is easy,
I do it every day,
but there's an ache within my heart
that will never go away.

Don't think of her as gone away
Her journey's just begun
Life holds so many facets
This earth is only one
Just think of her as resting
From the sorrows and the tears
In a place of warmth and comfort
Where there are no days and years
Think how she must be wishing

That we could know, today
Now nothing but our sadness
Can really pass away
And think of her as living
In the hearts of those she touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And she is loved so very much

(Anonymous).

PRAYER for the SPIRIT of MARY

My powerful Queen
You are all mine through your mercy,
And I am all yours.
Take away from me all that may displease God
And cultivate in me
All that is pleasing to Him
May the light of your faith
Dispel the darkness of my mind, your deep humility
Take the place of my pride,
Your continual sight of God
Fill my memory with His presence.
May the fire of the charity of your heart inflame the lukewarmness of my own heart;
May your virtues take the place of my sins.
May your merits be my enrichment and make up for all that is wanting in me before God.
My beloved Mother, grant that I may have no other spirit but your spirit, to know Jesus Christ and His Divine Will and to praise and glorify the Lord,
That I may love God with burning love

Like yours.

(by Saint Louis de Montfort from the Association of the Marian Helpers)

TRUE DEVOTION to MARY



*Saint Louis de Montfort
Apostle of Mary*

How much should the Mother of Jesus be loved? It is a question easily answered if we turn our gaze to the Son, who our holy Faith impels us to imitate in everything. A common expression used today poses it simply and succinctly: “What would Jesus do?” How much did the Incarnate Son love his mother?

The Sacred Heart of Jesus loves the Immaculate Heart of his

Mother infinitely, without limits, divine or human. It is precisely from that Immaculate Heart that the Sacred Heart received its sacred humanity, and these Two Hearts, in the totality of their respective beings, are inseparably united in mutual love and in their mission for the redemption of the world by the heavenly Father.

Both as Son and as Savior, Jesus possesses a love for his immaculate and co-redeeming mother that knows no bounds. It is precisely the same mother, the-object-person of his infinite divine and human love, that he bestows to each one of us from the victory of Calvary.

Our love will never begin to rival Our Lord’s love for her. We, therefore, are likewise called to pursue an infinite love of the Mother, although coupled with the humility that our finite hearts will never achieve the endless love for the Immaculate One possessed by our Lord’s Most Sacred Heart. Is it possible then, to love the Mother of Jesus too much? Theologically and metaphysically, it is not possible to love the Mother of Jesus and the Mother of all peoples too much.

To love is to will the good for the beloved, even unto the greatest sacrifice of offering one’s life (cf. Jn. 15:13). To will the good for the Mother of God, to will that she receive due praise and honor desired by the Most Holy Trinity, and that humanity freely accept her as a gift from the Son—which will then allow her to distribute most generously the graces of the Redeemer into human hearts for their salvation--this love of the Mother can never be too much, even if

it calls for suffering and sacrifice on behalf of her earthly children called to live and spread this love.

Sadly, it is possible to have forms of “false devotion” to Mary, as Saint Louis Marie de Montfort points out (True Devotion, nn. 92-104). False devotion either attaches a personal agenda of self-gain to an external Marian devotion, or, even more seriously, distorts Mary into an end unto herself. “Mariolatry” or the worship of Mary as a goddess would be to place the human mother of Jesus on a level equal to her divine Son, a blasphemy for any Christian and more painful to the Immaculate Heart than it would be for any other human heart. For she seeks only to be the immaculate transparency to her Son for the human family, as she was crafted immaculately to be by the Father of all mankind.

False devotion to Mary is not loving her too much, but too little. It is a disordered “affection” that seeks to change her into something she is not, namely God; or seeks to acquire personal benefit (i.e., the good opinion of others, an ecclesial facade covering vice, intellectual pride in attacking authentic Marian devotion by the common faithful, etc), without an authentic love of the Mother of God in the heart. The regrettable existence of false devotion to Mary can never be used as legitimate examples of loving the Mother of Jesus “too much,” but rather its ontological opposite.

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux’s famous Marian maxim, *De Maria numquam satis*, “Concerning Mary, never enough,” conveys the veneration and honor which the church, traditionally grants to God’s greatest masterpiece. To this maxim we can appropriately add the specific goal of love, which constitutes the purpose of the Mother of All Peoples Weekly Marian Internet Magazine: to bespeak the “whole truth about Mary” without compromise, so as to enkindle a greater love of her Immaculate Heart the world over.

May every son and daughter of the Church aspire to grow daily in their love of the Mother of All Peoples with renewed zeal, without fear of excess, and in imitation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose love of the Mother exceeds all human understanding. Let us all live the truth which is captured in the famous motto of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, *De Maria numquam satis* “Concerning Mary, never enough”—we cannot love our Blessed Mother too much.

(by Prof. Mark Miravalle, S.T.D, *The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary*, Spring 2005
www.archoftriumph.org)

ACT of CONSECRATION to the IMMACULATE HEART of MARY

I, N., a faithless sinner, renew and ratify today in thy hands, O Immaculate Mother, the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works; and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before.

In the presence of all the heavenly court I choose thee this day, for my Mother and Mistress. I deliver and consecrate to thee, as thy slave, my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future; leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of me, and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God, in time and in eternity. Amen.

(Prayer of Saint Louis de Montfort, prayed daily by
Pope John Paul II)

THE YEAR of the EUCHARIST



“Starting Afresh
From Christ”
October 2004 -
October 2005

Prayer for the Year of the Eucharist

Almighty God, We pray especially in -this-time that human weakness may come to pose less of an obstacle to the action of the Most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, and that with all distortion set aside and every reprobated practice removed, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the “Woman of the Eucharist”, the saving presence of Christ in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood may shine brightly upon all people. Let all Christ’s faithful participate in the Most Holy Eucharist as fully, consciously and actively as they can, honoring it lovingly by their devotion and the manner of their life. Inspire all Bishops, Priests and Deacons, in the exercise of the sacred ministry, to examine their consciences as regards the authenticity and fidelity of the actions they have performed in the name of Christ and the Church in the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Taken and adapted from the Instruction
“Redemptionis Sacramentum”)

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)

LIFE in the SPIRIT SEMINAR (LSS) at PFMC: 28-29 MAY 2005

This **Life in the Spirit Seminar (LSS)** will be facilitated by **Father Philip Maria** from the **Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts (OATH)**, Dover, DE, with the assistance of the **OATH** brothers and the **Lavent of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (LIHM)** sisters. Advance registration is requested with \$15 for food and program supplies with modest attire for those attending. No overnight lodging is available.

Please contact members of **OUR LADY of the MIRACULOUS MEDAL PRAYER GROUP - Sanger Cosico (856) 783-3839, Ryan Garcia (609) 502-5764, Mike Duffy (856) 751-6320, Carmel DeGuzman (856) 278-5011, or Janine Cosico (609) 828-5308, or their adult supervisors Cherry Velasco (609) 315-1724, or Nilo Mercado (856) 795-8327.**

MESSAGE of 4/25/2005 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also today, I call you to renew prayer in your families. By prayer and the reading of Sacred Scripture, may the Holy Spirit, who will renew you, enter into your families. In this way, you will become teachers of the faith in your family. By prayer and your love, the world will set out on a better way and love will begin to rule in the world. 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 Benedict XVI**, as to the authenticity of messages to alleged visionaries from **Medjugorje**.)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 4/25/2005

RENEW PRAYER IN YOUR FAMILIES

In her message, the Virgin Mary speaks to the families. With a maternal heart, she is inviting to the revival of prayer in our families. Mary, our Mother, knows well that family is threatened in a special way. The family is the sanctuary of each person, in which it grows, is educated, and receives in the heart all the values that parents should transmit to their children.

