



The **PILGRIM**

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January 2007

The PILGRIM is a periodical from **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, My Lord, My God, My Creator, heal me, and come to me in Mercy. Make our hearts as one, undeserving as I am.



My Jesus in You I must learn to trust more, to surrender, and to love deeper. I unite my heart, bursting in flames of desire, to be with You. Come O precious One of bread and wine, Holy now as Body and Blood. Create in me, O God, a love so deep, that I cannot but move even a finger without knowledge of Your heart.

Be with me in all physical, spiritual and emotional comfort. Help me in all distractions and temptations. Help me to see God's plan for me. Calm and open my heart, mind and soul and let all happen now in His Will. Take all the pain and help me to love You more deeply. **AMEN**

HAVE A VERY BLESSED and HAPPY NEW YEAR in 2007!

All the volunteers at the **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)** wish you and all our friends a very **BLESSED** and **HAPPY NEW YEAR**.

PLEASE PLAN to JOIN US 16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007 and PLEASE PRE-REGISTER NOW

Registrations are now arriving for the **PFMC 2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC)**. This **RC** fast approaches on the last weekend before **Ash Wednesday 2007**. It will be held at the **CLARION HOTEL**, Cherry Hill, NJ from **Friday, 16 February 2007** through **Sunday, 18 February 2007**. See: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET2.pdf review it, and print out the form, fill it out, and mail

The **December MESSAGE**, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, is presented on page **12** (centerfold page) with **REFLECTIONS**.

registration form to **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963**. Reserve rooms at **CLARION HOTEL**.

The speakers have all been arranged and the topics under the theme "**BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.**" **Matthew 6:13 [NAB]** are ones you would not want to miss. We have finally found the lost. **Father Michael Semana** wants to be with us again and has graciously agreed to serve as our **Master of Ceremonies (MC)**. He will offer his gift of song in support of the **World of Hope Foundation** in between talks. He will also celebrate **Holy Mass** on **Saturday** before lunch. It will be one that you will never forget.

Bishop Gallante of **Camden Diocese** has approved this **PFMC 2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC)** to be held in the **CLARION HOTEL** and to provide **Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Praise and Worship, Confessions, and Speaker Presentations** in the hotel setting. Bring a friend or an entire prayer group. We have put together a program to teach you about **SPIRITUAL WARFARE** particularly **HEALING PRAYER** and **DELIVERANCE MINISTRY**. We encourage all to come for a full self contained weekend in the **CLARION HOTEL**. **Father Halbing** and **Francine Schmatz, Neil Lozano, Robert Able, and Moira Noonan** will do extensive teachings on **Healing the Wounded Person** and **Ministry to the Wounded**.

Please review the **blue** information packet inserted in this issue of "**The PILGRIM**" and sign up both with the **PFMC** and the **CLARION HOTEL** now, as **PFMC** seats will be limited to **800**, and we anticipate a full house using all the rooms in the hotel.

We are now processing reservation applications for attendance at the **2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC)**. Fill in at least one of the reservation forms in the **blue** information packet enclosed and mail it in to us at **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043**.

Call **(856) 428-2300** or FAX **(856) 354-7662** to make your room reservations at the **CLARION HOTEL**.

"**The PILGRIM**" for **January 2007** is dedicated to "**OUR LADY of SNOW.**" See page 3 for **Table of Contents** or "**IN THIS ISSUE . . .**"

Room reservation at the **CLARION HOTEL** is a “must do” as the good rooms go fast and you wouldn’t want to have to stay at another hotel and commute to this wonderful three day experience.

If you would like to distribute some of the **blue** information packets to your prayer group, family, or parish, please contact us at **856 768 9228** from **10 AM to 5 PM Monday – Friday** and we will be glad to provide you with as many as you need. Parishes can be provided with enough flyers for bulletins.

Please consider giving reservations for this event, with or without the meal plan, or hotel rooms as gifts.

“ACCEPTANCE” SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS – SATURDAY, 3/24/07

As a person living in today’s society, do you find yourself angry and frustrated relating to old conflicts and grievances?

Are you unable to come to terms about what happened and why?

Do you struggle with **ACCEPTANCE** of yourself and possibly how you became involved in the dilemma?

What does **ACCEPTANCE MEAN TO YOU?**

How much do you need to give up to be **ACCEPTED** by others?

Beginning to acknowledge what has occurred, what our **BEHAVIOR** is or has been is important in **ACCEPTING** who we are.

Are you unable, unwilling, or **FEARFUL** of **ACCEPTANCE** by others?

Are you **FEARFUL** of acknowledging a difficult and complex situation exists, making it difficult to **ACT** on the situation.

This full day experiential set of seminars and workshops will provide you with an opportunity to illuminate core beliefs that often impact on how we behave and respond to old issues, grievances, and present conflicts.

It will provide you with an opportunity to learn how to **ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONCERN . . . ADDRESS IT . . . AND LEARN TO APPLY THIS KNOWLEDGE IN ACCEPTING NEW**

EVENTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES.

The main speaker will be **Irene Atwell, M.Ed., LPC**, an individual and couple/family clinician who has worked for over three decades with couples / families of various backgrounds who experience stress and conflict in their lives. She also works with individuals who experience distress and mental illness.

Irene Atwell facilitated the **Daughters of Ruth** group at the **PFMC**, a support group for women, in **2002** and **2003**. She has appeared on television and radio discussing mental health concerns and relationship issues, and she has authored and coauthored several articles. She has significant expertise and skill working with chronic mental illness, panic disorders, BiPolar, Depression, Addiction, and Family / couple conflicts. She is a member of the **National Association of Black Psychologists**, the **Delaware Valley Association of Black Psychologists**, and the **American Counseling Association**.

Other speakers will be **Reverend John O. Parker**, **Pastor of Antioch Baptist Church**, and **Kathleen Werner, RN, BSN, LNHA**, **Member of the Association of Christian Therapists (ACT)**, **Leader of Healing Prayer**, and **President of the PFMC**.

The **PFMC** will host **ACCEPTANCE** seminars and workshops in the **UPPER ROOM** at **EPIPHANY HOUSE, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963** from **9 AM to 4 PM** on **Saturday, 3/24/07**.

Donation for these seminars / workshops is **\$60** per person for the day, and includes registration packet, coffee / refreshments, light snacks, and a full lunch.

Registration will be open about 8:30 AM and a full schedule for morning and afternoon sessions will be provided. Pre-registration is preferred so we can plan for setup and food as well as save time that morning.

Please fill out the registration form from the enclosed information sheet or print it from www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET3.pdf and submit it with the registration fee by check, money order, or information to charge it on your Discover, MasterCard, Visa credit card.

For **Roman Catholics**, **Saturday, 3/24/07** is the **SOLEMNITY** of the **ANNUNCIATION** or **INCARNATION** of **OUR LORD** and **SAVIOR**,

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.

JESUS CHRIST, in the WOMB or OUR BLESSED VIRGIN JEWISH MOTHER, MARY.

What did **Mary ACCEPT** when she heard the words of the **Angel Gabriel in Luke 1:26-38**?

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word.” (Luke 1:38)

Her **“YES”** was human **ACCEPTANCE** of God’s will.

Her son, **Jesus, ACCEPTED** a life of suffering and an agonizing death:

“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” (John 15:13)

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2007 CALENDARS FOR PFMC EVENTS

See Conference Corner as well as Bulletin and other Notices on page 27.

February 2007

Friday thru Sunday, 16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007: PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE. See article starting on page 1.

March 2007

Saturday, 24 MARCH 2007: PFMC hosts “ACCEPTANCE” Seminars / Workshops. See article starting on page 2.



IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Philomena Cascio, 12/11/06, Vince Nocella’s Sister

George Foster, 12/22/06, Colleen Thomas’s Brother

Gerald R. Ford, 12/26/06, 38th U.S. President, born in Omaha, NE as were Kathleen and Keith Werner.

Dominic Lettieri, 1/3/07, A Great Friend of the PFMC, Leader of In His Sign (IHS) Ministries, Catholic Talk and Internet Radio Broadcaster.

Please send us death notices, prayer cards, etc. so we can pray for the deceased. We are considering having a special Holy Mass for all the deceased friends of the **PFMC**. We need those death notices or prayer cards.

DEATH of DOMINIC LETTIERI

We ask you to join us in prayer for **Joan Lettieri**, their family and friends, as well as all the **IHS Ministries** volunteers, particularly **Maureen**, who **The PILGRIM, Volume 18, Number 01 – January 2007**

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helped keep **Dominic Lettieri** and his supporters on the air, now also on the **Internet**.

Dom’s service to the **broadcast** and now **Internet radio ministry** has been most beneficial to **Catholics** and **Christians** alike throughout the **Delaware** valley.

2007 for the PFMC

In much prayer and discussions, we have reached some very difficult decisions. It saddens us that **2007** will see the cessation of **PFMC** operations at **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043**.

As you know the tragic events and aftermath of **September 11, 2001** have taken a toll on the citizens of this great nation. The non-profit organizations dedicated to promulgation of faith and morals have lost a great deal of their support. The **PFMC** is one of those non-profit organizations.

Kathleen and Keith Werner have exhaustively tried to continue the operations of the **PFMC** at **Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043**. The monthly donations from others rarely exceeded **10 percent** of the monthly cost of operations which averages around **\$7000 per month**. Now we must sell the property at **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043**.

