



# The **PILGRIM**

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May 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

*Dearest Mary, We are weak and so long to know You better as Our Mother. Your mantle of love covers us with your protective love, and helps us when we are in battle with any form of darkness in our lives. You guide us to the light of the Trinity God. In hope you renew us, and you bring us to your Son, Jesus, daily.*



*Mary, protect us as we search, and travel the roads ahead of us. We need you as a true mother and teacher. Guide us now as we walk some of the most difficult of our moments. Mary, we trust in you.*

AMEN

## TO ALL OUR READERS WE BRING YOU PEACE and ASK for YOUR PRAYERS and LOVE as WE CLOSE the **PFMC** BUILDING

We will cease operations of the **PFMC** at 61 Cooper Road in Voorhees, NJ on **July 20, 2007** or sooner if the property is sold before then. It is now on the real estate market. We regret that we must do this. We lost two very important volunteers at the end of **April** and without them we have no volunteers to keep the building open on a daily basis. Our regular volunteer staff is now down to just four and all of them are grandparents wanting to spend more time with their children and grandchildren. To continue with the expenses of the building for more than trying to sell it is foolhardy. Call us if you know of a buyer with the ability to finance \$800,000 for this property.

Every effort to continue the healing ministry aspect of the **PFMC** will be made by maintaining and monitoring the phone numbers (856) 768 9228 for voice messages and (856) 768-9428 for FAX communication.

The **April** 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**.

If we can continue to get once a month volunteers to help us with "**The PILGRIM**" we will publish through the **July 2007** issue with the messages and reflections from **June 2007**, the **26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the messages from visionaries associated with **Medjugorje**. We know that there are many who have expressed their great love of reading this periodical over the years. We have truly enjoyed putting it together, and publishing **Our Lady's** messages and the reflections from **Medjugorje**. The articles, prayers and poems have been presented to increase your prayer life and to give you little things each month to reflect on in your personal life with **Jesus**.

We have so enjoyed the conferences and retreats both from our building and from the hotels locally. God has granted many many fruits to all who have attended. We will be glad to help you put together a conference or retreat from your area or from your parish. You need only call us and we will be there to help put it together for you. However, and most importantly, the volunteers must come from your area and be willing to work with guidance as a team to put anything together. It is a true enrichment for our Catholic faith and for our Church to put together these nutritious events, but it is hard work, and involves commitment of months of volunteer work to do so. The same offer is open to set up pilgrimages-private or parish level. Get names together and call us.

Many have offered prayers, which we truly appreciate. We ask you for your continued prayers as we begin to vacate the building at **61 Cooper Road**. As this issue goes to press, it is on the market for sale.

Please pray for **Keith** and **Kathleen** as well as for **Vince** and **Livia Nocella**. We are the remnant few regular volunteers at the **PFMC**. Pray also for all of the volunteers, particularly **Fay Ramos**, and **Edwina Jardinico**, who have spent so many years of loving service to spread the love of **Our Lady** and her spouse, the **Holy Spirit**, to so many. All our lives

"**The PILGRIM**" for **May 2007** is dedicated to "**Mary, Our Mother.**" See page 3 for "**IN THIS ISSUE . . .**" or the **Table of Contents** for this issue.

will change a great deal, but it is time to make these decisions to move on to wherever God brings us. We have loved all of you and prayed many hours for you. We will continue to do so.

May **Our Lady** bless you and wrap you in her mantle of protection. You have read and heard the messages. The years have been rich with her loving care. Now is the time to live the messages from her school of prayer. I quote her message of **April 25, 2005** to reflect on:

*“Dear Children, Also today I call you to renew prayer in your families. By prayer and the reading of sacred scripture, may the Holy Spirit, who will renew you, enter into your families. In this way, you will become teachers of the faith in your families. By prayer and your love, the world will set out on a better way and love will begin to rule in the world. Thank you for having responded to my call.”*

She also has said in the message of **October 10, 1981**: *“It is up to you to pray and to persevere. I have made promises to you, also be without anxiety. Faith will not know how to be alive without prayer. Pray more.”*

**Our Lady** seeks your conversion as soon as possible and she asks the world to convert. Look around you, and you cannot deny your need to pray and convert. She has only asked you to convert by renouncing everything and be ready for everything that will bring you closer to her **Spouse’s**, and the **Trinity’s LOVE**.

Come now, and seek all that she has given you all these years. You have the tools, the memories, the teachings....the greatest tool is the **Rosary**. You have the greatest of sacraments, the **Holy Eucharist**, and all necessary to grow in faith through the other sacraments. Seek forgiveness and love through **Reconciliation**, and all will be your treasure.

We love you,

**Keith and Kathleen**

## CONTENTS of 61 COOPER ROAD

See article on page 22. We need to have interested people make appointments to visit **61 Cooper Road** to see the contents and tell us if they want any

portion of it. We are willing to part with almost everything because we have no place to store it. The contents include books, pamphlets, religious articles, statues, framed and unframed pictures, and other items of inventory, furniture including desks, chairs, file cabinets, dividers, etc. When you visit we will help you tag what you want with your bid as well as get your name, address, phone number, etc. If the new owners want any of the contents, they will have the opportunity to bid and will know what is tagged and what the bids are to date of sale. To avoid counter-bids it can be arranged for you to take some of the items during your visit.

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## FREQUENTLY RECEIVED PRAYER REQUESTS

Here is a powerful prayer from **Father Robert DeGrandis**. It is for those who are desperate. We pass it on to help you at any difficult time.

Say this prayer faithfully with an open mind and heart, no matter how you feel, with all your heart. Jesus wants to bless you and He will change your life in a very special way. You will see!

Then **Father Robert** sends his blessing “May Almighty God Bless You, the Father the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

### “PLEASE HELP ME LORD”

(I’ve tried Everything Else!)

Lord Jesus, I come before you, just as I am.

I believe you died for me and that you are listening to me now.

I am sorry for my sins and ask your forgiveness.

I forgive others for what they have done to me.

From this moment I decide to live for You and no longer for myself, to do Your will for me and not mine.

Please make me the kind of person you want me to be.

You said, “Ask and you shall receive.”

I ask you to come into the depths of my heart to renew me, right now.

Fill me with your Holy Spirit, with your peace and

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.

with your love.

Heal me, change me, strengthen me.

Help me to be your witness.

Thank you, Jesus.

Amen.

## IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

**Carl Hayes, 5/7/07**, attendee at many **PFMC** functions particularly the **Annual RETREAT CONFERENCE**.

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**. To facilitate this, we need those death notices or prayer cards.

## DARRELL SCOTT TESTIMONY

On Thursday, 27 May 1999, a month after the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, in which two students shot 13 other students to death and wounded another 25 the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee on crime held hearings on "Pending Firearms Legislation and the Administration's Enforcement of Current Gun Laws" <http://web.archive.org/web/20000418040823/http://www.house.gov/judiciary/cr0527.htm>. Among those who made or presented statements to the subcommittee that day was Darrell Scott, the father of two victims of the Columbine High School shootings (his daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, was killed).

These courageous words spoken by Darrell Scott are powerful, penetrating, and deeply personal. There is no doubt that God sent this man as a voice crying in the wilderness. The following is from the transcript <http://web.archive.org/web/20000818043152/www.house.gov/judiciary/scot0527.pdf>:

“Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers.

“The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the NCA, the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain,

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and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain’s heart.

“In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA. I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA - because I don’t believe that they are responsible for my daughter’s death. Therefore I do not believe that they need to be defended. If I believed they had anything to do with Rachel’s murder I would be their strongest opponent. I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy-it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves.

“I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written way before I knew I would be speaking here today:

Your laws ignore our deepest needs,  
Your words are empty air.  
You’ve stripped away our heritage,  
You’ve outlawed simple prayer.  
Now gunshots fill our classrooms,  
And precious children die.  
You seek for answers everywhere,  
And ask the question “Why?”  
You regulate restrictive laws,  
Through legislative creed.  
And yet you fail to understand,  
That God is what we need!

“Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, mind, and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our make-up, we create a void that allows evil, prejudice, and hatred to rush in and wreak havoc. Spiritual presences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation’s history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine’s tragedy occurs -- politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode away our personal and private liberties. We do not need more restrictive laws. “Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts.

“As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes-He did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right! I challenge every young person in America, and around the world, to realize that on April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain. Dare to move into the new millennium with a sacred disregard for legislation that violates your God-given right to communicate with Him. To those of you who would point your finger at the NRA - I give to you a sincere challenge. Dare to examine your own heart before casting the first stone! My daughter’s death will not be in vain! The young people of this country will not allow that to happen!”