Nowadays, much is spoken about so many crises, and in a very special way of the crisis of the family. The family is attacked on all sides by evil, which wants to discourage and destroy communion, harmony and peace of the family. The families are in crisis in a particular way, because family prayer disappeared in so many families. Gospa does not make a diagnostic of a disease of the contemporary family, but in this message, she is giving the therapy, how to heal, how to renew and revive our families. She brings us back to the source of life, she is putting in our hands the means: prayer and reading of the Scriptures, of the Word of God. By these means, the Holy Spirit - in the place of the spirit of the world - will enter into our families and will bring blessing, peace and communion.

As a Mother, Gospa does not invent new means but gives to her children the simplest and healthiest verified food. This spiritual food and these means were tested in the Christian tradition of the Church. Generations ate of it and lived their faith of it, were inspired and have remained on the way of God, the one that leads to life, not just any life.

Gospa says: By prayer and reading of Sacred Scripture, may the Holy Spirit, who will renew you, enter into your families. To pray with the Bible means that we are on the best way, on the surest base, on the best source of prayer. Here, I meet the Word of God through which He wants to say something to me. The Word of God in the Scriptures is not the text of a

novel or of just any book. It is not pronounced or written by just anyone. It is the language of God who, by this text, can be heard and which resounds through all times. Today still, the Lord wants to say something to me through his word. His word is not a dead letter but a living word, if I allow it to be alive in me. We should ask: "Lord, what do you want to tell me?" It is important to adopt the attitude of a humble heart that is listening and saying: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening".

When I listen to what the Lord is telling me, I will be able to speak, to give witness and to live my faith. Then, we will be able also to lead others and to teach them in faith, especially those which the Lord put on our way.

By this message, the parents in particular are invited to become not only those who put the children into the world, but most of all those who unceasingly give to them birth for faith and in faith.

Let us pray with Gospa and in particular for the parents - in order that they do not give up witnessing and giving birth to their children in faith.

According to the words of saint Francis de Sales: "When your children do not want to hear any more speaking about God, then you must speak to God about your children. "

God will hear you. He takes seriously each one of your prayers made seriously. The prayer in which we believe can be taken seriously by God, and it can be answered.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.4.2005

ANOTHER REFLECTION

"Dear children! Also today, I call you to renew prayer in your families." These beautiful words from Our dear Blessed Mother, in this first sentence of her message of April 25, 2005 presents us with a serious challenge, but one that can lead us into a special spiritual state.

It would seem that most families do not pray together at home, and if they worship regularly on most occasions it is not as a family. Thus Our Lady's call, *"to renew prayer in your families,"* is serious and needed by most of us. Again, it is quite obvious that this request will not be easy for most to accomplish. In many families, the only time everyone is home together is when they are sleeping. Can we change those patterns within our lives that prohibit us from praying together as a family?

A definite starting point is to make sure that prayer is included with each meal. With the simple prayers that we ask for God's blessings upon our food and ourselves, families could include an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. If the family is together at 12 noon or 6 p.m., the Angelus prayer could be recited. Are we willing to pray the rosary together? Again, it would seem that many families are not.

To begin this task of praying together, families could pray a peace rosary (an Apostle's Creed with seven Our Fathers, seven Hail Mary's and seven Glory Be's). After praying the peace rosary with the heart for a certain amount of time, members of the family will want to pray a full rosary. As we reflect upon the first sentence of Our Lady's message of April 25, 2005, may we understand the importance of prayer in our lives both in an individual way and as a family. As we accept the opportunities that we have to pray we will change. We will begin to enter into the spiritual presence of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As we continue this process, we can begin to understand that prayer is everything for us. However, we must give ourselves the chance to be enveloped by God's grace.

"By prayer and the reading of Sacred Scripture, may the Holy Spirit, who will renew you, enter into your families." As we reflect upon this second sentence of Our Lady's message of April 25, 2005, we can begin to understand that both prayer and the reading of the Bible can bring us to our dear Lord. For example, during the Easter season, the Church inspires us with many readings from the Acts of the Apostles. In this particular book of the New Testament, one can be truly inspired by the courage of the Apostles and disciples of Jesus. Encountering persecution, they continued to spread the faith while encouraging others to do so. As one reads the Acts of the Apostles, he or she can contemplate and realize the profound presence of the Holy Spirit within the lives of these early Christians. As they did that special work of Jesus, proclaiming the Faith, they were constantly being renewed by the Holy Spirit.

For all of us, this is our time to be a courageous disciple of Jesus. May we understand that the Holy

Spirit is within our lives encouraging us to come to Jesus in the fullest sense. May we accept the discernment, inspiration and sanctification of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Blessed Trinity. He comes to us with His gifts and those beautiful virtues that can help us to be a faithful Christian. The Holy Spirit speaks to us in the quietness of our heart and soul. May we be open to the urgings of the Holy Spirit, praying to Him and allowing Him to come into the center of our lives. Again, may we listen to the words of this second sentence of Our Lady's message of April 25, 2005. *"By prayer and the reading of Sacred Scripture, may the Holy Spirit, who will renew you, enter into your families."* Let us begin to slow down, rejecting this fast-paced life that overwhelms us, for the unconditional love and presence of the Holy Spirit who is waiting to nourish us with all that we need to come to Jesus as full-time believers.

During this time as we celebrate the last days of the Easter season and the Ascension of the Lord, may we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Between now and Pentecost Sunday on May 15, spend significant time praying to the Holy Spirit; encountering His love while being forever grateful to God the Father and Jesus for the gift of the Holy Spirit. We should always remember that the Holy Spirit is the personification of the love that God the Father and Jesus have for each other. For us this is such a treasured gift.

"In this way, you will become teachers of the faith in your family. By prayer and your love, the world will set out on a better way and love will begin to rule in the world." These last two sentences of Our

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

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

The Real Presence Association, Inc.

7030 West 63rd Street, Chicago, Illinois 60638.

If you need a printout of 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.

Lady's message of April 25, 2005 explain to us the wonderful impact we can have in doing God's work: if we renew prayer in our families, read Sacred Scripture and embrace the sanctification and renewal of the Holy Spirit. Our Lady continues to have much confidence in us to become one with Her in doing God's work. Are we willing to embrace Our Lady's way to bring people to Jesus? Think about this question. We can be successful disciples of Jesus. ***"By prayer and your love, the world will set out on a better way and love will begin to rule in the world."***

Please do not "sell yourself short." Our Lady is calling us with a profound motherly love to come to Jesus and embrace His work. The Holy Spirit is with us, Jesus is with us, God the Father is with us, and Our Lady is with us. We do not need anything more than that. May we have the courage to open ourselves to the love of God and Our Lady. In that way, like the first Christians, we can change the world.

I hope you are well. Give my best to all of your families. During these days be filled with faith, hope and love embracing these theological virtues with much strength. May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever and ever. Amen.

God's love and prayers always,

Father Ed

HEdwardChalmers@aol.com, April 28, 2005)

PRESS BULLETIN 209, 4/26/2005

TOTUS TUUS, JOHN PAUL!