We have prayerfully considered the announcements printed below. Please pray that the transition will go smoothly. Here are some of the specifics:

- Following the **February 2007 PFMC Retreat Conference**, large **Annual PFMC Retreat Conferences** will cease. We encourage everyone reading this newsletter and who have known us these **18 years** of ministry to go to this extremely important event. Enclosed is the last issue of the **BLUE** information packet with reservation forms. Please fill out a form and submit it to the **PFMC** as soon as possible. Reserve your hotel room immediately with the **CLARION HOTEL**.
- Activities in **Epiphany House** will continue to be scheduled as private or parish groups request until the final decision is made to put the property up for sale on the real estate market. This will probably be in late **September 2007**.
- The contents of **Epiphany House**, i.e., furniture, files, inventory, etc., will be made available to anyone who wishes to bid on them. A list will be kept with names and bids. When the decision is made to vacate the premises the contents will be transferred to those who want them with the highest bidder winning each item. The rest will be disposed of properly. We can not afford to rent storage space so stop by and bid.
- This periodical, "**The PILGRIM**," will continue until such time as facilities for publishing, assembly, and mailing are no longer available. These will probably **NOT** be available after the sale of **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043**. The frequency of publication will be reduced as necessary as will the size of the mailing list. This latter means that those who do not regularly contact us will be dropped from the mailing list. We have been mailing to all parishes within the **Roman Catholic Province of New Jersey** for many years. We have shifted to **FAX** notification of events to the parishes and will cease paper delivery after this issue.

We continue to ask for your donations to keep the **PFMC** operations going for at least the next nine months. We are still looking for guidance as to what to do with the **PFMC** operations after the sale of **61**

Cooper Road is completed. See article **AFTER 2007 for the PFMC** below. We hope that all can be accomplished in peace. Have a blessed **2007** and please pray for all the volunteers at the **PFMC**.

God Bless!

AFTER 2007 for the PFMC

Kathleen will continue her work in **Healing Prayer** with **Keith** in **Intercessory Prayer**.

The base of operations may still be called the **PFMC** but it will not be at **61 Cooper Road** and probably not in their private home.

The support for **PFMC** operations set up in **Epiphany House** may be moved to a new location or completely sold with other contents. Decisions will have to be made on phones, computers, etc. particularly regarding the handling of requests for intercession.

As decisions are made and plans formulated they will be published in "**The PILGRIM**" with a complete rundown in the last printing of "**The PILGRIM**." If you wish to continue receiving "**The PILGRIM**" we ask for regular contact and monthly donations of at least **\$3**. There has been no subscription fee for all the years of periodical publication.

Over the last **18 years**, we have ministered to people seeking guidance, prayer, or help. We have done our best to be God's instruments in this way. We will continue to be available to speak on past pilgrimages, and to assist anyone in setting up their own pilgrimage to holy shrines, including **Medjugorje**.

In our library there are many photo books of past pilgrimages. If you wish to look at them, please come to the **Upper Room** of **Epiphany House** at the **PFMC**, and enjoy browsing through them. Many memories will return to your heart. The same is true of our **PFMC** files and the recently acquired **KARMINSKI** files on the early years of many of the worlds apparition sites from the 1980's and 1990's.

For **18 years** we have had faithful volunteers who have been there to help with religious activities, annual events, and in the **PFMC** operations at **129 Deerfield Avenue** and **61 Cooper Road**. No one has received a salary.

We have remained in Our Lady's mantle of protection and are grateful for so many years of being able to serve her and her Son.

It is now time to work more quietly and in intercessory prayer.

We want to take this opportunity to thank every person who has been there for us, and for Our Lady's work. **God Bless!**

Kathleen and Keith Werner



OUR LADY of SNOW

A feast that commemorates the dedication of the church of *Santa Maria Maggiore* on the Esquiline Hill in [Rome](#). The church was originally built by [Pope Liberius](#), and was called after him *Basilica Liberii* or *Liberiana*. It was restored by [Pope Sixtus III](#), and dedicated to [Our Lady](#). From that time on it was known as *Basilica S. Mariæ* or *Mariæ Majoris*. Since the [seventh century](#) it was known also as *Maria ad Præsepe*.

The appellation *ad Nives* (*of the snow*) originated a few hundred years later, as did also the legend which gave this name to the church. The legend says that during the pontificate of Liberius, the Roman patrician John and his wife, who were without heirs, made a vow to donate their possessions to Our Lady. They prayed that she might make known to them how they were to dispose of their property in her honour. On 5 August, during the night, snow fell on the summit of the Esquiline Hill. In obedience to a vision which they had the same night, the couple built a basilica in honour of Our Lady on the spot which was covered with snow. From the fact that no mention whatever is made of this alleged miracle until a few hundred years later, not even by Sixtus III in his eight-lined dedicatory inscription, it would seem that the legend has no historical basis.

Originally the feast was celebrated only at *Sta Maria Maggiore*. In the [fourteenth century](#) it was extended to all the churches of Rome, and finally it was made a universal feast by Pope Pius V. Pope Clement VIII raised it from a feast of double rite to double major. The mass is the common one for feasts of the Blessed Virgin; the office is also the common one of the Blessed Virgin, with the exception of the second Nocturn, which is an account of the alleged miracle. The congregation, which [Pope Benedict XIV](#) instituted for the reform of the Breviary in 1741, proposed that the reading of the legend be struck from the Office, and that the feast should again receive its original name, *Dedicatio Sanctæ Mariæ*.

(taken from the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, copyright 1911, article by Michael Ott and also <http://www.magnificat.ca/cal/engl/08-05.htm>)

FROM the FRIARS

There is a story of a religious sister who was often sad and struggled with bouts of depression. She often overworked to try and “ignore” these feelings, hoping that all the activity would enable her to hide from the pain she was experiencing. By the time evening came around, this sister was exhausted. There was another sister in her community who noticed her sadness and thought and prayed on how she could comfort her sister. But it was always after Compline that she noticed this. (Compline is the night prayer of the Church, and in their community the sisters were prohibited from speaking with one another until the next morning.)

However, determined to comfort her sister, she stood in the hallway, waited for her to pass by, and instead of speaking, gave her the biggest smile she could. A few years later the smiling sister died. There was no one to greet this other sister with a smile, a smile which seemed to make her troubles vanish and enabled her to sleep in peace. The sister who was determined to comfort this other sister with a smile was Saint Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower.

Oftentimes I think we become convinced that the only way to really help people is by donating a large sum of money to a third world country, adopting some refugee children, or doing something extraordinary that requires many resources or a large amount of time. Yet, let's face it, who has a large sum of money to donate or an extra amount of free time in their life? Since many of us probably do not, it is easy to become discouraged and start to believe that there is really nothing we can do.

This couldn't be farther from the truth. Ordinary life,

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

with its ordinary people and its ordinary situations, is the “playing field” where all of us will grow in holiness, if only we are open and awake enough to see those who are around us. Daily life is sufficient for our growth in holiness; it is the soil where we can grow to become saints. The most important thing is to do whatever you are doing, to be wherever you are, but to do it and be there with great love.

There are no excuses. Everyone has people around them, whether it is family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, or just people we meet casually through the day at a store or in a parking lot, who are hurting and are in desperate need of that love that Christ calls us to bring to the world. And yet, the solution doesn't demand money, a certain intelligence, a lot of free time, or that you be an eloquent speaker. It can be as easy as a smile, a simple “hello,” or “thank you,” or even a sincere “God bless you” when you leave.

The other day, Br. Giuseppe and I spent our day off from the seminary in the library working on a paper and studying. After we both got tired we decided to go for a walk and admire the fall scenery that surrounds the seminary. About halfway through our walk, Br. Giuseppe turned to me and said, “You know, you don't have to be moving to be going somewhere.” We stood for a moment in silence and I thought about how true it is. I think something similar can be said about holiness; you don't have to be an extraordinarily complicated person to become a saint—being an extraordinarily simple person is enough.

Peace and blessings in the Lord,

(Br. Jeremiah Myriam Shryock, CFR)

JESUS I ADORE YOU

Be blessed Jesus, for the moment in which for the first time, You offered Yourself to the disciples, and You entered the lives of Your disciples in such a mysterious but real way. Be Blessed also in the name of those who receive You in the heavenly bread and the cup of salvation at the hands of Your Priests. Be blessed Jesus for those who nourish themselves spiritually daily with You and believe in Your real presence in the Eucharistic bread and wine. Be Blessed in all your ministers who offer Your body saying: “The body of Christ “ and in those who reply “Amen”

Jesus grant that, by the strength of Your spirit, Eucharistic communion with You is always a meeting of love for every believer who receives You. I am sorry for every holy communion which I made superficially, and unworthy of You and Your love.

That is why today I wish to show You more love, I wish to burn with an even deeper longing for You. Amen. I praise, bless and rejoice in You Jesus.

I adore You together all those who adore You with living faith. I glorify You together with those communities who adore you night and day. Bless them, Lord Jesus, and fill them with the Spirit of Adoration that their dwelling with You becomes a joyful encounter, that every heart which adores You can unite completely with You, that all those who adore may be one in You just as You are one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. I adore You also in those churches and oratories where Your people have forgotten You and left You alone. May your Spirit be poured out on those Parish communities where souls have not yet woken up to Adoration. They will come and adore You when You release Your spirit, when the Spirit leads Your faithful into the mystery of Your presence.