For more details and background on this testimony, see [www.snopes.com/politics/soapbox/scott.asp](http://www.snopes.com/politics/soapbox/scott.asp).

(e-mail sent Thu, 05 Apr 2007 21:23:36)

## SALUTATIONS to MARY

I greet thee, Mary, Daughter of God the Father.

I greet thee, Mary, Mother of the Son of God.

I greet thee, Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

I greet thee, Mary, Temple of the Blessed Trinity.

I greet thee, Mary, White Lily of the resplendent Trinity.

I greet thee, Mary, Fragrant Rose of the heavenly court.

I greet thee, Mary, Virgin full of meekness and humility, of whom the King of Heaven willed to be born and nourished by thy milk.

I greet thee, Mary, Virgin of virgins.

I greet thee, Mary, Queen of martyrs, whose soul was pierced by the sword of sorrows.

I greet thee, Mary, Lady and Mistress, to whom all power has been given in Heaven and on earth.

I greet thee, Mary, Queen of my heart, my sweetness, my life and all my hope.

I greet thee, Mary, Mother most amiable.

I greet thee, Mary, Mother most admirable.

I greet thee, Mary, Mother of beautiful love.

I greet thee, Mary, Conceived without sin.

I greet thee, Mary, Full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women, and blessed be the Fruit of thy womb.

Blessed be thy spouse, Saint Joseph.

Blessed be thy father, Saint Joachim.

Blessed be thy mother, Saint Anne.

Blessed be thy angel, Saint Gabriel.

Blessed be the Eternal Father, Who has chosen thee.

Blessed be thy Son, Who has loved thee.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, Who has espoused thee.

May all those who love thee bless thee.

O Blessed Virgin, bless us all in the name of thy dear Son.  
Amen

[www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english/p00233.htm](http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english/p00233.htm)

## THE POPE’S LOVE for MARY IS a SPIRITUAL LEGACY

Does having a devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus, detract from our union with the Lord? It’s a question that many have asked, Catholic and

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Protestant alike. During the Second World War, the dark years of Nazi occupation in Poland, a factory worker in this war-torn country, Karol Wojtyla, grappled with this very question. Little did this young man know that he would one day serve as the future Pope John Paul II. Nor did he know that the answer to his question would have an impact on the world.

The pope spoke frankly of that time of his life in his book, "Crossing the Threshold of Hope": "At first, it seemed to me that I should distance myself a bit from the Marian devotion of my childhood, in order to focus more on Christ."

It was through the writings of Saint Louis de Montfort that he found what he was seeking. "... I came to understand that true devotion to the Mother of God is actually Christocentric, indeed, it is very profoundly rooted in the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity, and the mysteries of the Incarnation and Redemption."

Pope Paul VI's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, had obviously not yet been written. Yet its words echo the sentiments of young Wojtyla's enlightened discovery, "The maternal duty of Mary toward men in no wise obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows His power." Pope John Paul referred to this document often in his writings, and kept this focus to the forefront in most of his own writings and homilies about Mary during his pontificate.

When he was first chosen as pope in 1978, he borrowed from de Montfort's writings in choosing as his motto for his papacy, "Totus Tuus," meaning "Totally Yours." As his love for Mary grew, his love for Jesus grew, and he enthusiastically shared this with the world.

An event which greatly impacted his relationship with his heavenly Mother was the assassination attempt on his life on May 13, 1981. The fact that it took place on the anniversary of the first apparition of Mary at Fatima was not lost to him. He requested reading material on Fatima while still recovering in the hospital, and credited his survival to "a motherly hand which guided the bullet's path."

Many recall his subsequent visit to his attacker, Mehmet Ali Agca. In the drudges of a prison cell, the pope was carrying out the basic message of Fatima and of Christ Himself—a continuous call to conversion, repentance and peace. The press crowded in, unsuccessfully attempting to pick up on his private conversation with the man. Yet his public declaration of forgiveness had to touch the most hardened of hearts.

Nineteen years later, as he neared his 80th birthday, he made a final pilgrimage to Fatima, and revealed

the infamous "third secret" of Fatima—a prophetic vision by the children of a "Bishop dressed in white" being shot down. Yet sharing the secret, one which has raised much speculation through the years, was peripheral to the main mission of his visit. He went to express "... thanksgiving to Mary for what she communicated to the Church through those children, and for the protection she gave me during my pontificate."

The pope's love for the Mother of God was quite evident in many of his homilies, talks and apostolic writings. His encyclical of March 25, 1987, *Redemptoris Mater* (Mother of the Redeemer), which marked the beginning of a Marian Year, bears special attention. In it he again emphasizes his enlightened discovery as a youngster in Poland—the Christ-centered nature of true devotion to Mary.

"If [those who are still on the journey of faith] lift their eyes to her from their earthly existence, they do so because the Son whom she brought forth is he whom God placed as the first-born among many brethren." (Rom 8:29)

This encyclical takes us, Christ's people, on the same journey of faith that Mary took, and encourages us to look toward her not only as a shining example, which indeed she is, but to also see in her a Mother's heart beating with tears, utmost concern, and deep love for us, her children.

Recalling the statement of the angel to the young Jewish girl, that she is "full of grace," the pope encourages us to grasp these words as belonging to all of us. "It is a spiritual blessing which is meant for all people and which bears in itself fullness and universality ... It flows from that love which, in the

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wonderful pilgrims and volunteers to mention them all by name.

Holy Spirit, unites the consubstantial Son to the Father. At the same time, it is a blessing poured out through Jesus Christ upon human history until the end: upon all people.”

What a wonderful gift this is to us as members of Christ’s Body. The special intimacy Mary has with the Holy Spirit, the strength of which conceived the Incarnate Christ Child, is one meant for all of us. By the powerful love of the Holy Spirit, we, too, can experience Jesus within us, and we too can present Him to the world. Our role is to cooperate by saying “yes” as she did. In doing so, we can joyfully sing along with her, “God Who is mighty has done great things for me, holy is His name.”

While announcing a Year of the Rosary to begin in October 2002, Pope John Paul surprised and delighted the world with his Rosarium Virginis Mariae (The Rosary of the Virgin Mary). In this apostolic letter, he announced five new mysteries of the rosary to be added to the fifteen which have been in existence for hundreds of years, increasing this beautiful prayer’s Christocentric nature even more.

It is obvious with this beautiful letter that the pope’s love for Mary and the rosary remained fervently alive in him throughout his pontificate. He continuously saw Mary as constantly pointing him, and the Church, to Jesus Christ.

“In the spiritual journey of the Rosary,” he states, “based on the constant contemplation—in Mary’s company—of the face of Christ, this demanding ideal of being conformed to him is pursued through an association which could be described in terms of friendship. We are thereby enabled to enter naturally into Christ’s life and as it were to share his deepest feelings.”

In praying the rosary, the pope assures us that we entrust ourselves to her maternal care, and receive continuous graces through her powerful prayers for us. “She, who is both the Mother of Christ and a member of the Church, is at the same time the Mother of the Church. As such, she continually brings to birth children for the mystical Body of her Son. She does so through her intercession, imploring upon them the inexhaustible outpouring of the Spirit.”

Thus, as Pope John Paul II well knew, in uniting ourselves to the Mother, we are drawn into deeper union with the Son. Pope John Paul’s focus on Mary, and on the Christocentric nature of devotion to her, is a wonderful legacy that he left to the universal Church.

*Kathryn Byrne, a parishioner of Saint Oliver Plunkett Church, Snellville, GA and a member of the parish*

*staff, has written and reflected on the role of Mary in prayer and spirituality.*

**KATHRYN BYRNE, Special Contributor, 4/7/05,**  
<http://www.georgiabulletin.org/local/2005/04/07/marv/>

## **BLESSING of a WOMAN before the BIRTH of a CHILD**

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who has made heaven and earth.

V. Give health to your handmaid.

R. Her hope, O my God, is in You.

V. Be to her, O Lord, a tower of strength.

R. In the face of the enemy.

V. Let the enemy have no power against her.

R. And let not the son of evil draw near to harm her.

V. Send help to her, O Lord, from Your holy place.

R. And watch over her from Mount Sion.

V. Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry reach up to You.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty, everlasting God, You have granted to your servants, in their profession of the true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity and to adore Its unity in the power of Its majesty.

We ask that this your handmaid (insert name), by her constancy in that same faith, may ever be strengthened against all evils, through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

O Lord God, creator of all things, mighty and awe-inspiring, just and merciful, You alone are kind and loving.

You set Israel free from every evil, making our forefathers Your beloved people, and made them holy by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You also prepared, by the co-working of the Holy Spirit, the body and soul of the glorious Virgin Mary, that it might become a worthy home for Your Son.

You filled John the Baptist with the Holy Spirit, having him leap with joy in his mother’s womb.

