



The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 16, No. 10

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October 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



My Jesus, you never promised us that all of our days will be filled with brightness of the things of this world.

And, in the night, our eyes have filled with tears at the pains and difficulties of everyday life.

Lord, take all our sorrows, pain, illness, our laughter, joys, and even our quiet moments. You have always stayed close at our side, and you have never forsaken us in our needs. You know our needs and take care of everything that is good for our souls and our existence. We need only to trust in You.

You have promised us grace in each trial and task, and given us strength in our weakness. Lord we come and ask for this grace to not just endure your Cross, but to open ourselves to accept each one with a quiet peace of surrender. Grant us forgiveness and mercy, as we learn to trust in your Divine will.

AMEN

(Kathleen)

FRIENDS or RELATIVES NOT RECEIVING “*The PILGRIM*”

We have received several notes from people concerned about why they have stopped getting regular bulk mailings of “*The PILGRIM*.”

Please tell all your friends and relatives who wish to receive “*The PILGRIM*” to review the information in the blocks on *pages 3 and 7, 9 or 11* for “PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING” in their past issues.

We do need to hear from people at each address *in*

The *September* 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.

writing at least once a year in order to keep them on our bulk mailing list. Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery name or address is incorrect. In Christian charity we do not wish to waste God’s precious resources.

There is no “subscription” fee. We do ask for free will donations monthly, semi annually or annually to support “*The PILGRIM*” and the other activities and operations of the **PFMC**.

With increasing costs for production and mailing as well as declining numbers and levels of donations we have been forced to watch the bulk mailing list very closely and remove those names and addresses where there has been *no written contact in the last year*.

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

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)**.

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. See *page 3*.

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

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

“*The PILGRIM*” for *October 2005* is dedicated to “*Our Lady of the Rosary*.” See page 3 for “**IN THIS ISSUE . . .**” or **Table of Contents**.

Cherry Hill, NJ. Those of you who have been attending the **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** events over the years may remember this location as 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.

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. Walk-in registration is limited to room available at the time of walk-in.

You may use facsimile (FAX) to send room reservations to the **Clarion Hotel** at **(856) 354-7662** or **PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE** registrations to the **PFMC** at **(856) 768-9428**. This is recommended after **2/3/06** when mail might be delayed.

Order your food plan through the **PFMC** to purchase hot meals for **Saturday noon** and **evening** as well as **Sunday noon** meals. On the premises of the **Clarion Hotel** is a restaurant, the **Elephant and Castle**, that will facilitate anyone who just wants to order from the

menu. They will also provide a breakfast buffet on both **Saturday** and **Sunday** with an option for just coffee and a bakery item. 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**.

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. There will be **daily Rosary, Angelus, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions** and much more.

Music will be by **"REFUGE"** with selections by **Al Barbarino** and **Father Michael Semana**.

Al Barbarino has agreed to be our **Master of Ceremonies** as well as provide his music ministry witness on **Sunday**.

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

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.

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)

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

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

October 2005

Monday - Friday, 24 - 28 October 2005: Pilgrimage to **Shrines of Canada (Montreal and Quebec) – Saint Anne de Beaupre, Saint Joseph’s Oratory, 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, reflections, and Press Bulletin items will appear in a *December 2005 – January 2006* issue of “**The PILGRIM**” put out early in *January 2006*.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
All those lost in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita as well as the flooding in their paths.

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)

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MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS for A PILGRIMAGE to the HOLY LANDS of ISRAEL and JORDAN

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW, JOIN WITH US NOW to WALK in the FOOTSTEPS of JESUS and MOSES

This pilgrimage of a lifetime to the **Holy Lands** of **Israel, Jordan, (and Egypt)** would be a perfect gift, Christmas, birthday etc., for daughter, son, family, parents, or even yourself. Numerous successful pilgrimages have now been completed with stories of joy to be able to go back to these **Holy Lands**. **Keith and Kathleen** have taken several pilgrim groups to **Israel**. This pilgrimage allows time

to see many holy places, to pray, and to spend quality time learning of the **Footsteps of Jesus and Moses**.

Bans on travel have been lifted, and we want to take advantage of this time while we can.

Please sign up now to join **Father Tino, Keith and Kathleen** on this pilgrimage opportunity for a lifetime of memories. The **2006 Package Donation of \$2499** covers nearly everything a pilgrim might need including taxes as well as morning and evening meals.

We have completed the planning and arrangements for an extension to the standard pilgrimage package to allow a day for an excursion to **Mount Sinai in Egypt** and a visit to the **Monastery of Saint Catherine**. The **Burning Bush** where **Moses** received the **Ten Commandments** (twice) is memorialized here. The donation for this excursion is **\$350** as long as we get a **minimum of 10 pilgrims paying** for this extension. It was not included in the pilgrimage package in order to get those who have to work back on **Sunday** for work on **Monday**. Those making this extension and excursion will return on **Monday, May 1, 2006** with an extra night in **Eilat**.

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**.

Our daily prayer will include the **Angelus, Holy Mass, Rosary, and Divine Mercy**. 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 offer you air fare, taxes and baggage handling, bus transfers, hotels, all breakfasts and suppers, and the services of an excellent guide. All you need to do is fill out and send us with your deposit, the registration page from the **blue** colored information sheet enclosed with this issue of **"The PILGRIM"** or the page printed from the Internet online at: 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 your name on an airline seat.

If you have any questions, please call **Kathleen, (856) 768-9228**.

Upon receipt of your registration form and deposit, 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 and Keith with all the PFMC Volunteers)

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2006 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.

February 2006

Friday, 17 February 2006, 4 PM, through Sunday, 19 February 2006, 6 PM: RETREAT CONFERENCE and YOUTH TRACK at CLARION HOTEL, Cherry Hill, NJ. See **green** information packet enclosed.

April 2006

Easter Monday, 17 April 2006, through Sunday, 30 April 2006, or Monday, 1 May 2006: Pilgrimage to the Holy Lands of Israel and Jordan with an extension to travel into the Egyptian Sinai Desert to visit Saint Catherine Monastery and Mount Sinai. See **blue** information packet enclosed.

OUR LADY'S ROSARY



Dear Mother, I bring Thee roses
Because they are so sweet,
But lilies, my favorite flowers
I am placing at Thy feet.

Accept with each Hail Mary
A rose for Thy crown so bright,
Please don't forget the lilies,
The lilies so pure and white.

Let them be a bond of love
And understanding rare,
And send a blessing from above
In answer to my prayer.

Loneliness would be unknown
If more people came to Thee,
With their trials and sorrows
And said their Rosary.

With each Hail Mary, they would find
Their load much lighter grow,
And in humility, kiss the cross
In peace, would onward go.

Alice W. Sparks

(Robert, Cyril. *Our Lady's Praise in Poetry*,
Poughkeepsie, New York: Marist Press, 1944

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/resources/poetry/october01.html#sparks>)

OCTOBER: MONTH of the MOST HOLY ROSARY

The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

The feast was introduced by Pope Saint Pius V (1504-1572) in the year 1571 to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. The pope attributed more to the "arms" of the Rosary than the power of cannons and the valor of the soldiers who fought there.

Legend tells us that the Rosary as a form of prayer was given to Saint Dominic (1170-1221) by Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, who entrusted it to him as an aid in the conflicts with the Albigensians. The Dominican Pope Saint Pius V, did much to further the spread of the Rosary and it thereafter became one of the most popular devotions in Christendom. It was the same Pope Saint Pius V, who in 1569 officially approved the Rosary in its present form with the Papal Bull, *CONSUEVERUNT ROMANI PONTIFECES*. It had been completed by the addition of the second half of the "Hail Mary" and the "Glory be to the Father" at the conclusion of each mystery.

Current scholarship traces the development of the Rosary to the High Middle Ages where it came into being in various medieval monasteries as a substitute for the Divine Office for the lay monks and devout lay persons who did not know how to read. Instead of the 150 psalms, they would pray 150 "Our Fathers" counting them on a ring of beads known as the crown or "corona". With the growth of popularity of Marian devotion in the twelfth century, the "Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary" developed now substituting 150 "Hail Marys" in place of the "Our Fathers".

The 150 "Hail Marys" were subsequently subdivided into 15 decades by the young Dominican friar, Henry Kalkar (1328-1408), with each decade referring to an event in the life of Jesus and Mary. The Dominican, Ananus de Rupe (1428-1478) further divided the episodes in the history of salvation into the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries. He also attributed the origin of the Rosary, then known as the "Psalter of the Blessed Virgin" to Saint Dominic and thus spurred the Dominican Order to make the Apostolate of the Rosary their special concern. The Dominicans have, since then, promulgated the Rosary with notable results.

The practice of dedicating the entire month of October to the Holy Rosary developed toward the end of the last century. Pope Leo XIII (papacy: 1878-1903) strongly promoted the increase of devotion to the Blessed Mother by encouraging the constant use of the Rosary. Beginning on September 1, 1883, with *SUPREMO APOSTOLATUS OFFICIO*, he wrote a total of eleven encyclicals on the Rosary, ending with *DIUTURNI TEMPORIS* in 1898.

Many other popes have contributed to help increase devotion to the Rosary by their writings. In the recent past, Pope Paul VI (papacy: 1963-1978) devoted the last section of his Apostolic Exhortation *MARIALIS CULTUS* to the Angelus and the Rosary (MC 40-55). In this document, he wrote that "the Rosary retains an unaltered value and intact freshness." (MC, 41)

The Rosary is primarily a scriptural prayer. This can be summarized by the traditional phrase used by Pope Pius XII (papacy: 1939-1958) that the Rosary is "a compendium of the entire Gospel" (AAS 38 [1946])

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

p.419) . The Rosary draws its mysteries from the New Testament and is centered on the great events of the Incarnation and Redemption.

Pope John Paul II called the Rosary his favorite prayer, in which we meditate with Mary upon the mysteries which she as a mother meditated on in her heart (Lk. 2:19). (Osservatore Romano, 44; 30 Oct. 1979) [*He declared October 2002 to October 2003: The Year of the Rosary. The Year of the Eucharist ends this month of October 2005. The Publisher.*]

In this month of October, let us consider this beautiful prayer of the Rosary as a means that we too can use in order to draw closer to Jesus and Mary by meditating on the great mysteries of our salvation.

