



The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 18, No. 06

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

June 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

Protect us Virgin Mother, and permit us to be all yours. Build in us trust and hope, and to constantly yearn for you as a mother most kind. Protect us. For you are all powerful, and merciful, the mother of compassion, and mother of all who come to you as a Refuge of sinners.



Mary in all sufferings in days ahead, be there in every distress. Hold tightly to us in any temptations, and in all our weaknesses. We count on you as Our Mother, and we desire to be yours.

As we close this building of the PFMC help every person associated with the work done here and bring all to the joy of your Son, Jesus. We thank you for having been there for all of us, and for giving us strength each day to minister as we have. May Your heart, Mary, continue to pulse in the hearts of all wounded children, and may they continue to come to you with open arms. Heal us all. AMEN

WE THANK OUR READERS from the LAST 18 YEARS

As we write this possibly the last issue of "**The PILGRIM**" we recall our desires to send out the text of and reflections on the monthly and annual messages from **Medjugorje** starting in **1989** after our first pilgrimage with over **90** pilgrims. For nearly **18 years** now, we have done this for those who maintained contact with us.

We also began to include stories, teachings, poems and prayers for our readers to use over a month or longer at a time. It was especially good for those who did not subscribe to a lot of magazines, and yet wanted to nourish their souls a little at a time over the days till the next issue would arrive.

We want to thank those who contributed toward the printing and mailing of these issues, and for the

The **May MESSAGE**, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, is presented on page **14** (centerfold page) with **REFLECTIONS**.

upkeep of the needs of the places where we operated the **PFMC**. Bills, particularly utilities such as electricity, gas, internet, and phone, as well as many other expenses kept us wondering how we would make it month to month. With **Keith** working he and **Kathleen** would contribute heavily month after month and year after year. And now, with **Keith** retired, the contributions just could not cover the expenses of the property acquired to support the operations of the **PFMC**. We will miss it.

The volunteers associated with the **PFMC** will continue ministry without a large property, buildings, and things, particularly the healing and deliverance part of the ministry of the **PFMC**. We have begun to eliminate material things that were a part of the **PFMC** ministry from the beginning. The books, pamphlets, pictures, religious articles, statues, etc. in the inventory are being dispersed to locations where religious article shops already exist. Conferences, retreats, seminars, and workshops will only be set up in facilities with room enough when parish or prayer group volunteers ask for the **PFMC** to help. We still will maintain the connections to get wonderful speakers and to provide **PFMC** help. The **PFMC** will still be able to coordinate pilgrimages but only when established groups ask for that coordination.

People will still be able to reach the **PFMC** by calling **(856) 768 9228** and leaving a message. Please leave your **AREA CODE** whenever you call so we can call you back. Many times we will be returning calls from cell phones and home phones of volunteers, please do not give out these phone numbers as ways to contact the **PFMC**. We will also maintain our FAX machine on **(856) 768 9428**.

Again we will pray for all of you, and only ask you to pray for us. **Kathleen, Keith** and the other volunteers

"The PILGRIM" for **June 2007** is dedicated to the **"Immaculate Hear of Maryt."** **June** is the dedicated to the **Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (15)** and the **Immaculate Heart of Mary (16)**. See page **3** for **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."** or the **Table of Contents** for this issue.

will be spending more time with their families particularly their children and grandchildren. They are always willing to help you. We also hope to travel to far away lands to pray and teach as we have been doing. There is a possibility we will pilgrimage in **October** to **Medjugorje** . . . we are in the process of looking at the possibilities.

May God bless you....and all of the angels surround you....and may Mary place her mantle of protection about each of you.

Kathleen and Keith Werner

PFMC VOLUNTEERS

What a great group of volunteers we have had over the years. We thank them all. During the **May 2007 "The PILGRIM"** assembly efforts, particularly on **Tuesday, 5/15/07**, we started to reminisce about the last **18 years**.

Carl Mayo has a great memory and was telling us of some of his experiences with **Keith** and **Kathleen**.

Edwina Jardinico, Fay Ramos, and Tessie Magallon remembered the things that their family, they are sisters, experienced in the **Philippines** as a result of work they were inspired to accomplish through the **PFMC** and their volunteer efforts.