Receive the sacrifice of a contrite heart, and the ardent desire of Your handmaid (insert name), who

humbly begs You for the welfare of the child you have allowed her to conceive.

Watch over the work which is Yours, and defend it from all the deceit and harm of our bitter enemy.

Let the hand of Your mercy assist her delivery, and bring her child to the light of day without harm.

May her child be preserved for the holy regeneration of Baptism, serve You always in all things, and attain to everlasting life, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and is King and God with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

(Then the woman is sprinkled with holy water, and after which **Psalm 66** is said.)

### **Psalm 66**

May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us.

So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation.

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!

May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide.

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!

The earth has yielded its fruits; God, our God, has blessed us.

May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

R. Amen

V. Let us bless the Father, and the Son with the Holy Spirit.

R. Let us praise and exalt Him forever.

V. God has commanded His angels concerning you.

R. That they may guard you in all your ways.

V. Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry reach up to You.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Visit, we beg of You, O Lord, this dwelling, drive far from it, and from Your handmaid (name) all the snares of the enemy. Your holy angels dwell here to keep her and her child in peace, and may Your blessing be always upon her. Save them, O almighty God and grant them Your eternal light, through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you and your child, and remain always.

[www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english3/p02601.htm](http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english3/p02601.htm)

## **APOSTOLIC JOURNEY of POPE BENEDICT XVI to GERMANY (SEPTEMBER 9-14, 2006)**

**Basilica of Saint Anne, Altötting  
Monday, 11 September 2006**

Dear Friends!

Here in Altötting, in this grace-filled place, we have gathered - seminarians preparing for the priesthood, priests, men and women religious and members of the Society for Spiritual Vocations - gathered in the Basilica of Saint Anne, before the shrine to her daughter, the Mother of the Lord. We have gathered here to consider our vocation to serve Jesus Christ and, under the watchful gaze of Saint Anne, in whose home the greatest vocation in the history of salvation developed, to understand it better. Mary received her vocation from the lips of an angel. The Angel does not enter our room visibly, but the Lord has a plan for each of us, he calls each one of us by name. Our task is to learn how to listen, to perceive his call, to be courageous and faithful in following him and, when all is said and done, to be found trustworthy servants who have used well the gifts given us.

We know that the Lord seeks labourers for his harvest. He himself said as much: "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest" (*Mt 9:37-38*). That is why we are gathered here: to make this urgent request to the Lord of the harvest. God's harvest is indeed great, and it needs labourers: in the so-called Third World - in Latin America, in Africa and in Asia - people are waiting for heralds to bring them the Gospel of peace, the good news of God who became man. But also in the so-called West, here among us in Germany, and in the vast lands of Russia it is true that a great harvest

could be reaped. But there is a lack of people willing to become labourers for God's harvest. Today it is as then, when the Lord was moved with pity for the crowds which seemed like sheep without a shepherd - people who probably knew how to do many things, but found it hard to make sense of their lives. Lord, look upon our troubled times, which need preachers of the Gospel, witnesses to you, persons who can point the way towards 'life in abundance'! Look upon our world and feel pity once more! Look upon our world and send us labourers! With this petition we knock on God's door; but with the same petition the Lord is also knocking on the doors of our own heart. Lord do you want me? Is it not perhaps too big for me? Am I too small for this? "Do not be afraid", the Angel said to Mary. "Do not fear: I have called you by name", God says through the Prophet Isaiah (43:1) to us - to each of us.

Where do we go, if we say "yes" to the Lord's call? The briefest description of the priestly mission - and this is true in its own way for men and women religious too - has been given to us by the Evangelist Mark. In his account of the call of the Twelve, he says: "Jesus appointed twelve to be with him and to be sent out" (3:14). To be with Jesus and, being sent, to go out to meet people - these two things belong together and together they are the heart of a vocation, of the priesthood. To be with him and to be sent out - the two are inseparable. Only one who is "with him" comes to know him and can truly proclaim him. And anyone who has been with him cannot keep to himself what he has found; instead, he has to pass it on. Such was the case with Andrew, who told his brother Simon: "We have found the Messiah" (*Jn* 1:41). And the Evangelist adds: "He brought Simon to Jesus" (*Jn* 1:42). Pope Gregory the Great, in one of his homilies, once said that God's angels, however far afield they go on their missions, always move in God. They remain always with him. And while speaking about the angels, Saint Gregory thought also of bishops and priests: wherever they go, they should always "be with him". We know this from experience: whenever priests, because of their many duties, allot less and less time to being with the Lord, they eventually lose, for all their often heroic activity, the inner strength that sustains them. Their activity ends up as an empty activism. To be with Christ - how does this come about? Well, the first and most important thing for the priest is his daily Mass, always celebrated with deep interior participation. If we celebrate Mass truly as men of prayer, if we unite our words and our activities to the Word that precedes us and let them be shaped by the Eucharistic celebration, if in Communion we let ourselves truly be embraced by him and receive him - then we are being with him.

The Liturgy of the Hours is another fundamental way of being with Christ: here we pray as people conscious of our need to speak with God, while lifting up all those others who have neither the time nor the ability to pray in this way. If our Eucharistic celebration and the Liturgy of the Hours are to remain meaningful, we need to devote ourselves constantly anew to the spiritual reading of sacred Scripture; not only to be able to decipher and explain words from the distant past, but to discover the word of comfort that the Lord is now speaking to me, the Lord who challenges me by this word. Only in this way will we be capable of bringing the inspired Word to the men and women of our time as the contemporary and living Word of God.

Eucharistic adoration is an essential way of being with the Lord. Thanks to Bishop Schraml, Altötting now has a new "treasury". Where once the treasures of the past were kept, precious historical and religious items, there is now a place for the Church's true treasure: the permanent presence of the Lord in his Sacrament. In one of his parables the Lord speaks of a treasure hidden in the field; whoever finds it sells all he has in order to buy that field, because the hidden treasure is more valuable than anything else. The hidden treasure, the good greater than any other good, is the Kingdom of God - it is Jesus himself, the Kingdom in person. In the sacred Host, he is present, the true treasure, always waiting for us. Only by adoring this presence do we learn how to receive him properly - we learn the reality of communion, we learn the Eucharistic celebration from the inside. Here I would like to quote some fine words of Saint Edith Stein, Co-Patroness of Europe, who wrote in one of her letters: "The Lord is present in the tabernacle in his divinity and his humanity. He is not there for himself, but for us: for it is his joy to be with us. He knows that we, being as we are, need to have him personally near. As a result, anyone with normal thoughts and feelings will naturally be drawn to spend time with him, whenever possible and as much as possible" (*Gesammelte Werke* VII, 136ff.). Let us love being with the Lord! There we can speak with him about everything. We can offer him our petitions, our concerns, our troubles, our joys, our gratitude, our disappointments, our needs and our aspirations. There we can also constantly ask him: "Lord send labourers into your harvest! Help me to be a good worker in your vineyard!"

Here in this Basilica, our thoughts turn to Mary, who lived her life fully "with Jesus" and consequently was, and continues to be, close to all men and women. The many votive plaques are a concrete sign of this. Let us think of Mary's holy mother, Saint Anne, and with her let us also think of the importance of mothers



and fathers, of grandmothers and grandfathers, and the importance of the family as an environment of life and prayer, where we learn to pray and where vocations are able to develop.

Here in Altötting, we naturally think in a special way of good Brother Conrad. He renounced a great inheritance because he wanted to follow Jesus Christ unreservedly and to be completely with him. As the Lord recommended in the parable, he chose to take the lowest place, that of a humble lay - brother and porter. In his porter's lodge he was able to achieve exactly what Saint Mark tells us about the Apostles: "to stay with him", "to be sent" to others. From his cell he could always look at the tabernacle and thus always "stay with Christ". From this contemplation he learned the boundless goodness with which he treated the people who would knock at his door at all hours - sometimes mischievously, in order to provoke him, at other times loudly and impatiently. To all of them, by his sheer goodness and humanity, and without grand words, he gave a message more valuable than words alone. Let us pray to Brother Saint Conrad; let us ask him to help us to keep our gaze fixed on the Lord, in order to bring God's love to the men and women of our time. Amen!

[www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/homilies/2006/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_hom\\_20060911\\_vespers-altotting\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/homilies/2006/documents/hf_ben-xvi_hom_20060911_vespers-altotting_en.html)

## NOVENA to OUR LADY of FATIMA - FEAST DAY - MAY 13

**Pray for 9 consecutive days 5/5 – 5/12**

Most Holy Virgin, who has deigned to come to Fatima to reveal to the three little shepherds the treasures of graces hidden in the recitation of the Rosary, inspire our hearts with a sincere love of this devotion, so that by meditating on the mysteries of our redemption that are recalled in it, we may gather the fruits and obtain the conversion of sinners, the conversion of Russia, and this favor that I so earnestly seek, request which I ask of you in this novena, for the greater glory of God, for your own honor, and for the good of all people. Amen.