(Rev. Matthew R. Mauriello The above article appeared in the *Fairfield County Catholic* January 1996 <http://www.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/Fcc.html>)

THE ROSARY

The gladness of thy Motherhood,
The anguish of thy suffering,
The glory now that crowns thy brow,
O Virgin-Mother, we would sing.
Hail, blessed Mother, full of joy
In thy consent, thy visit too;
Joy in the birth of Christ on earth,
Joy in Him lost and found anew.

Hail, sorrowing in His agony –
The blows, the thorns that pierced His brow;
The heavy wood, the shameful Rood –
Yea! Queen and chief of martyrs thou.

Hail, in the triumph of thy Son,
The quickening flames of Pentecost;
Shining a Queen in light serene,
When all the world is tempest-tost.

O come, ye nations, roses bring,
Culled from these mysteries divine,
And for the Mother of your King
With loving hands your chaplets twine.

We lay our homage at Thy feet,
Lord Jesus, Thou the Virgin's Son,
With the Father and with the Paraclete,
Reigning while endless ages run.

Augustine Ricchini

David Oswald Hunter-Blair, translator.

(Robert, Cyril. *Mary Immaculate: God's Mother and Mine.* Poughkeepsie, New York: Marist Press, 1946.

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/resources/poetry/october01.html#sparks>)

OUR LADY of the ROSARY

Commemorating the Victory of Lepanto - 1571

In thanksgiving for the victory of Lepanto, an ancient stronghold of Greece and a modern port of that nation, Saint Pius V in 1571 instituted an annual feast in honor of Our Lady of Victory. Two years later, Gregory XIII changed this title to Our Lady of the Rosary; in 1740, Clement XII extended the feast to the universal Church.

We have related in the life of [Saint Pius V](#) the victory of Lepanto; here we will speak of the Rosary itself, granted to Saint Dominic by Our Lady Herself in the thirteenth century, with promises of the greatest blessings for those who recite it well. The Rosary of fifteen decades affords a simple means of meditation on the principal mysteries of our holy religion, and a means of drawing closer to the Saviour through the intercession of the one to whom He never refuses anything. One can also say the chaplet of five decades, since the fifteen are divided into three groups of five: The Joyful, the Sorrowful, and the Glorious Mysteries of the life of Christ.

On the crucifix, one recites the *Credo* or *Apostles' Creed*, which the Apostles themselves composed at the first Council of Jerusalem, before their definitive separation, thereby resolving the question of what exactly should be taught to the neophytes. By it we honor the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity and express our faith in the Church established by God; in the Communion of the faithful, whether living or deceased; in the pardon of sins, the general resurrection at the end of the world, and eternal life.

Before each decade, the *Pater* or *Our Father*, taught by our Saviour Himself when His Apostles asked how they should pray, includes three petitions for the glory of God in heaven: May His Name be sanctified, rendered holy in the sight of all nations; may His Kingdom come — the interior reign of God which renders Him the Sovereign governing every heart and mind by His love — this, while we await Christ's own final return as visible King of His Church and all creation; thirdly, may His Will be accomplished on earth, to perfection, as it is in heaven. There follow four petitions for ourselves and our salvation. We ask, under the general term of "our daily bread," that God provide for all our needs, both spiritual and material; we beg His forgiveness for our sins, in the same measure we have forgiven our neighbor's offenses, real or imaginary. And we implore to be spared temptation or to be delivered from succumbing to it and all other evils that would separate us from God.

In the *Ave Maria* or *Hail Mary*, we repeat the words of the Angel Gabriel to Mary (*Luke* 1:18), repeated and augmented by Saint Elizabeth at the Visitation (*Luke* 1:42), adding the invocation of the Church for Her aid at the present moment and at the formidable hour of our death.

After each decade, we add the *Gloria Patri* or *Doxology*, to honor the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity.

The Joyful Mysteries: The Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity of Jesus, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple.

The Sorrowful Mysteries: The Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus.

The Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection, the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles, the Assumption of Mary, the Crowning of the Blessed Virgin in Heaven.

Can one imagine a more perfect prayer than the Holy Rosary of the Queen of Heaven, the Blessed Virgin and Mother Mary? It would require large volumes or even an entire library to narrate the graces and miracles that have been obtained by its humble recitation.

(Les Petits Bollandistes: Vies des Saints, by Msgr. Paul Guérin (Bloud et Barral: Paris, 1882), Vol. 12; Little Pictorial Lives of the Saints, a compilation based on Butler's Lives of the Saints and other sources by John Gilmary Shea, Benziger Brothers: New York, 1894).

OCTOBER 3 - SAINT GERARD

Abbot in Belgium (†959)

Saint Gerard was born of a noble family towards the end of the ninth century, in the county of Namur in Belgium. An engaging sweetness of temper, added to a strong inclination to piety and devotion, gained for him from the cradle, the affection and esteem of all. He at first followed the career of arms, but never lost his piety amid the distractions and temptations of camp life.

When sent on an important mission to the court of France by the Count of Namur, he was greatly edified by the fervor of the Benedictine monks of Saint Denys in Paris, and earnestly desired to consecrate himself to God with them. Returning home he settled his temporal affairs, and went back with great joy to the monastery of Saint Denys.

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He lived for eleven years with great fervor in this monastery, and then was ordained a priest. In 931 he was sent by his French abbot to found an abbey upon his own estate at Brogne, three leagues from Namur. He established this new abbey, then built himself a little cell near the church, where he lived as a recluse until called to introduce strict monastic discipline in eighteen other abbeys, which he did successfully, assuming the duties of a Benedictine Abbot General.

When he had spent almost twenty years in these zealous labors, he again retired to his cell at the Abbey of Brogne, which is now named for him, to prepare his soul for the final journey. To this he was called on October 3, 959.

Reflection: *Though we are in the world, let us strive to separate ourselves from it and consecrate ourselves to God, remembering that “the world passes away, but he who does the Will of God abides forever.” (I John 2:17)*

(Little Pictorial Lives of the Saints, a compilation based on Butler's Lives of the Saints and other sources by John Gilmary Shea (Benziger Brothers: New York, 1894); The Catholic Encyclopedia, edited by C. G. Herbermann with numerous collaborators, Appleton Company: New York, 1908.

<http://magnificat.ca/cal/eng/10-03.htm>



OCTOBER 16 - SAINT GERARD MAJELLA

**Redemptorist
Coadjutor Brother
(1726-1755)**

Saint Gerard Majella is known as a *Thaumaturge*, a Saint who works miracles not just occasionally, but as a matter of course. It has been said that God raises up not more than one every century. He was born in Italy at Muro Lucano, south of Naples, in 1726.

As a child of five, when he would go to pray before a statue of the Virgin with her Child, the Infant Jesus regularly descended to give him a little white bun. He took it home and naively told his mother, when she asked him, where he obtained it. His sister was sent to the church to observe in secret, and saw the miracle for herself. He wanted very much to receive Holy Communion at the age of seven and went to the

Communion railing one day with the others; but the priest, seeing his age, passed him up; and he went back to his place in tears. The following night, Saint Michael the Archangel brought him the Communion he so much desired.

As he grew older, when anyone spoke to him about marriage, he would answer: "The Madonna has ravished my heart, and I have made her a present of it." He desired to enter religion, but his health was unstable as a result of the mortifications he had constantly practiced as a young man. He had acquired a reputation of sanctity, and finally, when he was 23 years old, he obtained the aid of some missionaries to second his request, and was admitted as a Coadjutor of the newly founded Congregation of Redemptorists, in 1749.

He showed himself to be a model of every virtue and he did the work of four, still finding time to take on himself that of others. He would say: "Let me do it, I am younger, take a rest." He made the heroic vow of always choosing what appeared to him most perfect. He was perfectly obedient to his superior's wishes, even when not expressed; and one day, to demonstrate this to a visiting authority who required a proof, his immediate Superior sent him out, saying: "I will tell him interiorly to return; he needs no other command than this." Soon the Brother knocked on the door once more and said: "You sent for me to come back?" He conducted a group of students on a nine-day pilgrimage to Mount Gargano, where the Archangel Michael had appeared. They had very little money for the trip, and when they arrived at the site, there was none left. Gerard went before the tabernacle and told Our Lord that it was His responsibility to take care of the little group. He had been observed in the church by a religious, who invited the Saint and his companions to lodge in his residence. When the party was ready to start home again, Gerard prayed once more, and immediately someone appeared and gave him a roll of bills.

The most famous of Saint Gerard's miracles occurred when a mason fell from a scaffolding during the construction of a building. Gerard had been forbidden by his Superior to work any more miracles without permission. He stopped the man in mid-air, telling him to wait until he had obtained permission to save him. He received it, and the man descended gently to the ground.

When a plague broke out, he had the gift of bilocation; he was seen in more than one house at the same time, assisting the sick. Not a page of his life, it is said, was without prodigies, all tending to the glory of God and motivated by prodigious charity towards his neighbor.

He was condemned falsely at one time, as a result of a connivance between two individuals; the Superior General, Saint Alphonsus Liguori himself, who did not know Gerard personally, was induced to believe the black calumny. Later the guilty ones wrote him a letter confessing their fault, and Gerard, who had said nothing at all when relegated into solitude, was asked why he had not said he was innocent. He replied that the Rule required that the religious not defend themselves.

He died in 1755 at the age of 29 years, was beatified in 1893 by Pope Leo XIII and canonized in 1904 by Saint Pius X.

(Biography of Saint Gerard Majella, text by A. R. Levevre, in *Un Saint pour chaque jour du mois* (Paris: 1932), Vol. 10, October.

<http://magnificat.ca/cal/engl/10-16.htm>)

OUR LADY of the ROSARY

Through thee, to us, our Savior came, -
Through thee, to Him, we fain would go, -
Our lives are marred by wrong and shame,
Yet, confidence in thee we know.
The friendship thou dost give to all
Who love thy name, shall ever be
Assurance thou wilt hear our call, -
Sweet Lady of the Rosary!

Thou art our Strength upon the way, -
Our Morning Star, to cheer and guide;
Our Beacon Light to show the day,
And lead us to the Savior's Side;
A Comforter in ev'ry pain
We find, O Mother blest, in thee, -
And seek we, never, thee in vain, -
Fair Lady of the Rosary!

Thy praises, Mary, we would sing,
And all our faculties employ,
That unto thee our hearts might bring
A glory-crown of love and joy.
Bless thou each humble effort made
In thy regard, and grant that we
May by thy influence be swayed,
Our Lady of the Rosary!

(Robert, Cyril. *Our Lady's Praise in Poetry*. Poughkeepsie, New York: Marist Press, 1944.