We could not have run as many **RETREAT CONFERENCES** without the steady efforts of **Edwina** with the **REGISTRATION** coordination.

Kathleen started playing the organ and that brought back lots of memories of standing around singing Christmas carols or all our favorite songs.

Sam Berger remembered the times he would be making coffee in the kitchen of the **Werner** home during the early years when the **PFMC** was inside their home and even after it moved into their two car garage. **Keith** and **Kathleen** would wake up and come downstairs to find him there - always with a smile on his face, and ready to go to work.

Mary McShane remembered the times when the **Irish** ladies we called **Mary, Mary, and Mary** all came at the same time to work together.

Do you remember the days when we put out the messages and reflections in a newsletter with manual copying and assembly ourselves? We'd copy it, and

tediously assemble the pages and inserts, then fold the pages using batteries to press the first and second folds so we could staple them. Now we bag and seal them. Then we label, sort, band, bag or bin, tag, and take to the post office. Now the copy machine assembles the pages, folds, and staples them for us.

Frances Markus, Gloria Cruz, Myrna Jardimiano, and Macrina Idnay all came to help but missed out on the memory lane break over lunch. We truly appreciate all the volunteers.

Vincent and **Livia Nocella** have volunteered for many years, and have throughout our packing talked of their experiences of healing prayer and conferences. They have been a great asset to all the ministry from the **PFMC**, and especially in our book and religious article room. We thank them, and again wish them a blessed 50th Wedding Anniversary year. We all enjoyed our week of celebration with them in **Mazatlan, Mexico** in **April**. We are truly sorry that our air travel disruption extended stay in **Aruba** caused us to miss their **NJ** party on **March 25th**.

There are many other volunteers . . . too many to count. Some would come for an hour a month, and some every week, and some several times a week. We have formed bonds, and spiritual ties of prayer with them all and it would be in remiss if we did not think of them. We thank **Bill, Colleen, Liz, Pat C., Pat D., Frank & Pat D., Dotty, Bernadette J. & S., Carmella D., D. & O., Elizabeth & Bob, Florence, Mary K., Janet M., Linda H., Linda & John N., Helen & Ford F., Helen S., Monica, Toni, Betty Lou, Elva, Judy & Nick, Kay, Mary Ellen, Barbara H., Sharon, Camille, Maria, Rosamaria, Jose, Kathy, Catherine, Rob & Stacey, Steve, Stan,** and so so many more. We pray for those who have gone before us like **Ed, Joe B., and Joe F.**

God be with you all.

Keith and Kathleen

IMAGINE

Imagine a Heart that is so close to you that every cell in yours feels as if it is touching this Heart, being bathed in its Light and Love.

Imagine that this Heart is alive, beating, loving, and that every beat you feel completely, as if it were your

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.

own, moving in you.

Imagine that there is nothing more tender than this Heart, that every movement, every touch is of complete, pure Love, completely overwhelmingly tender Love and compassion, and sweetest joy beyond explanation.

Imagine that this Heart desires your love, your tenderness, your touch.

Imagine that this Heart longs to be cradled in your love, to be held close, to be cherished above all else.

Imagine that above all else you desire to hold this Heart close, to surrender all you are, to the very core of your being, to this Heart, this Love, this touch of the Divine.

Imagine that this is what this most Sacred Heart desires as well, deeply, completely, and that you touch deeply to the deepest core of your being; everything you are centers in this most Sacred Heart, and you are one, in Love more precious than life.

Imagine that He breathes into your soul to hold Him this close forever.

Imagine that you have just breathed into His Heart that you desire to hold Him this close forever, to never be separated for a moment.

Imagine the mutual longing and desire for love fulfilled, in deepest, surrendering union of Love.

Imagine the Love of our God for the smallest human heart.

Handmaid of His Heart © 2002 Heart to Heart
<http://www.sacredheartdevotion.com/love-poems.htm>

CONTENTS of 61 COOPER ROAD

See the next two articles as well as the articles on the last several pages. We are actively working to empty the contents of the buildings on the property at **61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963.**

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.