He is gone! He went on a journey, leaving traces in the hearts! What to write? They say that he has died, but isn't this in truth a birth? There is no death for people like him, they travel... The Pope Jean Paul II left for his last pilgrimage - towards the arms the heavenly Father. He went home. He went to his heavenly Mother. Yes. Once again, he wants to tell her: "Totus Tuus, Mary - all yours, Mary".

Why did we love him? Because he was our Pope? This is true, but there were others Popes who were not loved in such a way. In Jean Paul II, we loved God to whom he opened his door. In him, we loved Mary who was his advocate. In him, we loved the ordinary man who found a shelter in his heart. In him, we loved the Church, which he has served and not governed. We loved in him the illness and the weakness, which he did not hide. We loved him because he was love. He loved until the end, each one and everywhere. He loved where love was not loved, according to the words of saint Francis.

We should not neglect the fact that we have accompanied from this world to the other a Pope who approached death with the rosary in the hand. His "Amen" is like the cry of Jesus: "All is accomplished". He accepted the realization of the plan of God in him until the last limits. His Fiat, may your will be done, was pronounced like Mary did, who was his mother and his teacher.

From the perspective of Medjugorje, we can say that a man left who celebrated and accompanied the apparitions of Our Lady in silence. He was incontestably in favour of Medjugorje. Cardinals, bishops, priests, personalities to whom he gave his blessing for a pilgrimage towards the Queen Peace in Medjugorje, give witness about it. As a man devoted to Mary, he was able to recognize the power of the sacramental life of the Church, which was spread in the world like a river. He has not physically come to Medjugorje, but his heart was here. This Pope counted on Our Lady and Our Lady counted on him. They traveled together while inviting people to come towards Christ. Together, they were "conquering" a world marked by hatred, and they were gradually transforming it into love and harbor of peace. After all, let us not be surprised by the words of a young girl: "Totus Tuus, Jean Paul II!" These same words, according to which he lived, we can repeat ourselves: Totus Tuus!

Father Mario Knezovic

COMMUNIONS and PRIESTS

During the month of March, 81,000 received Holy Communion and 1396 priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

POPE JOHN PAUL II about MEDJUGORJE

These statements are not confirmed by the Pope's seal and signature, but are brought by trustworthy persons.

1. In a private conversation with the visionary Mirjana Soldo the Pope said: "If I were not Pope I would already be in Medjugorje confessing." (1987).

2. Monsignor Maurillo Kreiger, former bishop of Florianopolis (Brazil), visited Medjugorje four times. He writes as follows: "In 1988, after a private mass with the Pope, before leaving Rome, he said, without having been asked anything, "Pray for me in Medjugorje". On another occasion, I told the Pope "I am going to Medjugorje for the fourth time". He concentrated his thoughts and said, "Medjugorje, Medjugorje, it is the spiritual heart of the world". On the same day I spoke with other Brazilian bishops and

the Pope at lunchtime and I asked him: “Your holiness, can I tell the visionaries that you send your blessing?” He answered: “Yes yes”, and embraced me.

3. To a group of doctors, who work for the defense and protection of the life of the unborn, the Pope said on the 1st of 1989, “Yes, today the world has lost the sense of the supernatural. In Medjugorje, many seek and re-find this sense in prayer, fasting and confession.”

4. On November 11, 1990, the Korean national weekly newspaper (“Catholic News”) published an article by Monsignor Angelo Kim, President of the Korean Bishops’ Conference: “Prior to the conclusion of the last Bishops’ Synod in Rome, the Korean bishops were invited to a lunch with the Holy Father. On this occasion, Monsignor Kim addressed the Holy Father directly and said, “Father, thanks to you, Poland was able to liberate itself from Communism”. To this, the Holy Father responded, “No, this is not my merit. This is the work of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as She had predicted in Fatima and in Medjugorje.”

5. The Pope said to Father Jozo Zovko on the 20th July 1992: “Busy yourself with Medjugorje, look after Medjugorje, don’t tire. Persevere, be strong, I am with you. Watch over, follow Medjugorje.”

6. The Archbishop of Paraguay, Monsignor Felipe Santiago Bentez, in November of 1994 asked of the Holy Father, the Pope if he was right to give approval to the faithful gathering in the spirit of Medjugorje, especially with the priests of Medjugorje. The Holy Father answered: “Approve all that is related to Medjugorje”.

7. In the unofficial part of the meeting of Pope John Paul II with the Croatian delegation of Church and State held in Rome on the 7th of April 1995., the Holy Father amongst other things said that there was some possibility of renewing his visit to Croatia. Together with this he mentioned the possibility of arriving in Split, and from there on to the shrine of “Marija Bistrica” and Medjugorje. (“Slobodna Dalmacija”, 8th of April 1995, page 3.)

8. On March 15, 1997, the Croatian President, Doctor Franjo Tudjman, said: “Again I repeat that on the occasion of my last conversation with him Pope John Paul II said that, on the occasion of his visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina, he would like also to visit Medjugorje.”

OUR LADY about POPE JOHN PAUL II

1. According to the testimony of the visionaries, May 13, 1982 on the occasion of the assassination attempt

on the Pope, Our Lady said, “His enemies tried to kill him, but I have protected him.”

2. Through the visionaries on June 26, 1982 Our Lady sends her message to the Pope, “Let him be considered as the father of all people and not just of Christians; let him tirelessly and courageously announce the message of Peace and Love among men.”

3. Through Jelena Vasilj who had an internal locution September 16, 1982 Our Lady pronounced about the Pope, “God has given him permission to defeat Satan.”

She requests of all and especially of the Pope “to spread the message that I have received from my Son. I desire to entrust to the Pope the word with which I have come here to Medjugorje: Peace; he should spread it to all parts of the world. . .he should unite Christians by his word and his preaching. Let him mainly among youth spread the messages that he has received from the Father in prayer. God inspires him then.

Taking into consideration the difficulties of the parish regarding the bishop and the commission for investigation of the events in the parish of Medjugorje, Our Lady said, “Church authority should be followed. However, before it pronounces its judgment it is necessary to progress spiritually. It will not pronounce its judgment hastily. It takes place as with a birth that is followed by baptism and confirmation. The Church will confirm that which is born of God. We should go and progress in the spiritual life, impelled by this messages.”

4. On the occasion of the Pope’s visit in Croatia Our Lady said, “Dear children! Today I am united with you in a special way, praying for the gift of the presence of my beloved son in your homeland. Pray, little children, for the health of my dearest son, who is suffering, and whom I have chosen for these times. I pray and intercede before my Son, Jesus, so that the dream that your fathers had may be fulfilled. Pray, little children, in a special way, because Satan is strong and wants to destroy hope in your heart. I bless you. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (8.25.1994)

THE 10TH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for PRIESTS

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

[*Note: The Program and Speaker Information is available on the Internet or in print from the **PFMC**.*]

The full text of this notice was printed in November 2004.]

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

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

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

YOU CAN GO HOME NOW, YOU ARE HEALED!



I am the twelfth of 14 children. My father blasphemed and beat my mother and us children. We often went to bed hungry, and we had to sleep 3 a bed. At nine years of age I got a call

to become a nun, but my father would not allow it; he wanted me to go out working to help our family. Then I got married and, as time went on, my faith became lukewarm. Although my father had little or no faith, we still went to Mass on Sundays.