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/resources/poetry/october01.html#sparks>)

THE MARIAN PRAYER of SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS



Our brother Thomas, one of the greatest lights of the Dominican Order, was profoundly devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary. His little known Marian thought has been gathered in a volume entitled *Meditations* by the Dominican, Father Mezard, O. P. These selections, “taken verbatim from Aquinas” Father Mezard tells us, were culled from the *Summa*, as well as from his Commentaries on the Hail Mary and the Gospel of Saint John. They are arranged in the

form of short readings to accompany the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year.

In the Marian prayer of Saint Thomas, which is always God-centered and in relation to Christ, we find an emphasis on petition, as well as emphases on contemplation, and even mysticism. This brief paper will reflect these emphases in the light of Mary, *mediatrix* of grace, a title and function of Our Lady of current interest in the Church. It is a title and function which Saint Thomas made his own and integrated into his life of prayer and study. Saint Thomas taught that the Blessed Virgin Mary “must be shown every honor, preached and praised, and invoked by us in our every need.”

According to our Angelic Doctor, the Blessed Virgin Mary “was so full of grace that it overflows on to all mankind” and suffices for the salvation of the world. “It is necessary,” he says, “that whosoever desires to obtain favors with God, should approach this Mediatrix, approach her with a most devout heart because, since she is the Queen of Mercy, possessing everything in the kingdom of God’s justice, she cannot refuse your petition.

Making the thought of Saint Bernard his own, Saint Thomas reflects that no refusal can exist in the presence of the exceeding charity of her pierced and Immaculate Heart together with the pierced side and wounds of her Son. For Saint Thomas, Mary is the throne of grace of whom “the Apostle speaking to the Hebrews said, ‘let us go with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace in seasonable aid’” (Heb 4: 16).

In the mystery of the Incarnation the Lord himself entered “into the womb of the Blessed Virgin, for she was the wonderful temple of God. ...[and now] every creature, yes even every malefactor who runs to it

with his whole heart, will be saved and every prayer poured forth in it will be heard.” Whatever our difficulty, Thomas counsels us to pray to Mary, “for in every danger you can obtain salvation from this glorious Virgin [and] in every work of virtue you can have Mary as your helper [for] she truly says of herself, ‘I am the Mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope, in me is all grace of the way; in me is all hope of life and of virtue’” (Eccl 24:24).

Saint Thomas, like the Fathers of the Church, saw numerous typologies of Mary in the Old Testament. Contemplating the text, “There shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse, and a flower shall rise up out of this root” (Is 11: 1), Saint Thomas saw Mary as the root wielding the true rod of saving grace. In another text, “Lift up the rod, and stretch forth thy hands over the sea, and divide it; so that thy children may go through the midst of the sea on dry ground” (Ez 14:16), Saint Thomas says that it is Mary who has divided the sea for us, that is the world, so that we might pass safely through it.” She “has brought to us the water of grace from the rock, Christ, so that we may drink freely of this life-saving water.”

The figure of Judith was for Saint Thomas a type of Mary who in bringing forth Christ restored God’s people “to their original innocence” and that what was said of Judith, “Thou art the glory of Jerusalem, thou art the honor of our people,” really refers to Mary.

Esther is another Marian typology. “The truth corresponding to [the] figure of Esther” is the story of Mary’s role in our redemption. “Through Queen Esther, that is, through the Blessed Virgin the sentence of damnation passed against us was revoked; namely through her intercession, through the extension of the King’s golden scepter to Mary and

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through her kiss on the top of that scepter we are saved from hell and damnation. Queen Esther, that is the Blessed Virgin, pleased the eyes of the King in helping to redeem the human race and she found favor in his presence, not only for herself, but for all mankind.”

In the contemplation of Saint Thomas the virginal body of Mary, as well as her soul, overflowed with grace. “The soul of the Blessed Virgin was so full of grace that it overflowed into her flesh thus fitting it for the conception of God’s Son.” Her Immaculate Heart, her feelings, mind and will were all involved in the conception and care of her Son, just as it is in helping each of us conceive and bring forth Christ in our soul.

Mary not only brings Christ to us. She brings us to Christ. Saint Thomas, in interpreting the mystical meaning of the wedding of Cana considers that Mary is present in the mystical marriage of the soul with God and that it is she who “arranges the marriage, because through her intercession, the soul is joined to Christ through grace.”

Saint Thomas points out that it was the fiat of Mary, which allowed the spiritual marriage between the Son of God and human nature to take place. In the plan of God, Mary’s “yes” stood for the “yes” of all God’s people thereby making it possible for every person to pronounce his or her own *fiat* and attain intimate union with the divine nature. Saint Thomas calls Mary *mediatrix* and *consolatrix* and in his prayer he entrusts his entire person to the intimacy of her pure, grace-filled and loving heart.

According to Saint Thomas the prayer of petition is an affair of the practical reason. The Saints, above all, are conscious of their spiritual poverty and need of help on their *reditus* back to God. Saint Thomas wrote a prayer to the most Blessed Virgin Mary expressing his own need for help and dependence upon her as his *mediatrix*. From this prayer, several pages in length, I quote a few brief excerpts:

O most blessed and sweet virgin mary,

Mother of God, filled with all tenderness,
Daughter of the most high King,
Lady of the Angels,
Mother of all the faithful,

On this day and all the days of my life,

I entrust to your merciful heart my body and my soul,
all my acts, thoughts, choices
desires, words, deeds,
my entire life and death,

So that, with your assistance,

all may be ordered to the good
according to the will of your beloved Son, our
Lord Jesus Christ. ...

From your beloved Son. ..

request for me the grace to resist firmly
the temptations of the world, the flesh and the
devil

My most holy Lady,

I also beseech you to obtain for me
true obedience and true humility of heart

So that I may recognize myself truly

as a sinner--wretched and weak

and powerless,

without the grace and help of my Creator
and without your holy prayers.

Obtain for me as well,

O most sweet Lady,
true charity with which
from the depths of my heart

I may love your most holy Son, our Lord Jesus
Christ, and, after Him,

love you above all other things.

Grant, O Queen of Heaven,

that ever in my heart

I may have fear and love alike

for your most sweet Son.

I pray also that, at the end of my life,

you,

Mother without compare
Gate of Heaven and Advocate of sinners.
will protect me with your great piety and mercy.

and obtain for me, through the blessed and glorious
Passion of your Son

and through your own intercession,

received in hope,

the forgiveness of all my sins.

When I die in your love and His love,

may you direct me

into the way of salvation and blessedness.

Amen.

(Sister Thomas Mary Mc Bride, O. P.

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/thomasaquinas.html>)

OCTOBER 24 - SAINT RAPHAEL the ARCHANGEL

This holy Archangel identified himself to the exiled



Jew Tobias as “one of the Seven who stand before God” (Tob. 12:15). His name means *the healing of God*, and he is thought to be the Angel who came down and agitated the water of the pool of Bethsaida in Jerusalem. The sick, who always lay around the pool, strove to be the first to enter the water afterwards, because that fortunate one was always cured. We read of this in the story of the

paralytic cured by Jesus, who had waited patiently for thirty-eight years, unable to move when the occasion presented itself. (Cf. John 5:1-9)

Saint Raphael is best known through the beautiful history of the two Tobias, father and son, exiled to Persia in the days of the Assyrian conquest in the eighth century before Christ. In their story, the Archangel plays the major role.

The father Tobias was a faithful son of Jacob and was old and worn out by his manifold good works; for many years he had assisted his fellow exiles in every possible way, even burying the slain of Israel during a persecution by Sennacherib, and continuing this practice despite the wrath that king manifested towards him. Having been stripped of all his possessions, he desired to have his son recover a substantial sum of money he had once lent to a member of his family in a distant city. He needed a companion for the young Tobias. God provided that guide in the Archangel Raphael, whom the son met providentially one day, in the person of a stranger from the very area where he was to go, in the country of the Medes.

Raphael to all appearances was a young man like himself, who said his name was Azarias (*Assistance of God*). Everything went well, as proposed; the young Tobias recovered the sum and then was

married, during their stay in Media, to the virtuous daughter of another relative, whom Providence had reserved for him.

All aspects of this journey had been thorny with difficulties, but the wise guide had found a way to overcome all of them. When a huge fish threatened to devour Tobias, camped on the shores of the Tigris, the guide told him how to remove it from the water, and the fish expired at his feet; then remedies and provisions were derived from this creature by the directives of Azarias. When the Angel led Tobias for lodging in the city of Rages, to the house of his kinsman Raguel, father of the beautiful Sara, the young man learned that seven proposed husbands had died on the very day of the planned marriage. How would Tobias fare? The Angel reassured him that this would not be his own fate, and told him to pray with his future spouse for three nights, that they might be blessed with a holy posterity. Sara was an only daughter, as Tobias was an only son, and she was endowed with a large heritage.

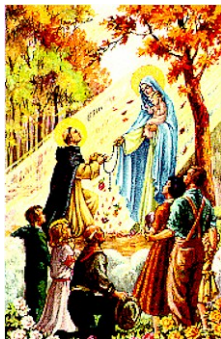
During the absence of the young Tobias, his father had become blind when the droppings of a pigeon had fallen into his eyes. When the two travelers returned after an extended absence, which had cost his mother many tears, the young Tobias was deeply grieved to find his father unable to see him and his new daughter-in-law. But Raphael told the son how to cure his father’s blindness by means of the gall of the fish; and after the remedy had proved efficacious, all of them rejoiced in their blessings.

When Tobias the son narrated his story and told his father that all their benefits had come to them through this stranger, both father and son wished to give Azarias half of the inheritance. Raphael declined and revealed his identity, saying he was sent to assist the family of the man who had never failed to obey and honor the blessed God of Israel. Raphael, before he disappeared, said to the family: “It is honorable to reveal and confess the works of God. Prayer is good, with fasting and alms, more than to lay up treasures, for alms deliver from death and purge away sins, and cause the giver to find mercy and life everlasting. When thou didst pray with tears and didst bury the dead, and didst leave thy dinner to hide the dead by day in thy house, and bury them by night, I offered thy prayer to the Lord. And because thou wast acceptable to God, it was necessary that trials prove thee. I am the Angel Raphael, one of the seven who stand before the Lord.”

(The Holy Bible: Old and New Testaments,
<http://magnificat.ca/cal/engl/10-24.htm>)

QUEEN of the ROSARY

Fondly my thoughts to the old
home are stealing
At eve when the lingering shadows
appear,
For now Erin's children are
fervently kneeling,
Telling their Paters and Aves so
dear.