Pray 3 sets of: 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, and 1 Glory Be

(e-mail from [tashmar2@aol.com](mailto:tashmar2@aol.com) Sat 5/5/2007 8:25 PM)

## HOMILY JANUARY 1, 2006 - MARY, MOTHER of GOD

### Mother of God: the "Theotokos"

Today the Church shifts our gaze from the God-child to the Mother of God.

In the early centuries, some saw the title "Mother of God" as a little too much, as heretical even. How could the eternal God have a mother? At most, they said, Mary could only be Mother of *the human nature* of Jesus, but not of his divinity.

In response, the Church said no: a human being is not born just as a "human nature", as if being a person were somehow added later. Rather, from the moment of conception, the human person *in* his or her human nature exists as *one* act of God's creation, in and through the human act of pro-creation.

Likewise, then, with Jesus. From the moment of conception, his uncreated divine person is united with his created human nature. Mary thus truly gives birth to the actual divine person of the Son of God in his true humanity. She is therefore truly and wondrously the Mother of the Son of God.

All of this may seem a little heady. But it is vitally important, because today many deny the true divinity of the Son of Mary. The title, "Mother of God", is one defense of that divinity.

It also defends the true humanity of Jesus. Because today, too, there are those who say that the Son of God could not possibly have been born from a human mother. That would be too demeaning, too base ... They say that the Son of God only *took possession* of the human person of Jesus of Nazareth at the time of

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his baptism by John.

This would mean, of course, that there would then be *two persons* at work in the human nature of Jesus, something which we rightly must reject as bizarre. Our faith, however, is clear: the Son of God became incarnate of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit and therefore Mary is truly, and is forever, the Mother of God.

And because she is truly Mother of the Son made flesh, the Son himself reveals to her that she is to be the Mother of *all* flesh, of all whom he will draw to himself.

Referring to his crucifixion and ascension, Jesus said, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to myself." It was precisely from the Cross that he gave Mary to John, our representative, as his Mother. It was also from his ascended place in heaven that he assumed Mary to himself, body and soul, so that she could exercise her universal mission as the Mother of humanity.

True motherhood is so important for the integrity of every human being!

Thankfully, the world is full of splendid and selfless mothers, and we thank God for them, for you!

But we must be honest. The shadow of sin can also fall over the face of many a mother, sometimes in a very sinister way.

(The problem of fatherhood is no less worrying, but that is not our focus today.) The damage caused by a selfish mother can ruin a child's spirit with very serious consequences for that child and for society.

Many physical and psychological problems (and later, criminal problems) can ensue from a mother's lack of unconditional love, from her absence, from her excessive presence (however well-motivated), from her abuse of her children be it physically or psychologically.

Of course, mothers, too, are fragile human beings! We cannot expect them to be perfect! They have their own demons to face down. They may unwittingly carry into motherhood their own childhood sufferings and, despite their good intentions, end up projecting their problems onto their own children.

There is only one sinless Mother. There is only one Mother whose gaze is totally transparent and free from the shadow of self-concern. There is only one Mother whose heart is immaculate, free from manipulation and full of utterly selfless love for the good of her children. She is the Mother of all mothers, for all mothers are in the end her children. She is Mary, the Mother of God.

As any mother learns how to be a mother from the very children she bears, so Mary learnt how to be Mother from the Son of God. Her learning process, then, was without error, though not without pain. The sinless actions of her Son, as he grew in wisdom and grace, elicited from her the sinless reactions which gradually molded her inimitable art of maternity.

The shape, the structure, the texture, the colors of Mary's Motherhood were determined by the will of God to which she had surrendered completely. And that will took concrete form in the words and deeds of Jesus.

Therefore her Motherhood is imprinted with his tenderness and wisdom, his prayerfulness and clarity of understanding, his awareness of being divine and being sent, his beautiful and integral humanity. Her Motherhood is defined above all by his suffering, death, resurrection and ascension.

Through all of this her maternal and Immaculate Heart was stretched, filled, pierced, broken, healed, renewed and elevated to the sublime role of universal Mother of the universal Son, her King, her Redeemer and her God.

This same Mother Jesus has given to us, to each individually and to all as the family of God. Even if our earthly mothers fail us through human weakness, how can we truly say we are motherless if Mary stands beside and before us?

No greater a Mother could there be! All the skills and art she learnt and employed in mothering Jesus are now there for us! We must not think of her "as if" she were our Mother, but as truly being our Mother!

Indeed, in some way she is even more powerful as our Mother than she was as the Mother of Jesus on this earth. For, from heaven, her immaculate eyes see into the depths of our hearts and, as at the wedding feast of Cana, she intercedes for us with Jesus without being asked and without taking no for an answer.

There is no human misery of any one of us or of the whole of humanity that does not move her compassionate Heart. Although we may feel ashamed when we have fallen into the moral mud, she does not want us to hold back from her, but all the more to come to her. Even if a mother on earth would reject a sinful child's cry for help, the Mother of God will never do so.

Our earthly mothers, wonderful and great though they may be, are but a faint echo of Mary, our Mother in heaven, the Mother of God.

Her whole concern for us is that, just as she learned motherhood through the mysteries of her Son, she might work with the Trinity to impress upon our

hearts, minds and bodies those very same mysteries. In that way, she will have mothered us to become sons and daughters of God according to the image and heart of Jesus.

Mary is no pietistic appendix to Christian living: by Christ's doing, she draws us and molds us into the image of his own Sacred Heart. Her goal is that our mortal humanity might be regenerated in the immortal divinity of the Son of God who, for our sakes, took flesh from her and became man.

O, Great Mother of God! In this year of grace, 2006, draw us away from motherless living to find our true home deep within our own hearts wherein you surrender us to the life-giving embrace of your incarnate Son, our Savior and our God!

**Msgr. Peter Magee, Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006,**  
[mysite.verizon.net/vze3xzc2/homilies2006/id3.html](http://mysite.verizon.net/vze3xzc2/homilies2006/id3.html)

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## **CHRIST WANTED ONE CHURCH OPEN to EVERYONE**

**VATICAN CITY, MAY 4, 2007 (VIS)** - Today in the Vatican, the Holy Father received prelates from the International Episcopal Conference of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, who have just completed their "ad limina" visit. The conference is based in Belgrade and brings together Catholics of Latin and Byzantine rite from Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia and Kosovo.

The Pope greeted the bishops recalling how they "come from different countries that have different ethnic groups, cultures and languages," but how nonetheless their "ecclesial communities are united by the same faith in the Risen Christ handed down to us by the Apostles."

"The various countries and the various social and religious environments in which your faithful live," said the Pope, "bring no small number of repercussions to their Christian life." These include questions such as "marriages between people of different confessions or religions which require ... particular spiritual attention and a more harmonious cooperation with other Christian Churches, the religious education of the new generations," and "the formation of sacred ministers and their spiritual accompaniment in a multi-confessional environment."

"It is important to help seminarians" and for priests "to cultivate an intimate relationship with Jesus if they wish to accomplish their mission to the full and not just see themselves as simple 'employees' of an ecclesiastical organization. The priest is at the complete service of the Church, a living and spiritual

organism that draws her energy not from nationalistic, ethnic or political factors, but from the action of Christ present in her ministers.

"The Lord," Benedict XVI added, "wished His Church to be open to everyone. ... Over the course of the centuries, Tradition maintained [the Church's] universalistic character unaltered as she slowly spread and came into contact with different languages, races, nationalities and cultures."

The Holy Father then went on to refer to the difficult mission faced by prelates from this episcopal conference, and encouraged them "to be an evangelical 'leavening' that ferments society" and to seek to involve "all members of the People of God, using all available tools of Christian formation, translated into the various languages of the people. Such joint pastoral action cannot but bring beneficial effects," also in the field of civil society.

"Today, a poorly understood modernity tends to give exaggerated emphasis to the requirements of the individual, to the detriment of the duties that all people have towards God and towards the community to which they belong." Hence it is important "to highlight a correct conception of civil and public responsibility, because from such a vision arises the commitment to respect the rights of each, and the real integration of one's own culture with that of others."

"Providence placed your peoples on a European continent that, over these years, has been undergoing a process of reconstruction. Your Churches also consider themselves as part of this historical process, well knowing that they have their own specific contribution to make. Unfortunately there is no lack of obstacles: the scarcity of means because of the economic situation, and the paucity of Catholic forces. Nor is it easy to forget the difficult heritage of 40 years of," communism "that gave rise to forms of social behavior not conducive to freedom and personal responsibility. At the same time, it is difficult to resist the temptation of Western materialism."