I adore You in the name of all those who have forgotten You!

The Meaning and Value of Eucharistic Adoration

When the faithful adore Christ present in the sacrament, they should remember that his presence derives from the sacrifice and is directed towards both sacramental and spiritual communion” (Sacred Congregation of Rites, Instruction on the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery, n. 50). I therefore encourage Christians regularly to visit Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar, for we are all called to abide in the presence of God, thanks to him who is with us until the end of time. In contemplation, Christians will perceive ever more profoundly that the paschal mystery is at the heart of all Christian life. This practice leads them to join more intensely in the paschal mystery and to make the Eucharistic sacrifice, the perfect gift, the centre of their life in accordance with their specific vocation, for it “confers and incomparable dignity upon the Christian people” (Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei*, n. 67); in fact, during the Eucharist, we are welcomed by Christ, we receive his forgiveness, we are nourished by his word and his bread, we are then sent out on mission in the world; thus each one is called to witness to what he has received and to do the same for his brethren. The faithful strengthen their hope by discovering that with Christ suffering and distress can be transfigured, for with him we have already returned from death to life. As a result, when they offer the Lord of history their own life, their work and all creation, their days are illumined by him. I urge priests, religious and lay people to continue and redouble their efforts to teach the younger generations the meaning and value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion. How will young

people be able to know the Lord if they are not introduced to the mystery of his presence? Like the young Samuel, by learning the words of the prayer of the heart, they will be closer to the Lord who will accompany them in their spiritual and human growth, and in the missionary witness which they must give throughout their life. The Eucharistic mystery is in fact the “summit of evangelization” (Lumen gentium, n. 28), for it is the most eminent testimony to Christ’s Resurrection. All interior life needs silence and intimacy with Christ in order to develop. This gradual familiarity with the Lord will enable certain young people to be involved in serving as acolytes and to taking a more active part in Mass; for young boys, to be near the altar is also a privileged opportunity to hear Christ’s call to follow him more radically in the priestly ministry. (John Paul II, 28th , May 1966)

(From Medugorge Herald, Vol. 20, Issue 6, June 2006)

THE UGLIEST of ALL SIN

I believe the greatest sin committed with the tongue is the lie that is propagated with one object in mind to take away someone’s character.

It is called character assassination. Denigrating other people is nearly always done in order to enhance one’s own image by belittling someone else’s.

These people get an evil satisfaction in knocking someone else from their pedestal, and it is always done deviously, it is never done to their face, and well out of earshot of those who know differently.

It is just as bad a lie, avoiding the truth, or uttering a half-truth in order to mislead others into believing the opposite, and then smugly convincing themselves that they have not told an actual lie.

To set out with either of the above intentions in order to take another’s character away from him, is the ugliest of sins, because only God has the right to judge others.

The terrible problem is that the world mostly judges people that they do not know personally, by what others say of them, and it is mostly through the mouth of other’s opinions that a person personally unknown to the listener, has his character deformed.

This being one of the ugliest of sins it should be the first to relate in the confessional, but it is the sine that is too often ignored as a sing by the perpetrator of malicious gossip.

In Paragraph 92 of Saint Faustina diary she is speaking as a religious when she said:

At those times when I suffer much (from others words), I try to remain silent, as I do not trust my tongue which at such moments, is inclined to talk for itself, while its duty is to praise God for all the blessing and gifts which he has given me.

When I receive Jesus in Holy Communion, I ask Him fervently to deign to heal my tongue so that I would offend neither God nor neighbor by it

I want my tongue to praise God without cease. Great are the faults committed by the tongue. The soul will not attain sanctity if it does not keep watch over its tongue. To paraphrase Saint Faustina as she continues to speak on the subject:

The tongue is a small object but it does a huge amount of harm. A religious who does not keep silent from criticizing others, will never attain holiness; that is, he or she will never reach the heights of heaven.

Let then not delude themselves, unless it is the Spirit of God, one has to have purity of soul, a soul whose tongue is silent except when it speaks good to others.

Oh, what irreparable damage is done by the tongue! We cause a lot of harm to our neighbor with our tongue, but even more to our own selves.

When you engage in malicious gossip denigrating other people you are destroying the soul of the person listening to you as well as your own, because they foolishly then become involved in these malicious lies, and do irreparable damage to their own souls.

Saint Faustina went on to say: God does not give himself to a malicious gossiping soul, which like a drown in a beehive, buzzes around but gathers no honey. This type of soul is empty inside.

It lacks both the essential virtues and intimacy with God. I have seen many souls in the depts. Of hell for

PLEASE RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE AND STAY ON THE BULK MAILING

Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery address is incorrect. We do need to hear from you in writing **at least once a year** in order to keep you on our mailing list. Please respond now.

In Christian charity we do not want delivery to incorrect addresses and wasting of God’s precious resources. There is no “subscription” fee. We do ask for free will donations to support **“The PILGRIM”** and the operations of the **PFMC**.

If you know someone who would enjoy the **“The PILGRIM,”** please ask them to contact us at the address printed in the box on page 5 or near the mailing label on the last page.

not having kept their silence; they told me so themselves when I asked them what was the cause of their undoing.

These were souls of religious. My God, what an agony it was to think that not only might they have been in heaven, but they might have even become saints! O Jesus have mercy on them!

Diary 119

I tremble to think that I have to give an account of my tongue. There is life, but there is also death in the tongue. Some times we kill with the tongue.

We commit real murder.

As we are still to regard that as a small thing? I truly do not understand such consciences.

I have known a person who, when she learned from someone that a certain thing was being said about her, fell serious ill.

She lost a god deal of weight and shed many tears, and the outcome was very sad. It was not the sword that did all this, but the tongue of another. O my silent Jesus, have mercy on us!

Help me O Lord that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak ill of my neighbor, but only have a word to comfort and forgiveness for all.

The denial of my tongue. I will not give it the least bit of freedom; but in one case only I will give it complete freedom, that is, in proclaiming the glory of God. Whenever I receive Holy Communion, I will ask Jesus to fortify and cleanse my tongue that I may not injure my neighbor with it.

Diary 590

When I receive Holy Communion, I entreat and beg the Savoir to heal my tongue that I may never fail to love my neighbor.

What Saint Faustina was speaking about was “Good Name Assassins”. That is those who indulge in character assassination, which is the ugliest sin.

And some who not only claim to be Christian, but put themselves forward as pillars of faith are carrying on character assassination at every opportunity.

This person has a type of cancer of the soul, which is far worse and far more dangerous than cancer of the body.

Because he does not keep it to himself but spews it out so that it poisons others souls as well as his own. He is in fact a murderer of souls.

A person that has this type of cancer is like the serpent spewing poison every time his tongue comes out, and worst of all with a smile on his face, for his

enjoyment in life is destroying other people’s good name, biding behind a mask of pretend sanctity.

I don’t know of anything more ugly than I could warn people about, nor any sin more despicable, than these thieves of innocent people’s good name and reputation.

An ordinary thief of material goods can at least some day make restitution.

But if one steals the good name of another clandestinely, so that the person with the good name doesn’t even realize it is happening there is no possible way that his good name can be restored.

We are often aware of whom these people are, but propriety usually prevents us from naming them.

I think sometimes it might be better to name and shame them and maybe save other people from their evil intent, especially when we have the proof.

**(Val Conlon, Director of Divine Mercy Publications
Apostolate, Maryville, Skerrie, Co. Dublin, Ireland,
From Medjugorge Herald, Vol. 20 No. 6, June 2006.)**

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

If you need vocation information and you do not find it in your local parish or diocese offices, please call (856) 768-9228. We will do our best to locate the information you need and send it to you.



DAD’S VOCATION TREPIDATION

Question: My son graduated from high school and wants to be a priest, but his father is against it. He has always gone to church with the family, but my husband isn’t very religious. Whenever my son starts asking about religious orders or seminaries, his father always works in a snide comment about the recent scandals. And then he says he’s just a kid and couldn’t possibly decide on a vocation yet. I’m worried my husband will wear him down. He has always looked for approval from his dad. What can I do about my husband? How can I encourage my son?

Answer: Every vocation gets put to the test sooner or later, and it looks like God has a “sooner” in mind for your son.

You can be sure that husband won’t be the only person who will express doubts about the value of a call to the priesthood today.

There will be the peer pressure of friends, and the criticisms of teachers, mentors, or other relatives. God allows this in order to purify and strengthen a vocation. Don't take it as an indication that your son isn't called.

But we know we can't ignore God just because following him costs us something. It would be an awfully weak sort of Christianity that looked to have the path laid out before us with no pain or discomfort. Not the sort of Christianity Christ would recognize.

Help your son look at this not with any anger or resentment, but with a spirit of faith that God wants these first steps to be more difficult, to strengthen his convictions about what is most important. Every day in the priesthood we have to renew our sense that the cross is the way we help save souls.

There is no shortcut.

Ideally, you want your son to go with his father's blessing, but it is possible that despite your best efforts, your son will have to face some of the hard truths of the Gospel- that following Christ can mean leaving people and things we love behind because Christ is the most important thing in life.