Tho' sad be the story their rosary unchaining,
Musical cadence their murmuring tone,
Heart-broken creatures, yet never complaining,
Moaning God's sorrow - forgetting their own.

O Mother, give ear to their passionate pleading,
"No one," they tell us, "besought thee in vain!"
Queen of the Rosary, Erin is bleeding -
War and dissension have torn her atwain!
From mountain and valley, O hear the Gael sighing,
Mingling his sorrow with thy night of woe;
Ave Maria! On thee we're relying -
Peace to our own little island bestow.

(Liam O'Moore, Robert, Cyril. Mary Immaculate:
God's Mother and Mine, Poughkeepsie, New York:
Marist Press, 1946.

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/resources/poetry/october01.html#sparks>)

NEW JERSEY CATHOLIC RADIO

I wanted to let you know that we went on the air on 89.3 FM in Monmouth County on September 1st. www.893fm.org. Our coverage area includes parts of Monmouth, Middlesex, and a little bit of Somerset counties. In addition, we can be heard in parts of Staten Island.

We (Cheryl and I) have taken a great step out in Faith on this - giving Our Lord our "loaves and fishes" believing that He will multiply this offering and feed the multitudes with His Truth.

We are currently leasing the station - so our biggest need right now is getting the word out and drumming up support (a little over \$500 per day). This is nothing on a commercial station, but for a non-comm that can't accept paid advertising, and counts on listener support and underwriting, it will be a challenge.

Please pray for us and if you can, help us to get the word out. It is our prayer (if it is God's Will) to bring Catholic radio to many other parts of NJ - we know

that the Lord will send us the individuals who He has blessed financially to help us do this.

I am casting out my nets as He has told me to do.
Duc in altum!

God bless you,

Jim

(Jim Manfredonia, President, Domestic Church Media Foundation, Inc., P O Box 192, Fairless Hills PA 19030,
TEL 215-269-4446, www.DomesticChurchMedia.org
e-mail: Mon, 19 Sep 2005)

FATHER JOHN CORAPI, FRIDAY, 2 and SATURDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2005



**Domestic Church Media
Presents A Conference
at
The National Shrine of Our
Lady of Czestochowa
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Tickets Are Required and Can Be Obtained From Domestic Church Media ONLY.

Please DO NOT call the Shrine for Tickets.

PLEASE READ THE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AND "SPECIAL NOTES" BELOW BEFORE CALLING FOR INFORMATION.

For Ticket Information call Toll-Free 1-866-883-9357
(please call during regular business hours)

Tentative Conference Schedule

(Subject to Change)

Father Corapi has not chosen his topics yet

Friday, December 2nd: 7:30 - 9:30 PM

7:30 - 8:00 PM: The Holy Rosary
8:00 - 8:20 PM: Music by **Jim and Cheryl Manfredonia**
8:20 - 8:30 PM: Welcome and Introductions
8:30 - 9:30 PM: **TEACHING** by **Father Corapi**

Saturday, December 3rd: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

8:30 - 8:50 AM: The Holy Rosary

8:50 - 9:00 AM: Welcome and Preparation for Holy Mass
 9:00 - 10:20 AM: **Holy Mass**
 Main Celebrant and Homilist - **Father Corapi**
 10:20 - 11:00 AM: Break
 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON: **TEACHING** by **Father Corapi**
 12:00 - 1:30 PM: Lunch
 1:30 - 2:30 PM: **TEACHING** by **Father Corapi**
 2:30 - 3:00 PM: Break
 3:00 - 3:15 PM: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy
 3:15 - 3:20 PM: Blessing of Sacramentals by **Father Corapi**
 3:20 - 4:20 PM: **TEACHING** by **Father Corapi**
 4:20 - 4:30 PM: Closing Remarks

Special Notes

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE CALLING FOR INFORMATION

- Tickets are REQUIRED. We must issue tickets so that the attendees will have a reserved and guaranteed seat and because we have to limit the number of attendees due to fire code regulations.
- Tickets guarantee RESERVED ASSIGNED SEATING (by pew).
- Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.
- Once tickets are mailed out there can be NO CHANGES or EXCHANGES.
- THERE ARE NO MORE ROOMS AVAILABLE AT THE AVE MARIA RETREAT HOUSE.
- Father Corapi's** CD's, DVD's, Video's and Cassettes will be for sale in the **Shrine Cafeteria** and **Visitor's Center** on *Friday evening* and *all day Saturday*.
- First Saturday* Mass will be celebrated by **Father Corapi** at 9:00 AM. The regular *Saturday* Shrine Masses will be celebrated by the **Pauline Fathers** in the **Lower Shrine Church** at 7:30 AM, 8:00 AM and 11:30 AM.
- There will be **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in the **Lower Shrine Church** immediately following the 11:30 AM Mass. The **Blessed Sacrament** will be exposed for the entire afternoon.

- The *Saturday Evening Vigil* Mass that fulfills your *Sunday* obligation will be celebrated by the **Pauline Fathers** in the **Lower Shrine Church** at 5:00 PM.
- Confessions** will be heard by the **Pauline Fathers** on *Saturday* from 12:00 NOON - 1:30 PM.
- CD's by **Jim and Cheryl** will be for sale in the vestibule of the Shrine Church on Friday evening and in the Cafeteria area on Saturday. Purchase of these CD's helps support Domestic Church Media.

Call Toll-Free for Ticket Information 1-866-883-9357

<http://www.domesticchurchmedia.org/Corapi%20Confession%202005.htm>

A LETTER to the EDITOR

There was a time when I didn't fully appreciate the value of Holy Mass, the Sacrament of Confession, and the grace of belonging to Jesus. Your magazine removed the scales from my eyes. It taught me how to trust in God. Now I go to confession filled with faith. I attend Mass with a spirit of intense devotion. After Communion, I experience moments of blissful peace. At work I am less given to quarrelsomeness. I tend to be less conceited, grasping and obstinate. I am able to show greater humility and more kindness. I want to be helpful and share my goods with others. My dreams are also more peaceful. Everywhere I go, I see the Father's many graces. This sense of closeness with God remains with me all day and keeps bringing me back to the Sacrament. My desire to receive Jesus is so strong that I go to Mass every day. When I am unable to go, I miss Him very much. My close bond with Him seems to weaken somehow. Daily Communion helps me to be patient and pure. I try to pray all the time and ask God for the grace not to sin, so that I can receive the Eucharist as often as possible. Jesus heals not only our souls but also our bodies, only we must desire this very much!

(A Reader)

ACT of CONTRITION

O MY GOD, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell; but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to **confess my sins**, to **do penance**, and to **amend my life**. Amen.

MESSAGE of 9/25/2005 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! In love I call you: convert, even though you are far from my heart. Do not forget, I am your mother and I feel pain for each one who is far from my heart; but I do not leave you alone. I believe you can leave the way of sin and decide for holiness. 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 9/25/2005

IN LOVE I CALL YOU

The Virgin Mary calls us with love. In Her words, we hear the echo of the words of Jesus: "Convert and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1,15). Mary wants to tell us: believe in the power of God who can and who wants to change you, to save you, to heal you and to set you free. Although by our life we are far away from the heart of Mary, she is calling us and is not becoming weary. We are her children. A true mother never abandons her child.

A child needs a mother; it cannot live nor survive without her. And when a child remains without a mother, it knows what it means to be without a mother. Our Heavenly Mother isn't made of plastic or of wood; she isn't a dead souvenir, but a mother who feels pain for each child who is far, cold, sick. We have a mother who has a heart that loves and that suffers. Love and suffering always go together. True love is verified in the moments of trial and of suffering. It is easy to love the other when it is pleasant and comfortable to be with him. It is easy to love the other when we find him sympathetic and when we like him. But it is difficult to love the other when liking ceases. When the other becomes difficult, boring and unbearable. It is difficult to love when the other does not want to understand or to accept us. It is then, that authenticity, truth and divine quality of our love are tested and verified.

Every human love is limited. In fact, there is only one love. God is love. Every love should sprout out from the heart of God, in order to be able to survive all deaths and all the sufferings.

The Gospel is telling us that Jesus loved the young man whom He called to sell everything and to follow Him, if he wanted to be perfect. And we know that the young man did not have courage to leave all the richness of this world that he possessed. God is calling also today. He is not forcing anybody. The freedom of God and the freedom of man are always in

the game together. God remains faithful. He will never deceive us.

God is calling us through our conscience. God is speaking through his word, to which we listen and that we read. He is speaking to us through all kinds of events. In these days, he is speaking to us in a simple and intense way through Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.

The Virgin Mary believes that we can leave the way of sin. She believes in you and she believes in me. The most difficult is when - after repeated falls into sin and after having confessed so many times the same sin - we think that nothing can change any more. We become attached to our falls and we start to believe that they are stronger than the grace of Jesus. Or worse still: we become attached to our slavery and our chains, and we begin to think that they are comfortable, and we start to convince ourselves about it. We should always lift up our eyes to the heart of Jesus who, also today, can and wants to set us free. For our part, it is important to want, to decide, to fight, to ask and to pray. Then, we will be lifted up and we will be set free. We should never say: "I cannot", but "I will try", and even after repeated falls, we should say it with even more determination and courage.

Mary believes in us. Let us put our faith in Her and in ourselves. Let us have the desire to become different, to be transformed, to become new men who, day after day, follow God and walk and on the path of God.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.9.2005

ANOTHER SEPTEMBER REFLECTION

"Dear children! In love I call you: convert, even though you are far from my heart." In this first sentence of Her message of September 25, 2005, Our Lady, "*in love*," is calling all of Her little children to, "*convert*." After some reflection, it seems that most folks need to embrace a spirit of conversion. For all

of us, it should become an ongoing process within our lives.

People are enveloped by the rigors of daily life. Pride, anger, jealousy, greed, gluttony, and lust are far too prevalent in many lives. Addictions to alcohol, food, drugs, sex, and money prohibit many men and women from being content and satisfied with whom they are. For others, their jobs and careers are more important than their families. The sense of the sacred has been lost while many reject God and his ways for their own selfish wishes. When we ask ourselves, am I part of this tragedy, most would have to answer yes to this question. Thus, as has been previously mentioned, each one of us has a definite need to embrace Our Lady's call, "**to convert.**"

For anyone to be successful in adopting a spirit of conversion within one's life, he or she must become one with Jesus. Becoming one with Jesus will only happen when the believer places Jesus and His love in the center of his or her life. Being one with Jesus encourages us to think of others before ourselves. However, while living in this world thinking of others before one's self is a significant challenge to accept. This goal will only be attained when we continuously try to be like Jesus.

