



# The **PILGRIM**

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September 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



*Mary, My Queen and Mother, the celebration of your birthday has been a gift to the world and to the Church. For, from your Immaculate body, created without sin, we are assured by the Word of God the Father, the hope and joy of the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ into our life.*

*Mary, we thank you for your "yes" to being the vessel of pure life and grace. You are a precious mother who has given us hope and love. And, from you, we have learned so much of the soul and its virtues of chastity, purity, kindness, gentleness, understanding, counsel, fortitude, and fear of the Lord. We have learned the greatest love possible through your Son, Jesus, and through your sorrows. We have been touched by the Holy Spirit, your Spouse.*

*Come now, as we consecrate our lives to God through your intercession. Bring us closer to your Son, Jesus Christ. Help us to celebrate in the simple life that you shared as you grew up. Bring us to prayer of the heart daily. AMEN*

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

## 2006 RETREAT CONFERENCE

Please complete the appropriate registration forms from the green information packet enclosed. The dates are *Friday, 17 February 2006* through *Sunday, 19 February 2006*.

The location is the **Clarion Hotel** on **Old Marlton Pike** (New Jersey Route 70) near **Interstate 295** in **Cherry Hill, NJ**. Those of you who have been attending the **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** events over the years may remember this location as

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

the **Sheraton Poste** or **Four Points**. We held many events there in the past.

The **PFMC** room block is now available for reservations and we hope to book all 188 rooms in the hotel. Room rates are **\$92 per night** for **two queen beds** or **one king bed**. Each room may have **one roll-away bed** at **\$10 per night**. In each room there is a **microwave** and a **refrigerator** as well as **normal amenities** for **hot drinks**. All rooms are newly remodeled, and very comfortable. We ask you to make your room reservations as soon as possible. Call the **Clarion Hotel** at **(856) 428-2300** and ask for the "**PILGRIMS**" room block. The rates apply from **Thursday, 16 February 2006** through **Sunday, 19 February 2006**. Get away from the hustle of the secular world and join us for the entire weekend.

Room reservations are critical to the overall costs of an event like the annual **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE**. If we do not make our room block quota we must pay for the use of the public space.

The **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** registration rates are **\$50** per person and **\$95** for a married couple. A green color information packet with registration forms for the **RETREAT CONFERENCE** and **YOUTH TRACK** is enclosed and a color version of it is available online at: [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06RET2.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06RET2.pdf).

You must register for the **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** with the **PFMC** using a **PFMC** registration form from the green information packet mentioned above or by calling **(856) 768-9228**. Early registration is recommended. You may be a walk-in registrant but this is discouraged due to the advance planning put into the attendance of each registrant.

You may use facsimile (FAX) to send room reservations to the **Clarion Hotel** **(856) 354-7662** or **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** registrations to the **PFMC** **(856) 768-9428**. This is recommended in the last few weeks when mail might be delayed.

**"The PILGRIM"** for *September 2005* is dedicated to **"Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs."** See page 3 for **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."** or **Table of Contents**.

We will have a food plan available that will make it worth your while to purchase hot meals. On the premises is a restaurant that will facilitate anyone who just wants to order from the menu. Lists of local eating establishments will be provided.

The theme for 2006 is "Let us pray and beg Our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." (Tobit 8:4 NAB). Speakers will be: **Father Bill Halbing** on *Friday night* and *Saturday*; **Father Edgardo "Bing" Arellano**, seen on *Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN)* and founder of *The Alliance of the Two Hearts*, on *Saturday*; **Father Michael Semana** on *Saturday* and *Sunday*. Music will be by "REFUGE." **Al Barbarino** has agreed to be our **Master of Ceremonies** as well as provide his music ministry witness on *Sunday*.

**Father John Tino** will be the main celebrant for the *Friday Holy Mass*. We have invited **Bishop Joseph Galante** of the **Camden Diocese** to celebrate the *Sunday Holy Mass*. **Father Michael Semana** will sing the *Saturday Holy Mass* and provide an evening concert on *Saturday night* along with our regular healing service. **Daily Rosary, Angelus, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions** and much more is in the planning process.

The **PFMC** will have a gift or display room with all of our stock of books, statues, and religious articles available. *The Alliance of the Two Hearts*, **Father Michael Semana**, **REFUGE**, **Father Bill Halbing** and **Al Barbarino** will also have displays available.

**WE WILL HAVE A YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM** run by the brothers, sisters, and priests from *The Alliance of the Two Hearts* in **Dover Delaware**. The charge for each youth / young adult is \$20 for the weekend and will include a lunch on *Saturday* and *Sunday*. All youth / young adult participants **MUST** be **PRE-REGISTERED**. **NO WALK-INS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND**. This will not be a program to watch children and parents / guardians / chaperones must attend the adult program. Youth / young adult participants are expected to be at all sessions and take an active part in the program. Parents should make arrangements to leave little children or those who do not wish to participate in the program at home or in the care of relatives. Please do

not bring little children into the adult sessions.

We will **NOT** have a three day extension of the **RETREAT CONFERENCE** this year.

Please support this **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** and **YOUTH / YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM** with your reservations / registrations now. Call the *Clarion Hotel* at (856) 428-2300 and ask for the "PILGRIMS" room reservation block. Call the **PFMC** at (856) 768-9228 for early registration. We accept **Discover, MasterCard, and Visa** credit cards but ask for assistance with the 3% cost to us for credit card usage.

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

## IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:  
**all those lost in Hurricane Katrina or its aftermath.**

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)

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

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

### September 2005

**Monday, 19 September 2005, 7 PM:** **Kathleen and Keith** present on their experiences in ministry at *Saint Benedict's Church, 2969 Otis Avenue, The Bronx, NY 10465-2137, 718-828-3403.*

### October 2005

**Sunday, 2 October 2005, 3 PM:** **Kathleen and Keith** speak on *Our Lady* during the **Rosary Rally** at *Saint John Neumann Parish, Mount Laurel, NJ.*

**Monday - Friday, 24 - 28 October 2005:** Pilgrimage to **Shrines of Canada (Montreal and Quebec) – Saint Anne de Beaupre, Saint Joseph's Oratory,**

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.

**Our Lady of the Cape, Notre Dame, etc.** Leaving from *Saint Theresa Church, 2855 Saint Theresa Avenue, The Bronx, NY 10461-4152.* Call 856-768-9228 for a gold colored information packet.

### November – December 2005

There may not be a *December* issue of **“The PILGRIM”** due to vacations for **PFMC** volunteers in late *November* and early *December*. If this happens, the *November* message will appear in a *December 2005 – January 2006* issue of **“The PILGRIM”** put out early in *January 2006*.

## PILGRIMAGES

We have published information packets with reservation forms to coordinate pilgrims for pilgrimages to **Montreal and Quebec, Canada, 24-28 October 2005 (gold)** and to the **Holy Lands of Israel and Jordan, 17-30 April 2006 (blue)**. See the blue colored information packet enclosed with this issue of **“The PILGRIM.”**

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

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

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

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

## RESERVATIONS ARE OPEN for A PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LAND

### JOIN WITH US to WALK the FOOTSTEPS of JESUS

With the awareness that there have been numerous successful pilgrimages to the **Holy Lands** in 2005, we have put together a pilgrimage of a lifetime for anyone who has ever wanted to experience the **Footsteps of Jesus**. The **Package Donation** is \$2499. The ban on travel to the **Holy Lands of Egypt, Israel, and Jordan** has been lifted.

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Our 2006 pilgrimage contains an itinerary of the best of our 3 previous **PFMC** pilgrimages to **Israel** and expands on that with stops at **Holy Places** in **Jordan**. We have just completed the planning and initial arrangements for an excursion into **Egypt** to visit the **Monastery of Saint Catherine** at the base of **Mount Sinai**. The donation for this excursion will be \$350 if we get a minimum of 10 people paying for it.

We plan to stay in 3 to 4 star hotels and will have the best of all we can see shown to us. Our guide will be both **English** and **Spanish** speaking.

Our daily walk will be a very prayerful with **Father John Tino** as our **Spiritual Director**. Father has led several of our pilgrimages and has been ministering in **Healing Prayer** with **Keith** and **Kathleen**. We will have **Angelus, Holy Mass, Rosary, and Divine Mercy** prayers daily. There will be times of prayer at each site visited. **You will experience one of the greatest gifts of a lifetime on this pilgrimage. Scripture will dance before your eyes.**

We have worked very hard to keep expenses down, and we offer you all breakfasts and suppers and the services of an excellent guide along with comfortable motor coaches as well as any entrance fees. See the blue colored information sheet enclosed with this

issue of **"The PILGRIM"** or view it online at: [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06HLP04.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06HLP04.pdf).

**Please, look over the planned itinerary enclosed, and do send in your deposit now. We need deposits to lock in airline seats now.** With any questions, please call **Kathleen, (856) 768-9228**. We will send you an excellent travel insurance policy to look over. We do ask that you take out cancellation / medical / travel insurance and know that should anything come up that would endanger anyone, this pilgrimage and its planned itinerary would be subject to change.

**(Kathleen)**

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## **BISHOP SAYS NO SUNDAY SHOPPING - A WEDGE ISSUE IN THE CULTURE WARS**

Phoenix July 18, 2005 (Life Site News.com) – The Catholic bishop of Phoenix, Arizona, quoted in the Arizona Republic, told a congregation attending the most recent priestly ordinations that the world has suffered with the loss of the religious observance of Sunday as a day of rest. The article, which appeared in the July 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday edition, posed the question, "Whatever happened to Sunday?" It reflects the observation of many Christians that the day which used to be reserved to religious and family togetherness, has turned into "an extension of Saturday," filled with errands invariable including shopping.

Bishop Olmsted of Phoenix said, "Keep the Lord's day holy...refrain from all shopping and enjoy Sunday as a day of rest, a day of leisure, a day for family, a day for celebrating the Eucharist."

The trend to the loss of the observance of Sunday is another feature of the general de-Christianizing of western culture since the end of the Second World War. Some say it is one small symptom among others, but others see it as the thin edge of wedge and one which may easily be reversed. According to a 2003 survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, as many as 33% of workers are at work on Sundays and holidays.