Regarding his age, of course it is hard to know for sure at 18 if God is really calling. That's why the Church mandates a good number of years of formation before one takes on the life commitments the priesthood entails.

The best thing you can do for your son is to keep encouraging him to live in accord with his probable calling: keep up a good prayer life, frequent or daily reception of the Eucharist, regular confession, and live with a healthy caution about the dangers and temptations that a young person today can face. Have him stay involved in some work for the Church - in a parish youth group, evangelization, missions, etc.

Your biggest and most important job will be your prayer and your sacrifice. Your son needs someone backing him up spiritually all the way, and probably God has put you in that role.

And don't write off your husband, either.

Sometimes men have strange ways of wrestling with something in their conscience. He may very well know deep down that what your son wants is good, but just can't come around to accept the implications of what it means. Maybe he feels pushed to come to grips with the fact that God is calling him to change, to take his own faith more seriously - and so far he finds it easier to hide behind some easy put-downs and not deal with it directly.

To help your husband, you'll need to deepen your level of communication and your overall relationship.

Maybe the Church's recent history affected his faith, all of us have struggled with the shock of the scandal. We all have to remind ourselves of the full story of the priesthood.

Maybe a quick review of Pope John Paul II's life, or remembering the outpouring of love at his funeral will help.

There are thousands upon thousands of happy, devoted, saintly priests who every day go out and work for the Church without thinking of themselves, and witness to the power and love of the Lord, often in heroic circumstances amid great difficulties. If your son is attracted to the priesthood, that is the kind of priest he is aspiring to be and you should both be proud to encourage him.

No doubt your son has met some wonderful priests - you should get your husband to know them.

You need to be prudent, and definitely pray first, but do challenge his faith. Don't worry so much about getting him to "accept" your son's vocation. Rather, help him grow in faith. That's what he needs the most.

It might take some time and he may only come around slowly and deal with his demons in his own way. But every dad wants to be proud of his son, and there is nothing greater than having a son who gives his life to Christ and helps people get to heaven.

Nothing.

Have confidence. The Holy Spirit will be active in your husband's heart. Be a good partner to the Holy Spirit and let him work.

(From Faith & Family, The Magazine of Catholic Living, Fall, 2005)

ANYWAY by MOTHER TERESA

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self centered, - Forgive them anyway.

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 going to visit or 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.

If you are kind, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives, - Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you win some false friends and some true enemies, - Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, even authentic, people may cheat you, - Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spent years building someone could destroy overnight. - Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous, - Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow. - Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough. - Give the world the best you have anyway.

You see, in the final analysis it is between you and God. - It was never between you and them anyway.

(from a sign on the wall of the Children's Home in Calcutta)

DEAR FRIEND of PRIESTS for LIFE from FATHER PAVONE

As you probably know, God has seen fit to bless our Missionaries of the Gospel of Life society with an abundance of spiritual and financial support; so much so, in fact, that the society was able to break ground on the construction of our home base of operations this past August 24.

The formation and growth of this society is vital to the success of our mission to end abortion in America. Ever since the late John Cardinal O'Connor commissioned me to head up Priests for Life, I knew that the only way we could ever uproot the culture of death from our nation was if the Church had a corps of priests who devoted their lives to the preaching of the Gospel of Life on a full-time basis. That, in a nutshell, is the particular charism of our Missionaries of the Gospel of Life. So I am more excited than I can express over the tremendous growth the society has shown in its early days. Now we must be about the business of stabilizing the society and fostering even more growth.

At the same time we're doing that, we must continue to bring more of our fellow Americans into our pro-life family. You may not be aware of this, but we are making great strides in achieving that goal. See for yourself:

* The number of abortions, abortionists, and abortion mills are all DOWN!

* Young, energetic activists are joining our pro-life movement in record numbers!

* Scientific evidence proves beyond a doubt that human life begins at conception.

* Growing numbers of women and men harmed by abortion are coming forward to make their voices heard on the devastating impact abortion had on them.

* A growing body of medical evidence shows that abortion does NOT benefit women.

* Same with sociological evidence. It shows that abortion does NOT benefit society.

* As you've no doubt noticed, the new wave of clergy is passionate about the Gospel of Life. They are preparing themselves to lead the pro-life movement.

* There is also a new wave of reporters who are more pro-life than their predecessors. I am cautiously optimistic that they will give our pro-life arguments a hearing.

As you can see, the momentum remains solidly on our side. But that will all come to an abrupt end unless we are able to continue to take our message directly to the people, make them disciples of the Gospel of Life, and bring them into our growing pro-life family.

Always remember,

We are not just working for victory ... we are working from victory. The outcome of the battle for life has already been decided. It only remains for us to do our part to proclaim, celebrate, and serve that victory ... and bring its transforming power to every segment of our society!

What will be your "repayment"? Here's how former Congressman Henry Hyde put it:

"When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God - and a terror will rip your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there'll be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world - and they will plead for everyone who has been in this movement. They will say to God, 'Spare him, because he loved us!'"

That is a consoling thought indeed. And with that in mind I ask you, if at all possible, to go to <https://secure.priestsforlife.org/donate.php> (click on

the link or copy and paste the text into your browser) to send Priests for Life your special 15th Anniversary gift. Please make your gift for as much as you possibly can.

(excerpts from an e-mail from Priests for Life
[\[priests_for_life@imcomonline.com\]](mailto:priests_for_life@imcomonline.com) Thu 12/28/2006)

PRIESTS: SERVING GOD and SAVING SOULS

VATICAN CITY, DEC 7, 2005 (VIS) - In his greetings to the faithful at the end of today's general audience, held this morning in Saint Peter's Square, Benedict XVI addressed some words to participants in a congress being promoted by the Congregation for the Clergy, and to members of the Italian Association of Referees.

To participants in the congress marking the fortieth anniversary of the Decree 'Presbyterorum Ordinis,' who were accompanied by Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos, prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy, the Pope said: "This conciliar document marked a stage of fundamental importance in the life of the Church, reflecting upon the characteristics of priestly ministry which conforms priests to Jesus Christ, the head and shepherd of His people. In His image and at His service, priests must give their lives for the glory of God and the salvation of souls."

The Holy Father then told members of the Bolzano and Florence sections of the Italian Association of Referees that their presence gave him the opportunity, "once again, to underline the value of sport which, if practiced well, can become the privileged vehicle for an incomparable message of hope, promoting a culture of respect, loyalty and serene coexistence."

Turning then to address Polish pilgrims, Benedict XVI recalled that tomorrow is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God. "God," he told them, "chose her and preserved her from original sin, to prepare her to be the worthy mother of His Son."

(AG/GREETINGS/...VIS 051207 (260))

ENCLOSED ITEMS

In this *January 2007* issue of "*The PILGRIM*" are the following:

A [blue](#) information packet with registration forms for the *16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007 PFMC RETREAT CONFERENCE*. Theme: "**but deliver us from the evil one.**" (**Matthew 6:13**)[NAB]. Location:

The PILGRIM, Volume 18, Number 01 – January 2007

Clarion Hotel, NJ 70 and I-295, Cherry Hill, NJ. Call (856) 768-9228 for a packet or print it from: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET2.pdf.

A white information sheet with reservation forms www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET3.pdf for the 3/24/06 "ACCEPTANCE" SEMINARS / WORKSHOPS in the Upper Room at the Epiphany House of the **PFMC**.

The new larger **PFMC** donation envelope and the new larger donation coupon expanded in size over those smaller versions explained in the *July 2004 special financial support appeal letter* for the **PFMC**. Please respond if you are able.

We need to hear from readers that their addresses are still correct and would love to receive a donation from each reader on a regular basis.

PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS



Kathleen and **K**eith 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.

The **PFMC** volunteers 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** volunteers to set up a display in the basement, school cafeteria, or gymnasium, or wherever we could have about **20** or more large tables with display material on them. If the donations / free will offerings are sufficient to cover **PFMC** costs, we will share them with the parish.

MESSAGE of 12/25/2006 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

Dear children! Also today I bring you the newborn Jesus in my arms. He who is the King of Heaven and earth, He is your peace. Little children, no one can give you peace as He who is the King of Peace. Therefore, adore Him in your hearts, choose Him and you will have joy in Him. He will bless you with His blessing of peace. 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 12/25/2006

JESUS IS YOUR PEACE

In the Christmas messages that the Virgin Mary has been giving us, she has spoken about peace and called us to it: “Dear children! Also today I bring you little Jesus, who is the King of Peace, in my arms to bless you with His peace. I call you to be my carriers of peace in this peaceless world. I am bringing Jesus, the King of Peace, to grant you His peace. Put the little Newborn Jesus in the first place in your life. In a special way I bless you, little children, with a blessing of little Jesus. Let Him fill you with His peace. “

Christmas is the utmost manifestation of the love of God. “But when the goodness of God our Saviour and His love to man appeared” (Tit 3, 4). It is dew fallen from the sky at Christmas, tenderness raining from above.

Evangelist Luke describes that a great heavenly army joined the angel and praised God: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests” (Lk 2, 14). With their song the angels express the meaning of what happened, saying that the glory of God is materialized through the birth of the Child bringing peace to people. In the biblical sense peace refers to a whole of all things, particularly to forgiveness of sins and the gift of God’s Spirit. The biblical expression for peace is close to the expression “grace”. The peace granted by God stands for much more than a mere absence or elimination of wars and conflicts among men. It stands for a re-established, peaceful relationship of a son towards God, that is, in one word, salvation. Justified by faith – an Apostle says – we are in peace with God. In this sense, peace is identified with the very person of Christ. “For He Himself is our only peace” (Eph 2, 14).