In 1998 I underwent an operation: a cancerous growth in my uterus was removed, followed by chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Some months down the road: another operation, this time breast cancer, again followed by radiotherapy. After that my husband became critically ill, and I had to nurse him until his death two years ago. I was utterly run down, and I had another check-up: the diagnosis was, I had cancer of the liver. My whole body was aching, and I vomited constantly. I decided to take a retreat in San Giovanni Rotondo, the former parish of Padre Pio, in order to get my affairs in order before my time on earth would end in some months.

The many tests carried out on me squeezed me slowly to death. The doctors wanted to operate a third time; I had to come to a decision.

During my first night in San Giovanni Rotondo, on June 21, 2000, I had a strange experience. I believed at the time, it was a dream, but I am not so sure about

it any longer: I found myself in the waiting room of a hospital; I was waiting my turn, since I was called to have this operation I mentioned before. The door opened and a young woman came in. She was a nurse, wearing her white outfit. Her brown hair was bound in a ponytail. She came straight to me and said: "You can go home now, you are healed". In my perplexity I uttered that I could not go, because I had come to have an operation. But she repeated: "No, you can go, you are healed". I insisted: "But this must be a mistake, I am to have an operation today!" Then she told me with great authority: "But believe me when I tell you, that you have been healed!"

This "encounter" was vividly alive in me the next morning. I talked to a priest about it, and he advised me: "You will see for yourself, as time goes on, whether this dream of yours was true or just imagination. Meanwhile, you must make the decision yourself, whether to go ahead with this operation or not". I decided against the operation. To tell the truth, my pains had not just eased, but had disappeared altogether after that night. I could eat normally again, I gained weight, I slept soundly again, and I was able to walk again like a healthy person. A huge power had overtaken my whole being.

Oh, I forgot to mention that my first thought was Medjugorje, after waking the next morning: "I must go to Medjugorje", I decided. An intense desire had taken hold of me to go there, even though I knew little or nothing about Medjugorje: a forlorn village in Bosnia-Herzegovina, some apparitions to young peasants... That was all I knew about the place! To me, these days in San Giovanni Rotondo had been a time of resurrection, and I decided to change my life, to put God in the first place.

After the retreat I looked for an opportunity to travel to Medjugorje. In the end I found someone who was organizing a pilgrimage from Sicily on New Year's Day. The pilgrims of this group invited me also to participate in their prayer group meeting every Thursday evening, which they had founded following the call of The Queen of Peace. Every message was like a dart into my heart, and I was filled with joy more and more. When at last in Medjugorje, I was enthusiastic about this place of grace from the very first day on, when I climbed Mount Krizevac. The following day we went to visit Vicka. When I looked at her, I said to myself: you have seen this face before somewhere, but where exactly? Then suddenly, I saw that scene of my first night in San Giovanni Rotondo before my eyes, like a snapshot, and I shouted out loud: "This is she! This is the young woman dressed in white, who said to me: You can go now, you are healed!" I was so surprised, and I looked at the light

in her eyes, these rays of love emanating from her face. Later on I had the opportunity to tell her of my experience that night in San Giovanni Rotondo, when she had visited me, and she just said to me with a smile:

“Let us thank God for that!”

My life is now divided between my mission here in Sicily and my prayer-retreat days in Medjugorje. I am fully aware that the Gospa, through my healing and the gift of my inner freedom, has a plan for me. It is my greatest joy to be able to be her implement, let it be, as she wants it to be.

(Teresa is from Sicily, and is 62 years, (Courtesy of Gebetsaktion Vienna) Medjugorje Herald – Ireland)

STORY of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Orthez-France 1845

A most marvelous incident happened in the southern part of France in the year 1845. Among the Pyrenees there, nestled in the pretty little valley of Orthez, entirely separated from the world, is a monastery of the brotherhood of Saint Francis. At the time of this incident, an irreligious movement was afoot, the instigators of which were the Calvinistic Huguenots. One evening about eight o'clock the good friars of the monastery were astonished to hear outside the cloister walls the threatening cry: “Down with the Papists.” The revolutionists, surrounding the quiet home of the friars, soon gained admission into the sacred precincts and lost no time in executing their work of devastation. Some of the holy men were killed by the sword; others met their death at the stake. But God is never conquered by the wickedness of men.

The prior still survived, and his one thought was to get the Blessed Sacrament to a place of safety. To his great distress, however, he fell into the hands of the mob while bearing away the precious Treasure. With fiendish delight, these wicked men tried to snatch the vessel from his hands, that they might defile and desecrate the Sacred Host. Neither threats nor force could wrest the holy cup from the clenched fingers of the prior, even when mortally wounded about the head and body, and when he died his lifeless hands still clung as fiercely as ever to their Treasure. Seeing that their efforts were in vain, they threw the body into the rapid flowing stream skirting the monastery walls. But the noble defender of the Blessed Sacrament, though dead, still clasped the ciborium. Down the stream the corpse floated till it reached the city of Bayonne, and rested opposite the Minorities’

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Convent. Thousands hurried to the shore to witness the miraculous event, and a jubilant hymn of praise broke from the expectant multitude: “praised and blessed be the Most Holy and Divine Sacrament.”

A majestic procession was immediately formed from the doors of the grand cathedral, directed by the bishop in his robes of state. Church bells pealed for the message of exultation; old and young, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, came to meet the Lord Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

On the arrival of the bishop and the clergy, the body of the murdered friar- still holding the ciborium was pulled ashore. Without any effort the bishop took the holy vessel from the saintly hands, and amid the chanting of sacred canticles, the Blessed Sacrament was borne to the cathedral. To this very day the ciborium is counted among the church’s greatest treasures. The body of the courageous friar was entombed in the church of the Franciscans, where many favors have been granted to the believing suppliants.

(From Medjugorje Herald, Ireland Medjugorje News Issue 36 March 2005 New Zealand)

WHAT THE MEDIA SAYS - NEW YORK’S DAILY NEWS

A FAREWELL

Never has the death of one man touched so many, so deeply as has the death of Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II. Search the centuries and you’ll be hard pressed to find an outpouring of humanity remotely comparable to the one in Rome this morning. and at no time have so many people shared an event via television, from one time zone to the next, as today witness the splendor and solemnity of John Paul’s funeral. As one, we revere and pray, weep and rejoice in contemplation of the majesty of a soul that reflected the Almighty on Earth ever so brightly

(The New York Daily News, Friday, April 8, 2005)

“A VERY HUMBLE, PERSONABLE MAN” ARCHBISHOP CONTI, and OTHERS, on the NEW POPE

NEW YORK, APRIL 19, 2005 (Zenit.org).- Bishops in various countries quickly welcomed news of the election of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as Pope. Here are excerpts from some of the press statements released today.

Archbishop Mario Conti of Glasgow, Scotland

I know the new Pope personally. I have had the honor of meeting him several times over the years in Rome. He is a very humble, personable man, quite different from the hard-line “enforcer” image which is often portrayed of him.

He is a man of great theological ability, linguistically talented, kindly of manner and of enormous pastoral and administrative experience. He was of course very close to Pope John Paul, knew his mind, and collaborated very closely with him. But he is his own man, and will bring his own gifts to the papacy, to the Church and the world.