Steve Skojec, a married Catholic layman involved in the burgeoning Latin Mass community in Phoenix, says that his families as well as the other families involved in the traditional Catholic community take the Sunday religious and family observance as a serious part of their faith. Skojec, a realtor and father of two, told LifeSiteNews.com, that the observance of Sunday is worthwhile for its spiritual benefits. "For

my wife and I, being in real estate, Sunday is a big money making day. But we feel, *if we forego the ability to make money on Sunday, God will bless us.*"

The work of restoring Christian culture is one that interests many young Catholic and other Christian lay people. The leadership of Christian communities can help by encouraging the growth of genuine Christian social and political movements such as pro-life activity, a project at which the new bishop of Phoenix has excelled

The diocese, which has recently made the Latin Mass much more available, has also encouraged other traditional Catholic measures to counter the secularizing trend. Bishop Olmsted recently welcomed five sisters from the same cloistered order of nuns as Mother Angelica of EWTN fame to his diocese. Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life was also recently featured giving talks on the right to life in a Phoenix parish. Bishop Olmsted is also often seen protesting outside area abortion mills.

Skojec, 27, implied that the observance of Sunday, what Catholics refer to as the 'Sunday obligation' extends further than merely attending Church services. He said, "To us, if we forego the ability to make money on Sunday, God will bless us. In our minds, the avoidance of temporal gain on Sunday is rewarded with spiritual blessings".

<http://www.lifesite.net/ldn/2005/jul/05071803.html>  
**LifeSiteNews.com Monday July 18, 2005).**

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## **EXPERTS IN THE EUCHARIST**

*The following is Pope John Paul II's message on "Eucharist and Mission," for the 78th World Mission Sunday, October 24, 2004.*

**M**y dearest Brothers and Sisters! The Church's missionary activity is an urgency also at the beginning of the third millennium, as I have often said. Mission, as I stated in the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, is still only beginning and we must commit ourselves wholeheartedly to its service. The entire People of God at every moment of its pilgrimage through history is called to share the Redeemer's "thirst" (cf. Jn. 19:28). This thirst to save souls has always been strongly experienced by the saints: It suffices to think, for example, of Saint Therese of Lisieux, patroness of the missions, and of Bishop Comboni, great apostle of Africa whom I recently had the joy of raising to the honor of the altars. The social and religious challenges facing humanity in our day call believers to renew their missionary fervor.

Yes! It is necessary to relaunch the mission “*ad gentes*” with courage, starting with the proclamation of Christ, Redeemer of every human person. The International Eucharistic Congress which will be celebrated in Guadalajara, Mexico this October, the missionary month, will be an extraordinary opportunity to grow in choral missionary awareness around the table of the Body and Blood of Christ. Gathered around the altar, the Church understands better her origin and her missionary mandate. As the theme of World Mission Sunday this year clearly emphasizes, “Eucharist” and “mission” are inseparable. In addition to reflection on the bond that exists between the Eucharistic mystery and the mystery of the Church, this year there will be an eloquent reference to the Blessed Virgin Mary, because of the occurrence of the 150th anniversary of the definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854-2004).

Let us contemplate the Eucharist with the eyes of Mary. Confiding in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin, the Church offers Christ, the Bread of Salvation, to all peoples that they recognize Him and accept Him as the only Savior of mankind.

## EUCHARISTIC MISSIONARIES

Returning to the Upper Room last year, precisely on Holy Thursday, I signed the encyclical *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, from which I would like to take some passages which will help us, dearest Brothers and Sisters, to live World Mission Sunday this year with a Eucharistic spirit. “The Eucharist builds the Church and the Church makes the Eucharist” (no.26), I wrote, observing how the mission of the Church is a continuity of the mission of Christ (cf. Jn 20:21), .and draws spiritual energy from communion with His Body and Blood. The goal of the Eucharist is precisely “communion of mankind with Christ and in Him with the Father and the Holy Spirit” (*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, EE, no. 22).

When we take part in the Eucharistic sacrifice we understand more profoundly the universality of redemption and consequently, the urgency of the Church’s mission with its program which “has its center in Christ Himself, who is to be known, loved, and imitated, so that in Him we may live the life of the Trinity; and with Him transform history until its fulfillment in the heavenly Jerusalem” (EE, no. 60).

Around Christ in the Eucharist the Church grows as the people, temple, and family of God: one, holy, Catholic and apostolic. At the same time she understands better her character of universal sacrament of salvation and visible reality with a hierarchical structure. Certainly “no Christian

community can be built up unless it has its basis and center in the celebration of the most Holy Eucharist” (EE, no. 33). At the end of every Mass, when the celebrant takes leave of the assembly with the words “*Ite, Missa est,*” all should feel they are sent as “missionaries of the Eucharist” to carry to every environment the great gift received. In fact, anyone who encounters Christ in the Eucharist cannot fail to proclaim through his or her life the merciful love of the Redeemer.

To live the Eucharist it is necessary as well to spend much time in adoration in front of the Blessed Sacrament, something which I myself experience every day, drawing from it strength, consolation, and assistance (cf. EE, no. 25). The Eucharist, the Second Vatican Council affirms, “is the source and summit of all Christian life” (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, LG, no. 11), “the source and summit of all evangelization” (cf. *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, no. 5). The bread and wine, fruit of human hands, transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit into the Body and Blood of Christ, become a pledge of the “new heaven and new earth” (Rev. 21:1), announced by the Church in her daily mission.

In Christ, whom we adore present in the mystery of the Eucharist, the Father uttered His final word with regard to humanity and human history. How could the Church fulfill her vocation without cultivating a constant relationship with the Eucharist, without nourishing herself with this food which sanctifies, without founding her missionary activity on this indispensable support? To evangelize the world there

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**Newark and New York Archdioceses as well as the Allentown,**

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

**Rockville Center, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses.**

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



is need of apostles who are “experts” in the celebration, adoration, and contemplation of the Eucharist.

## NOURISHED BY THE EUCHARIST

In the Eucharist we relive the mystery of the Redemption, culminating in the Lord’s sacrifice, as it is said in the words of consecration: “my body which will be given for you. . . my blood which will be poured out for you” (Lk. 22:19-20). Christ died for all; and for all is the gift of salvation which the Eucharist renders sacramentally present in the course of history: “Do this in memory of me” (Lk. 22:19). This mandate is entrusted to ordained ministers through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. To this banquet and sacrifice all men and women are invited so they may share in the very life of Christ: “He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me” (Jn. 6:56-57). Nourished by Him, believers come to understand that the missionary task means being “acceptable as an offering, made holy by the Holy Spirit” (cf. Rom. 15:16), in order to be more and more “one heart and soul” (Acts 4:32) and to be witnesses of His love to the ends of the earth. Journeying through the centuries, reliving every day the sacrifice of the altar, the Church, the People of God, awaits Christ’s coming in glory. This is proclaimed after the consecration by the Eucharistic assembly gathered around the altar.

Time after time, with renewed faith, the Church repeats her desire for the final encounter with the One who comes to bring His plan of universal salvation to completion. The Holy Spirit with invisible but powerful working, guides the Christian people on this daily spiritual itinerary on which they inevitably encounter difficulties and experience the mystery of the Cross. The Eucharist is the comfort and the pledge of final triumph for those who fight evil and sin; it is the “bread of life” which sustains those who, in turn, become “bread broken” for others, paying at times even with martyrdom their fidelity to the Gospel.

## FIRST TABERNACLE

This year, as I already mentioned, will be the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. Mary was “redeemed by reason of the merits of her Son” in an especially sublime manner (LG, no. 53). I said in the encyclical letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*: “Gazing upon Mary, we come to know that transforming power present in the Eucharist. In her we see the world renewed in love” (EE, no. 62). Mary, “the first ‘tabernacle’ in

history” (EE, no. 55), shows us and offers us Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life (cf. Jn. 14:6). “If the Church and the Eucharist are inseparably united, the same ought to be said of Mary and the Eucharist” (EE, no. 57).

I hope that the happy coinciding of the International Eucharistic Congress with the 150th anniversary of the definition of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, may offer the faithful, parishes and missionary institutes an opportunity to strengthen their missionary zeal so that in every community there may always be “a genuine ‘hunger’ for the Eucharist” (EE, no. 33). This is also a good opportunity to mention the contribution offered to the Church’s apostolic activity by the worthy Pontifical Mission Societies. They are very dear to my heart and I thank them, on behalf of all, for the valid service rendered to new evangelization and the mission “ad gentes.” I ask you to support them spiritually and materially so that also through their contribution, the proclamation of the Gospel may reach all the peoples of the earth. With these sentiments, invoking the maternal intercession of Mary, “woman of the Eucharist,” I gladly impart to you my Apostolic Blessing.

(from LAY WITNESS July/August 2004, Pope John Paul II)

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## EUCHARIST

The Eucharistic sacrifice is the source and summit of the Christian life. Therefore, it’s incumbent upon us, even in the midst of difficulties, to tap into the superabundant grace Christ makes available to us at every Mass.

Surely we must be properly disposed to receive so great a sacrament. At minimum, we should first go to Confession if we’re aware of having committed a serious sin (cf. Catechism, no. 1385). But to maximize the efficacy of the Eucharist in our own lives, I’d suggest that we strive to enter into Mass with the following disposition:

Gratitude- The Eucharist is the greatest gift Our Lord has left to His Church. In our parish we have access to the Bread from heaven that gives us eternal life (cf. Jn.6:54). The “shadows” of liturgical abuse should not distract us from the more fundamental reality that Our Lord and God is freely giving Himself to us here and now. This reality should fill us not only with gratitude, but with what the Holy Father calls “Eucharistic awe.”

(edited from the article “Critical Mass”, LAY WITNESS, July/August 2004, by Leon J. Suprenant, Jr.)