May we contemplate and reflect upon the self-sacrificing love of Jesus that He gave to us during His Sacred Passion. The Son of God, the Messiah, the Word made flesh suffered beyond belief for each one of us. Please remember the horror that Jesus experienced to atone for our sins. As Christian believers are we inspired by the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus? I would certainly hope so! Many have changed, many have converted, many are faithful, but we cannot be satisfied, we must not become complacent. We can be better.

Our sins are always an abomination to the love of God. We must pray for our own purification while praying for the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls. By accepting this task, we can become seriously involved in the work of Our Triune God and Our Lady. However, this will only be possible when we convert, and accept God's will over our own personal wants and desires.

"Do not forget, I am your mother and I feel pain for each one who is far from my heart; but I do not leave you alone." From these words of the second sentence of Our Lady's message of September 25, 2005, one can perceive Her profound love for all of Her children. We are being encouraged by our dear Blessed Mother to come to Her in love, and this is possible for everyone. She is with us. She is suffering for us. She is interceding for us. Also, She wishes to bring us to Her Immaculate Heart, and with

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a mother's love prepare us for Jesus. Are we willing to open up to Our Lady as She works closely with the Holy Spirit, Her well beloved spouse, to help us to change and to convert? This must be our goal, and during these days, it should be the most important reality in our lives. In love, we have to ask family and friends to come along with us. Again, the time is now to stop nourishing ourselves with selfishness and do something for our loving God. With the next sentence from Her message of September 25, 2005, Our Lady shows us the confidence that She has in us. ***"I believe you can leave the way of sin and decide for holiness."***

As one continuously reads these words of Our Lady, he or she can acquire the strength to shatter the hard-heartedness of weakness, selfishness, ignorance, and indifference that leads us to sin. As people of faith, we must never sell ourselves short. Let us be present day apostles for Jesus. Be fervent, be kind, be merciful, be compassionate, but do not be afraid to be challenging to others. In the end, the most important reality of our existence is that we save our souls. May we take very seriously the need that we have to prepare our souls for Jesus. In a spirit of love, may we encourage others to embark upon this process of preparing their souls for the Lord. Each day, let us seek out the Holy Spirit and Our Lady to help us with this very important task.

I hope you are well. You are constantly in my prayers and thoughts. Give my best to your families, and always be that little child of our dear Blessed Mother. May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and 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, 29 September, 2005)

PRESS BULLETIN 214, 9/26/2005

OUR DESIRES

To accept oneself as a creature of God – this are the words that we hear often, the words on which we meditate frequently... In many occasions we are dissatisfied with ourselves. It seem to us that the others – always and in everything, by their birth and during their growth – had much more chance than we had. It is the same with our actions: they are not such as we would like them to be. We are often dissatisfied because of our exterior aspect, our profession, our environment... Besides, it seems to us that God himself is not just, because He allows that the sun shines in the same way on the just and on the unjust. The dissatisfaction accumulates despite the fact that

we know that we are created in the image of God, as children of God, and that we are unique.

Many spiritual writers and masters underline that the change of our position begins with the acceptance of ourselves and of all that happens to us. To accept oneself does not mean to remain the same and do nothing to change. The acceptance of oneself is only the beginning of the change that we are longing for. Otherwise, we will turn in round, tired, and remain on the same positions. This is how despair accumulates, discouragement stores up, and hope dies.

The basic question is the following one: for what is longing our heart? For the things of the earth or for the things of Heaven? Our human measures are not the measures of God. This is precisely what Jesus said to Peter, when he tried to divert him from the way that leads through cross and suffering towards redemption. If, in our whole life, we orient our thoughts and our forces towards the goods of the earth, and the desire to please the world and not God and ourselves, we will always be in disagreement with what is essential: How does God see us? How do we see ourselves? Therefore, if our dissatisfaction proceeds from things of the earth and the parameters of the world, we are called to turn towards things that surpass this perishable world. In the letter to the Corinthians, we read: "Aspire to superior gifts..." (cf. 1 Cor 12,31).

Our desires hide also our character. It is very important to know one's desires. What do we really want of our life? What is the most important for us? Is it really important to be beautiful and rich, since we know that beauty is relative and that wealth is perishable? It is much more important to say with the psalmist: "Create in me a pure heart, o Lord, renew in me a steadfast spirit."

What must we do? Before all, like Mary, let us be thankful and glorify God. Let us accept everything, really everything that God asks from us, as Mary did, as Jesus did, as Joseph and others models of the Church did. The acceptance is not weakness or abandonment of the desire to change, but the opening of a door that leads towards a decisive turn in life. When Mary accepted the will of God, the child leaped in her womb, and she gave birth to Jesus. This is what happens to those who say YES to God. With us, it is similar: let us hear and accept. Then, a new life, a holier life is conceived in us, a life in which things of this world are not important anymore, but the things of Heaven, from where we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Lord.

.....
Father Mario Knezovic

COMMUNIONS and PRIESTS

During the month of **August**, **225,500** received Holy Communion and **4747** priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

FROM POLAND to MEDJUGORJE on FOOT



When they come to Medjugorje, one of the most visited places of pilgrimage in the world, many pilgrims say that they arrived at the goal.

For others, Medjugorje is only a departure point towards the goal that is eternal life, the discovery of God and of His plans.

To his goal or to his departure point in Medjugorje came these days a young man from Torun, Poland, Krzysztof Guca, 31 years old, after 57 days of walking. Although this is his first coming to Medjugorje, he says: "I believe deeply that Our Lady appears here. I consider that Medjugorje is the continuation of the apparitions of Fatima. I came on pilgrimage because I made a vow, but my friends also asked me to pray for them. All the efforts and all the sacrifices, I offered them for these intentions.»

Before his departure, Krzysztof Guca asked for the blessing of the bishop of Torun. The written blessing of the bishop with the seal and the signatures of the chancellor and the vicar general of the diocese opened the doors in many parishes in the countries that he crossed. The witness is his journal, the notebook that he carried, and in which every day the hosts wrote and confirmed by their signature and a seal, to have accommodated him. "According to the geographic map, I crossed 1.720 kilometres, but it is difficult to say exactly. Sometimes, I had to go back over my steps to rejoin the principal roads, because I could not find accomodation. In Croatia, I slept 4 times in private houses, because I did not manage to join the presbyteries. God provided that I always had a shelter. I can compare this trip with the crossing of a bridge above an abyss. It is necessary to advance step by step. This is how I continued every morning, although I sometimes arrived very tired. Every person's life can be compared to this pilgrimage. Every day, it is necessary to do a new step in order not to fall in the abyss. »

Krzysztof Guca keeps in his heart the most important intentions of his pilgrimage, but he reveals that he was praying for the church, for the priests, for the families and for the fatherland. This young man

walked also to Fatima. In 4 months, he did 4.000 kilometres, and a witness for this are the notes in his journal. The last note in his journal was written the day of his arrival to Medjugorje: “Last night, I have hosted Krzysztof Guca, a pilgrim from Poland, diocese of Torun. I offered him a dinner last night, and this morning the breakfast. Humac. Ljubuski. Franciscan monastery of St Antony of Padova. Father Dobroslav Stojic.”

Quickly after his arrival to Medjugorje, where he was received by Katarina and Ante Soljic, he climbed the Cross Mountain. “I am still under the impression of this encounter with Our Lady, with God. In some days, I will be able to say a little more”, he says. He will maybe need some days or a month to know if, after almost 1.800 kilometres on foot, he arrived to the goal or to the departure point.

AN ARCHBISHOP from ITALY



Monsignor Bruno Tommasi, retired archbishop of Lucca (Italy) came on his second private pilgrimage to Medjugorje. Monsignor Tommasi visited the Shrine and the places of prayer, and spent hours in the confessional, hearing confessions of the Italian pilgrims. He also visited the Parish Office where he remained in a prolonged conversation with the Pastor and other Franciscans.

Monsignor Tommasi was ordained a priest in 1958., and a bishop in 1983. He was in charge of the dioceses of Pontremoli, Apuania, Massa Carrara-Pontremoli and Lucca. He is retired since January 2005.

FATHER IVAN SESAR, NEW PASTOR of PARISH MEDJUGORJE



Within the framework of usual changes of pastoral staff in the Franciscan Herzegovinian Province, and according to the Regulations of the Church, Doctor Father Ivan Sesar was appointed new Pastor of Medjugorje. He already led this parish from autumn 2000 to autumn 2001.

He began this service on August 25, 2005, replacing thus Father Branko Radoš, who was entrusted with pastoral care for Croatians in one of the Croatian Catholic Missions in

Switzerland. Father Mario Knezovic, former Director of the Information Centre “Mir” Medjugorje, was confided the duty of the parish vicar in Posusje.

Newly appointed parish vicars in Medjugorje are Father Karlo Lovric and Father Stjepan Martinovic.

ENCOUNTER of PAINTERS - MEDJUGORJE 2005



From August 22 to 29, in Medjugorje took place the Fourth encounter of painters – Medjugorje 2005. The particularity of this year’s encounter is, that it is thematically

determined. The subject matter for the artists is mother, motherhood, Our Lady’s apparitions... This year, about 35 renowned and young artists came together, which is giving to this encounter also a character of a school of painting for young talents.

This year’s encounter, which took place in Mother’s Village, on the Apparition Hill, on Cross Mountain and at the house of prayer “Domus Pacis”, brought together artists from Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia.

A BISHOP from BRAZIL



Monsignor José Luís Azcona Hermoso, O.A.R., a religious of the Augustinian Order, born in Spain in Pamplona, bishop of the diocese Marajó, which is a mission area in Brazil, was on a private pilgrimage in Medjugorje for the Feast of the Nativity of Mary. He was ordained a priest in Rome, where he obtained a

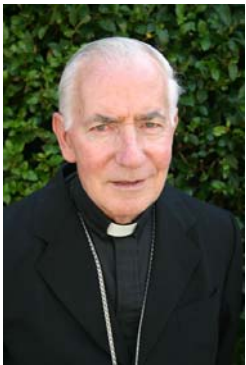
doctorate in moral theology. He was the provincial of the Augustinian Order twice, and since 1987, he is a bishop in the Amazon area. The diocese-prelature Marajó is as large as Portugal. There are about 260.000 inhabitants, among whom about 230.000 Catholics, but only about 15 priests.