He will speak and write with a clear voice. He showed in his sermon at the late Pope’s funeral that he had the gift of communicating with vast crowds. He spoke simply, directly and movingly. Many who had only known him as the great enforcer were surprised at his kindly, gentle, affectionate words that day.

The choice of name is interesting, and I would say, inspiring. The last Pope to bear that name, Benedict XV, was a man of enormous humility who spent himself in the cause of peace. I think we may find a clue to the style of pontificate we are likely to see in that choice of name.

Cardinal Keith O’Brien Archbishop of Saint Andrews and Edinburgh, Scotland

It has been a great joy for me to share with my brother cardinals in the election of Cardinal Ratzinger as Pope Benedict XVI, he is a man of deep spirituality, a renowned theologian and a wonderful choice as Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church.

The election of a Pope is a time of joy and hope for Catholics in Scotland and around the world. I am sure that Scotland’s Catholics and all people of goodwill in our country will join with me in asking God’s fullest blessings on our new Pope -- his greatest title is perhaps the most simple, “Servant of the servants of God”; may he indeed serve all peoples as Christ served and did his holy predecessor pope John Paul II.

May our new Pope work for peace throughout the world following the example of his earlier predecessor Pope Benedict XV who died at the time of the First World War.

Saint Benedict is one of the patron saints of Europe; may he inspire us as we remember Europe’s Christian roots and may our new Pope also keep before his own

mind and ours the final words in Saint Benedict’s rule; ‘Place no one before Christ.’“

Bishop Peter Moran of Aberdeen, Scotland

The electors who choose a Pope draw on their wisdom and their experience: but even more, they make their choice after much prayer. We believe that their choice is guided by the Holy Spirit of God. We believe that Pope Benedict XVI is God’s choice.

On a human level and on a political level the choice is very interesting.

Before Pope John Paul II, the choice of a German to be Pope would have been astonishing, almost unheard of; today, we take this particular aspect almost for granted. But once again we have a Pope who grew up in difficult times, under a harsh regime, and in his young adulthood saw his country divided.

What about Pope Benedict’s age? He is 78. I was in Rome nearly 50 years ago when Giovanni Roncalli, Pope John XXIII, was elected at 78, and people nodded and said, “Oh, just a stopgap Pope.” He surprised us all. Joseph Ratzinger may well surprise us, too. He may be elderly in years, but he is vigorous, clearheaded, widely read, cultured and very, very experienced.

I look forward to a steady but energetic pontificate.

Archbishop Brendan O’Brien President, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Most Holy Father .

The ministry that you are beginning holds greater interest than ever to a world which has truly become a “global village” through the instant communications of Internet and the mass media. Aware of the global dimensions of its challenges and problems, contemporary society is searching for a universal pastor and teacher to proclaim the news of salvation, who articulates the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of this age, and who reminds the followers of Christ that all which is genuinely human is echoed in the hearts and minds of the community of faith.

Making our own the words of Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans, appealing through our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Holy Spirit, my brothers and sisters in faith join me in earnest prayer to Our Father on your behalf, that the God of hope fill you with joy and peace.

Archbishop Sean Brady of Armagh and primate of All Ireland

The election of our new Pope is not only a source of great joy and hope for Catholics throughout the world, it is also an important event for the whole human family. At the beginning of the third millennium we are blessed with a deeper sense of our common humanity and with a shared sense of responsibility in striving for a more just and peaceful world.

Pope Benedict XVI will play a critical part in progressing this search, in engaging with people of all faiths and none in constructive dialogue about the joy and hopes, the challenges and the fears of the world. This is a daunting prospect.

So I ask Catholics throughout Ireland and all people of good will to pray for Pope Benedict XVI the 264th successor to Saint Peter as he begins his pontificate.

http://www.zenit.org/english/send_friend/index.phtml?sid=69549_ZE05041923

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

If you need vocation information and you do not find it in your local parish or diocese, please call (856) 768-9228.

(Kathleen, Keith, and all the PFMC Volunteers)

PRO-LIFE GROUPS DELIGHTED at the ELECTION

NEW YORK, APRIL 19, 2005 (Zenit.org).- Here is a sampling of reactions to the election of Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as the new Pope.

Father Frank Pavone National director of Priests for Life

Priests for Life is delighted at the election of Pope Benedict XVI. For decades, he has been a strong voice in favor of life, clearly articulating the Church's teachings. In particular, he has explained how the Church must be the conscience of the state (see below). We look forward to working together with and under the leadership of the new Pope to advance the Culture of Life.

[The following is an excerpt from a report Cardinal Ratzinger made on the occasion of a 1991 consistory of cardinals, which formed the basis for Pope John Paul II's encyclical "Evangelium Vitae"]:

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“(A) State which arrogates to itself the prerogative of defining which human beings are or are not the subject of rights, and which consequently grants to some the power to violate others' fundamental right to life, contradicts the democratic ideal to which it continues to appeal and undermines the very foundations on which it is built.

“By allowing the rights of the weakest to be violated, the State also allows the law of force to prevail over the force of law. One sees, then, that the idea of an absolute tolerance of freedom of choice for some destroys the very foundation of a just mode of social life. The separation of politics from any natural content of law, which is the inalienable patrimony of everyone's moral conscience, deprives social life of its ethical substance and leaves it defenseless before the will of the strongest.”

Father Thomas Euteneuer, President of Human Life International

We thankfully recognize the staunch pro-life commitment of Cardinal Ratzinger during the whole of his episcopacy and we are confident that as Pope Benedict XVI, he will continue his strong defense of the Church's teaching on the sanctity of human life.

May the words of Pope John Paul II guide his way in this all-important task, when he said: '(T)he common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights ... is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition of all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination' ("Christifideles Laici," No. 38).

Carl Anderson Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus

The selection of Cardinal Ratzinger as the successor to John Paul II indicates clearly that the College of Cardinals wanted to continue the direction and the tremendous accomplishment of the past 27 years.

HOLY MASS TIMES

If you ever think you will miss Holy Mass because you don't know the times of Holy Mass or the locations of churches in the area that you are currently located, please call **1-410-676-6000**.

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

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

Like John Paul II, Benedict XVI is both a strong leader and a brilliant theologian.

Both were intimately involved in the work of the Second Vatican Council, and firmly committed to the renewal it brought about. And, of course, Cardinal Ratzinger was one of John Paul's earliest appointments, and has served in the key post of Prefect of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith since 1981.

The cardinals could not have picked a person who was closer to John Paul II, personally and doctrinally, than the man who is now Pope Benedict XVI.

http://www.zenit.org/english/send_friend/index.phtml?sid=69551 from ZE05041924)

POPE TELLS WHY HE CHOSE NAME of BENEDICT

VATICAN CITY, APR 27, 2005 (VIS) - In his first general audience, which was held this morning in Saint Peter's Square in the presence of 15,000 people, the Pope again gave thanks to God for having elected him as Peter's successor, and explained why he chose the name of Benedict.

The Holy Father spoke of the feelings he was experiencing at the beginning of his ministry: "awe and gratitude to God, Who surprised me more than anyone in calling me to succeed the Apostle Peter; and interior trepidation before the greatness of the task and the responsibilities which have been entrusted to me. However, I draw serenity and joy from the certainty of God's help, that of His most Holy Mother the Virgin Mary, and of the patron saints. I also feel supported by the spiritual closeness of all the people of God whom, as I repeated last Sunday, I continue to ask to accompany me with persistent prayer."