## MIRACLE of MIRACLES

The great genius of the Catholic Mass is that, through all the signs and symbols, the Church wishes to communicate that it is the Risen Christ with the marks of the sacred wounds in His body who becomes present. The teaching of transubstantiation states that when one asks, “What is it?” of the Eucharist after the words of institution have been said over the elements of bread and wine, one must answer, “The whole reality of the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ.”

This means that the change which occurs in the Eucharist is unique. In fact, the medieval theologians used to call it the “*miraculum miraculorum*” (the miracle of miracles). In all other changes, the properties change when the being changes. In the Eucharist, the properties (taste, color, shape, molecular structure) remain and yet are the vehicle of the change. These are called the *accidents* (not in the sense of an unforeseen event, but in the sense of something which must exist in another thing). The whole being of the bread and wine (what they are) also called the *substance* (a being which can exist in its own right) change into the body, blood, soul, and divinity of the Lord.

Christ from heaven becomes present on the altar and since His soul is there, the accepted sacrifice of His will with all the loving obedience by which He reversed original sin becomes present too. This is given to us in order to transform us into one like Him. This is the Real Presence with capital letters. “This presence is called ‘real’ not in an exclusive sense, as if the other kinds of presence were not real, but ‘par excellence,’ because it is a substantial presence by which Christ, the God-man, whole and entire becomes present.”<sup>1</sup>

### REAL PRESENCE

The other presences of Christ must be distinguished from the Real Presence. Christ is present in creation, in a sunset, and in a tree because as God He causes them, but not as though He were a part of the *being* of the sunset and the tree. God brings them into being, is the model which each thing imitates and the purpose they have for acting. He is not a created thing like them and He is certainly not a part of their *matter* because God is *infinite being* and it is not possible for God to be something He is not.

Christ is in my neighbor by image since all men have a soul. If my neighbor is in the state of grace, Christ is present in him as a quality, but I do not genuflect and adore my neighbor. Christ is present in His own flesh by the grace of the union of the Person of the Word

with His human nature in the womb of Mary, and this can never be lost. He is present in the Church because by analogy He is the head of His Mystical Body as we refer to someone who is the head of the body politic, but this is a moral guidance. He is present in the other sacraments because they have the power to bring grace. He is present in the Eucharist by *substance*. This is a unique presence and related to His presence as the Person of the Word in His flesh.

Every Mass, then, involves the presence of Christ from heaven and the application of His sacrifice to the living and the dead. “For even though a priest should offer Mass in private, that Mass is not something private. . . . [F]or the salvation of the entire world she [the Church] applies the single, boundless, redemptive power of the Sacrifice of the Cross.”<sup>2</sup> Each priest must realize that he is not unifying the congregation. He is acting in each Mass in the person of Jesus Christ. All the saints and angels are present adoring Christ, no matter how many people are physically at Mass. It is more than a breach of courtesy, then, for a priest to violate the ritual or get colloquial or “folksy.” As Lady Abbess says in the book *In This House of Brede* when one of the Benedictine nuns tells her that her singing of the liturgy has made it beautiful, “Oh no, it is beautiful. That is the beauty of the liturgy. It wipes out self.”

### UNBLOODY OFFERING

Catholics are often accused of detracting from the one, eternal sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. Nothing could be further from the truth. The fruits of that sacrifice, the loving obedience by which Christ atoned for original sin, is applied to the whole world through the daily offering of the Mass. The priest is the same, the victim is the same, only the manner of offering differs. This is an unbloody offering for the living and the dead.

When Vatican II recommended active participation, it did not mean everyone had to sing, even those who could not carry a tune, or that the Mass should be filled with constant activity. What they meant was that one who attended must offer himself or herself morally with Christ and experience the transformation of life which turns quite ordinary people into transmitters of Christ’s grace to the world. It is important to remember that the sacred is not distinct from the profane as good to evil, but as eternal reality underlying the commonplace. The Mass emphasizes that God’s point of view supports and guides ours. In offering ourselves with Christ at the Mass in an ascending movement, we receive Him who condescends to our altars. We are associated with His

sacrifice and our whole temperament is changed to reflect the way God looks at the world.

When Jacob had his dream in Genesis, he saw a ladder in which angels ascended and descended to God. He poured oil on the stone on which he had rested his head and this was the sight of the first temple, Bethel. Jesus alluded to this when he met Bartholomew, saying that he would see the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man (cf. Jn. 1:51). In the Mass, our hearts ascend to God with Christ and descend back to the transformation of ourselves and our world, for this is truly a *terribilis locus*, an awesome place. "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God and this is the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17).

1 Cf. Pope Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei* (1965), no. 39.

2 *Ibid*, no. 32.

(edited from "How Awesome Is This Place? What's Really Happening at Mass", LAY WITNESS, July/August 2004 by Father Brian Mullady, O.P., a mission preacher who writes from Oakland, CA.)

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## JESUS and YOU

**I**worry. Some of you still have not really met Jesus, one to one, you and Jesus alone.

You may spend time in chapel but have you seen with the eyes of your soul how He looks at you with love?

Do you really know the living Jesus, not from books but from being with Him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words He speaks to you? Ask for the grace; He is longing to give it.

Never give up this daily intimate contact with Jesus as the real living person not just the idea.

How can we last even one day without hearing Jesus say, "I love you"? Impossible. Our soul needs to breathe the air. If not, prayer is dead, meditation, only thinking.

Jesus wants each of you to hear Him speaking in the silence of your heart. Be careful of all that can block that personal contact with the living Jesus.

The devil may try to use the hurts of life, and sometimes your own mistakes, to make you feel it is impossible that Jesus really loves you, is really cleaving to you.

This is a danger for all of us. And so sad, because it is completely the opposite of what Jesus is really wanting and waiting to tell you. Not only that He loves you, but even more, He longs for you.

Jesus misses you when you don't come close. He thirsts for you.

He loves you always, even when you don't feel worthy, when you are not accepted by others, even yourself, sometimes. Jesus is the one who always accepts you.

Only believe. You are precious to Jesus.

Bring all you are suffering to His feet, open your heart to be loved by Jesus as you are. He will do the rest.

(By Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1920-1997, *Hearts Afame*, Issue 4, 2001)

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## NEW BOOKS, ETC. to ORDER to NOURISH YOUR SOUL

**D**o not become complacent or let your mind drift when it comes to Spiritual matters. It is good to have good books that nourish, and the **PFMC** has hundreds from which to choose.

I would at this time also like to introduce you to three new books that are easy reading, and yet very moving.

**"CALLED TO INTIMACY"** living in the indwelling presence, is written by **Father George Maloney, S.J.** In this book, Father Maloney demonstrates how the indwelling Trinity calls one to ecstasy through the transforming power of intimate love. He gives you personal and sacramental methods for emptying oneself in order to all the inner light of the Divinity to fill you and radiate you.

The book explores the ways of communication and communion with God to deeper ones self knowledge and to expand your capacity for obedient love. He also explains the power and the cost of abandoning oneself totally to the ever present God. This abandonment transforms one into the body of Christ on earth and unleashes the power of God in the world.

I can personally recommend this book to the beginner who wants to know God better and who wants to pray deeper. It is **\$6.95** and is well worth it. Call us and order this one for yourself and for your prayer partner.

**"I THIRST" Saint Therese of Lisieux and Mother Teresa of Calcutta** is a delightful book tracing the bond that *Saint Theresa* and *Mother Teresa* had for Jesus on the Cross. Not only their thirst for Jesus, but Jesus' thirst for them, for us. Their profound resemblance to one another is to be found in their unalterable desire to slake the thirst of Christ, to console Him in the face of the indifference of so many people, to quench His thirst for love, to love Him in others and letting them be loved by Him.



They did so by opening up the floodgates of tenderness which had prevented the love in His heart from being welcomed as it ought. The cry of Jesus, mentioned countless times in their writings, was a determining factor in each of their lives. These two witnesses are like two mirrors mutually reflecting the compassion of Christ. They make use of the “little way” of confidence and surrender to all.

This book was written by **Father Jacques Gauthier**, Professor of Theology at **Saint Paul University**. He has written 5 books on **Saint Therese of Lisieux**. When you finish this book, you will understand the unique spiritual lives of these two women and their mirror like gifts.

Call the **PFMC** at 856-768-9228 to order this book. It is **\$14.95**.

A third book I just completed reading was one of the most beautiful I have enjoyed in a long time. It is titled **“IRRESISTIBLY DRAWN TO THE EUCHARIST”** by **Father Juan Gonzalez, M.Sp.S.** **Conchita Cabrera de Armida** wrote most of the material for this book in her diary. This is a collection of her most touching mystical writings about the Eucharist. Written in Spanish, and translated, it brings the meaning of the word “mystic” to new light.

**Conchita** was a mother of nine children and foundress of the **Works of the Cross** with two Congregations, one for women, **Sisters of the Cross**, and the other for men, **Missionaries of the Holy Spirit (M.Sp.S.)**. Her writings are ordered chronologically to follow her spiritual development and at the same time to show her spirituality and contribution to love the Blessed Sacrament.

This book therefore contains a good source of Eucharistic Spirituality for which so many are hungering today. It is a beautiful book to take with you to Adoration or pull out just after Holy Mass, and refer to for your meditation.

This book is **\$8.95** and is something to keep in your purse. You will love it. Call 856-768-9228 with your credit card order.

**LACE MANTILLA** We also encourage you to order your lace mantilla for wearing into church. We have a large supply now, and can send them to you right away. Many women desire to cover their heads while in Church and before the Blessed Sacrament. See the July-August issue for sizes and colors and cost to order.

Because of demand for this book from our last newsletter, we are repeating the article on **“THE DECEIVER”**. If you haven’t ordered it yet, review this write-up, and do not hesitate to send for it.

**The PILGRIM, Volume 16, Number 9 – September 2005**

**Pope John Paul II** performed 3 exorcisms in 25 years, but he warned us, often, about **Satan’s** influence. He stated:

**“The devil, the prince of this world, even today continues his insidious actions. Each and every man is tempted by the devil when he least expects it.”**

A book that has been out in **Italian** has now been translated into **English**, and we would like to tell you about it.