To the question about when and how he heard about Medjugorje, Monsignor Azcona answered: “I know people from the north of Brazil, professors and industrials, who were atheists, and who were converted in Medjugorje some 15 years ago. Now, they go every day for Mass and are very active in the Church. There is a big difference between pilgrims who come here, and those who go somewhere else. The experience of Medjugorje is an experience of conversion. About other places, pilgrims speak in a different way. Here, lives are changed. I see the

authenticity of the conversions of Medjugorje. The reason for my coming, my hope and the grace that I desire to receive here, is my personal conversion, the deepening of my personal conversion.”

About his attitude towards Medjugorje, towards Our Lady’s messages, Monsignor Azcona said: “I think that the first message is conversion. Everything is proceeding from the conversion: the transformation of the society, peace with God, with out neighbour, with the nature, with the environment. The eternal life. Jesus is coming. Let us prepare ourselves! As a priest, as a bishop, the successor of the apostles, I wish to say: my dear Catholics, grab with force and joy the cross of Jesus, because there is salvation and joy. This is what Our Lady is asking from all of us. The Council is saying that true devotion to Our Lady leads to Jesus, to Jesus crucified, and so to the love of the father.”

A BISHOP from PAPUA NEW GUINEA on PRIVATE PILGRIMAGE



Monsignor Hermann Raich, S.V.D., bishop of Wabag (Papua New Guinea) was on his third private pilgrimage in Medjugorje from September 12 to 15, 2005. He was accompanied by prelate Johannes Gamperl, and a religious sister from the hospital “Marienkrankenhaus Stift Vorau”. This pilgrimage was organised by the association “Gebetsaktion Medjugorje-Wien”. Monsignor Raich is from Austria; he was ordained a priest in 1962, and a bishop in 1982. Monsignor Raich visited the places of prayer and the Presbytery, where he remained in a conversation with the Franciscans.

SOLEMNITY OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



For the solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated in Medjugorje on the first Sunday after the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, about 60,000 local and foreign pilgrims gathered at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace. As every year, pilgrims were streaming to Medjugorje even during the night. Many of them traveled hundreds of kilometers, some of them barefoot. The solemn Holy Mass on Cross Mountain was

concelebrated by 61 priests and presided by Father Branimir Musa.

For local and foreign pilgrims who could not climb Cross Mountain, there was a Holy Mass in the parish church at noon, presided by Father Tomislav Pervan.

The Evening Mass, concelebrated by 66 priests, was presided by Father Ljubo Kurtovic.

As a visible sign of the eternal light shining from the Cross, one week before the feast, the cross on Cross Mountain was illuminated, reminding us of its significance, and preparing parishioners and pilgrims for this feast.

THE 6TH 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?”

The seminar will take place in Medjugorje in the New Hall. Bring with you: a small FM radio with headphones (for simultaneous translation) and a Bible. Participation per couple: 40 Euro. You may make reservations by e-mail: 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.]*

WINTER SCHEDULE of the PRAYER PROGRAM at the SHRINE

On Monday, September 12th, began the winter schedule of the prayer program at the Shrine. The prayer of the Rosary in the Parish church begins at 5 pm, Holy Mass is at 6 pm, followed by the blessings and the third part of the rosary. Eucharistic adoration is every Thursday after the evening Mass and on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9pm. The Veneration of the Cross is every Friday after the Evening Mass.

He Rosary on the Apparition Hill and the Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain begin at 2 pm. The occasion for confessions is every evening during the evening prayer program.



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

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)

ROSARY for an INCREASE of HOLY VOCATIONS in the PRIESTHOOD and OTHER CHURCH LEADERSHIP

In praying for an increase of vocations, we need to pray for a rise in the HOLY priesthood, because there are those who abuse their vocations in ways other than sexual sins, such as false teachings, control instead of collaboration, attitudes of superiority, legalism that works against the salvation of souls, and individualism that deters from participation in true community life with their brother priests and with the laity.

Christ is our example of servant leadership. This Rosary is offered as a request for the Blessed Mother's help in improving seminaries and raising up true vocations of servant-like holy priests, but also holy Religious, deacons, and lay leaders.

We cannot ask for an increase of holy vocations if we are not willing to be part of the answer. Therefore, do not assume that praying this Rosary is enough. When we tell God that something needs to be done, He taps us on the shoulder and says, "Go and help it get done." Put actions behind your prayers. Back up your

request for an increase of holy vocations by serving the Church using your own holy giftedness, for you too have been chosen and called.

In this Cyber-Rosary, when it's time to pray on a rosary bead, place your mouse cursor over the bead and it will change from blue to gold. (You can try it here.)

Also do this with the images next to the "Our Father", "Glory Be", and "Oh My Jesus" prayers.

You may say this Rosary in litany with Terry Modica, author of the Daily Reflections, if you have a Media Player. Just click on the link to start your Player; Terry will pray the first half with you, then you will finish it.

We will be incorporating into the Sorrowful Mysteries a few of the prayers from the Dallas Plenary Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which dealt with sexual offenses, because these prayers are equally valid for any form of vocations abuse.

Let us begin.

We pray with full confidence in God's healing love, because:

We believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty. From thence He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive

HOLY MASS TIMES

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

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

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

those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

For the Gift of Faith From the Holy Spirit

Hail Mary Full of Grace, The Lord is With Thee, Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

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

Together we pray:

Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the those most in need of Your Mercy

Now go to:

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Joyful Mysteries

The Glorious Mysteries

The Luminous Mysteries

<http://www.gnm.org/prayers/vocationsrosary>)

PURGATORY the MASTERPIECE of GOD'S MERCY

All who die in God's grace and friendship, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death some undergo purification, so as to be free from all sin, and achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1030). This teaching is based on the practice of prayer for the dead mentioned in Sacred Scripture, "Therefore (Judas Maccabeus) made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin" (2 Macc 12:45).

From the beginning Holy Mother Church has honored the memory of the dead by offering prayers in suffrage for them. Above all, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most efficacious means to help the souls in Purgatory. The Holy Mass is the highest act of worship and highest form of prayer.

Prayer is the key of Heaven

Prayer is an indispensable means of attaining salvation for ourselves and our deceased loved ones. Fervent and submissive prayer penetrates the clouds and moves the heart of God to mercy.

The prayer of Saint Augustine (+430) for his mother, Saint Monica, is another important testimony from the early Church about prayer for the dead. He wrote: "Forgive her too, O Lord, if she trespassed against you in the long years of her life after baptism. Forgive her I beseech, you; do not call her to account. Let your mercy give your judgment an honorable welcome, for your words are true and you have promised mercy to the merciful"

Offering Masses

Monica is quoted by her saintly son as telling him at the end of her life to lay her body to rest anywhere, but to remember her at the sacrifice of the altar. Recent studies show that prayer heals, and recoveries are 50% quicker for those who had surgery, even if the patient was unaware that he was being prayed for. An Arizona journal reports that intercessory prayer produced measurable improvement in the medical outcomes of critically ill patients. Today, many are discovering how the Eucharist not only purifies the souls of those who have died but also heals the living as they come into deeper relationship with Jesus.

Doctor Kenneth McCall has had over 1,000 cases of emotional or physical healing of clients when they offered a Mass for their deceased loved ones. The Mass heals the living and the dead! The Holy Souls in Purgatory need our prayers. The Mass is the greatest form of prayer to assist the souls to attain heaven. Saint John Chrysostom says, "Christ is the victim that gives solace to the dead."

Who are the holy souls?

They are our families, relatives and friends. Whom do you miss the Most? For whom do you wish you could have done more in this life? Who has hurt you? Who has helped you the most spiritually or temporarily? Have a Mass offered for them. And remember to have Masses offered for yourself.

Christ told Saint Faustina, "All these souls are greatly loved by Me. They are making retribution to My Justice. It is in your power to bring relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only know the torments they suffer."

What do the holy souls suffer?

It is not the fire we imagined as a child where souls are surrounded by flames of fire? Their suffering is one of longing and separation from God. They see him and know him, but are not united with him.

No sooner has the soul departed this life than it beholds God, and from this “sight” the soul receives at once so deep and vivid a knowledge of God and all His infinite perfections that it is utterly incapable of being occupied with anything other than the divine beauty and goodness.

The soul feels so drawn toward God that it finds it altogether impossible to wish, to seek, and to love anything but God. The soul experiences at once an insatiable hunger and thirst after God; it pants for its supreme good with a most ardent desire. “God! God! I must be with God” is the soul’s constant cry.

Souls undergo purification necessary for heaven and they beg for our prayers and suffrages, our intercessions. We often hear, “oh, the soul of this or that person is certainly in Heaven” and so we fail to pray for them. How often does this false charity cause souls to suffer and delay their entry into Heaven? Let us rather be their advocate by our prayers and turn their pain into everlasting joy.

Adoring Jesus

Eucharistic Adoration is another most assured means of prayer on helping the holy souls reach heaven and is highly pleasing to God. In union with Christ, the supreme mediator, adorers share in the office of mediator on behalf of mankind by their unceasing prayers offering up supplication day and night to God’s throne of mercy on behalf of the members of the Church. Almsgiving, indulgences, works of penance, the Rosary and Stations of the Cross are a few of the ways one can help those in Purgatory.

Unceasing Prayer

By praying and making sacrifices for the Holy Souls we have the power and privilege to shorten their purgatory and unite them fully with God. In return, their gratitude will bring you countless blessings. There are no ungrateful souls in Heaven. Once the holy souls enter Heaven they prostrate themselves before the throne of God and pray unceasingly for those who, through their prayers, helped to release them from Purgatory. They will pray for us all the days of our lives until we are safely home in Heaven! They become our dearest and sincerest friends here on earth and for all eternity. How can we pass up this grace?! While we have time, let us do good and pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

(by Susan Tassone - *Immaculata Magazine*
October/November/December 2003 Issue)

THE ROSE - A MARIAN SYMBOL

Say it with Flowers! Christians did not wait until this century to express their religious life and belief with flowers.



Why did the Rose become a relatively important symbol through the Christian ages? Is there a Biblical foundation? Although wild roses grew in Palestine at the time of ancient Israel and of Jesus, the rose is mentioned neither in the Hebrew Bible nor in the New Testament.

In the Greco-Roman culture, the rose represented beauty, the season of spring, and love. It also spoke of the fleetness of time, and therefore inferred death and the next world. In Rome the feast called *rosalia* was a feast of the dead.