The Virgin Mary continues coming and bringing us Jesus just as she did when she came and appeared on Apparition Hill for the first time, with the Baby Jesus

in her arms. Our Lady’s words and presence are neither loud nor unusual or noneveryday. Her presence with us here and among us is hidden in the commonness of the human word and simplicity. God is revealing Himself in the commonness and simplicity of a child. Jesus remains with us dressed and hidden in the simplicity of the Eucharist bread. And it is precisely this simplicity where the omnipotence of God’s love and closeness resides. This greatness and omnipotence is capable of creating new life and transforming the hearts of men. The words of Our Lady are nothing new or unfamiliar. They are a reminder of the wisdom and truth of God’s word.

The Virgin Mary is full of grace and full of God. She has emptied herself completely in order for God to reside in her fully. She is all turned to God. Therefore, she speaks to us: “Adore Him in your hearts, choose Him, no one can grant you peace as He can, and you will have joy in Him.” Let this happen in our lives every day, not only at this Christmas.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.12.2006,
<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr/Main.aspx>

ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 12/25/2006

“Dear children! Also today I bring you the newborn Jesus in my arms. He who is the King of Heaven and earth, He is your peace.” With these beautiful words of the first two sentences of Her message of December 25, 2006, Our Lady speaks to our hearts. Again, She is coming with the newborn Jesus, little Jesus, in Her arms. She is encouraging us to accept Her motherly love as little Jesus did. In this way, She will bring us to Jesus. As we begin another year, are we willing to embrace our dear Lord with our total being?

During these days, which are a special time of grace, Jesus comes into our lives with His unconditional love. He is challenging us to be His faithful and devoted servants. Jesus once mentioned to His

apostles that the “Son of Man came to serve and not be served.” These words of our dear Lord should truly ring in our ears. However, we can only begin to be our Lord’s servants when we decide to “move away” from ourselves, embrace conversion, and become like Jesus. For most people, this is more than a significant challenge. Being so involved in this world, most folks find it very difficult to be a disciple of Jesus. Thus, the next two sentences of Our Lady’s message of December 25, 2006 are most important for us to reflect upon. “Little children, no one can give you peace as He who is the King of Peace. Therefore, adore Him in your hearts, choose Him and you will have joy in Him.”

During these first days of our new year of 2007, may we make a conscious effort to become one with Jesus. We must be willing to adore Jesus in our hearts while making a profound choice for our dear Lord to paraphrase the words of Our Lady in Her message of December 25, 2006. Some might ask how can I accomplish this task?

For the one who wishes to come to Jesus, a good place to begin is by attending the Holy Eucharist very frequently. At Holy Mass, we can listen to the words of Sacred Scripture, contemplate the reality of Jesus Paschal Mystery (His passion, death, and resurrection), be present as the priest consecrates bread and wine into the sacred body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus, and receive our dear Lord through Holy Communion. To be at Holy Mass is a profound blessing for us. It is never an ordinary occasion, but an extraordinary one. In a beautiful way, the Holy Mass is truly a spiritual miracle. As believers, we must become more aware of the extraordinary graces given to us by God through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Through the Holy Mass, Jesus comes to us with His sacred presence. May we be forever grateful to the Lord for this gift of Himself and continue to seek out His presence through this wonderful sacrament.

As we attempt to make the choice for Jesus in our lives, may we spend more time reading and reflecting upon Sacred Scripture. From the four Gospels we can learn about the person of Jesus, while contemplating upon the compassion of the Lord as He interacts both with individual and groups of people. Also, His words in these gospel stories can inspire us to live each day dedicated to His message of love and mercy. Again, are we willing to change and embrace Jesus?

If we give Our Lady the chance, she will lead us to Her Son. As we make that profound choice for Jesus, the words of Our Lady in the fifth sentence of Her message of December 25, 2006 can come true for us. “He will bless you with His blessing of peace.” It is

my prayer for you that Jesus will bless you with His everlasting peace.

Let us look upon this New Year as a wonderful opportunity to know God, to love God, to serve God, and to become His devoted disciple. In that way, we will become holy while preparing ourselves for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus, the King of Peace will reign in our hearts.

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas. Enjoy the remaining days of this sacred season. Again, please give my best to all of your families. May Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever and ever,

Amen.

God’s love and prayers always,

Father Ed

(HEdwardChalmers@aol.com, Wednesday, 1/3/2007)

FATHER JOZO REFLECTIONS on the NOVEMBER MESSAGE

Dear children! Also today I call you to pray, pray, pray. Little children, when you pray you are close to God and He gives you the desire for eternity. This is a time when you can speak more about God and do more for God. Therefore, little children, do not resist but permit Him to lead you, to change you and to enter into your life. Do not forget that you are travellers on the way toward eternity. Therefore, little children, permit God to lead you as a shepherd leads his flock.

PRAY to END PORNOGRAPHY

Groups of praying individuals have asked that others join them in praying as many “**Our Father**” prayers as possible each day with the specific intention of ending the use of pornography throughout the world.

Information is available that places one of the largest pornography operations in downtown **Philadelphia**. We urgently ask for prayers from everyone in the greater **Philadelphia** area.

Pray as often as you can:

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 those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Thank you for having responded to my call.
(11/25/2006)*

My dear brothers and sisters, my dear Prayer Partners;
It is a full 25 years and six months since the first apparition of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje. Without a doubt this is one of the greatest events of this Millennium. Our small Croatian nation, faithful and surrendered to God, along with our small Croatian homeland, soaked in the blood of the martyrs, inspired the Blessed Virgin to stop on our soil and to pronounce her beloved name in our mother tongue: "I am your Mother, the Queen of Peace."

This grace has passed throughout the earth in a quarter Century through six young visionaries as the greatest pastoral and missionary undertaking in history. Dissolving all walls of ideological and political making and human deviation, the Queen of Peace, through her pilgrims, continues the most beloved visitation to a country that has lost its charm and beauty because of so much evil, conflict and war. By transforming the hearts and the lives of pilgrims and of those who honor her, Our Lady marvelously changes the face of the earth. Today we see the millions from all nations and countries, and from all languages and cultures offering their hearts and sacrificing their time, their lives and even their last penny to witness their faith and to find peace to begin to build a better world.

Through her pilgrims, the Queen of Peace gathers all people into a single family, into the Church that prays, sings, gives thanks and magnifies God. From the very beginning, the community of those who believed in Jesus was called the Catholic Church. It is that Catholicity in particular that is not evidenced or recognized today anywhere so much as beneath the mantle of the Queen of Peace. This is Medjugorje. Among millions of pilgrims and supporters of Medjugorje, you have been chosen in a special way. In the same way as there are many hills on the face of the earth, there is only one Hill of Apparitions - Podbrdo. This is the chosen hill. In the same way as there are many crosses erected on many hills and crossroads, there is only one Cross Mountain - Krizevac. It is chosen. Just as in the world there are thousands upon thousands of parishes, there is one specially chosen - it is Medjugorje. Because it is chosen, it has become the center of the movement in the world.

This is what has also happened with us. There is a multitude of pilgrims in Medjugorje who have brought their lives, crosses and their promises to the Mother. After their promises, they return home to their families joyful. However, you are especially called and chosen to live the messages. Not only to

listen to them, but to pour them into life. In this way, through your life, grace is to be poured into all hearts. Be aware that we are chosen and that our assignment is to do everything He tells us. The apparitions, the messages and the call of the Queen of Peace are not repeated. Each message is a new grace and a new seed sown in the hearts of those who are called and chosen to bring the wondrous fruit of conversion and of new life.

Our prayer family is different from all other communities that are called and organized in other ways. Our Prayer Partnership 'The Visitation' was created through the inspiration of the Blessed Virgin and according to her desire.

To learn to receive our neighbor as a gift, and to pray for him and with him is the first step on 'the way.' Then, united with thousands of others, we are called to live the messages with prayer and sacrifice, and with humble perseverance. Medjugorje is to hear and accept the messages with the heart, to live them in humility and in this way to bear fruit. Our Lady accompanies our Apostolate with signs, great conversions and miraculous healings of the soul and body. You can also read about these signs and fruits in our most recent issue of 'Called to Love.'

The most recent message also calls us to live our Apostolate. Through persevering prayer, we are to remove all obstacles to the Lord. We are to make straight the path as the prophet and precursor to Jesus tells us. We are to speak more and do more for Jesus. My dears, we have done so little for Him. Let us begin today, in this holy time, to prepare the way for Him to every family and to every heart. There are so many who wait to meet, to see and to hear a witness of faith, love and peace. This is who we are and try to be. Let us do our utmost so that all those who have strayed may return and all the lost may be found.

Christmas is a joyful meeting with Jesus and the Mother. Let us make our Christmas, our lives and the lives of our brothers joyful. Let us turn to the Mother and to the Lord who stand and knock. Whoever opens the door He will enter in and dine with him. May this great feast of Christmas become a joyful feast with Him and the Mother.