The title is **“THE DECEIVER...Our Daily Battle with Satan”** by **Father Livio Fanzaga**. This book has been the top selling religious book since 2000. **Father Fanzaga**, the **Rome** educated and **Vatican** endorsed writer and director of **Europe’s** largest Catholic radio network, warns:

**“Efforts to soft pedal the reality and continuous threat of the devil have left many Catholics unarmed and unprepared to resist him. But the question is: How does Satan tempt and deceive us? How can we see through him, and resist him?”**

Drawing dazzlingly from Scripture, tradition, saint’s lives, and his pastoral experience, **Father Fanzaga** supplies practical answers to:

- How **Satan** “personalizes” temptations?
- Two “fundamental activities” of **Satan**, seen in Scripture.
- The **False Benefactor**: how **Satan** always has something seemingly “good” to offer at the moment of temptation.
- How individual corruption by sin can pass through families?
- How **Satan** takes advantage of human desire for happiness?
- Most potent defense against evil.
- Why does God permit an experience – temptation – that could lead to our defeat?
- How God limits temptations?
- How Our Lord faced His adversary in the desert, and the clear lessons here for us?
- The tempting illusion that death is still very far away
- Why Satan does not challenge God directly?

This book can be ordered for **\$22.95**. Send all orders plus postage to the **PFMC**.

**“Unbound”** is one of the best books on deliverance and healing ministry. It is one that will open closed doors that were available to the evil influence and Satan’s underhanded strategies.

We encourage you to write for this new book by **Neal Lozano** with a foreword by **Francis MacNutt**. It is **\$12.99 + \$3.95** shipping and is now available through the **PFMC**.

Do you find yourself struggling with the same sin area time after time? Do you feel hopeless in finding freedom, despite your best efforts? By tapping into the potent power of the Gospel you can foil Satan's plans for your life and live the abundant, glorious life God has in mind.

This new book is a breakthrough book that is much needed today. It will bring new life and hope to countless individuals. This book is most helpful for dealing with evil spirits and related impairments in people's lives. It is easy to read, and will help one to understand that God desires for each child of His a level of peace and freedom.

**\$3.95** will be added to each order to send books out to you Priority Mail. We thank you for your order.

**(Kathleen Werner, Editor)**

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## **DO THIS in REMEMBRANCE of ME?**

A five year study of churches in the United States was just concluded by the Hartford Institute for Religious Research. This was the most extensive research ever done in this country on Church attendance. The figures were revealing.

The average non-Catholic church has less than 300 participants. Less than one in eight have more than 300. Regarding the 18,000 Catholic parishes, however, the average attendance is 2,800. As for daily attendance, only Catholic churches have any.

What explains the difference? The noted convert to Catholicism, Doctor Scott Hahn, stresses the immense following that the Mass has for Catholics.

But don't non-Catholics use the same Bible as we do? Yes, but as Hahn explains, when he taught scripture in Protestant seminaries, he and his fellow professors completely omitted any reference to Christ's establishment of the Mass at the Last Supper

Sadly, the Mass was completely omitted in non-Catholic services after the Reformation. In countries like England and Ireland, priests were shot on sight by the police.

### **Mass and Holy Communion**

The Mass is the very center and heart of Catholicism, and always has been. As Christ told us: *"He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him"* (John 6:36). By receiving Holy Communion we increase our union with Our Lord.

The Mass is the renewal of the Holy Sacrifice of the Cross. It is at Mass that we are given special graces that were won for us in Christ's passion and death.

It is by participating in the Mass that we carry out Christ's command to celebrate the memorial of His sacrifice, as He becomes present on the altar after the priest invokes the words of consecration.

Before Christ consecrated bread and wine at the Last Supper, He had insisted that this bread contains eternal life for those who receive it, and commented: *"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever, and the bread which I give for the life of the world is my flesh"* (Jn 6:51-52).

Every time we receive Holy Communion, Christ offers us His continuing, lasting presence.

### **Eternal Happiness**

Receiving the Holy Eucharist should be done in the realization that we will be happy with Him forever. It is this Bread that provides the sustenance for eternal life. As Saint Ignatius of Antioch wrote more than 1900 years ago: "Every time this mystery is celebrated, the work of our redemption is carried on, as we break the bread that makes us live forever in Jesus Christ."

In his beautiful exhortation, *The Church in America* Pope John Paul II noted: "The Eucharist is the outstanding moment of encounter with the living Christ.

"It is the source and summit of the Church's life, an invitation to unity as expressed in Our Lord's command: *'Love one another as I have loved you'*" (John 13:34).

The Holy Father's words greatly encourage us to renew our commitment to thank God for the magnificent, miraculous gift of Christ's presence in the Eucharist. It is a gift of infinite love!

Why are Catholic parish churches nearly ten times fuller every Sunday than non-Catholic churches? Christ told us when he said: *"By their fruits you shall know them"* (Mt 12:33).

As Christ taught us, nothing can compare with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and nothing else so unites us to Heaven.

**(By Dan Lyons-Hearts Aflame-Issue4, 2001).**

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## **THE ANGELUS**

That Muslims are not afraid of praying in public is a good point. Unfortunately, Catholics have

forgotten that we, too, also used to pray the Angelus three times a day, to honor the greatest intervention of God in History –the incarnation.

We used to stop working at 12 noon and at 6 p.m. to pause for a moment, collect our thoughts, place ourselves in God's presence and utter the beautiful prayer of thanksgiving, the Angelus.

Many centuries ago, after the Church had decided that Christmas would be celebrated on December 25, She also chose the day of March 25 for the Incarnation, exactly nine months prior to Jesus' birth.

Between those dates was the time in which Our Blessed Mother carried the Word of God within Her sacred womb, thus fulfilling the Old Testament figure of the Ark of the Covenant, which carried the word of God in stone. Mary carried the Word of God made flesh.

It was at the Incarnation when "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14). Then the Archangel, Saint Gabriel, brought to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the great news that God would become Man, and that she was called to be the Mother of that God-Man. She was going to give birth to God in human flesh!

Have you noticed how the Morning Star, which is the same as the Evening Star, commonly known as the planet Venus, both precedes and follows the sun? It is the symbol of Our Lady. She shone in the darkness of human history before the birth of Her Son, her Divine Son. You can still see it at dawn.

While He was shining in His preaching mission, She disappears. That is the zenith. After He leaves us and goes back to the Father, She appears again, gradually, as the last ray of hope to us poor sinners at the end of our lives, which is the twilight. See how the Sun, such a big luminary in God's Creation, used to be used as a reminder for our prayers?

### **The Angelus, 3 Times a Day**

(Dawn :) at 6 a.m. (or when you first wake up) we give thanks to God as our Creator and praise the masterpiece of His Creation: Mary, the Beloved Daughter of God the Father, the First Person of the Blessed Trinity. Mary was already in His Mind since the dawn of Creation.

(Zenith at 12 noon, (when the sun is at its zenith) We give thanks to God as our Redeemer, and praise the first one to be redeemed: Mary the Admirable Mother of God the Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Mary was the chosen one who conceived the Word of God made flesh and gave birth to Him. That is how the zenith reminds us of God living in Mary.

(Twilight At 6 p.m. (when the sun is at its twilight) We give thanks to God as our Savior, and praise the greatest one to be saved, who is already body and soul in Heaven: Mary, the Faithful Spouse of God the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit, Who overshadowed her to create the human body and soul of Jesus Christ, True God and True Man, in Her virginal womb. That is how the twilight reminds us of God glorified in Mary.

### **THE ANGELUS PRAYER:**

**The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary**

*And she conceived of the Holy Spirit*

*Hail Mary...*

**And the Word was made flesh (Kneel here)**

*And dwelt amongst us.*

*Hail Mary...*

**Pray for us, Oh Holy Mother of God**

*That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

**Let us pray:**

*Pour forth, we beseech Thee, Oh Lord, Your grace into our hearts that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection, through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

(The 101 Foundation Times #65)

### **EPIPHANY**

**Y**ou are all that I have and all that I am.  
You are the welling up inside of me

as I recite the poems that recede  
and bloom inside my heart.

You are the lamp that lights my way

as I write my own words

and walk the bedrock of clarified meaning.

The opaque surface through which before

I could not see now becomes clear,

and the thin film stretching over my mind

that catches me in its web

has now been lifted.

And I can see you there in the texture of silence.

And sometimes I can feel your fire

in my heart.

(John M. Calabrese, Saint Anthony Messenger  
February 2004)

## MESSAGE of 8/25/2005 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

*Dear Children! Also today I call you to live my messages. God gave you a gift of this time as a time of grace. Therefore, little children, make good use of every moment and pray, pray, pray. I bless you all and intercede before the Most High for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

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

## REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 8/25/2005

### MAKE GOOD USE of EVERY MOMENT

In her preceding messages, Our Lady was telling us: "Live my messages; open your hearts for my messages; live my messages in humility and in love; be open for my messages; with a great joy, I am inviting you to live my messages; I am praying, that the Holy Spirit helps you and increases your faith, so that you can still more accept the messages that I give you here, in this holy place; live my messages and put into practice each word that I give you, let them be precious for you, because they come from Heaven; with me, little children, you are in safety, I wish all to lead you on the way of holiness." This is the goal of Our Lady's apparitions, of Her presence and of each word that She is addressing to us in love.

"God gave you a gift of this time as a time of grace", tells us Mary. We have received everything from God as a gift: life, time and eternity. Often, we have the impression that time is running, that we have wasted our time. People often say: I have no time. And this is why so many live under stress, are tensed, nervous and empty. Each one finds time for what he likes. We deceive ourselves when we say not to have time. If we do not have time for God, this is the sign of our lack of faith, heart and love, not only for God but also for ourselves. Those who really love themselves will find time for God, for prayer, for the encounter with themselves and with God.

We ask ourselves: why do we have to live this strange life with all its difficulties and sufferings, sins and failures, before the door of eternity opens? If God is Love, if He is so good, why didn't He give us everything at the same time? Why such a long time, before arriving at the goal? God created us imperfect, not to make life difficult to us, but to allow us to have share in his Trinitarian life. God does not want that we only receive, but that we learn how to give too. Love is giving and receiving.