In Latin Christian iconography the first use of the rose appears in the scenes representing the next world, paradise, together with the lily and other flowers. These flowers also became symbols of virtues and of categories of the elect; for example, the red rose for martyrs, and the lily for virgins.

The rose as the queen of flowers was evidently a privileged symbol for Mary, Queen of heaven and earth. The rose is a symbol of Christ, too, as we see in the German Christmas song from a poem by Goethe, *Es ist ein’ Ros’ entsprungen*.

The Marian symbolism is well illustrated by Dante in his description of Paradise. His guide, Beatrice, invites him to contemplate among the heavenly inhabitants the beauty of Mary, the Mother of God:

“Why are you so enamored of my face that you do not turn your gaze to the beautiful garden which blossoms under the radiance of Christ? There is the Rose in which the Divine word became flesh: here are the lilies whose perfume guides you in the right ways.” (*Paradiso*, 23, 71-75)

But Dante uses also a more general symbolism of the rose, that of the universe (*Paradiso*, 31, 1-3), like the lotus in Asia. Indeed, with its multiple petals the rose is a beautiful image of our expanding cosmos.

Wonderful examples of this symbolism are found in the gothic cathedrals and their rose windows, the circular, stained-glass windows that enhance the three entrances of these churches. These immense roses symbolize the world of salvation offered and revealed by God to our lost human race through the old and New Testaments.

Christ is at the center of these rose windows, where he appears usually as judge or in the mystery of his Incarnation. In the latter example we see Mary

presenting the Child Jesus. All around are figures and scenes of the Bible illustrating the history of our salvation. In this artistic creation the universal symbolism of the rose found one of its most exalted expressions.

The symbolism of the rose assumed a Marian association in a privileged manner though two themes: the rose garden and the devotion of the rosary.

During the Middle Ages the theme of the rose garden developed from the symbolism of the rose in the literature of courtly love, using the rose as the symbol of the beloved lady.

Later the influence of the the *Song of Songs* led to the rose symbolizing the mystical union between Christ and his Church, or between God and each member of his people. Because Mary was honored as the model of our union with God, the rose became a privileged symbol of the union between Christ and Mary. The litany of Loreto includes the title, "Mystical Rose."

Mary holding a rose (and not a scepter) appears in the art of the thirteenth century. The theme of Mary in a rose garden or under a rose arbor or before a tapestry of roses, inspired many artists of the Rhineland.

During the Renaissance the rose garden theme came to represent human love and lovers. But at the same time the religious, Marian symbolism of the rose was popularized by the devotion of the rosary.

The structured prayer form of 150 Hail Marys was termed a "rosary". This expression came from the Latin *rosarium* or *rosarius*, a name given to works collecting the best of some teaching. For example, Arnold of Villanova wrote a *Rosarius Philosophorum*, explaining that it was a compendium, a thesaurus, a treasury of philosophy. Here the symbolism of the rosary stands as a precious anthology of spirituality.

Our Lady of the rosary is Our Lady of the roses, because the flowers are the symbols of greeting offered to the Mother of God. We greet her with spiritual flowers.

In a different perspective, Mary and the Child Jesus offer the rosary to their devotees. In his *Feast of the Rosary (1506)*, Albrecht Durer represents Jesus and Mary handing out crowns of roses.

The internationally renowned Marian Library at the University of Dayton (the world's largest assemblage of the Marian publications and materials), possesses a number of artistic portrayals of the rosary. In some are a circle of fifteen medallions depicting the main events of the lives of Jesus and Mary, which

constitute the rosary prayer. Each medallion is separated from the others by ten roses representing the ten Hail Marys that accompany the contemplation of each mystery of the Christian faith.

Another use of the rose as a spiritual symbol is emblematic. The rose became a moral emblem to illustrate various adages or maxims. For example, "Life is a rose. Its beauty fades rapidly." Or, "As the rose blossoms under the sun, I shall blossom under the eyes of God."

In another emblem the rose of our life blossoms among the thorns - pain, hard work, wickedness, disappointment. But God brings good out out miseries.

The universal symbolism of the rose in Christian practice may be summarized in a brief prayer:

"May God look with favor upon our world, the rose he created, that it may more and more expand its petals and so glorify him, our Creator and Father, in imitation of the rose of Nazareth, Mary, the Servant of the Lord."

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/samaha9.html>
by Brother John M. Samaha, S.M.)

THE HOLY ROSARY

Accept, mighty Maid, we beseech thee,
This prayer with its fragrance of flowers;
With one soul we seek thus to reach thee
And hail thee, God's Mother and ours.
Thy heart is made glad by our praying;
Thy bounty is generous and wise;
Thy hands are enriched for conveying
What God's tender Mercy supplies.
We kneel at thy shrines in the churches;
Oh, gently look down from above,
And welcome the heart that then searches
For worthy expressions of love.
Let others present precious caskets
Of gems, or heap altars with gold;
light prayer-beads shall serve us for baskets
To bring thee the garland they hold.
With violets lowly we fashion
This wreath, and with these are combined
Red roses - our faith in the Passion -
With Chastity's lilies entwined.
Our minds, as the mysteries vary,
Are active; our hands play their part;
And always thy name, Holy Mary,
Oft-uttered, rejoices the heart.
Be with us; we trust thee to guide us

Through life, and when laboring breath
At the last seeks thine aid, be beside us
To help at the hour of our death.

Pope Leo XIII

**(Robert, Cyril. Our Lady's Praise in Poetry.
Poughkeepsie, New York: Marist Press, 1944)**

SOLIDARITY and PROMOTION of the COMMON GOOD

VATICAN CITY, SEP 24, 2005 (VIS) - Archbishop Celestino Migliore, permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, participated yesterday in the general debate of the 60th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, being held in New York.

Speaking in English, Archbishop Migliore indicated that, although the Holy See approves much of what is proposed in the summit's final document, "the lack of consensus on arms control and non-proliferation issues is regrettable."

He also stressed that "the Holy See understands the references to both the Cairo and Beijing International Conferences and to reproductive health ... in the sense that it set out in its reservations and statements of interpretation at those Conferences, that is, as applying to a holistic concept of health that does not consider abortion or access to abortion as a dimension of those terms."

We are living, he said, "in an interdependent but fragile society and, in many places, peoples' best interests are not served well. I should like to mention here but three specific areas of ethical challenge in this regard: solidarity with the poor; the promotion of the common good; and a sustainable environment."

On the subject of human rights and cultural diversity, the permanent observer pointed out that "international law and its institutions are vital for the application and enforcement of human rights. Likewise, we should not lose sight of the importance that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights attaches to the incorporation of its principles into national law, and to education in fostering a rights-respecting culture."

"The reference to duties in the Universal Declaration reminds us that rights usually entail responsibilities; and that if we expect our own rights to be respected, we must respect the rights of others. ... A greater sense of universal human duties would benefit the cause of peace, because awareness of our mutual responsibility acknowledges duties as essential to a

social order which does not depend upon the will or power of any individual or group."

In closing, Archbishop Migliore turned to the question of religions, cultures and civilizations, affirming that "The Holy See supports the initiatives in the field of inter-faith cooperation and dialogue between civilizations especially where ... they form consciences, foster common moral values, and promote inter-cultural understanding and proactive commitments."

**(DELSS/60TH SESSION/UN:MIGLIORE
VIS 050926 (390))**

EUCCHARIST INCREASES LOVE for GOD and SERVICE to OTHERS

VATICAN CITY, SEP 25, 2005 (VIS) - In this his last Sunday at Castelgandolfo before returning to the Vatican later this week, the Holy Father continued his reflections on the Eucharistic mystery, highlighting the link between the Eucharist and charity.

Addressing pilgrims who had gathered to pray the Angelus in the internal courtyard of the pontifical residence of Castelgandolfo, the Pope pointed out that charity "does not primarily mean the beneficial act or sentiment, but the spiritual gift, the love of God that the Holy Spirit pours into the human heart, moving it to give itself in turn to God and to others."

After affirming that "Jesus' entire earthly existence, from conception to death on the cross, was a single act of love, to the point that we can sum up our faith in these words: 'Jesus Caritas,' Jesus Love," Benedict XVI recalled how during the Last Supper, the Lord entrusted the disciples with "His precious legacy, the Eucharist."

"In the Eucharist the Lord gives Himself to us with His body, His soul and His divinity, and we become one with Him and among ourselves. Our response to His love must, therefore, be a concrete response; it must be expressed in a true conversion to love, in forgiveness, in mutual acceptance and in attention to everyone's needs. Many and varied are the forms of service we can offer others in everyday life. The Eucharist thus becomes the source of spiritual energy that renews the world in the love of Christ."

The Pope presented the example of the saints "who from the Eucharist drew the strength for active and not infrequently heroic charity. My thoughts go to Saint Vincent de Paul ... who used to affirm: 'What joy to serve the person of Christ in His poor limbs!' I think of Blessed Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionary Sisters of Charity, who in the poorest of

the poor loved Christ, received and contemplated each day in the consecrated Host.”

“Before and more than all the saints, divine love filled the heart of the Virgin Mary. ... Let us pray that all Christians, nourishing themselves in the Body and Blood of the Lord, grow ever more in love for God and in generous service to their brothers and sisters.”

(ANG/EUCHARIST:CHARITY/...VIS 050926 (390))

GENEROSITY towards VICTIMS of NATURAL DISASTERS

VATICAN CITY, SEP 25, 2005 (VIS) - At midday today, following the Angelus, Benedict XVI greeted pilgrims in various languages then addressed them briefly on a number of subjects.

The Pope spoke first of the forthcoming celebration of World Tourism Day, describing it as “a social phenomenon of great importance in the world today.” He went on: “I again express the hope that tourism always be accompanied by respect for people and cultures, and that it may favor dialogue and understanding.” He also recalled that Thursday, September 29, is World Maritime Day, greeting and giving assurances of his prayers to all those who work at sea.

The Pope then addressed some words to English-speaking pilgrims. “Our thoughts go especially to those who are affected by the natural disasters in the United States and other parts of the world. I invite you to join me in prayer to the Lord for all who suffer, for the victims and their loved ones, and for the rescue workers.”

Benedict then called on Spanish-speaking faithful to help those afflicted by natural disasters “collaborating effectively, with a generous spirit and Christian charity, to mitigate pain and overcome adversity.”