Many items have already been bid on and picked up. 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. There are large quantities of shipping boxes and large manila envelopes in cases if you know of anyone in the shipping or mailing business. There are also

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

A PRAYER, WE THANK OUR READERS from the last 18 YEARS.....	1
PFMC VOLUNTEERS, IMAGINE.....	2
CONTENTS of 61 COOPER ROAD, INVENTORY MOVE #1.....	3
INVENTORY MOVE #2, STAY WITH ME, LORD.....	4
FLOODGATE OF LOVE, DADDY'S EMPTY CHAIR	5
The LITANY of the SACRED HEART of JESUS, WHAT IS TRINITY SUNDAY?	6
CONTEMPLATION: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY at the DEATH of JESUS	7
LITANY OF JESUS, SAN JUAN de LOS LAGOS, JALSICO, MEXICO.....	8
ADORATION, A HOMILY on the SOLEMNITY of the BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST, PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING	9
VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT, WHO are the HANDMAIDS of the SACRED HEART?, HOLY MASS TIMES.....	11
REST YOUR HEAD IN OUR HEARTS, PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS, ENCLOSED ITEMS, PRAY to END PORNOGRAPHY	13
MESSAGE of 5/25/2007 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti.....	14
ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 5/25/2007	14
SELECTED "NEWS ARTICLES"	15
PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)	25
2007 for the PFMC , After 2007 for the PFMC	26
CONFERENCE CORNER, PICTURE on BACK PAGE	27
CALENDARS: , AROUND the PFMC AREA, POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYER INTENTIONS for JUNE 2007	28

commercial dishwasher racks full of dishes and glasses that were once in a hotel kitchen / dining room set-up. There is also a large stove with upper and lower ovens.

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.

INVENTORY MOVE #1

The Holy Spirit and *Saint Therese of the Child Jesus (The Little Flower)* have answered our prayers on what to do with our inventory. **Mike Naoti**, a salesman for **W.B. Mason**, told **Keith**, during the order process of paper supplies for the *May* issue of "**The PILGRIM**", that he had met **Bill Spillman** of **Little Flower Religious Goods** and that **Keith** should call him about the closing of **PFMC** operations at **61 Cooper Road**. **Keith** got **Bill's** phone number and called him to see if he would visit and talk about what he might want from **61 Cooper Road**.

Bill came on *5/14/07* as scheduled and was overwhelmed with what he found. He took a four volume set of the **Liturgy of the Hours** and a statue

of *Saint Martin de Porres* which had been asked for in his facility the previous week. Now he not only had a source for each but the actual materials. He returned and moved some of the **PFMC** inventory to his facility. He hopes to move more as his time, space, and funds allow. Initially we thought he would take everything but he does not have sufficient space for it.

If you want something you once saw at the **PFMC**, it might be found with **Bill Spillman** at:

LITTLE FLOWER RELIGIOUS GOODS
Point Plaza (near the branch Post Office)
425 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road
Sewell, NJ 08080-9369
(609) 743-3611
b.spillman@att.net

See the next article for another location for some of the **PFMC** inventory.

INVENTORY MOVE #2

Kathleen and Keith have met with **Monsignor William Hodge, Pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, 1409 Pacific Ave, Atlantic City, NJ, 08401 (609) 344-1040 <http://www.stnicholasac.org/>.**

Monsignor Hodge has set up a religious article display and **Saint Nicholas Religious Articles Shop <http://www.stnicholasac.org/>** in the basement of his rectory. He has agreed to take most of what is left in the **PFMC** inventory after everyone else has taken what they want. We have agreed to assist him with Inventory Management using the ACCESS data base that we have massaged over the last decade.

Because many people travel to the **New Jersey** shore for a variety of reasons, consider stopping by **Atlantic City** and visit the:

Saint Nicholas Religious Articles Shop
1409 Pacific Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ, 08401
(609) 344-1040
<http://www.stnicholasac.org/>

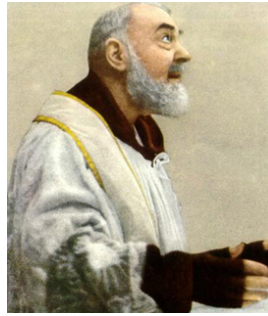
Of course all of the other fine Catholic religious goods outlets are valid sources for material you might want to enhance your spiritual life.