God lives outside of time, in the eternal now, in the bliss of happiness where He is missing nothing. From

this bliss of happiness, in this time, is coming the Virgin Mary to help us, so that we can arrive where She is. God has not created us perfect, but He gave us possibilities, which we have to develop ourselves. God gave us free will, with which we can reject Him or choose Him.

The meaning of time is in the fact that we can progress and grow. The time, in which we live, can become for us a time of grace if we choose Mary and listen to Her, who is speaking to us. This is our chance for growth. Like Mary, Saint Paul recommends to Ephesians, but to us also: "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." (Ep 5,16-17) Saint Paul has written to the Colossians: "Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." (Col 4,5) We should not waste our time, because it is precious and limited. To make use of it intelligently and to take guard of it, means to redeem it. Each time that we renounce to our selfishness and choose love, we transform our time into eternity, in life, which does not pass. Love alone is eternal and preserves us from corruption. Only the time spent in prayer is a time that is made use of. Only the time used for God and for men - in love - is a redeemed time. Let us help the Virgin Mary to lead us already now towards eternity.

**Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.8.2005**

## ANOTHER AUGUST REFLECTION

*"Dear children! Also today I call you to live my messages."* With the first sentence of Her message of August 25, 2005, again our dear Blessed Mother has called us, *"to live my messages."* As one contemplates the reality of living these messages of Our Lady, he or she must start by embracing and accepting the requests given by Her in these monthly messages. I wonder, are we willing to take the time and make the effort to begin or to continue to live out these messages of Our Lady? For all of us, the time

has come to answer this question with a resounding yes.

***“God gave you a gift of this time as a time of grace. Therefore, little children, make good use of every moment and pray, pray, pray.”*** With these two sentences of Her message of August 25, 2005, Our Lady is encouraging us to become more aware of the importance of each moment of every day.

During these days, the Eternal Father has given us an extraordinary gift: a profound time of grace. It seems most appropriate for us to reflect upon our actions during this, ***“time of grace.”*** Are we praying as we should? Are we giving ourselves to Jesus? Are we attending the Eucharist very frequently while receiving the Sacrament of Penance monthly? Are we fasting? Also, are we reading and reflecting upon the inspired word of God in Sacred Scripture? These are some of the ways that we can begin to make good use of this ***“time of grace.”*** Through this process, may we offer many prayers in thanksgiving to the Eternal Father for this beautiful ***“time of grace.”***

During these days, Our Triune God is calling His children to come back into His loving embrace. We must find the strength to come to the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit in the fullest way. When God and His love becomes the most important reality in our lives, we also become more aware of the responsibility that we have to those whom God has placed in our lives. When God is in the center of our existence, the needs of spouses, children, other family members and friends become more important to us than our own personal needs. At this point, we begin to become a real Christian disciple.

Let us open up ourselves to the sanctifying presence of the Holy Spirit and the motherly love of Our Lady. They continue to wait patiently for us to come to them in prayer, worship, contemplation, reflection, and sacrifice; but this will only happen when we slow down and become quieter. Unfortunately, the fast paced life of work, entertainment and doing our own thing is leading us away from God. Are we willing to change? Will we see this ***“time of grace”*** from God the Father as that time when we accept a spirit of conversion?

The opportunity to become one with God and to encourage others to do so is very available to us. However, this goal cannot be attained in a short time. It is a process. It involves loving others unconditionally as God loves us. It includes giving ourselves to the motherly embrace of Our Lady. Her motherly love will always bring us into the presence of Our Triune God. May we allow Her to take us by the hand letting Her be our “mom” while becoming Her “little child.” ***“I bless you all and intercede***

***before the Most High for each of you.”*** Again, through these words of the fourth sentence of Her message of August 25, 2005, we can comprehend the beautiful presence of Our Lady. Her love for us is so profound. We are so blessed. May we be filled with joy that Our Lady is calling us to serve God with all of our hearts. Let Her response to Gabriel at the Annunciation, always be our inspiration to serve God as Our Lady does: ***“I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”*** ([Luke 1:38](#))

I hope you are well. Please give my greetings to all of your families. You are constantly in my prayers and thoughts. Stay close to God and be forever grateful that we have been given Our Lady to help us to become one with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. May the blessings of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you, forever and ever. Amen.

God’s love and prayers always, Father Ed

[HEdwardChalmers@aol.com](mailto:HEdwardChalmers@aol.com), 29 August, 2005)

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## **PRESS BULLETIN 213, 8/26/2005**

### **THE UNDERSTANDING HEART of the HUMBLE**

Have you already known the situation in which you have the impression that you have not given a good and skilful answer, the best possible answer, to certain important questions? These moments can be frequent. Important questions surprise us and we give answers with which we are not satisfied. We have difficulties to find right words and wise answers.

An episode from the Old Testament is the typical example of how to answer wisely to important questions of life. In the First Book of the Kings, we read that God, in the night, comes to Salomon and says: “Ask what I shall give you.” And Solomon answers: “Give thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad.” (1 Kings 3,4-10) Solomon gave a wise answer. He aspired to what is essential. He has asked for help to rule the people, which the Lord entrusted to him. Solomon passed his test of maturity what concerns the humility.

Our experience teaches us, that it is difficult for us to admit our powerlessness, our limitations, our ignorance, our fear in front of the challenges. Some think that they are experts in almost all fields of life, that they are universal scientists. They think that they know everything about history, medicine, music, sports, faith, policy, etc. In their company or in



conversation with them, we feel ill at ease. Moreover, if such people take hold of power or of titles, it becomes even more complex. One has the impression that they become their own goal. Others do not exist any more, they are not important any more except as tools for exploitation and for accomplishing of individual ambitions.

The desire of Solomon to obtain a perspicacious heart is a model to be followed. In life, many things seem precious and important to us, but most important is to recognize what is really important. Solomon knows it. As a king and a leader, he is asking for help. He does not think that he can do everything, that he knows everything. His answer is reflecting one of the most splendid qualities: that is humility.

We will also be - and daily we are already - in the midst of challenges, important questions and answers. During our spiritual growth, our spiritual pilgrimage, we usually ask questions to God. However, let us not forget that God is asking us questions too. Let us thus ask for a wise heart, full of humility, a heart that is serving, like the heart of Mary. And let us not forget that, alone, we can do nothing, but God with us can really do everything - even what is impossible.

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**Father Mario Knezovic**

## **COMMUNIONS and PRIESTS**

During the month of *July*, **120,000** received Holy Communion and **4022** priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

## **VISIT of a BISHOP from INDIA**

Monsignor Geevarghese Mar Divannasios Ottathengil (54), Indian catholic bishop of Syro-Malankara rite, bishop of the diocese Bathery from Kerala (India), was on pilgrimage in Medjugorje at the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the apparitions. He came to Medjugorje with a group of 25 pilgrims from Switzerland. On Saturday, June 25, the Anniversary of the Apparitions, he concelebrated the evening Mass, which was presided by Father Branko Rados, the pastor of Medjugorje.

After having finished his studies in Rome, Monsignor Geevarghese went back to India where he was appointed rector of the minor and of the major seminary in his diocese. He was named bishop in 1997. In 2003, during his ad limina visit in Rome, Holy Father said that the syro-malankara Church was one of the fastest growing Churches in the world. The diocese of Bathery exists since 1979. There are about 25.000 Catholics, 98 priests, about 250 religious sisters, 45 seminarians and many vocations. The

western relativism is penetrating big cities, but not the countryside, because the religious roots are very strong.

Monsignor Geevarghese gave his testimony about Medjugorje:

“I heard about Medjugorje for the first time about 15-20 years ago, but I was doubting. I was not very much interested in coming here, but a friend of mine, a priest from Switzerland, told me about Medjugorje and about his experience. His attitude as a priest had tremendously changed after Medjugorje. He was praying well, and in his relationship with others, he became very human. He is a real priest now! That made me think: There must be something in Medjugorje?! Roman Gruether told me that Medjugorje was different from other places of pilgrimages, that the natural atmosphere is kept, and that people are really praying here. Last year, I made up my mind to come and see. I came now with a group from Switzerland led by Sylvia Keller.

My experience is corresponding to my expectations. These 3 days are a confirmation. One can feel the family spirit here. People who are involved in the service, even the smallest service, do it with love and with joy. This place gives us also the experience of the universal family. Everyone feels here at home, like in one's mothers house. I met the visionaries; I visited Marija, Ivan and Vicka. I think that they are real visionaries. Medjugorje will be recognized, there is no doubt! Today or tomorrow, maybe little later, it will surely be recognized!

These messages are really needed. Prayer, Holy Mass, penance, confession, fasting, conversion. At any age, they are the fundamentals of spiritual life. Without Jesus, there is no spiritual life. Self-denial, living for God and for others. Often, we are tempted to think that, at the modern age, we are competing with God. But we have to realize that human beings are limited. Catastrophes help us understand our limits. September 11th, or Tsunami... we understand how small we are.

Medjugorje is for our time a real call from God. The people who live here are fortunate. You have a special vocation. You have to keep this universal brotherhood. This is not only for this parish, this region, this diocese... It is for the whole world. You have to promote this universal spirit.”

## **FEAST of SAINT JAMES, PATRON SAINT of the PARISH**

On July 25, feast of Saint James the Apostle, the parish of Medjugorje celebrated its patron saint. In the morning, according to the custom, the Eucharistic



celebration began and ended by the singing the litany of All the Saints and a procession with the statue of the Patron Saint, which was carried by the residents of Vasilji. Holy Mass was concelebrated by numerous local and several foreign priests in the little park near the church. It was presided by Father Tomislav Puljic, and concelebrated by the Herzegovinian provincial Father Slavko Soldo, and the pastor of Medjugorje Father Branko Rados. The parishioners prepared themselves for the feast of their patron and of the patron saint of the pilgrims by a tridium.