"Resuming the Wednesday general audiences," he went on, "I wish to speak of the name I chose on becoming bishop of Rome and pastor of the universal Church. I chose to call myself Benedict XVI ideally as a link to the venerated Pontiff, Benedict XV, who guided the Church through the turbulent times of the First World War. He was a true and courageous prophet of peace who struggled strenuously and bravely, first to avoid the drama of war and then to limit its terrible consequences. In his footsteps I place my ministry, in the service of reconciliation and harmony between peoples, profoundly convinced that the great good of peace is above all a gift of God, a fragile and precious gift to be invoked, safeguarded

and constructed, day after day and with everyone's contribution.

"The name Benedict also evokes the extraordinary figure of the great 'patriarch of western monasticism,' Saint Benedict of Norcia, co-patron of Europe with Cyril and Methodius. The progressive expansion of the Benedictine Order which he founded exercised an enormous influence on the spread of Christianity throughout the European continent. For this reason, Saint Benedict is much venerated in Germany, and especially in Bavaria, my own land of origin; he constitutes a fundamental point of reference for the unity of Europe and a powerful call to the irrefutable Christian roots of European culture and civilization."

The Pope appealed to Saint Benedict for help "to hold firm Christ's central position in our lives. May he always be first in our thoughts and in all our activities!"

Before concluding, Benedict XVI announced that, just as at the beginning of his pontificate John Paul II had continued the reflections on Christian virtues begun by Pope John Paul I, in coming weekly audiences he would resume "the comments prepared by John Paul II on the second part of the Psalms and Canticles, which are part of Vespers. From next Wednesday, I will begin precisely from where his catechesis was interrupted after the general audience of January 26."

The Holy Father read out brief summaries of his catechesis, which he had delivered in Italian, in various other languages: English, French, Spanish and German. He then gave brief greetings to various groups in Croatian, Slovenian and Polish and concluded by addressing the 1,000 faithful from the archdiocese of Spoleto-Norcia, Italy, who were accompanied by Archbishop Riccardo Fontana.

(AG/ST BENEDICT/... VIS 050427 (570))

JUNE IS the MONTH of the SACRED HEART of JESUS

This year the **Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** falls on **June 3** while the **Optional Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** falls on **June 4**. This is because of their moving relationship to the calendar based on the movable feast of **Easter Sunday**, **Ascension Thursday**, **Pentecost**, **Trinity Sunday**, and the **Feast of Corpus Christi (Body and Blood of Christ)** which all fall in **May** this year move based on **Easter Sunday** as well. The next issue of "**The PILGRIM**" will not be delivered before these events so we cover them here in the **May** issue.

AN OFFERING of the HEARTS of JESUS and MARY



O Jesus, only Son of God, only Son of Mary, I offer Thee the most loving Heart of Thy divine Mother which is more precious and pleasing to Thee than all hearts.

O Mary, Mother of Jesus, I offer Thee the most adorable Heart of Thy well-beloved Son, who is the

life and love and joy of Thy Heart.

Blessed be the Most Loving Heart and Sweet Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ and the most glorious Virgin Mary, His Mother, in eternity and forever. Amen.



---Saint John Eudes

<http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/heart/offering.htm>

SACRED HEART of JESUS – IMMACULATE HEART of MARY

The link between devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart and the Sacred Heart of Jesus is shown in the following passage:

“...a short time after Pascal had carried out the first experiments in modern physics and Descartes had perfected the mathematical instruments which would make possible the development of the sciences, Jesus appeared to an obscure nun and, showing her his heart, said to her: ‘This is the heart that has so loved men.’

“Then, as men did not listen to the message of Paray-le-Monial and the corruption of the world continued, the Virgin Mary appeared to the children at Fatima; she showed them her heart and said: ‘The Lord wishes to establish devotion to my Immaculate Heart in the world. If what I say is done, many souls will be saved and there will be peace.’

“The remedy that God offers for the evils of the world is to show us his heart and that of his Mother. ‘We have learned to recognize the love God has in our regard, to recognize it, and make it our belief,’ said St John (I John 4.16).

“The Christian solution to the problem and desperate call of the world will always be to believe in love, to give ourselves up to it and so receive the will and the

strength to serve others.” (Fr Henri Marduel, “The Christian Pursuit,” London, Burns & Oates, 1964, p. 22).

Historically, devotion to the Heart of Mary grew up in parallel, but at a lesser pitch than that of devotion to the Heart of Jesus, only starting to become more prominent during the time of St John Eudes. Even then it was not until after [the Apparitions at Rue du Bac](#) concerning the “Miraculous Medal” made to Catherine Labouré in 1830, and the establishment of a society dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the Church of Our Lady of Victories in Paris in 1836, that this particular devotion became really well known.

Since then devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, has gradually grown more widespread in the Church, particularly since the apparitions at Fatima.

The main difference between these two devotions is that the one concerned with Jesus emphasizes his divine heart as being full of love for mankind, but with this love for the most part being ignored or rejected, while devotion to Mary's heart is essentially concerned with the love that her heart has for Jesus, for God.

It is not an end in itself, and really the love of her heart is meant to be a model for the way we should love God. So as in all things Marian, she leads us closer to God, rather than becoming an obstacle in our way. The fact that her heart is immaculate, that is sinless, means that she is the only fully human person who is able to really love God in the way that he should be loved.

Honoring Mary's Immaculate Heart is really just another way of honoring Mary as the person who was chosen to be the Mother of God, recognizing her extraordinary holiness and the immense love she bestowed on Jesus as his mother, the person who was called to share in and co-operate in his redemptive sufferings.

The whole aim of this devotion is to unite mankind to God through Mary's heart, and this process involves the ideas of consecration and reparation. A person is consecrated to Mary's Immaculate Heart as a way of being completely devoted to God. This involves a total gift of self, something only ultimately possible with reference to God; but Mary is our intermediary in this process of consecration.

There have been some criticisms of the whole idea of “consecration” to Mary, with some arguing that it is improper to speak in such terms, since it obscures the essential consecration to God. This position, though, seems to go against the traditional approach as exemplified by St Louis de Montfort, one that has

been essentially accepted and acted upon by Pius XII and John Paul II in the twentieth century.

If it was unacceptable to consecrate the world to Mary's Immaculate Heart then obviously the above popes would not have done so. To criticize the principle of Marian consecration is also to lose sight of the central reality of the various Marian apparitions, that they concern Mary rather than Jesus.

If Jesus had only wanted a consecration to his own Sacred Heart, then clearly he, rather than Mary, would have appeared repeatedly over the last several centuries. The fact that it is Mary who has appeared in so many places, and that the Church at its highest level has accepted this, indicates that Mary's role is central and that consecration to her is not illogical, providing it is clearly understood that "belonging to Mary is a privileged means of belonging to Christ."

In reality because of the strong analogy between Jesus and Mary, the consecration to Mary's Immaculate Heart is closely linked to the consecration to Jesus' Sacred Heart, although it is subordinate and dependent on it. That is, although the act of consecration is ultimately addressed to God, it is an act that is made through Mary.

This point is also illustrated by the strongly Christocentric nature of both the 1982 and 1984 [acts of Consecration](#) made by Pope John Paul II. Because Mary is so closely linked to Christ, and because she is mankind's spiritual mother, he felt fully justified in carrying out the act of consecration to her Immaculate Heart. The Pope referred to Jesus' words of self-consecration during the Last Supper, as found in St John's Gospel: "And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

Here the word sanctify has the meaning of "consecrate oneself to God," and Jesus' self-consecration to the Father is taken as the model for the way that we too should be consecrated to God. This is to be accomplished by a consecration to Mary, since she is wholly consecrated to her Son. By joining with her we join with Jesus, based on the way that she united herself with Jesus' sufferings on the cross in the most intimate manner possible.