"Do not lose heart!" the Holy Father concluded, reminding the prelates that the Lord "has put you in close contact with our Orthodox brethren. As limbs of the one Body, seek all possible forms of collaboration in the service of the one Kingdom of God. Do not be unwilling to collaborate with other Christian confessions and with all people of good will in order to promote everything that may help propagate the values of the Gospel."

**(AL/.../CONFERENCE STS. CYRIL METHODIUS  
VIS 070504 (640))**

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## MESSAGE of 4/25/2007 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

*Dear children! Also today I again call you to conversion. Open your hearts. This is a time of grace while I am with you, make good use of it. Say: 'This is the time for my soul'. I am with you and love you with immeasurable love. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

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

### REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 4/25/2007

#### THIS IS A MERCIFUL TIME WHILE I AM WITH YOU

Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, invites us again to convert through her message. It is the most important message of Our Lady, which echoes in this place. It is an echo of the words of Jesus from the Gospel. Our Lady wants to tell us the same thing which Jesus said to us. She does not come to teach us some new sciences; rather, it is her intention to wake us, so we can understand Jesus and his words seriously and practice them in our lives.

Lady's presence, appearances and messages which she gives us in these times are a mercy, God's gift to us. Sometimes, we learn to appreciate something precious only when we lose it. For instance, this can be said of our health. We learn to appreciate it only when we lose it, when we fall ill. Our Lady does not want us to be sad because we did not use this gift of merciful time.

We live in this time which is gifted to us, which flows and carries us. Therefore, the time is a precious thing which should be filled with something. Time can be empty, and time can also be full.

You can miss the days and times of your life by wandering, by losing time in superficial things, by partying, after which there is only emptiness. The ways in which you spend your time will shape your future. Time is like a bowl which is offered to you. If you fill that bowl with a good deed or with a prayer which releases you from fear or depression, then your time will be filled by goodness and light, and your future is safe.

It is wrong to turn back in life and to bind yourself to bad or negative things. Many people spend their lives pondering about their past, burdened by the fear of future, so they are never able to live today. It is today that you can decide to do something good for yourself and your soul. Today you can pray boldly, you can believe and you can surrender your day and your life

to God. Today you can begin some work which you have postponed, or fulfill some obligation which is waiting for you, and you are afraid to finish it. Today you can look into your heart and recognize your deepest yearning for God.

Today you can enrich your day and times in which you live. We live only once on this Earth, and it is like theatre stage. This day is given to you only once. It will not return again. What you miss today, you cannot bring back. It is today that we make decision about the eternity, not after the death. If we choose God, justice, truth and goodness today, we will enjoy them in eternity. Time is a gift in which we can grow to our full size which God intended for us.

Our heavenly Mother Mary wants us to meet her Son Jesus; only he gives us true peace and joy. Mother Mary lived her whole life on this Earth and remained faithful to God to the end. She is only a human being like us, but she ascended to such a high place, and she wants us to be where she is. She had a heart for God and for men. She is not idle, she cannot be idle. She calls us and answers our wails, she advocates us before the Heavenly Father. She comes to us as mother and a friend; she tends our wounds and leads us to her Son.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.4.2007,  
(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr/Main.aspx>)

### ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 4/25/2007

During the Easter Season, the Church calls all believers to dwell upon Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Thus, one can be filled with hope as one contemplates Jesus' greeting of "*Peace be with you,*" ([John 20:19](#)) to His apostles after rising from the dead. However, as one strives to embrace the peace of Jesus, one will soon realize that his or her personal journey of faith must involve constant conversion and purification that results in a spiritual renewal. This process must continue throughout one's life. Thus, the first sentence of Our Lady's message of April 25, 2007 is most appropriate.

**The PILGRIM, Volume 18, Number 05 – May 2007**

**“Dear children! Also today I again call you to conversion.”** As we read this sentence, the words should encourage us to reject all of that complacency and self-righteousness that may have filled our lives. Are we growing closer to God through prayer? Are we as devoted to the Eucharist, as we should be? Are we listening to the words of Sacred Scripture proclaimed at Mass, and are we reading the Holy Bible? Are we attempting to fast and offer sacrifices to Jesus for our own purification and the purification of others? Are we allowing God to shed His mercy upon us through Sacramental Confession? This sacrament is always a profound encounter with the love of God that each one of us needs at least each month.

Adopting these realities leads us to conversion, but conversion must be a life-long process for the believer striving to be faithful and devoted to Jesus. Thus, with a mother’s love, Our Lady continually calls us to conversion. It is the essence of the reality of preparing our souls for Jesus.

**“Open your hearts.”** With much committed love, may we give ourselves to Our Lady. In prayer, let us bind ourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Along with the power of the Holy Spirit, Her well-beloved spouse, Our Lady will always lead us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

**“This is a time of grace while I am with you, make good use of it. Say: This is the time for my soul.”** May we be inspired by the words of Our Lady in these sentences of Her message of April 25, 2007. This time of grace is a profound gift to us from the Eternal Father. During these days, may we come to God with much love, enthusiasm, and faith. We must nourish our souls with the grace of God. I wonder if we are making the choice for the Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit through our free will. Have we embraced the paternal, sacrificial, and sanctifying love of our Triune God? Our bodies will die, but our souls will live forever: hopefully, in heaven. With much effort, we must protect our souls from the horror of sin. Are we doing everything we should to save our souls while helping others to save theirs? God created us to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world and to be with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven. Praying for the salvation of all souls should be our most important prayer intention.

**“I am with you and love you with immeasurable love.”** As we come to Our Lady in prayer, may we be forever grateful for Her presence among us. Her motherly love is unconditional. During this month of May, which the Church dedicates to Our Lady each year, we should reflect upon Her humility, gentleness, joy, faith, love and dedication to the will of God.

Along with Her dear Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Our Lady is the ultimate servant to God the Eternal Father. May we learn from Her faithfulness while trusting in the will of God as She did with Her response to Gabriel, *“I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”* (Luke 1:38) We are so blessed. May God’s many blessings encourage us to serve Him as His faithful sons and daughters.

I hope you are well. Give my best to all of your families. During these days, be close to the resurrected Jesus. Tell our dear Lord that you love Him very much and let your love for others show Jesus the sacredness of your love. May we have that inner strength to believe in Jesus with all of our strength. May we contemplate upon the beautiful blessing of Jesus given through Saint Thomas in John 20:29 *“Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.”* May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you, forever and ever. Amen.

God’s love and prayers always,

**Father Ed**

**([HEdwardChalmers@aol.com](mailto:HEdwardChalmers@aol.com), Friday, 5/4/2007)**

## SELECTED “NEWS ARTICLES”

### The Summer Prayer Programme Schedule



The summer Prayer Programme schedule in Medjugorje begins on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Praying of the Rosary in the Parish Church begins at 6.00 pm. Holy Mass is at 7.00 pm, followed by the Prayer Programme according to the day of the week. Eucharistic adoration on Wednesday and Saturday is at 10.00 pm. Both the Rosary on Apparition Hill and the Way of the Cross on Krizevac begin at 4.00 pm. (4/30/07)

## Relay Race Bolzano – Medjugorje



Thirteen friends, members of a sport group from Zanica near Bolzano in Italy undertook a relay race in a spirit of pilgrimage, long

640 kilometers, from their parish to Medjugorje. Every day they were walking or running from 7 am to 8.30 pm. Members of the relay race relayed every 12 kilometers, some were running and some walking, according to their possibilities. One of them is handicapped, but he walked nevertheless two kilometers. To come in this way from Bolzano to Medjugorje, they needed seven days. From Bolzano they went to Ancona where they took a boat for Split, and then the way led them to Stobreč, Šestanovac and Zagvozd, Slivno, Vitina and Ljubuški to Medjugorje. They used two campers where they were spending the night.

When someone was walking or running, he wore around the neck a medal of the Queen of Peace, which was made for this special occasion in Italy. They remember numerous kind and touching encounters with unknown people whom they met on their way, who helped them in different ways.

Before leaving, their parishioners gave them their prayer intentions and gifts, which these unusual pilgrims brought before the altar of the church in Medjugorje during the Italian Mass.