## 16th INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PRAYER FESTIVAL

The International Youth Prayer Meeting in Medjugorje took place also this year from August 1 to 6. About 25.000 young people from all over the world gathered together. There were also about 400 priests, who accompanied their young parishioners to this meeting.

The theme of the meeting was, "We came to adore him". During the evening prayer programme, numerous other pilgrims joined young people, and about 30.000 faithful participated in the programme each evening.

Lecturers and witnesses invited young people to come to know Jesus Christ who is a brother for each one of us and the Savior of humanity, and whom young people need so much today, and to adore him. The General Minister of the Franciscans OFM, Father Jose Carballo, assisted at this encounter and spoke to the youth.

This meeting was another exceptional spiritual experience for all young people who participated. This is why we invite them to come next year again to Medjugorje and to renew their fidelity to God, to the Holy Father and to the Church.

The meeting was simultaneously translated into 15 languages.

## SOLEMNITY of the ASSUMPTION

Several thousands of local and foreign pilgrims came to Medjugorje for the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the morning, Masses were celebrated in about ten languages. The solemn evening Mass was presided by Father Ljubo Kurtovic, and concelebrated by 34 priests. Also this year, numerous Croatian pilgrims came on bare feet. They were arriving already during the night, after having walked many kilometres.

## SEMINARS IN "DOMUS PACIS"

There were 3 "Prayer and Fasting" seminars led by Father Ljubo Kurtovic for pilgrims from Russia and from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. There was also a seminar of contemplative prayer led by Father Mladen Herceg.

As a preparation for the Feast of the Pentecost, 3 prayer groups from Zagreb made a retreat. Young people from Split with the Salesian Fathers, young people from Medjugorje, Franciscan Youth Fraternities from Herzegovina also made their retreats. In August, the Art Colony stayed also there.

## THE 6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL MEETING for MARRIED COUPLES

The 6th International Meeting for Married Couples will take place in Medjugorje from October 26 to 29, 2005. The theme of the seminar is "Dialog in the Family - How to Educate Children?"

Bring with you: a small FM radio with headphones (for simultaneous translation) and a Bible. The seminar will take place in Medjugorje in the New Hall. Participation per couple: 40 Euro. You may make reservations by e-mail: [seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr](mailto:seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr), or by fax +387-36-651-999 (for Marija Dugandzic). The number of participants is limited because of the available space in the Hall, so we ask you to send your registration as soon as possible, latest by the end of September. All the participants are invited to individually provide their accommodation in Medjugorje.

*[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>)

## PRAYER COVERING for YOUR LIFE

Lord Jesus, you are the good Shepherd. You know the struggles of bringing your loving presence in your people. I am weighed down by the burdens of ministry. Parts of my burdens are beyond my understanding. The burden of criticism has hurt me deeply, and those who talk or wish evil against me is too much. Grant me, Lord Jesus, the words of your authority to rebuke these evil burdens.

Lord Jesus, how right it was when Saint Paul wrote, "The Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings. And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will" (Romans 8:26-27). Father, I pray this prayer in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus.

In the name of Jesus Christ, I bind, rebuke, and make powerless, all division, discord, disunity, strife, anger, wrath, murder, criticism, condemnation, pride, envy, jealousy, gossip, slander, evil speaking, complaining, lying, false teaching, false gifts, false manifestations, lying signs and wonders, poverty, spirit of fear, murmuring spirits, hindering spirits, retaliatory spirits, deceiving spirits, false religious spirits, occult spirits, witchcraft spirits, and spirits of antichrist (Say 3xs .)

In Jesus' name, I break all curses that have been spoken against me. (Say 3xs). I bless those who curse, me, and pray blessings on those who spitefully use me. I bind all spoken judgment against me and judgments I have made against others. I bind the power of negative words from others, and I bind and render useless all prayers not inspired by the Holy spirit, whether psychic, soul force, witchcraft, or counterfeit tongues that have been prayed against me. (Say 3x).

I am your child, Father. With your Holy Spirit guarding me, I can resist the devil' let all fear be removed from me now. No weapon formed against me shall prosper. I put on the whole armor of God (ph 6). In Jesus' name, I take authority over the spiritual evil and darkness that has come my way and send it to the foot of the Cross. (Say 3xs). Let me walk in your love, Lord. The Holy Spirit leads and guides me today. I need your help to discern between the righteous and the wicked.

Lord Jesus, in your name and authority, I take authority over the evil one and all his demons, and those people who are influenced by them. (Say 3x). I ask for the spiritual gifts to know and identify where evil is lurking. I call upon your power to dispel and send the many forms of darkness back to the great abyss. Satan, you are bound from my life, my mind, my body, my home, my property, and my finances.

Lord Jesus, give to my hands, mind, and voice the graces that you supply so that all actions of ministry will speak of your presence because you supply all my needs. God, I pray for ministry that you have for me. Anoint me, Lord Jesus, for all you have called me to do for you.

Lord Jesus, I call forth those divine appointments, open doors of opportunity, those encounters and ministry opportunities that I may grow and advance in your kingdom to call others into your fold. I plead for a new supply of laborers for your harvest that will bring your gospel to others as well.

Finally, Lord Jesus, I ask in your name to dispatch angels to surround me and those who minister in your midst. Grant Saint Michael and all the angels the necessary graces to protect this house and property, all those who minister in your name, and me. Keep us from any harmful demonic, or other physical or mental attacks. I ask this prayer in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**(By Father Rodney Kneifl God's People for Life)**

## EARTHEN VESSELS



So full of life it could no longer contain it, the earth has released the life it was silently bearing, generously showering us in an abundance of colors, scents and freshness. But where were these colors hidden: a myriad of hues of varying intensity now scattered in fields and along roadsides, beautifying balconies and gardens? Where were they lain, the petals of this' rose now unfolding so elegantly? How could the dry branches of the wisteria vine hide this glory of mauve clusters now sweetening the air and enlightening hearts?

Spring is here, in all its beauty, and though we might often take it all for granted, one only needs to look beyond a little further to see the mystery that each time reveals new secrets. **Nature is the best book in which to see God's face.**

Each season bears a different expression of His face; conducted by Wisdom all things are brought to maturation, in perfect harmony with each other. Everything is punctual and responds with obedience to the impulses of time, mysteriously synchronized to the laws which every being bears within itself; they are the laws which regulate growth and bring all creatures into the fullness of life.

**I look out the window of the chapel in my convent** and my heart is delighted as I see the thousands of red poppies inflaming the side of the mountain and the golden field of growing ears of grain. My gaze lowers, closer to home, and admires the intricate weaving of branches, the architecture of-the-leaves

and of the wings of birds: all so admirable, so perfect...

It is a dawn at the end of May, and from the open window next to the Tabernacle I see the sun rising, and as though it were a-play of mirrors I see two *suns* reflecting each other, both of them sources of life, light and warmth: one the creature, the Other its Creator.

It is precisely in this space which separates them that the soul must seek every response to so much beauty and perfection. It isn't just a matter of science or art, but of love which flows out from God's heart and is manifested in us; in His creation. Here, in front of the- Eucharist, the questions are transformed. Into silence, admiration and gratitude, and quieted with rays of clarity. In this God here before me, mysteriously hidden in a fragment of Bread, every existence is recapitulated in Him: from Him they depart and to Him they return because every birth and every death, every form and every substance is contained in Him. In this space, the blue sky out there beyond my window is impressed in my soul, bringing cheer, serenity, and comfort.

As I write I am ever more enveloped by the sun that has dispersed the darkness that was. As I pray, Eucharistic Jesus fills that senseless void that I felt when I awoke. I don't need to do anything, just stay here and surrender myself to Him. And while in this part of the world people-are waking, I allow God to take care of the world that I bear within me: my past and my present, those who love me and those who ask for support, the facts of yesterday and the plans for today. It all appears immobile, yet it is all in motion, moved by the invisible life which unceasingly gushes from the bosom of the Most Holy Trinity in Whom all is generated and all is linked.

In a few days it will be Pentecost. The air is already laden with patient expectation and anxious impatience, in the certainty that the Holy Spirit will make spring blossom in us, extracting from every soul that potential of life and beauty that we all : bear within ourselves and which often lies dormant.

Just as the earth is enriched by fruits and flowers, aromas and flavors, we too can make our surroundings richer if we allow the Creator Spirit to express Himself in us. Our bodies, like precious caskets, are not always aware of the treasure they contain: "*We have this treasure in earthen vessels,*" points out Saint Paul, "*to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and, not to us*" (2 Co 4:7).

The Spirit of God which "*hovered over the waters*" (Gen 1:2) desires continuing His creating action in us and through us. Almost as though we were wind

instruments He desires playing a new song to the world, and on each of us a different tune is played, but the breath is only one and belongs to I the Lord. It is He Who animates and: harmonizes us to make our lives and the communion between us become a vibrant symphony. When we are inwardly open to the Life which flows through our beings to fill us, it surprises us to see so much I abundance and variety and we ask ourselves: **where in me was all this beauty hidden?**

(from "ECHO OF MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE" July-August 2004 by Stefania Consoli)

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## SPIRITUAL WARFARE PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I love You, I praise You, and I worship You. I thank You for sending Your Son Jesus Who won victory over sin and death for my salvation. I thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit Who empowers me, guides me, and leads me into fullness of life. I thank you for Mary, my Heavenly Mother, who intercedes with the holy angels and saints for me.

Lord Jesus Christ, I place myself at the foot of Your cross and ask You to cover me with Your Precious Blood which pours forth from Your Most Sacred Heart and Your Most Holy Wounds. Cleanse me, my Jesus, in the living water that flows from Your Heart. I ask You to surround me, Lord Jesus, with Your Holy Light.

Heavenly Father, let the healing waters of my baptism now flow back through the maternal and paternal generations to purify my family line of Satan and sin. I come before You, Father, and ask forgiveness for myself, my relatives, and my ancestors, for any calling upon powers that set themselves up in opposition to You or that do not offer true honor to Jesus Christ. In Jesus' Holy Name, I now reclaim any territory that was handed over to Satan and place it under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

By the power of Your Holy Spirit, reveal to me, Father, any people I need to forgive and any areas of unconfessed sin. Reveal aspects of my life that are not pleasing to You, Father, ways that have given or could give Satan a foothold in my life. Father, I give to You any unforgiveness; I give to You my sins; and, I give to You all ways that Satan has a hold of my life. Thank You, for Your forgiveness and Your love.