Mary holds her position as intermediary in the process of consecration by reason of her dignity as Mother of God and her role as spiritual mother of all Christians. Because love and devotion shown to Mary are referred by her to God, it follows that acts of reparation for sin directed to her also apply to God, especially when we consider how closely united the hearts of Jesus and Mary were and are.

The theme of the need for reparation for sin, which is very prominent in the various Marian apparitions, has

remained central to the preaching of Christianity from the time of the Apostles onwards: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt 3:2).

The idea of making reparation, both for our own sins and, because of a common membership of the mystical body of Christ, for those of others, is only an extension of this basic Gospel message, a message that continues to be valid. As St Paul said: "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church ..." (Col 1:24).

(John F. Murphy, "The Immaculate Heart," in *Mariology*, Vol. 3; *The Catholic Encyclopedia* Vol. VII, s.v. "Heart of Mary;" Calkins, *Totus Tuus*. www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/fatima/immaculh.html)

DEVOTION to the SACRED HEART of JESUS - HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

In the eleventh and twelfth centuries we find the first indications of devotion to the Sacred Heart. It was the Benedictine or Cistercian monasteries, in the world of Anselmian or Bernardine that the devotion began. We cannot state with certainty to whom we are indebted for the "Vitis mystica". Until recent times its authorship had generally been ascribed to Saint Bernard but the publishers of the Quaracchi edition attributed it to Saint Bonaventure. Saint Gertrude on the feast of Saint John the Evangelist laid her head near the wound in the Savior's side and heard the beating of the Divine Heart. She asked John if he had felt these pulsations on the night of the Last Supper and why he had never spoken of this experience. John replied that this revelation had been reserved for subsequent ages when the world, having grown cold, would have need of it to rekindle its love. ("Legatus divinae pietatis", IV, 305; "Revelationes Gertrudianae", ed. Poitiers and Paris, 1877)

On 31 August 1670 the first feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated in the Grand Seminary of Rennes. Coutances followed suit on 20 October. The feast soon spread to other dioceses and the devotion was adopted in various religious communities.

Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), Visitandine of the monastery at Paray-le Monial, was chosen by Christ to reveal the desires of His Heart and to confide the task of inspiring new life to the devotion. There is nothing to indicate that this pious religious had known the devotion prior to the revelations. These revelations were numerous, and the following apparitions are especially remarkable: that which

occurred on the feast of Saint John, when Jesus permitted Margaret Mary, as He had formerly allowed Saint Gertrude, to rest her head upon His Heart, and then disclosed to her the wonders of His love, telling her that He desired to make them known to all mankind and to diffuse the treasures of His goodness, and that He had chosen her for this work (27 Dec., probably 1673); that, probably distinct from the preceding, in which He requested to be honored under the figure of His Heart of flesh; that, when He appeared radiant with love and asked for a devotion of expiatory love *frequent Communion, Communion on the First Friday of the month, and the observance of the Holy Hour* (probably June / July, 1674); that known as the "great apparition" which took place during the octave of Corpus Christi, (1675, probably 16 June), when He said, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men, instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part of mankind only ingratitude", and asked her for a feast of reparation of the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi, bidding her consult Father de la Colombière, then superior of the small Jesuit house at Paray; and finally, those in which solemn homage was asked on the part of the king, and the mission of propagating the new devotion was especially confided to the religious of the Visitation and the priests of the Society of Jesus. A few days after the "great apparition", of June, 1675, Margaret Mary made all known to Father de la Colombière, and the latter, recognizing the action of the spirit of God, consecrated himself to the Sacred Heart, directed the holy Visitandine to write an account of the apparition, and made use of every available opportunity discreetly to circulate this account through France and England. At his death, 15 February 1682, there was found in his journal of spiritual retreats a copy in his own handwriting of the account that he had requested of Margaret Mary. This journal, including the account and a beautiful "offering" to the Sacred Heart, in which the devotion was well explained, was published at Lyons in 1684.

The death of Margaret Mary, 17 October 1690, did not dampen the ardor of those interested; on the contrary, a short account of her life published by Father Croiset in 1691, as an appendix to his book "De la Dévotion au Sacré Cœur", served only to increase it. In spite of all sorts of obstacles, and of the slowness of the Holy See, which in 1693 imparted indulgences to the Confraternities of the Sacred Heart and, in 1697, granted the feast to the Visitandines with the Mass of the Five Wounds, but refused a feast common to all, with special Mass and Office, the devotion spread, particularly in religious communities. The Marseilles plague, 1720, furnished perhaps the first occasion for a solemn consecration

and public worship outside of religious communities. Other cities of the South followed the example of Marseilles, and thus the devotion became a popular one. In 1726 it was deemed advisable once more to importune Rome for a feast with a Mass and Office of its own but in 1729 Rome again refused. However, in 1765, it finally yielded and that same year, at the request of the queen, the feast was received quasi officially by the episcopate of France. In 1856 Pope Pius IX extended the feast to the universal Church under the rite of double major. In 1889 it was raised by the Church to the double rite of first class. The acts of consecration and of reparation were everywhere introduced together with the devotion. Since about 1850 groups, congregations, and States have consecrated themselves to the Sacred Heart. In 1875 this consecration was made throughout the Catholic world. Still the pope did not wish to take the initiative or to intervene. On 11 June, 1899 by order of Leo XIII and with the formula prescribed by him, all mankind was solemnly consecrated to the Sacred Heart. The idea of this act, which Leo XIII called "the great act" of his pontificate, had been proposed to him by a religious of the Good Shepherd from Oporto (Portugal) who said that she had received it from Christ Himself. She was a member of the Drost-zu-Vischering family, and known in religion as Sister Mary of the Divine Heart. She died on the feast of the Sacred Heart, two days before the consecration, which had been deferred to the following Sunday. Whilst alluding to these great public manifestations we must not omit referring to the intimate life of the devotion in souls, to the practices connected with it, and to the works and associations of which it was the very life. Moreover, we must not overlook the social character which it has assumed particularly of late years. The Catholics of France, especially, cling firmly to it as one of their strongest hopes of ennoblement and salvation.

<http://www.thesacredheart.com/shdhis.htm>

PART of the STORY of DEVOTION to the IMMACULATE HEART

The history of the devotion to the Heart of Mary is connected on many points with that to the [Heart of Jesus](#); nevertheless, it has its own history which, although very simple, is not devoid of interest. The attention of [Christians](#) was early attracted by the love and virtues of the Heart of Mary. The Gospel itself invited this attention with exquisite discretion and delicacy. What was first excited was compassion for the Virgin Mother. It was, so to speak, at the foot of the Cross that the [Christian](#) heart first made the

acquaintance of the Heart of Mary. Simeon's prophecy paved the way and furnished the devotion with one of its favorite formulae and most popular representations: the heart pierced with a sword. But Mary was not merely passive at the foot of the Cross; "she cooperated through charity", as Saint Augustine says, "in the work of our redemption".