The Pope concluded by greeting participants in an international meeting of Benedictine Oblates. “With the example and the intercession of Saint Benedict, may you always be able to experience a profound friendship with Christ, and bear witness of it to everyone.”

**(ANG/TOURISM:NATURAL CATASTROPHES/
VIS 050926 (250))**

CHRISTIAN MESSAGE REINFORCES BASICS of COEXISTENCE

VATICAN CITY, SEP 23, 2005 (VIS) - Benedict XVI today received the Letters of Credence of Luis Felipe Bravo Mena, the new ambassador of Mexico to the Holy See. In greeting the diplomat, the Pope recalled that “since 1992, when diplomatic relations were established between Mexico and the Holy See, notable progress has been made, in a climate of mutual respect and collaboration that has benefited both parties. This encourages us to continue working, each with their own autonomy and respective competencies, bearing in mind the main objective: the integral promotion of people, who are children of the nation and, the great majority of them, children of the Catholic Church.

“In this sense,” the Pope went on, “a democratic lay State is what safeguards the religious practices of its citizens, without preference or denial. In fact, the Church believes that in modern democratic societies full religious freedom can and must exist. In a lay State, it is the citizens who, in exercising their freedom, give a particular religious meaning to social life. Furthermore, a modern State must serve and protect the freedom of its citizens and the religious practices they chose, without restriction or coercion.”

“Faced with growing laicism that seeks to reduce the religious life of citizens to the private sphere, with no social or public expression, the Church knows very well that the Christian message reinforces and illuminates the basic principles of all coexistence.” In this context, the Pope pointed out how the institution of the family “needs special support, because in Mexico, as in other countries, its vitality and fundamental role are declining, not only because of cultural changes, but also because of the phenomenon of emigration, which brings serious difficulties of various kinds, especially for women, children and young people.”

Going on to mention the problem of drug trafficking, Benedict XVI recognized “the continuous efforts made up to now by the State and by various social organizations” to combat it. “It must not be forgotten that one of the roots of the problem is great economic inequality, which prevents the just development of a large part of the population. ... It is urgent for everyone to unite their efforts to eradicate this evil through the spread of authentic human values and the construction of a real culture of life. The Church offers her full collaboration in this field.”

The Pope also considered the question of the indigenous people of the country, “who for centuries have struggled to uphold their ancestral values and traditions.” He recalled John Paul II’s words on his trip to Mexico in 2002 to canonize the indigenous Saint Juan Diego: “Mexico needs its indigenous peoples and these peoples need Mexico!”

He added: “In fact, today more than ever it is necessary to favor their integration, while respecting their customs and their ways of organizing their communities; this enables them to develop their own culture and to open themselves, without losing their identity, to the challenges of a globalized world.”

Benedict XVI concluded his address by speaking of the forthcoming elections in 2006, “which represent an opportunity and a challenge to consolidate the significant progress made in democratizing the country. It is to be hoped that the electoral process contributes to a continued strengthening of the democratic order, firmly orienting it towards policies inspired by the common good and by the integral promotion of all citizens, with special care for the weakest and most unprotected. Mexican bishops referred to this in their message before the start of the electoral process. The title of that message, ‘Strengthen democracy by rebuilding civic trust,’ well indicates the needs of the present time.”

**(CD/LETTERS OF CREDENCE/MEXICO: BRAVO
VIS 050923 (620))**

GENERAL AUDIENCE: DIVINE LOVE BECOMES TANGIBLE in HISTORY

VATICAN CITY, SEP 28, 2005 (VIS) - In today’s general audience, which was held in St. Peter’s Square, the Pope spoke on the first part of Psalm 134, “Praise the Lord, Who works marvels.”

Benedict XVI explained to the 30,000 people present that this psalm “is a liturgical-style hymn, interwoven with allusions, evocations, and references to other biblical texts. ... It begins with a broad-ranging and impassioned call to praise the Lord,” in His temple, “the communal and preferred site of prayer. There the presence of ‘our God’ is effectively felt; a ‘good’ and ‘gracious’ God, the God of the choice and the covenant.”

The invitation to praise the Lord, the Holy Father went on, is followed by the “proclamation of the faith,” the substance of the entire hymn which reveals itself as being a proclamation of the greatness of the Lord as revealed in His marvelous works.”

The Pope affirmed that “divine omnipotence is then shown to the entire world,” however “it is above all another aspect of divine activity that is being celebrated in this profession of faith: the wonderful intervention in history, where the Creator reveals His face as redeemer of His people and sovereign of the world. The great events of Exodus are set out before the eyes of Israel gathered in prayer.”

“Divine love becomes concrete and almost tangible in history with all its sad and its glorious events. It is the task of liturgy to make the divine gifts ever present and effective, especially in the great Paschal celebration which lies at the roots of all other solemnities, and constitutes the supreme emblem of freedom and salvation.”

Benedict XVI concluded by calling on the faithful to make their own the words written by the first-century Pope, St. Clement of Rome, in his Letter to the Corinthians: “O Lord, bring your face to shine upon us for goodness in peace. ... Bring harmony and peace to us and to all inhabitants of the earth.”

Among his greetings at the end of the audience, Benedict XVI addressed participants in an international congress being held in Lucca, Italy, on the theme: “The signs of the Spirit in the twentieth century. A historical re-reading: the witnesses’ account.” He told them: “Last century, marked by sad pages of history, was at the same time permeated by marvelous testimony of spiritual and charismatic awakening in all fields of human life and activity.”

After congratulating the national coordinator of Renewal in the Spirit - who promoted the congress in collaboration with the superior general of the Oblates of the Holy Spirit, the founder of the Community of Sant’Egidio, and the founder of Focolari movement - the Pope expressed the hope “that the Holy Spirit will always find fruitful welcome in the hearts of believers, and that the ‘culture of the Pentecost,’ so necessary in our time, will become more widely spread.”

(AG/PSALM 134/... VIS 050928 (490))

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 Benedict XVI**.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

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

CONFERENCE CORNER

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

October 14-16, 2005 - Spiritual Recollection on the Eucharist, Saint Antoninus Church, Newark, NJ. (201) 933-5983 or georgemaryann@hotmail.com.
Speaker: **Father Trevor Nathasingh**, convert to **Catholicism** from a **Hindu/Moslem** background "on fire for our Eucharist Lord."

October 21, 22, 23, 2005 - 16th Annual Medjugorje Peace Conference Irvine, California, Bren Center "Start again to live my messages" Eucharistic Healing Service with **Bishop J. Faber MacDonald**, presiding. Speakers: **Bishop Jaime Soto, Father Timothy Deeter, Father Bob Garon** (ordained *June, 2005*), **Father Joseph Grbes, OFM, Msgr. James Lisante, Wayne Weible.** Testimonies by **Father Don Calloway MIC, Barbara MacNeish, Jennifer McCartin, and Colleen Willard.** In Concert and Testimony: **Irish Tenor, Mark Forrest.** Conference Music: **Spirit Alive and Connie Salazar.** Daily rosary and Holy Mass. Penance Service with individual confessions. For more information call: 714-572-9779 or starmed@aol.com or www.medjugorjeirvine.org.

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.

November 4-5, 2005 - Pilgrims' Peace Center's 11th Annual Prayer for Peace Conference, Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine, Orlando, Florida. Speakers: **Father Don Calloway, Father Bill Swengros, Msgr. F. Joseph Harte, Mike and Sandy Tobin** and more TBA. Invited: **Visionary Vicka Mijatovic.** Music by award winning **Hearts Desire, Ps.21.** For Information: 352-564-2463

November 19, 20, 2005 - Northern California Marian Conference, Double Tree Hotel, Modesto, California. "Dear children, Renew the Church" Speakers: **Visionary Marija Pavlovic Lunetti, Char Vance, Wayne Weible, Monsignor Francis Friedl,**

Father Joe Noonan, and Father Mike Patullo, Father Bill McCarthy, Bill Peters, with Father Ted Shipp as MC. For more information call: 209-835-5480; Fax: 209-833-3432 or write: **Fiat Voluntas Tua, 1443 Parker Avenue, Tracy, CA 95376**

March 3, 4, 2006 - Marian Conference, Saint Domitillas Hanley Hall, Hillside, Illinois. "Moving forward after the year of the Eucharist" Speakers: **Char Vance, Ferdinand Rocconti, Susan Tassone, Colleen Willard** and others to be announced. For more information call: 630-279-8424.

May 26, 27, 28, 2006 - National Conference on Medjugorje Joyce Center, Notre Dame, Indiana. Speakers: To be announced. For more information contact: **Frances Sain, Queen of Peace Ministries, P.O. Box 761, Notre Dame, IN 46556** Phone: 574-288-8777; Fax: 574-288-8795; e-mail: maryconference@sbcglobal.net. Web site: www.QueenofPeaceMinistries.com.

(compiled from various sources by Keith Werner)

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)

CALENDARS:

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)**.

In *November*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *ALL SAINTS (1), ALL SOULS (2), CHRIST the KING (20)*, Feasts of the *Dedication of Saint John Lateran Basilica in Rome (9)* and *Saint Andrew the Apostle (30)*, Memorials of *Saints Charles Borromeo (4), Pope Leo the Great (10), Martin of Tours (11), Josaphat (12), Elizabeth of Hungary (17), Cecilia (22), Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions (24)* and the *Presentation of Mary (21)*, and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Martin de Porres (3), Albert the Great (15), Margaret of Scotland (16), Gertrude (16), Rose Philippine Duchesne (18), Pope Clement I (23), Columban (23)*, as well as *Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro (23)*, and the *Dedication of the Basilicas of Apostles Peter and Paul in Rome (18)*. Church calendars recognize **Election Day (1), Veterans Day (11), and Thanksgiving Day (24)**. Advent begins on *Sunday, 11/27/05* because **Christmas** is on *Sunday*.

AROUND the **PFMC** AREA

Please review the announcements on *pages 1* through *4*, and on *pages 26 and 27* in **Bulletin Notice** and **Conference Corner**. Thank you for your support in all we try to do for Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, and His Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary.

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

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

POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS for *OCTOBER*

VATICAN CITY, SEP 30, 2005 (VIS) - Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of October is: **"That Christians may not be discouraged by the attacks of secularized society, but with complete trust, may bear witness to their faith and hope."**

His mission intention is: **"That the faithful may join to their fundamental duty of prayer the support also of economic contributions to the missionary works."**

(BXVI-PRAYER INTENTIONS/OCTOBER/..VIS
050930 (80))

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

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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!"**