Lord Jesus, in Your Holy Name, I bind all evil spirits of the air, water, ground, underground, and netherworld. I further bind, in Jesus' Name, any and all emissaries of the satanic headquarters and claim the Precious Blood of Jesus on the air, atmosphere,

water, ground and their fruits around us, the underground and the netherworld below.

Heavenly Father, allow Your Son Jesus to come now with the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the holy angels and the saints to protect me from all harm and to keep all evil spirits from taking revenge on me in any way.

(Repeat the following sentence three times: once in honor of the Father, once in honor of the Son, and once in honor of the Holy Spirit.)

In the Holy Name of Jesus, I seal myself, my relatives, this room (place, home, church, car, plane, etc...), and all sources of supply in the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.

(To break and dissolve all satanic seals, repeat the following paragraph three times in honor of the Holy Trinity because satanic seals are places three times to blaspheme the Holy Trinity.)

In the Holy Name of Jesus, I break and dissolve any and all curses, hexes, spells, snares, traps, lies, obstacles, deceptions, diversions, spiritual influences, evil wishes, evil desires, hereditary seals, known and unknown, and every dysfunction and disease from any source including my mistakes and sins. In Jesus' Name, I sever the transmission of any and all satanic vows, pacts, spiritual bonds, soul ties, and satanic works. In Jesus' Name, I break and dissolve any and all links and effects of links with: astrologers; bohmos; channelers; charters; clairvoyants; crystal healers; crystals; fortune tellers; mediums; the New Age Movement; occult seers; palm, tea leaf, or tarot card readers; psychics; santeros; satanic cults; spirit guides; witches; witchdoctors; and, Voodoo. In Jesus' Name, I dissolve all effects of participation in séances and divination, Ouija boards, horoscopes, occult games of all sorts, and any form of worship that does not offer true honor to Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit, please reveal to me through word of knowledge any evil spirits that have attached themselves to me in any way. (Pause and wait for words to come to you, such as: anger, arrogance, bitterness, brutality, confusion, cruelty, deception, envy, fear, hatred, insecurity, jealousy, pride, resentment, or terror. Pray the following for each of the spirits revealed.)

In the Name of Jesus, I rebuke you spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ . I command to go directly to Jesus, without manifestation and without harm to me or anyone, so that He can dispose of you according to His Holy Will.

I thank You, Heavenly Father for Your Love. I thank You, Holy Spirit for empowering me to be aggressive against Satan and evil spirits. I thank You, Jesus, for

setting me free. I thank You, Mary, for interceding for me with the holy angels and the saints.

Lord Jesus, fill me with charity, compassion, faith, gentleness, hope, humility, joy, kindness, light, love, mercy, modesty, patience, peace, purity, security, tranquility, trust, truth, understanding, and wisdom. Help me to walk in Your Light and Truth, illuminated by the Holy Spirit so that together we may praise, honor, and glorify Our Father in time and in eternity. For You, Lord Jesus, are, "...the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6 NAB), and You "...have come that we might have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10 JB).

"God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior" (Isaiah 12:2 JB).

Amen. Alleluia. Amen.

<http://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/19980901/SCRMNTL/WARFRE.HTM> by Father Robert DeGrandis, S.S.J.)

## PRAYER to REMOVE GENERATIONAL CURSES

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are the Son of God and the only way to God; and that You died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead.

I give up all my rebellion and all my sin, and I submit myself to You as my Lord.

I confess all my sins before You and ask for Your forgiveness-especially for any sins that exposed me to a curse. Release me also from the consequences of my ancestors' sins.

By a decision of my will, I forgive all who have harmed me or wronged me, just as I want God to forgive me. In particular, I forgive....

I renounce all contact with anything occult or satanic-if I have any "contact objects," I commit myself to destroy them. I cancel all Satan's claims against me.

Lord Jesus, I believe that on the cross You took on Yourself every curse that could ever come upon me. So I ask You now to release me from every curse over my life-in Your name, Lord Jesus Christ!

By faith I now receive my release and I thank You for it.

Now don't stop at saying "Thank You" just once or twice. Your *mind* cannot grasp a fraction of what you have asked God to do for you, but respond to God with your *heart!*



## A DELIVERANCE PRAYER

God, my Father...Jesus, my Deliverer...Holy Spirit, my Purifier...I praise and thank you for the power and the freedom from all evil influences which you graciously and generously give to me.

I am your child and I depend completely on you and on your strength.

I am not trusting in my own strength in this struggle but in your unconquerable kingship and authority.

I have been attacked, Lord, I have been under siege and you are my only hope. You are the One I trust in for deliverance.

I humbly ask, Lord, that you cleanse me even from the desire for sin so that I might cling closely to you where there is eternal safety for me.

I reject Satan and I reject everything connected with that lying evil creature

I seek haven with you. Your love for me will bring me through.

Although, my enemies be many and powerful,

You are more powerful than all of them, Lord, and you have come to help me.

Amen.

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## A STORY OF HEALING – AN EXORCISM

In the third week of the month of August in the year 1975, almost a hundred priests experienced at a retreat an Exorcism which may have haunted them ever since and certainly instructed them on the reality of Satan.

The priest who performed the Exorcism with his team had been given Ecclesial permission by the Bishop. The retreat was focused on healing. However, it was an unexpected situation that the healing process and teaching should include a deliverance and exorcism.

The manifestations of the stricken woman who had made a blood contract with Satan were so overwhelming that even the most cynical were reduced to intercessory prayer before the Eucharist.

During all the time of the Exorcism, conferences were given explaining the spiritual dimensions linked to deliverance. On the final day of the Retreat, the woman who had been unable to enter a church without going into a seizure, was able with tears to not only enter the Church but was able to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

I feel that this retreat was one of the foundation stones in the establishment of ACT (Association of Christian Therapists). It is also a confirmation that devotion to the Eucharist should continue to be central to the healing ministry.

(Father Bob McGuire “Inter Act” May, June July and August 2005)

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## FAMILY PRAYER of SORROW

Heavenly Father I come humbly before you this day. I come in the name of your Son and my Brother Jesus as the sinful but repentant representative of my family: as the sinful but repentant representative of my family: past, present and to come. I acknowledge that my family has contributed to the accumulation of sin in the world and I come to confess this and to seek the total healing of mind, heart, body and spirit which you in your gracious love offer me through the loving presence of you Son.

Gentle Father, I believe your mercy reaches beyond the grave and throughout time and so I beg forgiveness of you in the name of my family. Forgive us for any and all occult involvement, even if done in all innocence, forgive us for all mental, physical emotional and verbal abuse with which we hurt others, forgive us for our dishonesty, our lack of worship and our ambitions which hurt others. Forgive us for our unforgiveness, our shaming others, for fits of rage, for our prejudice and negative attitudes, for our murderous intentions and our wishing harm to others.

Father most loving, I pray for all those in my family who died violent and untimely deaths, for all the babies who were stillborn, miscarried or aborted and for all who carried them or caused their deaths. I pray for all the children that died in childhood and for those who mourned them. Father I wish to tell them, through your Son Jesus, that they are loved even though I never knew them in the flesh.

I pray for all those who suffer any type of phobia, abuse or addiction, anyone who committed suicide or who were killed in war or in any other type of accident. Please forgive their sins and love them in the way they needed to be loved on earth. I consciously forgive, in the name of my family anyone who was responsible for their deaths or hurts and I beg forgiveness from all those we may have hurt, killed or destroyed for whatever reason. I pray your blessings especially on the person or persons who caused the initial hurt in my immediate family line

and I ask you to deliver my whole family from the effects of that pain.

Father most powerful and all-just, I pray in the name of Jesus and in the outpouring of precious blood that all bondages or curses, with and against my family be broken especially that of a parent's curse (3x). I pray in a special way for all those who suffered or who still suffer from any types of mental illness, depression, rejection, dysfunction, anxiety false guilt or negativity and for any who suffered or who presently suffer from hereditary illnesses. Be they physical or spiritual, free us and make us whole and new as you did the leper in scripture.

Father most deserving of praise, I thank you for your forgiveness. I praise you for the depths of your love and the outpouring of your gifts. Release in my family all the suppressed and hidden gifts that we may use them to praise and thank you and thus make you more visible in our family and in our community. Finally Father, increase within me the gifts of faith, love and gratitude that I may not only believe that you can hear these petitions but that you will answer them. Grant me the gift of praising you and witnessing to you in gratitude and loving service and surrendering completely to you.

Father, greatest of all healers, grant me the grace to be a wounded-healer, not only to my family but to all I meet, but help me to get out of the ways as your will is done. Father, giver of all that is good and holy, to your name be all praise and glory for we are blessed through you son Jesus the Lord. Amen.

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## 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)

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## WHAT IS A PRIEST

### MEN of WITNESS

Priests are called to be men of personal prayer who proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. The heart of the priesthood is the celebration of the Eucharist and the teaching, sanctifying, and leading of those in their spiritual care.

Priests proclaim, celebrate, and live the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. They bear witness that new life and hope are more powerful than sin and death. Priests remind others of the dignity and sanctity of all human life and have a special love for the poor.

## MEN for OTHERS

As Jesus made the journey with his disciples on the road to Emmaus, so too, does the priest journey with his people.

Most diocesan priests serve in parishes, ministering to the day-to-day needs of their people. Others serve in specialized ministries and are chaplains in prisons, hospitals, high schools, and colleges, or serve in diocesan administration.

## MEN in MINISTRY

No two days are alike in a priest's life: it often includes many diverse experiences. Much time is spent in the preparation and celebration of the Sacraments. Time is spent counseling, teaching, preparing homilies, visiting the sick, the elderly, and the imprisoned, or assisting an immigrant or poor family.