Another Scriptural passage to help in bringing out the devotion was the twice-repeated saying of Saint Luke, that Mary kept all the sayings and doings of [Jesus](#) in her heart, that there she might ponder over them and live by them. A few of the Virgin's sayings, also recorded in the Gospel, particularly the Magnificat, disclose new features in Marian psychology. Some of the Fathers also throw light upon the psychology of the Virgin, for instance, Saint Ambrose, when in his commentary on Saint Luke he holds Mary up as the ideal of virginity, and Saint Ephrem, when he so poetically sings of the coming of the Magi and the welcome accorded them by the humble Mother. Little by little, in consequence of the application of the Canticle of the loving relations between [God](#) and the Blessed Virgin, the Heart of Mary came to be for the [Christian Church](#) the Heart of the Spouse of the Canticles as well as the Heart of the Virgin Mother. Some passages from other Sapiential Books, likewise understood as referring to Mary, in whom they personify wisdom and her gentle charms, strengthened this impression. Such are the texts in which wisdom is presented as the mother lofty love, of fear, of knowledge, and of holy hope. In the New Testament, Elizabeth proclaims Mary blessed because she has believed the words of the [angel](#); the Magnificat is an expression of her humility; and in answering the woman of the people, who in order to exalt the Son proclaimed the Mother blessed, did not [Jesus](#) himself say: "Blessed rather are they that hear the word of [God](#) and keep it", thus in a manner inviting us to seek in Mary that which had so endeared her to [God](#) and caused her to be selected as the Mother of [Jesus](#)? The Fathers understood His meaning, and found in these words a new reason for praising Mary. [Saint Leo](#) says that through faith and love she conceived her Son spiritually, even before receiving Him into her womb, and Saint Augustine tells us that she was more blessed in having borne Christ in her heart than in having conceived Him in the flesh.

(more details can be found at <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07168a.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 (Kephaz / Cephas or Petros depending on original or translation) of Simon bar Jonah and led by his apostolic successor **Pope John Paul II**.

The **PFMC** was established in the home of **Keith and Kathleen Werner** based on pilgrimages to **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, and other holy places or shrines worthy of pilgrimage. Books, pamphlets, and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and acquire for themselves based on donations. Our 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 NOTICE for A PFMC FUND RAISER EVENT

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.

PFMC Fund Raiser 21 May 2005

Friends of the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) are hosting a Latin Dance Fund Raiser featuring Disc Jockey (DJ) Luis Orlando. It will be held from 8 to 12 PM, Saturday, 21 May 2005, at Knights of Columbus Club, 35-79 160th Street,

(between Northern Blvd and 35th Avenue), Flushing, NY. Donation is \$25 per person, \$45 per couple. There will be an Open Bar and Food Available.

For more information call: Olga (917) 723-1505, Shelly (718) 229-3867, Carmen (718) 224-5274, Edgar (718) 343-5311, or Mercedes (718) 423-3534.

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)

CONFERENCE CORNER

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

June 12-18, 2005 – Silent Healing Retreat, Mary Immaculate Center, Allentown, PA. Contact: **(610) 395-8376** or **(610) 336-9150**. Speakers: **Father Joseph K. Bill, V.C. M.A.**

June 24-25, 2005 - 24th Medjugorje Anniversary Celebration - 2005, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 4600 Belle Terre Pkwy, Palm Coast, FL. Contact: **(386) 445-1564 / Fax: (386) 445-1552**. Speakers: **Father John Corapi, SOLT.** <http://www.medjugorje.org/medconf.htm>.

August 5-7, 2005 – Scranton Charismatic Conference, University of Scranton, Scranton, PA. Contact: **(570) 346-0922**. Speakers: **Bob Canton, Aggie Neck, Peter Herbeck, Monsignor John Lewis, Linda Schubert, Father Richard Loch, and Bob Valiante.**

September 2-4, 2005 - Fourth Annual Marian Conference, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Speakers: **Father Andrew Apostoli, Father Joseph Iannuzzi, Father Louis Guardiola, Dan Lynch, Al Barbarino, Roy Shoeman, Stan Rutherford.** Youth Conference on **Saturday.** Contact: **(204) 268- 2046;** <http://www.marianconference.com>

October 7-9, 2005 – Camden Charismatic Conference, Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ. Contact: **(856) 589-7205**. Speakers: **John Michael Talbot, Babsie Bleasdel, Father Michael Moses, and Bob Valiante, MC.**

October 28-30, 2005 – Catholic Unity Conference, Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Contact: **(610) 527-2906**. Speakers: **Father Andrew Apostoli, Mother Nadine Brown, Ralph Martin, Josyp Terelya, Father Clement Machado, Jim Cowan.** www.inhissign.com

(compiled from various sources by Keith Werner)

CALENDARS:

In *May*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *ASCENSION of the LORD (5)* and *PENTECOST (15)*, *TRINITY SUNDAY (22)*, *CORPUS CHRIST (BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST) (26/29)*, the Feasts of *Saints Philip and James (3)*, and *Matthias, Apostle (14)*, the Memorials of the *Visitation (31)* and *Saints Philip Neri (26)* and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Athanasius (2)*, *Nereus (12)*, *Achilleus (12)*, *Pancras (12)*, *Pope John I (18)*, *Bernardine of Siena (20)*, *Bede the Venerable (25)*, *Pope Gregory VII (25)*, *Mary Magdalene de Pazzi (25)*, and *Augustine of Canterbury (27)* and *Our Lady of Fatima (13)*, and *Blessed Damien Joseph De Vuester of Molokai (10)*. The Church calendar recognizes **Mother Day (8)**, **Armed Forces Day (21)**, and **Memorial Day (observed) (30)**.

In *June* the Church celebrates the Solemnities of the *SACRED HEART (3)*, the *BIRTH of SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST (24)* and *SAINTS PETER and PAUL (29)*, the Memorials of *Saints Justin (1)*, *Barnabas, Apostle (11)*, *Anthony of Padua (13)*, *Aloysius Gonzaga (21)*, and *Irenaeus (28)*, and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Marcellinus and Peter (2)*, *Norbert (6)*, *Ephrem of Syria (9)*, *Paulinus of Nola (22)*, *John Fisher and Thomas More (22)*, *Cyril of Alexandria (27)*, *The First Martyrs of the Church of Rome (30)*, and *The Immaculate Heart of Mary (4)*. The Church calendar recognizes **Fathers Day (19)**.

AROUND the **PFMC** AREA

Please review the announcements on *pages 3* through *7*, and on *page 27* in **Bulletin Notice** and **Conference Corner**. Thank you for your support in all we try to do for Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, and His Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary.

Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Pray for us.

Ask your pastor to post bulletin notices and allow information sheets to be put out in church. Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his official and authorized representative.

POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS for *MAY*

VATICAN CITY, MAY 2, 2005 (VIS) - Pope Benedict's General Prayer Intention for the month of *May* is: "That those persecuted for the sake of faith and justice may experience the consolation and strength of the Holy Spirit."

His Mission Prayer Intention for the month of *May* is: "That the Pontifical Missionary Works, proposed by the Holy Father and the bishops for the evangelization of all nations, may help the people of God to feel that they have a real part to play in the mission 'ad gentes'."

(BXVI-PRAYER INTENTIONS/MAY/... VIS 050502 (90))

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

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

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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 generous donations of those who can afford to support us. **PRIESTS!** Please note that **HOMILY** ideas have come from priests reading articles in "**The *PILGRIM!***"