This group organizes every year a similar relay race in direction of different shrines. Among the most important European shrines, they already visited Lourdes, Fatima, Loretto, Czestochowa and Santiago de Compostella, and next year then intend to go to Jerusalem. (4/27/07)

## New Provincial of the Franciscan Province of Herzegovina



In the Franciscan Province of Herzegovina has been designated a new Administration. As Provincial has been chosen our parish priest, Fra Ivan Sesar. We send ours congratulations to Fra Ivan and we wish success on its task, the God's Blessing and the

intercession of the Queen of the Peace in the exercise of this service of responsibility. (4/18/07)

## Father Petar Vlašić in Pula (Croatia)



At the end of February of this year, Father Petar Vlašić, curate in the parish of Medjugorje with responsibility for the care of the filial church of the Merciful Jesus in Šurmanci, visited both Saint Polycarp House, the Home for elderly and sick people, and Redemptoris Mater, the diocesan missionary seminary in Pula (Croatia). This visit was in response to an invitation from Mr. Martin Kliman, Director of Saint Polycarp House, where the residents are taken care of by the sisters of the Merciful Jesus who came from Poland to Croatia in 1990.

In Saint Polycarp's House there are about 150 abandoned and forgotten old men and women, most of whom are refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Redemptoris Mater, the seminary, 31 candidates from 15 countries are studying for the priesthood. Both institutions are situated in a former military complex.

On Thursday afternoon, February the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Father Petar, in concelebration with the parish priest and the curate of Saint John's parish, which is administered by the Conventual Franciscans, celebrated a Mass which was offered for the Medjugorje Prayer Group in Pula led by Elio Karlović. The Mass, was followed by Eucharistic Adoration.

On Friday afternoon, February the 24<sup>th</sup>, in the chapel of Saint Polycarp's Home for elderly and sick people, Monsignor Ante Jurić, retired Archbishop of Split, presided over Holy Mass, which was concelebrated by Father Petar Vlašić, Father Janez, who is rector of the Seminary, and Doctor Vjekoslav Milovan, the postulator for the servant of God Miroslav Bulešić and pastoral counselor of Saint Polycarp's Home, along with several other priests. Father Petar preached about the life and martyrdom of Saint Polycarp. All the seminarians and all the mobile residents of the home assisted at the Mass.

After Mass, there was a dinner, during which Monsignor Juric blessed the rosaries and the pictures of the Merciful Jesus from Šurmanci, which were distributed to those who were present by Father Petar. (3/31/07)

## The 8th International Meeting for Married Couples - "Dialog in the Family"



The 8<sup>th</sup> International Meeting for Married Couples will take place in Medjugorje from October 31 to November 3, 2007. The theme of the seminar is: "Dialog in the

Family" (*"Dear children! I beseech you to start changing your life in the family. Let the family be a harmonious flower that I wish to give to Jesus"* - From the message of *May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1986*) ([Program](#))

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

Lecturer is Jozefina Škarica, MD, born in 1948, married, mother of four, medical doctor. Following the end of her medical studies, she works in Medical centre in Šibenik, Croatia. She specializes in school medicine in 1985. In 1993, late Šibenik monsignor Srećko Badurina establishes a Counseling Centre for the Young, Marriage and Family in Šibenik, and appoints doctor Škarica head of the Counseling Center. In 2004, after two-year training in Zagreb, she earns a diploma of Family Counselor. In the last ten years, she has been participating in marriage preparation seminars and held numerous lectures and seminars on marriage, family and child-rearing both in Croatia and abroad. (2/21/07)

## The 18th International Youth Festival - Mladifest 18 – Medjugorje 2007



The 18<sup>th</sup> International Youth Festival - Mladifest 18 – will take place in Medjugorje from August 1<sup>st</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The theme of the encounter is, "Just as I have

loved you, you also should love one another" (Jn

**13:34)** (*"Dear children! Today I call you to love. Little children, love each other with God's love...The risen Jesus will be with you and you will be His witnesses."* - Message of *March 25, 2005*) (Program. See also: [International meetings](#))

This theme is in harmony with the theme of the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Youth Day, which is taking place on April 1<sup>st</sup> (Palm Sunday) in local Churches. Holy Father is addressing his word to young people:

"Everybody feels the longing to love and to be loved. Yet, how difficult it is to love, and how many mistakes and failures have to be reckoned with in love! There are those who even come to doubt that love is possible. But if emotional delusions or lack of affection can cause us to think that love is utopian, an impossible dream, should we then become resigned? No! Love is possible, and the purpose of my message is to help reawaken in each one of you - you who are the future and hope of humanity-, trust in a love that is true, faithful and strong; a love that generates peace and joy; a love that binds people together and allows them to feel free in respect for one another. Let us now go on a journey together in three stages, as we embark on a "discovery" of love." (2/19/07)

## The 12th International Seminar for Priests

The 12<sup>th</sup> International Seminar for Priests will be held in Medjugorje from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> 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> and [registration](#) [seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr](mailto:seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr)). (11/16/2006)

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

## WE WERE PLANNING ANOTHER PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE

If you are interested in going with us, we had hopes to plan a 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 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 pilgrims committed to sign up for this kind of

pilgrimage if we can arrange it. Please 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. ***Our Lady*** calls you now.

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## **PRAYER to OUR LADY in SICKNESS**

Holy Mary, Mother of God, and my Mother, I come before you in the knowledge that you will help me.

My faith tells me so and my heart makes sure of this.

In my sickness, and in the midst of my suffering, I often call out to you: "Mother!"

Just saying this word makes me feel better.

When I feel misunderstood and all alone, I know that you are with me and that you love me.

Help me, Mary, and when I am well let me love God more.

Amen.

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## **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.

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## **MAY the LORD of the HARVEST PRODUCE MANY HOLY PRIESTS**

**VATICAN CITY, APR 29, 2007 (VIS)** - At 9 a.m. today, the fourth Sunday of Easter and the 44th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Benedict XVI presided at a Eucharistic celebration in the Vatican Basilica during which he conferred priestly ordination upon 22 deacons of the diocese of Rome.

Eleven of the newly-ordained priests are from the Major Roman Seminary, eight from the "Redemptoris Mater" College and the other three from the Seminary of Divine Love, the "Almo Collegio Capranica," and the Seminary of the Congregation of the Legionaries of Christ.

The Pope began his homily by referring to the Gospel episode of the Good Shepherd. "Christ," he said, "knows His sheep and His sheep know Him, just as the Father knows Him and He knows the Father. This is not merely intellectual knowledge but a profound personal relationship; a knowledge of the heart typical

of those who love and are loved, of those who are faithful and who know that, in turn, they can trust. It is a knowledge of love by virtue of which the Shepherd invites His followers to follow Him, and that finds full expression in the gift He gives them of eternal life."

Addressing the newly-ordained priests, the Holy Father said "may the certainty that Christ does not abandon us and that no obstacle can prevent the realization of His universal plan of salvation be for you a cause of constant consolation - even in times of difficulty - and of unshakeable hope. The goodness of the Lord is always with you and is strong.

"The Sacrament of Holy Orders," Benedict XVI added, "makes you participants in Christ's own mission. You will be called to spread the seed of His Word, the seed that brings people to the Kingdom of God, to dispense divine mercy and to nourish the faithful at the table of His Body and His Blood. In order to be worthy ministers you must constantly nourish yourselves from the Eucharist, source and summit of Christian life.

"In approaching the altar, your daily school of sanctity and of communion with Christ, you will always discover the wealth and tenderness of the love of the divine Master, Who today calls you to a more intimate friendship with Him.

"If you listen to Him meekly, if you follow Him faithfully, you will learn to translate His love and His passion for the salvation of souls into life and pastoral ministry. Each of you will become, with Jesus' help, a good shepherd ready to give, if necessary, even your lives for Him."

The Holy Father went on: "Despite misunderstandings and contrasts, the apostles of Christ do not lose their joy; indeed they are witnesses of the joy that arises from being with the Lord, from love for Him and for our fellows."

At the end of his homily, the Holy Father called for prayers "so that in all parishes and Christian communities concern for vocations and the formation of priests may grow." In particular, he called upon the newly-ordained priests "to be faithful to the mission to which the Lord calls them today, and to be ready to renew every day their 'yes 'to God, their unreserved 'here I am.' And let us ask the Lord of the harvest, on this Day of Prayer for Vocations, to continue to produce many holy priests, completely dedicated to the service of Christian people."

**(HML/PRIESTLY VOCATIONS/. VIS 070430 (580))**



## **PRAY for VOCATIONS to PRIESTHOOD and CONSECRATED LIFE**

**VATICAN CITY, APR 29, 2007 (VIS)** - At midday, before praying the Regina Coeli with thousands of people gathered in Saint Peter's Square, the Pope recalled that today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, during which "all the faithful are invited to pray especially for vocations to the priesthood and to consecrated life."

The Holy Father referred to the fact that he had just ordained 22 deacons in the Vatican Basilica and called for all priests to be granted "the gift of perseverance, that they may continue to pray faithfully, to celebrate Mass with ever renewed devotion, to live their lives listening to the Word of God, and that day after day they may assimilate the same feelings and attitudes as Jesus the Good Shepherd.