In addition, priests attend wakes and funerals, and coordinate parish organizations and youth activities. As with anyone else, a priest must balance his time among family, friends, exercise, rest, and, most of all, prayer.

(Diocese of Brooklyn Diocese Priests

<http://brooklyn.axion-it.net/vocations/vocations/diocesan.html> )

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## FROM AGNOSTIC to PRIEST

### A TRUE DISCIPLE of JESUS

A disciple is one who has learned the lessons of a teacher and follows them in every detail. Someone who claims to be a disciple but does not follow those teachings is a disciple in name only. Jesus was, and is, the True Teacher. He tells us that He is "The Way, The Truth and the Life". Many have lost that way.

He is the Good Shepherd who knows His sheep and they know Him. They will listen to His voice and follow Him. They will not listen to strangers neither will they follow them. Jesus the Good Shepherd gave His flock to Peter saying to him. "feed my sheep, feed my lambs." Millions today are not listening to Peter but are influenced by the media and public opinion. They no longer follow Jesus or listen to His voice through His Church but hear only the voice of the disgruntled or cry of the mob.

If they claim to be Christian but listen to other voices and follow other ways they are building their spiritual life on sand. It takes discipline to learn and to follow the Lord in order to become a true disciple. So how



are we to learn and how are we to be disciplined? How can we know the teachings of Jesus?

Jesus teaches, “A house built on sand will collapse when the wind and the rain come, but a house built on rock will stand. Simon becomes that ‘rock’ when his name is changed from Simon to Peter. It was to Peter the first Pope to whom He gave the Keys of the Kingdom and the power to bind and loose on earth, when Peter first spoke those infallible words proclaiming Him to be the Christ. Pope Peter was crucified for those teachings.

A few months ago we heard those exciting words. Habemus Papan”. “We have a Pope.” Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger was our new German Pope. His name like the first Pope was also changed he is to be known as Pope Benedict XVI. The voices of the media referred to him as a Vatican rottweiler but the voices of those sheep that recognize the voice of the Master call him Our German Shepherd. Those who have been disciplined by Christ’s teachings are His True Disciples and will gladly follow the True Shepherd, the successor of Saint Peter. So don’t be surprised if some are ready with the nails.

(Fiat News, Our Lady of the Holy Spirit Center  
Cincinnati, OH)

## RECEIVING THE HOLY EUCHARIST, WELCOMING THE GREAT MYSTERY

The Eucharist allows us to live a never-ending miracle. When the words “this is my Body”, “this is the cup of my Blood”, are spoken the bread and wine are miraculously transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Certainly it is true that, unlike other extraordinary happenings that are recognized as “miracles”, the transformation is neither visibly proven nor verifiable.

And so, although the Eucharist does not offer us “miracles” in the usual sense of the word, it offers us authentic miracles looked at with the eyes of faith: the supernatural transformation of a food and drink that, by virtue of the words of the priest, become the Body and Blood of the Savior.

It is a marvel that deserves to be further examined: it reveals the extraordinary wealth of the Christian Life.

It is clearly and everlasting miracle because Eucharistic celebrations are offered in the Church one after the other each day. Without interruption, and there does not exist a moment of the day when there is not a Consecration.

Thousands of Masses are celebrated throughout the world, ceaselessly renewing the presence of the Body and Blood of the Lord.

The Church is continually nourished and strengthened by the Eucharist, in such a way that the life of Jesus must be seen as a continual miracle involving the divine omnipotence in both his greatest and most hidden manifestations: “greatest”, because the Eucharist introduces the divine presence every where it is celebrated; hidden”, because this presence remains invisible.

There are also more solemn celebrations, deliberately intended to highlight worship, facilitate a better appreciation of its qualities and emphasize its importance in Church witness.

We cannot forget that there are many celebrations that join together a very modest number of faithful and are carried out with great simplicity. The exterior simplicity contrasts with the greatness of the Mystery being celebrated.

In the Eucharistic banquet the distance remains between what appears in bread and wine and what is offered in food and drink. Those who participate in the Eucharist by receiving Holy Communion are invited to cover the distance with an act of faith.

With the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus invited those who were present to believe. He obtained a profession of faith from Peter: “You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we are convinced that you are God’s Holy One” (Jn: 6:69). This faith alone allows for an intense participation in the Mystery. The permanence of the miracle is more specifically highlighted in worship dedicated to the Eucharistic presence. This presence remains intact following the Consecration and Communion.

The words of Consecration have an effect that is not time-limited. Once it has been made present on the Altar, the Body of Christ remains, without losing anything of itself.

### HOLY MASS TIMES

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

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

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

The Eucharist continues to provide for us, under the signs of bread and wine, the divine presence of Christ. Welcoming this never-ending Mystery, we are able to contemplate, honor and pray to our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist.

(L'Osservatore Romano Issue N. 30-July 27, 2005).

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## GLORY-OF-THE-SNOW

(Chionodoxa)

I came upon a field of blue stars  
Fallen from the sky:  
Five-petal blossoms swirling  
From a blazing, heavenly light.  
The field of flowers twinkled  
Through the thin cloud of snow,  
As if the seraphs forgot to rise  
And left their stash below.

(Patricia Rose Pflaumer, Saint Anthony Messenger,  
February 2004)

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## PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

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

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)

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

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out the following BULLETIN NOTICES and take them

to your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator? Ask them to publish any portion of the notices to support **PFMC** events for which you have an interest.

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

We are trying to network with other ministries in support of bringing people to Jesus either directly, through Mary, or through her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

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

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## 2006 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE

17-19 February 2006 at the Clarion Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ. Father Bill Halbing, Father Edgardo "Bing" Arellano, Father Michael Semana, Al Barbarino, REFUGE. Reserve rooms (\$92 per night) via (856) 428-2300. Register for weekend events (Adults: \$50 Single, \$95 Couple; Youth / Young Adult: \$20). Call (856) 768-9228 for an information packet with reservation / registration forms or print it from: [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06RET2.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06RET2.pdf).

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## 17-30 APRIL 2006 PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LANDS of ISRAEL and JORDAN

The Double Occupancy Package Price is **\$2499** and Single Supplement is **\$500**. Father John Tino, Saint Joan of Arc, Jackson Heights, NY is Spiritual Director. Call (856) 768-9228 for an information brochure with registration form or print it from: [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06HLP04.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2006/06HLP04.pdf).

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

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

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## CONFERENCE CORNER

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

**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](http://www.inhissign.com).

(compiled from various sources by Keith Werner)

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## PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS



Kathleen and Keith are available to participate in parish or prayer group meetings with witness, and/or videotape or slide presentations, followed by a question and answer session. The experiences and continuation of the **PFMC** ministries for Our Lady and her Son in this time of manifestation of Our Lord's mercy and graces are shared at no cost. Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value posted on each article on display. Displays may be set up without a presentation.

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

Displays in parishes are particularly beneficial when good Catholic religious goods or book stores are not convenient to the parishioners.

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

(Keith and Kathleen Werner)

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## GENNESARET RETREAT

10/14/2005 to 10/16/2005

**G**ennesaret Retreat is a weekend retreat offered free of charge for those who live with serious illness or are unable to attend a retreat due to disability. The retreats are held twice a year at a barrier free facility, **The Vincentian Renewal Center in Princeton, NJ.** The team members have both a spiritual and medical background. For more information and to register, call **Hilare Reinold (732) 566-7237.** Ends on **Sunday** with Holy Mass about **4 PM.** Contact: **Sister Mary Simon Robb.** Phone: (609) 406-7400 ext. 5594, Fax: (609) 406-7403, Email: [srobb@dioceseoftrenton.org](mailto:srobb@dioceseoftrenton.org).

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## CALENDARS:

In *September*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of the **Birth of Mary (8)**, the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross (14)** and **Saints Matthew, Apostle (21)** and **Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (29)**, and the Memorials of **Saints Gregory the Great (3)**, **Peter Claver (9)**, **John Chrysostom (13)**, **Pope Cornelius and Cyprian (16)**, **Januarius (19)**, **Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions (20)**, **Pio of Pietrelcina (23)**, **Vincent de Paul (27)**, and **Jerome (30)** as well as **Our Lady of Sorrows (15)** and the Optional Memorials of the **Most Holy Name of Mary (12)**, and **Saints Robert Bellarmine (17)**, **Cosmas and Damian (26)**, **Wenceslaus (28)**, **Lawrence Ruiz and Companions (28)**. Church calendars show **Labor Day (5)**.

In *October*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of **Saint Luke, Evangelist (18)** and **Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles (28)**, the Memorials of **Saints Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1)**, **Francis of Assisi (4)**, **Teresa of Jesus (15)**, **Ignatius of Antioch (17)**, **Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf and Companions (19)**, **Anthony Mary Claret (24)**, as well as **Our Lady of the Rosary (7)**, and the Optional Memorials of **Saints Bruno (6)**, **Pope Callistus I (14)**, **Paul of the Cross (20)**, **Anthony Mary Claret (24)** as well as **Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (6)**. Church calendars show **Columbus Day (10)**.

## AROUND the *PFMC* AREA

Please review the announcements on *pages 1* through *4*, and on *page 23* in **Bulletin Notice and Conference Corner**. Also look over the article on **Books, Etc.** on *pages 8-10*. 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 *SEPTEMBER*

VATICAN CITY, SEP 1, 2005 (VIS) - Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of September is: **"That the right to religious freedom may be respected by the governments of all peoples."**

His mission intention is: **"That the proclamation of the Christian message in the new Churches may ensure its thorough insertion into the existing cultures."**

(BXVI-PRAYER INTENTIONS/SEPTEMBER/...VIS  
050901 (70))

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

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

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

Kathleen [PFMCkmw@comcast.net](mailto:PFMCkmw@comcast.net) and

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61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963

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

**PRIORITY DATED  
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,  
Tuesday, 9/13/2005**

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

## PLEASE DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY!!!!

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

If there is no time to read it all now, please put it with other reading material in a place where you can read at least an article per day until the next issue arrives. We operate on divine providence and the 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!"**