Praying for each of you and bringing you daily before the Lord and the Queen of Peace, with all my heart I wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas and New Year 2007.

Yours sincerely,

Father Jozo Zovko O.F.M.

(Ann [nansheen@yahoo.com] Thu 12/28/2006)

SELECTED "NEWS ARTICLES"

<http://212.39.96.6/medeng07.htm>
seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr

and [registration](#)

(11/16/2006)

<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr/News.aspx>



Annual Apparition to Jakov Colo, 25 December 2006

Our Lady gave the following message:

Today is a great day of joy and peace. Rejoice with me. Little children, in a special way, I call you to holiness in your families. I desire, little children, that each of your families be holy and that God's joy and peace, which God sends you today in a special way, may come to rule and dwell in your families. Little children, open your hearts today on this day of grace, decide for God and put Him in the first place in your family. I am your Mother. I love you and give you my Motherly Blessing. (12/25/06)

CHRISTMAS in Medjugorje



(12/24/2006)

The 12th International Seminar for Priests

The 12th International Seminar for Priests will be held in Medjugorje from 2nd to 7th July 2007. The theme of the seminar is: "With Mary – waiting for the Holy Spirit". The preacher is Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap. ([Program](http://212.39.96.6/sveeng%2007.htm) <http://212.39.96.6/sveeng%2007.htm> and [registration](mailto:seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr) seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr)

(11/16/2006)

The Fourteenth International Meeting for Leaders

The fourteenth International Meeting for Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer and Charity groups will be held in Medjugorje from the 4th to the 8th of March 2007.

The theme of the gathering is: „By your perseverance you shall be saved”. (Luke 21,19) ([Program](#))

The PILGRIM, Volume 18, Number 01 – January 2007



WE ARE PLANNING ANOTHER PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE

If you are interested in going with us, we are planning a spring 2007 pilgrimage to **Medjugorje**. Please call (856) 768-9228 and give us your name and information so we may keep in contact with you. You may indicate the days in *April* or *May* that are best for your pilgrimage. We will try to plan this pilgrimage to utilize a maximum number of days, at least 7, and yet still keep the price affordable. The price will include all air fare, housing, breakfasts and suppers, guides, and transfers. After having to cancel the pilgrimage to *Ireland* from 11/2/06 – 11/8/06, we now have at least 7 pilgrims committed to sign up for this kind of pilgrimage if we can arrange it. Send us your names and best times to make a pilgrimage.



If you have never been to **Medjugorje** and have wanted to go, this will be the time to sign up. We would love to fill a plane. **Keith** was on pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** via **London** 10/26/06 - 11/3/06. We are sure that the pilgrims, shown in pictures above taken in front of the statue of the *Immaculate Conception* in the **Church of Saint Elijah, Tihaljina, BH**, and at **Mother's Village, Medjugorje, BH**, in front of the statue of **Father Slavko Barbaric**, were filled with a new spirit of faith and prayer. *Our Lady* calls you now.

Continue to pray for **Father John O'Leary**, shown in the pictures above. He suffered **another heart attack** on the *Friday* after *Thanksgiving, 2006*. He has returned to full duties in his parish after recovery from and resting after the necessary surgery.

A MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE

Before June of 1998, Medjugorje was never in my travel plans. I was afraid that it was dangerous, that I would not like the food or the experience of staying in someone's home, and that I would be bored. Nothing could be farther from the truth in every case. I will be eternally grateful to the travel agent who booked me on the plane to Medjugorje

without my having agreed to it! I never experienced such peace in my life, the food was wonderful, the people were so hospitable and joyful that I did not want to leave, and I was never bored for even a second. There is much to do, including climbing two mountains - Apparition Hill and also Cross Mountain, where a large cross was built in 1933. Ana Shawl who takes pilgrims to Medjugorje testifies: "No matter how many times people come to Medjugorje, it's the same as when you go to visit your mother. There's always something more, there's always more conversations with her, and no two conversations with our mothers are the same. That's the way I feel about being there. I know we have our Mother in Heaven wherever we are and she is always close to us, but I think there is something so special about coming to her little Medjugorje, two mountains, rocks, vineyards and a church. To make the trip is difficult, but once there, most everyone has difficulty coming home. Like during the Transfiguration with the apostles. Pilgrims on Cross Mountain, they wanted to pitch tents to stay there, they never wanted that vision to end."

(by June Klins, From the Spirit of Medjugorje, Special Edition, Revised: January, 2006)

THE FRUITS of MEDJUGORJE



"You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit." (Matthew 7:16-17)

There have been many physical healings through Our Lady of Medjugorje since 1981. The parish office reports that as of 2001, there were 445 documented reports about miraculous physical healings. David Parkes, Rita Klaus, Char Vance, Artie Boyle, and Tom Rutkoski are just a few of the people who have received a physical healing that defied medical science. Each of these people, in recorded testimony, also had spiritual healings as well, and do not hesitate to emphasize that, given the choice of a physical healing or a spiritual healing, they would take the spiritual healing.

It would take hundreds of books to contain the testimonies of the spiritual healings and conversions that have taken place through Our Lady of Medjugorje in the last 24 years. More than a few members of the clergy have also had healings as well, including a priest who had left the priesthood and

returned 17 years later through Our Lady of Medjugorje. (His story is in our June, 2003 issue)

Organizations which reach out to the homeless, poor and orphans have been created by people upon returning from Medjugorje.

Gospa Missions in Evans City, PA, the Mission of Mercy in Buffalo, NY, Saint David's Relief in Mesquite, TX, and His Work in Progress in Yardley, PA, are just a few of the many fruits of Medjugorje.

Many priestly and religious vocations have been fostered through Medjugorje. Fr. Donald Calloway (whose story is in our April, 2004 issue), Father Ed Murphy (April, 2005 issue), Frs. Ljubo Kurtovic and Miro Segó (September, 2004 issue), are just a few of the many religious vocations which have been fostered through Medjugorje. "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit." (Mt 7:18)..

(From The Spirit of Medjugorje, Special Edition, Revised: January, 2006)

FORREST GUMP GOES to HEAVEN - RUN FORREST RUN!

The day finally arrived. Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates, met by Saint Peter himself. However, the gates are closed, and Forrest approaches the gatekeeper

Saint Peter said, "Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you, though, that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven."

Forrest responds, "It sure is good to be here, Saint Peter, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope that the test ain't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was."

Saint Peter continued, "Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions.

First: What two days of the week begin with the letter "T"?

Second: How many seconds are there in a year?

Third: What is God's first name?"

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees Saint Peter, who waves him up, and says, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers."

Forrest replied, "Well, the first one -- which two days in the week begins with the letter "T"? Shucks, that one is easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow."

The Saint's eyes opened wide and he exclaimed, "Forrest, that is not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I did not specify, so I will give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?" asked Saint Peter

"How many seconds in a year? Now that one is harder," replied Forrest, but I think and think about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, Saint Peter said, "Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

"Forrest replied,

"Shucks, there's got to be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd.... "Hold it," interrupts Saint Peter.

"I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind . . . but I will have to give you credit for that one, too.

Let us go on with the third and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?" "Sure," Forrest replied, "its Andy."

"Andy?" exclaimed an exasperated and frustrated Saint Peter.

"Ok, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?"

"Shucks, that was the easiest one of all," Forrest replied. "I learnt it from the song, "ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN . . ."

Saint Peter opened the Pearly Gates, and said: "Run Forrest, Run!"

"Give me a sense of humor, Lord.
Give me the ability to understand a clean joke,
To get some humor out of life,
And to pass it on to other folk."

billw [billw@winkelmann.org]

THE LITTLE KNOWN STORY of OUR LADY of LAUS

Benoite Rencurel was born in 1647, in a small French village high in the Alps, near the border of Italy. Benoite, a poor illiterate girl, became a shepherdess for a well-to-do family when her beloved

father died when she was only seven. She was a gentle girl who devoutly prayed the rosary often but had a firm will and determination to do good. On the other hand she was quite an ordinary girl.

Benoite often led the flock to pasture at the Vallon des Fours (Valley of Kilns). There, one day in early spring of 1664, she noticed a beautiful lady with a child by the hand. Since they were near the limekilns, she asked the lady if she wished to buy lime. After a while, without answering Benoite's questions the Lady disappeared. The beautiful lady appeared for two months without speaking.

Benoite was so happy just to see the lady. Even if she was told to be humble and meek she couldn't hide what was happening to her for long. Very soon the authorities too got involved and curious people asked for an explanation. Her employer forbade her to go to the valley because people said it was not good for grazing. Although Benoite obeyed, the sheep went to the valley anyway! The employer decided to see about it himself, went to the valley and tried all day long but could not get the sheep out! Then he noticed that the sheep were as healthy as could be so he let Benoite take them there.

Eventually the judge of the district told Benoite to ask the lady who she was. The following day the apparition answered, "I am Mary, the Mother of Jesus. My Son wishes to be honored in this valley, but not on this spot." Then she vanished and did not appear again for a month.