"We also pray," he added, "for those preparing themselves for the priestly ministry, and for formators in the seminaries of Rome, Italy and the entire world. We pray for families that, in them, the 'seed' of the call to priestly ministry may continue to nurture and ripen."

This year, Pope Benedict continued, the theme of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is "vocation to the service of the Church as communion." All the baptized, he said, "are called to contribute to the work of salvation. In the Church there are, however, a number of vocations especially dedicated to the service of communion. The person primarily responsible for Catholic communion is the Pope, Peter's Successor and Bishop of Rome. Alongside him, custodians and masters of unity are the bishops, successors of the Apostles, assisted by priests. But consecrated persons and all the faithful are also at the service of communion.

"In the heart of the Church as communion," he added in conclusion, "is the Eucharist: the various vocations all draw from this supreme Sacrament the spiritual strength to build ... the one ecclesial Body."

**(ANG/VOCATIONS:COMMUNION/... VIS 070430  
(320))**

## **BLESSING of a WOMAN after CHILDBIRTH**

**(Also known as the Churching of Women.)**

(When a woman after childbirth desires, according to a pious and praiseworthy custom, to come to the Church to give thanks to God for her safe delivery, and when she has asked the priest's blessing, he, vested in surplice and white stole, proceeds, with an acolyte carrying the holy water sprinkler, to the door of the church. He may address the following words to the woman, who is kneeling and holding a lighted candle in her hand:)

### **Exhortation Before Entering Into the Church**

According to a very laudable custom, you have come to request the blessing of the Church upon yourself and the child that has been committed to your care.

While you return thanks to God for the many favors He has bestowed upon you, at the same time fervently consecrate yourself and your offspring to His holy service.

Be careful, both by word and by example, to impress upon its youthful heart the principles of solid piety, that you may correspond to the views of Divine providence in placing it under your charge, and may have the happiness of seeing your children attentive in their duties to God, and zealous for their own eternal welfare, You hold a lighted candle in your hand, to signify the good works by which you should express your thanks to God for the benefits which He has bestowed upon you, and the pious example by which you should lead your children, and all around you, to the love and practice of virtue.

Endeavor to enter into this disposition, and to cultivate it all the days of your life, so that you may obtain and enjoy the blessings which I am now about to ask for you, in the name of Holy Church.

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

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

(The kneeling woman is sprinkled with holy water, then the priest says:)

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who has made heaven and earth.

(Antiphon:) She shall receive.

### PSALM 23

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.

For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord?

or who may stand in his holy place?

He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain, nor swears deceitfully to his neighbor.

He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior.

Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in!

Who is this king of glory?

The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.

Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in!

Who is this king of glory?

The Lord of hosts; he is the king of glory.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

(Antiphon:) She shall receive the blessing of the Lord, and the mercy of God her savior, for such is the generation of them that seek the Lord.

(The priest offers his stole to the mother, and leads her towards the altar:)

Enter into the temple of God, and worship the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary who has granted you fruitfulness of offspring.

(And after the woman has come into the church, she kneels before the altar and prays, thanking God for the benefits bestowed on her. Then the priest says:)

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Our Father (in silence until)

V. And lead us not into temptation.

R. But deliver us from evil.

V. Save Your handmaid, O Lord.

R. Who hopes in You, O my God.

V. Send her help, O Lord, from Your holy temple.

R. And from Sion protect her.

V. May the enemy never prevail against her.

R. And may the son of wickedness come not near her to harm her.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my cry reach up to You.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, by the delivery of the Blessed Virgin Mary, You have changed the pangs of the faithful at childbirth into joy.

Look now with kindly favor on this Your handmaid, who comes joyously into Your holy temple to pay You her debt of thanks.

Grant her, after the present life, through the merits and prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to obtain together with her offspring the joys of eternal happiness, through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

(Then the priest again sprinkles her with holy water, saying:)

May the peace and blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, descend upon you and remain always.

R. Amen.

(The foregoing blessing of a woman after childbirth should be given by the pastor, if he is asked. But it may be given by any priest if, likewise, he is asked. It may be given in any church or public oratory, but the Superior of the church should be told of it.)

[www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english/p00233.htm](http://www.catholicdoors.com/prayers/english/p00233.htm)

## **NOVENA of the MIRACULOUS MEDAL**

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of Our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most lively confidence in your all-powerful and never-failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, we your loving and trustful children implore you to obtain for us the graces and favors we ask during this novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. (Here form your petition)

You know, O Mary, how often our souls have been the sanctuaries of your Son who hates iniquity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain for us also a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we have lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where you are the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

[www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/MiraculousMedal.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/MiraculousMedal.htm)

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## **DEVELOPMENT MUST NOT IGNORE MORAL and RELIGIOUS ISSUES**

VATICAN CITY, MAY 1, 2007 (VIS) - Made public today was a Message from the Holy Father addressed to Mary Ann Glendon, president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, and to participants in the academy's 13th plenary assembly which was held in the Vatican from April 27 to May 1 on the theme: "Charity and Justice in the Relations among Peoples and Nations."

In his message, published in English and Italian, the Pope makes it clear that, according to "the principle of the universal destination of all the goods of creation, ... everything that the earth produces and all that man transforms and manufactures, all his knowledge and technology, is meant to serve the material and spiritual development and fulfillment of the human family and all its members."

The Holy Father goes on to identify "three specific challenges facing our world, challenges which I believe can only be met through a firm commitment to that greater justice which is inspired by charity.

"The first," he adds, "concerns the environment and sustainable development. The international community recognizes that the world's resources are

limited and that it is the duty of all peoples to implement policies to protect the environment in order to prevent the destruction of that natural capital whose fruits are necessary for the well-being of humanity. ... Also needed is a capacity to assess and forecast, to monitor the dynamics of environmental change and sustainable growth, and to draw up and apply solutions at an international level."

"Indeed, if development were limited to the technical-economic aspect, obscuring the moral-religious dimension, it would not be an integral human development, but a one-sided distortion which would end up by unleashing man's destructive capacities."

The second challenge "involves our conception of the human person and consequently our relationships with one other. If human beings are not seen as persons, male and female, created in God's image and endowed with an inviolable dignity, it will be very difficult to achieve full justice in the world. Despite the recognition of the rights of the person in international declarations and legal instruments, much progress needs to be made in bringing this recognition to bear upon such global problems as the growing gap between rich and poor countries."

The third challenge "relates to the values of the spirit." Benedict XVI explains that, "unlike material goods, those spiritual goods which are properly human expand and multiply when communicated. Unlike divisible goods, spiritual goods such as knowledge and education are indivisible."

Having emphasized the urgent need for "a just equality of opportunity, especially in the field of education and the transmission of knowledge," the Pope laments the fact that "education, especially at the primary level, remains dramatically insufficient in many parts of the world.

"To meet these challenges," he concludes, "only love for neighbor can inspire within us justice at the service of life and the promotion of human dignity. Only love within the family, founded on a man and a woman, who are created in the image of God, can assure that inter-generational solidarity which transmits love and justice to future generations. Only charity can encourage us to place the human person once more at the center of life in society and at the center of a globalized world governed by justice."

**(MESS/CHARITY:JUSTICE/GLENDON VIS 070502 (560))**

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## THE HIGHEST KNOWLEDGE of GOD FLOWS from LOVE

VATICAN CITY, MAY 2, 2007 (VIS) - During his general audience this morning, the Pope returned to consider the figure of Origen, the famous third century historian. Last week the Holy Father had focused on the life of this Father of the Church and on his literary works, this week he turned to Origen's teachings on prayer and the Church.

Origen, the Pope told the 30,000 people gathered in a rain-swept Saint Peter's Square, "constantly intertwines his exegetical and theological works with experiences and suggestions concerning prayer."

For Origen "the understanding of Scripture requires, more even than study, intimacy with Christ and prayer. He is convinced that the best way to know God is love, and that there can be no true 'scientia Christi' without being enamoured of Him."

"The highest level of knowledge of God flows from love," said the Pope. To demonstrate this, Origen "bases himself upon a meaning sometimes given to the verb 'to know' in Hebrew: when it is used to express the act of human love. ... Just as man and woman are 'two in one flesh,' so God and the believer become 'two in one spirit'."

Benedict XVI then turned to another of Origen's teachings, this time concerning the Church and the "common priesthood" of the faithful. "Purity and honesty of life," said the Pope, and "faith and study of the Scriptures are the indispensable conditions for exercising the universal priesthood. Even more so, then, are they indispensable for the exercise of the priestly ministry.