A month later, while she followed the Avenge River, Benoite beheld a dazzling light on top of the Pindraux rocks. She crossed a rustic bridge but the light disappeared. A delicious perfume pervaded the spot. Following the scent she found a little thatch-covered chapel of Notre Dame de Bon Reencontre (Our Lady of Happy Meeting). When she entered, she saw a bright light with the Virgin standing over the altar. Seeing the dust lying on the altar, Benoite began to remove it with her apron; but Mary stopped her saying, "Soon nothing will be wanting here -- neither vestments nor altar linen, nor anything necessary for divine worship. On this spot I wish a church built, a privileged sanctuary, wherein many sinners will repent. Here I will often appear to you. Means will not be wanting, despite the poverty of the country people around you."

Every day Our Lady came to Benoite and guided her giving her the exact dimensions of the future shrine. But Laus Valley stands high up on the mountainside, entirely surrounded by wild and rocky hills up which no horse can climb. Mary, however, had said it was to be; and, with hardy good will, the pious peasants carried the stones up the mountain. And increasing

numbers of pilgrims came to help. Some people donated building stones, others donated money. One day a roll of gold coins was found in the donation box even though the slot on top was not large enough for the roll.

As soon as the church was begun a miracle took place – the cure of a young man, son of a doctor of Gap, who had been ill from birth. During the first summer as many as 60 cures were recorded by officials. Stillborn infants when placed on the altar came to life and received baptism. Laus became a pilgrimage site for people coming from far away.



Our Lady continued to appear to Benoite every day for fifty-four years. Often Our Lady appeared with the Infant Jesus; and many times she beheld the Divine Child in the Sacred Host. Our Lady showed Benoite heaven, and she received the gift of discovering all kinds of sin by

the sense of smell. The hidden secrets of many lives stood out clear as daylight before her. She was thus able to warn sinners who were encouraged to repent and to receive the sacrament of Confession.

While many believed Benoite, some sought to discredit her by accusing her of pride and hypocrisy. Strange as it may seem, her most bitter enemies were priests. Some of these went so far as to imprison her; but, after fourteen days spent in fervent prayer and without tasting food, Benoite was released. Her persecutors declared their doubts unfounded, -- the prison cell having been filled with the most heavenly perfume during all that time.

She became a Dominican Tertiary and suffered the stigmata for twenty years. No illness preceded her peaceful death which occurred on December 28, 1718. Despite the snow-covered mountains and Alpine glaciers, people from far off villages somehow knew of her death and flocked to the funeral. She was buried in the church at the foot of Our Lady's altar.

Seventy years after her death, a workman repairing the sanctuary dropped a marble tablet on the tomb. The tombstone was raised and a portion of the wooden coffin was found broken. The splinters caused a wound on Benoite's cheek from which issued blood as fresh and red as if she were still alive. When the lid was removed, the body was perfectly preserved. In 1854, the coffin was again opened, and Benoite's habit found intact, though of her precious body nothing remained except the bones.

On September 7, 1871, Pius IX declared her Venerable, the first step to sainthood, and in 1893 the church was declared a minor basilica by Pope Leo XIII.

(by Kay Mule

<http://www.angelfire.com/nv2/stbruno/laus/3.html> and
<http://www.catholictradition.org/Mary/laus.htm>)

SURVIVING MISCARRIAGE

Stories of Grieving, Hope and Healing by Daria Sockey

Melanie Vogel had just learned she was pregnant with her second child. It was a bit earlier only 10 months old - but she had gotten use to the idea and was now felling quite happy about it.

Then, one Sunday morning, she began bleeding. "I knew I was losing the baby," she says. Then she discovered just how much that child already meant to her.

One in five pregnancies ends in miscarriage. Most of these occur during the first trimester, sometimes so early that a woman does not know she is pregnant and believes her miscarriage to be simply menstruation.

Most miscarriages complete themselves without physical complication for the mother, beyond the need for some extra rest. Sometimes bleeding is severe enough to require medical attention.

Family and friends do not always recognize or validate her grief: "It seemed kind of weird to grieve over someone you had only known about for a week," says Melanie. I was so broken-hearted, but really felt alone in it. No one else was connected to that baby but me, so no one else was really grieving about it.

Fathers are often deeply saddened as well, even though they sometimes do not let on to their wives, for fear of upsetting them further.

For those in the midst of sorrow over a miscarried baby, faith is a rock of refuge (psalm 31:3). Melanie said her faith helped her see things in perspective.

"As a Catholic, you know there are worse things than death, and that we will be reunited to our family members someday," she says. "It was helpful to think of my baby up in heaven, still watching over our family and still a real part of our family."

Celeste Behe lost her eighth child at 20 weeks, and had to have labor induced. "At first, I was kind of numb," she says. It helped that her parish pastor assured her that the baby was in God's hands, and that the delivery went well. "I felt that God was trying to make it all as easy as possible for me."

A few days later, when she was feeling the loss more keenly, a friend's remark was of great comfort: "She said, 'You are sharing in Our Lady's sorrows she lost her son, you've lost yours.' I had never before thought I had much in common with Mary. I felt, wow, suddenly we shared something."

Reflecting on it seven years and two more healthy children later, Celeste sees her experience as having had a positive effect on her spiritually.

"I was strengthened. Prior to the miscarriage, I had always worried about something awful happening, and how I could possibly live through it," "Something did ... and I lived. I'm normally such a weakling, but God handled it for me. Now I no longer dread things the way I used to. When Helen and Gerard were born, I was so much more appreciative of what I had. I'd hold them and say over and over," I can't believe you are mine, that really here."

Today, mothers and families of miscarried children are doing more than ever to recognize and remember lives were created and loved by God.

Mary Livingston and her husband named the four children they miscarried. When her diocese offered a special Mass for parents who had lost their children to miscarriage or stillbirth were glad to attend.

"My husband, in particular, found that to be very comforting. I was surprised at how affected he was by these losses," says Mary.

Tammie Mitchell had six marriages in a row between 2001 and 2002. She gave names to the last three. Twice Tammie found a recognizable embryo for burial.

Catholic cemeteries will usually allow parents to bury fetal remains, either on the existing grave of a deceased relative or in a separate area. (Obviously, parents should contact the cemetery management before doing this.)

A Mass and burial for their baby was a moving and meaningful experience (for Celeste and Mike Behe, their children, and a few close relatives.

"I wasn't yet ready to face other people from the parish, so the Mass was unannounced and private," said Celeste. There is a special liturgy for the death of young children. Its prayers speak of hope and trust in God's loving care for the child and the family left behind.

Afterwards, the Behes buried Charles Nicholas in their local Catholic cemetery. They visit his grave on occasion, (keeping the family aware of the sibling they will meet in eternity.

Of course, with most miscarriages, the fetus is small, and deteriorates internally, so that a burial is not possible. And parents who would find a Mass or burial more stressful than comforting should not feel obligated to do these things.

Some parents feel the need to recover from the trauma and grief of miscarriage for some weeks or months, and, then, later on, remember their lost babies in a more serene state of mind.

Perhaps an hour spent alone in an adoration chapel, reflecting on the baby's brief life, and committing it entirely to the merciful love of Jesus, would be an appropriate way for a mother or father to commemorate their miscarried child.

Or the family might say a Rosary with the specific intention of thanking God for the baby's life, and asking for the grace to trust him now and always.

There are many ways to remember without obsessing about miscarried children.

Every Christmas, Melanie Vogel buys each of her children their very own Christmas ornament.

"This Christmas," she says, "I thought it would be neat to pick an ornament for the baby we lost, to acknowledge her as 'one of the kids.'"

Another mom named her baby, and added its name to a decorative family tree that hangs in the hall.

Yet another simply makes a point of occasionally mentioning to the children the five other siblings who died before they were born just as Saint Therese of Lisieux sometimes mentioned her siblings in heaven.

"It's not that we dwell on it all the time," my friend says, "but we all ought to think about death once in a while, and remember now and then that we have other family members waiting for us, whom we look forward to meeting. I, think that's a pretty good, positive way to think about death."

(By Daria Sockey who writes from Venus, Pennsylvania, Faith & Family, The Magazine of Catholic Living, Fall Issue, 2005)..

ARE THEY IN HEAVEN?

You may recall parents or teachers long ago talking about Limbo, a state of natural happiness which the souls of unbaptized infants enjoyed.

Since baptism by water or at least desire was required to go to heaven, they had to go somewhere. That's true. But is it Limbo?

"Limbo was never a Church doctrine," says Father David Poulson, Pastor of Saint Michael's Church,

Fryburg, Pa. “Theologians were just trying to figure out something we don’t have revealed truth about.”

He points out that there are separate liturgies for baptized and unbaptized infants. One expresses certainty that the child is in heaven. The other hopes and trusts in God’s mercy for the unbaptized child committed to his loving care.

This doesn’t indicate a separate state of existence for the two but it does acknowledge that “God didn’t think it necessary to tell us how he had worked things out.”

Popularly, deceased unborn children are often described as “angels in heaven.” That can’t be right. Angels are real beings, spirit creatures without bodies. Human beings are body and spirit living or awaiting the final resurrection.

But the popular phrase may be onto something. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: “Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all men should be saved, and Jesus’ tenderness toward children allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without Baptism” (No. 1261).

In *The Gospel of Life* Pope John Paul II went further. He addressed women who had had an abortion, saying: “You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is living in the Lord” (No. 99).

(From Faith & Family, The Magazine for Catholic Living, Fall Issue, 2005)

WHAT DO I SAY TO ONE WHO HAS EXPERIENCED A MISCHARRIAGE?