"These conditions - integrity of life and welcoming and studying the Word - create a true 'hierarchy of sanctity' in the common priesthood of the Christian faithful," the Holy Father added. "Origen places martyrdom at the peak of this journey of perfection. ... This tireless journey of perfection concerns us all, so long as the gaze of our hearts is turned to contemplation of the Knowledge and the Truth that is Jesus Christ."

(AG/ORIGEN/... VIS 070502 (340))

## NOVENA PRAYER to the IMMACULATE HEART of MARY

O Most Blessed Mother, heart of love, heart of mercy, ever listening, caring, consoling, hear our prayer. As your children, we implore your intercession with Jesus your Son. Receive with understanding and

compassion the petitions we place before you today, especially ...(*special intention*).

We are comforted in knowing your heart is ever open to those who ask for your prayer. We trust to your gentle care and intercession, those whom we love and who are sick or lonely or hurting. Help all of us, Holy Mother, to bear our burdens in this life until we may share eternal life and peace with God forever. Amen.

[http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/heart/Im\\_novena.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/heart/Im_novena.htm)

## MARY'S GARDENS



Mary's Gardens was founded in 1951 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to research the hundreds of flowers named in medieval times as symbols of the life, mysteries and privileges of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus - as recorded by botanists, folklorists and lexicographers; and to assist in the planting of "Mary Gardens" of "Flowers of Our Lady" today.

Communications and requests for further information may be addressed to: [marysgardens@mgardens.org](mailto:marysgardens@mgardens.org).

<http://www.mgardens.org/index.html>



## PRAYER to OUR LADY, HELP of CHRISTIANS

Lord, you place deep in our hearts the love of Mary, Our Lady Help of Christians.

Through her prayers grant integrity and wisdom to our leaders, compassion and generosity to our parishioners, and true humility of heart to each one of us.

Under her protection may Australia be granted justice, harmony and peace.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Amen.

[\(www.ourlady.org.au/\)](http://www.ourlady.org.au/)

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## ***PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)***

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

Most **PFMC** volunteers profess that faith through the apostolic and universal teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Those volunteers who are practicing Roman Catholics profess allegiance to the Magisterium of the Church founded upon the Rock (Kephas / Cephas or Petros depending on original or translation) of Simon bar Jonah and led by his apostolic successor **Pope 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 included 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.

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 computer skills we would love to have your help. If you would have a few moments to assist **Vince and Livia Nocella** with the organizing and counting for inventory that would also be great. They can always use some additional hands. We want to complete as much of the current inventory as possible to see where we stand as we set up for closing of the operations, particularly inventory management, at **61 Cooper Road**.

If you wish to order something from our inventory, 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.

Please review the article on **page 2** as well as the section of the next article on **CONTENTS** of **61 Cooper Road**. We are looking for interested buyers of the **CONTENTS** as we do not plan to store any of it. We have begun to move what we want to keep to the **Werner** home as well as other locations where it will remain available to the **PFMC** volunteers.

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## 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 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 have been encouraged to bring our expertise into cooperation with other ministries and to offer team based events in the future. We will work with Roman Catholic and other Catholic ministries including Core Groups of the Charismatic Renewal in the Greater Delaware Valley to see if there are enough leaders and volunteers to offer team based events in the future. Unless there are leaders and volunteers we can not continue these events.
- Activities in **Epiphany House** will continue to be scheduled as private or parish groups request until the sale of **61 Cooper Road**.
- 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 **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 continue to ask for your donations to keep the **PFMC** operations going. 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. Please pray for all the volunteers at the **PFMC**. **God Bless!**

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## 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 the **Werner** 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 intercessory and healing prayer. The current phone lines will be maintained and monitored remotely for the near future. Mail will be routed to a P. O. Box.

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 ever 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 / healing 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

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## CONFERENCE CORNER

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

**25 to 27 May 2007, NATIONAL CONFERENCE on MEDJUGORJE, Joyce Center, Notre Dame, IN.** Contact Francis Sain, Queen of Peace Ministries, P.O. Box 761, Notre Dame, IN 46556 or call 574-288-8777; FAX: 574-288-8795; Email: [maryconference@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maryconference@sbcglobal.net) Web Site: <http://www.queenofpeaceministries.com>.

**3 to 5 August 2007, Scranton Diocese Charismatic Conference, University of Scranton, PA.**

**24 to 26 August 2007, THE MIR CENTER OF ARIZONA MARIAN CONFERENCE, Doubletree Resort, Scottsdale, AZ.**

**15 to 16 September 2007, MARIAN EUCHARISTIC CONFERENCE, Catskill, N.Y.** Cost is \$40 per person,. for further details: e-mail: [erm@mhonline.net](mailto:erm@mhonline.net) or call 518-943-5745

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## FATHER PETAR LJUBICIC, OFM in NJ and PA – 1 to 4 JUNE 2007

The US Schedule of Father Petar Ljubicic, OFM (Medjugorje priest and spiritual director of visionary, Mirjana Soldo) can be found in Rafael M. Villongco's Kraljice Mira Pilgrimages webpage under the auspices of 206 Tours. Please visit: <http://www.pilgrimages.com/rafael/>.

For more information, please call: (732)441-0567, (732)441-1513 or E-mail: [rafilo@yahoo.com](mailto:rafilo@yahoo.com).

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## PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS



Kathleen and Keith are available to participate in parish or prayer group meetings with witness,

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

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.

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## ENCLOSED ITEMS

In this **May 2007** issue of "**The PILGRIM**" is the new larger **PFMC** donation envelope and the new larger donation coupon for the **PFMC**. Please respond if you are able.

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## PICTURE on BACK PAGE

This picture comes from the web page of the **Saint Ambrose Church in Houston, TX**.

We thought it was fitting for the theme: "**Mary, Our Mother.**"

The picture selected is of a stature of **Our Lady with the Child Jesus**. Fitting remembrance of **OUR Blessed Mother** in honor of **Mother's Day, 5/12/07**

Another picture in the selection was of a statue of **Our Lady of Fatima** (**Feast Day: 5/13/07**).



[www.abcsfaith.com/artchurch/stambrosecc.htm](http://www.abcsfaith.com/artchurch/stambrosecc.htm)

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## CALENDARS:

In *May*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **ASCENSION OF THE LORD (17)** and **PENTECOST (27)**, the Feasts of **SAINT MATTHIAS, APOSTLE (14)**, the Memorials of the *Visitation (31)* and *Saint Philip Neri (26)* and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Nereus (12)*, *Achilleus (12)*, *Pancras (12)*, *Isidore the Farmer (15)*, *Pope John I (18)*, *Christopher Magallanes and Companions (21)*, *Rita of Cascia (22)*, *Bede the Venerable (25)*, *Pope Gregory VII (25)*, *Mary Magdalene de Pazzi (25)*, and *Blessed Damien Joseph De Vuester of Molokai (10)*. Most Church calendars recognize **Mother's Day (13)**, and **Memorial Day (observed) (28)**. **Happy Birthday Katherine (15)**.

In *June* the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **HOLY TRINITY (3)**, **CORPUS CHRISTI (10)**, **SACRED HEART (15)**, and **SAINTS PETER and PAUL (29)**, the Memorials of *Saints Justin (1)*, *Boniface (5)*, *Barnabas, Apostle (11)*, *Anthony of Padua (13)*, *Aloysius Gonzaga (21)*, and *Irenaeus (28)*, and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Marcellinus and Peter (2)*, *Norbert (6)*, *Ephrem of Syria (9)*, *Romuald (19)*, *Paulinus of Nola (22)*, *John Fisher and Thomas More (22)*, *Cyril of Alexandria (27)*, *The First Martyrs of the Church of Rome (30)*, and *The Immaculate Heart of Mary (16)*. Most Church calendars recognize **Fathers Day (17)**. **Happy Anniversary Kathleen and Keith (27)**.

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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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## AROUND the **PFMC** AREA

Please review the announcements on *pages 1* and *3*, as well as on *pages 21* through *23* 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 conference information as well as allow information sheets to be put out in church. Please do not put material in church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his authorized representative.

## POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS for *MAY 2007*

**P**ope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of *May 2007* is: "That, like the Virgin Mary, all Christians may be guided by the Word of God and remain attentive to the signs of the Lord in their own lives."

His mission intention for the month of *May 2007* is: "That in mission territories there may be good and enlightened teachers in the major seminaries and institutes of consecrated life."

<http://www.apostlesofprayer.org>

**The *PILGRIM*, Volume 18, Number 05 – May 2007**

**PRIORITY DATED  
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL  
Mailed Thursday, 5/17/2007**

U.S. POSTAGE  
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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 have come from articles in "**The *PILGRIM!***" Please, pray for the **PFMC**, the volunteers, and the disposition of property and contents at **61 Cooper Road!**