When a friend or relative has suffered a miscarriage, we may be at a loss for words. As with any other death, the point is not to be eloquent, but to be there for the bereaved, and acknowledge his or her grief. The tried and true, “I’m so sorry this happened. Is there anything I can do?” never fails to be the best response.

Whether or not the family requests any action on your part, it’s nearly always a good idea to provide a casserole or other reheatable dinner, since Mom will usually need some rest after her miscarriage. An offer to take young children off her hands for a few hours will also help her with her recovery.

The mothers we polled also mentioned the things they did not want to hear within the first weeks after a

miscarriage, even though these were not necessarily bad advice or untrue. Statements such as, “It’s for the best,” “Something must have been wrong with the baby,” and “Don’t worry, you’re young and will have plenty of healthy children” may be true, and may even be what the mother admits to herself eventually.

But when the pain of a miscarriage is fresh, such remarks should be avoided.

(From Faith & Family, The Magazine for Catholic Living, Fall Issue, 2005)

CHRISTIAN ONE LINERS

Don’t let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

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Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

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Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

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It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

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The good Lord didn’t create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

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When you get to your wit’s end, you’ll find God lives there.

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People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

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Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

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Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn’t belong.

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If the church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

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God Himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

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Some minds are like concrete thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

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Peace starts with a smile.

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I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

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A lot of church members who are singing "Standing on the Promises" are just sitting on the premises.

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We were called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

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Be ye fishers of men. You catch them - He'll clean them.

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Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

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Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

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Don't wait for 6 strong men to take you to church.

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Forbidden fruits create many jams.

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God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

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God grades on the cross, not the curve.

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God loves everyone, but probably prefers "fruits of the spirit" over "religious nuts!"

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God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.

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He who angers you, controls you!

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If God is your Co-pilot - swap seats!

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Prayer:
Don't give God instructions -- just report for duty!

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The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.

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The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

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We don't change the message, the message changes us.

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You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.

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The best mathematical equation I have ever seen:
1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given.

Terzmaster2@aol.com

GOD DEFENDS the WEAKEST

VATICAN CITY, DEC 7, 2005 (VIS) - In the general audience held this morning in Saint Peter's Square, Benedict XVI continued his catechesis on the Psalms, speaking on Psalm 137, "a hymn of thanksgiving." Twenty thousand pilgrims filled the square to hear the Holy Father's words.

The psalmist, said the Pope, "raises his voice before the Temple assembly or, at least, having the Shrine of Zion as a reference. ... He sings before God Who is in heaven with His host of angels, but Who also listens within the earthly space of the Temple."

"The psalmist is certain that the 'name' of the Lord - in other words His personal, living and active reality and His virtues of faithfulness and mercy - are the ... bastion of all faith and all hope. The psalmist's gaze then goes back for an instant to the past, to the day of suffering, when the divine voice answered the faithful's anguished cry, infusing courage into his troubled soul."

"Following this apparently personal premise," the Holy Father continued, "the psalmist extends his gaze to the earth and imagines his testimony incorporating the entire horizon: 'All the kings of the earth' ... join the Jewish psalmist in a common hymn of praise in honor of the greatness and regal power of the Lord."

The themes of this chorus of praise, the Pope explained, are "the 'glory' and the 'ways' of the Lord. ... God is clearly 'high' and transcendent, but He 'regards the lowly' with affection while removing the haughtiness from His sight. ... Thus, God chooses to

defend the weak, the victims, the smallest; and this fact is conveyed to all kings that they might know which option to choose in governing their nations.”

The closing section of the psalm contains an imploration to the Lord for His help in the trials of life, and a reference to the wrath of enemies. “A kind of symbol,” said Pope Benedict, “of the hostility the just may face during their journey through history.”

“We must be certain,” the Pope concluded, “that however burdensome and stormy are the trials that await us, we will never be left alone, we will never fall from the Lord’s hands, the hands that created us and that now follow us on life’s itinerary. As Saint Paul confesses: ‘He Who began a good work in you will bring it to completion’.”

(AG/PSALM 137/...VIS 051207 (410))

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.

Those who saw our **60 tables** of inventory display at the **Camden Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Weekend** at the **Wildwoods Convention Center, 12-15 October 2006**, can testify to the extent of material in our inventory. Any help to manage it would be greatly appreciated.

We need volunteers to help us keep track of the entire inventory as we try to reduce it for eventual closing of operations at **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043**.

If you have inventory or computer skills we would love to have your help.

Laurie Lubrano and **Bill Malone** have been of great help in the effort of simply taking inventory and maintaining the Inventory data base as a follow-up on the great original work by **Vince and Livia Nocella**. If you would have a few moments to assist them, **Laurie** is doing the computer work and **Bill** is helping **Vince and Livia** with the organizing and counting. They can always use some additional hands. We want to complete as much of the current inventory as possible before the **2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE**. After this event we will have to count the inventory to see where we stand.

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.

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.

16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007 - **PFMC** RETREAT CONFERENCE

Theme: "but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)[NAB]. Location: Clarion Hotel, NJ 70 and I-295, Cherry Hill, NJ. Speakers: Father Bill Halbing, Francine Schmatz, Neal Lozano, Robert Abel, Moira Noonan, Father John Tino, Father Michael Semana. Music: Refuge. Donation: \$50 Meal Plan: \$60. Call (856) 768-9228. Visit the following: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET2.pdf review, and print form, fill-out, and mail registration form to 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963.

24 MARCH 2007 - **PFMC** hosted ACCEPTANCE Seminars / Workshops

Location: Upper Room, Epiphany House, 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. Speakers: Irene Atwell, Reverend John Parker, Kathleen Werner. Donation: \$60. Call (856) 768-9228. Visit the following: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2007/07RET3.pdf review, and print form, fill-out, and mail registration form to 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963.

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

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.

16 to 18 FEBRUARY 2007 - **PFMC** RETREAT CONFERENCE. THEME: "but deliver us from the evil one." (Matthew 6:13)[NAB] DONATION: \$50 Meal Plan: \$60. Call (856) 768-9228.

PRAYER SUPPORT for POPE BENEDICT'S INTENTIONS

As noted on the final page of every issue of "**The PILGRIM**" we ask for prayer support for Pope Benedict's monthly prayer intentions both **General** and **Mission**.

If anyone is interested in a hard copy pamphlet (in English or Spanish), contact our source for these intentions in 2006 and 2007:

Apostleship of Prayer
3211 South Lake Drive, Suite 216
Milwaukee, WI 53235

Phone: 414-486-1152 (9:00 AM to 4:30 PM CST)

FAX: 414-486-1159

E-mail: aposprayer@aol.com

Visit <http://www.apostlesofprayer.org/> for additional information.

Rachel sent us an e-mail to give us the 2007 Intentions a few weeks before they were posted. Thanks, Rachel. Keith

CALENDARS:

In *January*, the Church celebrates the Feast of **CONVERSION of SAINT PAUL (25)**, and Memorials of *Saints Anthony, Abbot (17), Francis de Sales (24), Timothy (26), Titus (26), and John Bosco (31)* and Optional Memorials of *Saints Hilary (13), Pope Fabian (20), Sebastian (20), Vincent (22), Angela Merici (27), and The Most Holy Name of Jesus (3)* as well as **Blessed Andre Bessette (6)**. Most Church calendars recognize **Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr (15), and Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25)**.

In *February*, the Church observes Feasts of **PRESENTATION of the LORD (2), ASH WEDNESDAY (21), and CHAIR of SAINT PETER, APOSTLE (22)**, Memorials of *Saints Agatha (5), Paul Miki and Companions (6), Scholastica (10), Cyril (14) and Methodius (14)*, , Optional Memorials of *Saints Blase (3), Ansgar (3), Jerome Emiliani (8), Josephine Bakhita (8), and Polycarp (23)* as well as **Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (17)**. Most Church calendars show **Abraham Lincoln Birthday (12), Valentine's Day (14), Presidents' Day (19) and George Washington Birthday (22)**. **Happy Birthday, Kathleen (21)**.

Please pre-register using **BLUE** sheet enclosed for the **2007 RETREAT CONFERENCE** with the **PFMC** and reserve your **\$92 plus tax room (sleeps 2-5)** at the **CLARION HOTEL**.

AROUND the **PFMC** AREA

Please review the announcements on *pages 1 through 4*, and on *pages 26 and 27* particularly in **Bulletin Notices 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. Visit our web pages for more information. Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Visit us for your religious articles and materials gifts. 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 *JANUARY 2007*

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of *January 2007* is: "That in our violent time, Bishops may continue to show the way of peace and understanding among peoples."

His mission intention for the month of *January 2007* is: "That the Church in Africa may be a witness of the Good News of Christ and be committed to the promotion of reconciliation and peace."

<http://www.apostlesofprayer.org>

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

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

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Keith keithwerner@comcast.net Werner, Co-Directors

61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963

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

The PILGRIM, Volume 18, Number 01 – January 2007

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed Wednesday,
1/10/2007**

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

PLEASE DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY!!!!

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

If there is no time to read it all now, please put it with other reading material in a place where you can read at least an article per day until the next issue arrives. We exist on divine providence and generous donations from those who can afford to support us. **PRIESTS!** Please note that great **HOMILY** ideas come from articles in "**The PILGRIM!**" Please, pray for the **PFMC** and the disposition of **61 Cooper Road!**