If the volunteers at the **PFMC** can be of assistance in searching for something, you may still call **(856) 768-9228** and leave a detailed message as to what you want. If we can find it and get it shipped directly to you we might be able to satisfy your needs in that way. Otherwise we will call you and tell you where we found the item you desire.

STAY WITH ME, LORD



Prayer of Saint Pio of Pietrelcina after Holy Communion



Stay with me, Lord, for it is necessary to have You present so that I do not forget You.

You know how easily I abandon You.

Stay with me, Lord, because I am weak and I need Your strength, that I may not fall so often.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my life, and without You, I am without fervor.

Stay with me, Lord, for You are my light, and without You, I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me Your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear Your voice and follow You.

Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love You very much, and always be in Your company.

Stay with me, Lord, if You wish me to be faithful to You.

Stay with me, Lord, for as poor as my soul is, I want it to be a place of consolation for You, a nest of love.

Stay with me, Jesus, for it is getting late and the day is coming to a close, and life passes; death, judgment, eternity approaches. It is necessary to renew my strength, so that I will not stop along the way and for that, I need You. It is getting late and death approaches, I fear the darkness, the temptations, the dryness, the cross, the sorrows. O how I need You, my Jesus, in this night of exile!

Stay with me tonight, Jesus, in life with all its dangers. I need You.

Let me recognize You as Your disciples did at the breaking of the bread, so that the Eucharistic Communion be the Light which dispenses the darkness, the force which sustains me, the unique joy of my heart.

Stay with me, Lord, because at the hour of my death, I want to remain united to You, if not by communion, at least by grace and love.

Stay with me, Jesus, I do not ask for divine consolation, because I do not merit it, but the gift of Your Presence, oh yes, I ask this of You!

Stay with me, Lord, for it is You alone I look for, Your Love, Your Grace, Your Will, Your Heart, Your

Spirit because I love You and ask no other reward but to love You more and more.

With a firm love, I will love You with all my heart while on earth and continue to love You perfectly during all eternity. Amen

<http://www.padrepiodevotions.org/index.asp?pagename=prayers>

FLOODGATE OF LOVE

O Holy Communion of Life and Love,
My Precious Lord,
I see as through Your eyes
That Upper Room
So warm, so full of Your Precious Love
And their hope in You.
Your heart wells up with Love,
Your eyes with tears
As you slowly gaze at them, so innocent...
How Your Heart desires to hold this moment
How Your Heart desires to hold their faith
And touch their hearts with Your Love.
Your heart tears as you tear the bread
Knowing all too soon they will betray You, deny You.
How You long for their innocent love,
Their trusting faith, to hold in Your Heart
Protecting it from the darkness to come!
As You hold the bread in Your hands, hesitating,
Everything You are pours into this Bread.
As You break the Bread, Your Sacred Heart breaks, also.
The Passion begins.
Sharing Your Broken Body with those You love
Your Sacred Heart burns, longing for this moment
"I have longed with all my Heart to share this supper with you."
You look deep into the chalice of red wine.
A tear drops and mingles with the wine of forgiveness,
A token of Your humanity and ours.
As You speak Your words of Love
The wine becomes Your Precious Blood.
As You gaze into the depths of the chalice
You see what is to come, drinking in with Your Spirit
Your Covenant of Love.
Passing the Chalice of Your Blood to Your people
They drink of it, sealing their Covenant with You
In Your Eternal Love.
O Holy Communion of Love

You stand before us like a floodgate,
Aching to pour forth Your contents,
You long for and wait for our glance of recognition!
A faithful loving glance and Your Host Body
Crumbles as the floodgate opens
And we are flooded with Your Graces and Love
And made new.

O Sacred Floodgate of Love
Break through our hearts and flood our souls.

<http://www.sacredheartdevotion.com/love-poems.htm>

DADDY'S EMPTY CHAIR

A man's daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit.

"I guess you were expecting me, he said. 'No, who are you?'" said the father. The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man.

"Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man.

"But all of my life I have never known how to pray.

At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head. "I abandoned any

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

attempt at prayer,"

The old man continued, "Until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, 'Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus.'

"My best friend suggested 'Sit down in a chair; Place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair.'"

"He continued 'It's not spooky because he promised, 'I will be with you always.'" Then just speak to him in the same way you're doing with me right now.'"

"So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he die in peace?" he asked.

"Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

Prayer is one of the best free gifts we receive.
I asked God for water, He gave me an ocean.
I asked God for a flower, He gave me a garden.
I asked God for a friend, He gave me all of YOU.
If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.
Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.

<http://www.arborwood.com/awforums/show-topic-1.php?start=1&fid=4614&taid=10&topicid=1897&ut=1179806768> Gail OCDS, Forum Moderator,

THE LITANY of the SACRED HEART of JESUS

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the World, have mercy on us
God, the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father, have mercy on us.
Heart of Jesus, formed in the womb of the Virgin Mother by the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.
Heart of Jesus, united substantially with the word of God, have mercy on us.
Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty, have mercy on us.
Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God, have mercy on us.
Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High, have mercy on us.

<http://www.sacredheart.com/LitanyOfTheSacredHeart.htm>

WHAT IS TRINITY SUNDAY?

The first Sunday after Pentecost is the Festival of the Holy Trinity. On this day, the church rejoices in the impenetrable mystery that God is triune (three-in-one) -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How the Lord can be one God in three distinct persons is completely beyond the ability of any human to understand. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Christians accept this incomprehensible mystery as a fundamental article of faith.

WHAT IS THE ATHANASIAN CREED?

The Athanasian Creed is the Christian church's wonderful and profound confession of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. This creed takes its name from the influential Egyptian bishop and theologian of the 4th century, Athanasius, who was once thought to be its author. Because of its length, it is not recited in church on a regular basis. However, many congregations (including Saint Paul's) use it on Trinity Sunday. This creed, along with the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed, is one of the three ecumenical creeds that have been universally accepted and confessed by the Christian church since ancient times.

WHY IS TRINITY SUNDAY CELEBRATED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST?

How God can be one God in three Persons is a mystery. While it is clearly taught in the Bible (for example, in Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Corinthians 13:14), it can never be understood or rationalized -- it can only be accepted by faith. Since faith comes only through the Holy Spirit working through the means of grace, it is appropriate that this glorious mystery is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost, the great festival of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

WHAT IS THE LITURGICAL COLOR FOR TRINITY?

The liturgical color for Trinity Sunday is white. White represents the holiness and perfection of God.

WHAT IS THE TRINITY SEASON?

The part of the church calendar between Trinity and the first Sunday of Advent is traditionally called the Trinity Season. While some churches (particularly those from the Episcopal/Anglican denominations) still use this designation, others (including many Lutheran churches) describe this part of the year as the Season after Pentecost.

WHY DOES THE CHURCH ASSIGN A SPECIAL FESTIVAL TO GLORIFY THE HOLY TRINITY?

From Advent through Pentecost, the church celebrates with joy and thanksgiving what Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have done to accomplish the salvation of sinful humanity. During the Season after Pentecost, we focus on how we as Christians ought to respond to the love that God has shown us. Trinity Sunday is a transitional day that bridges these two parts of the liturgical year. This is the solemn day on which we praise and adore God both for what He has done for the world and for who He is. As it is so beautifully confessed in the Athanasian Creed:

We worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity,
Neither confounding the Persons nor dividing the
Substance.

For there is one Person of the Father, another of the
Son, and another of the Holy Ghost.

But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the
Holy Ghost is all one the glory equal, the majesty
coeternal.

(<http://www.stpaulskingsville.org/trinity.htm#WHAT%20IS%20THE%20TRINITY%20SEASON?> LCMS

Commission on Douglas K. Escue, The Colors of the
Liturgical Seasons, an article from the Worship.)

CONTEMPLATION: BLESSED VIRGIN MARY at the DEATH of JESUS

The Blessed Virgin Mary Speaks to Saint Bridget:

At the death of my son, all things were disturbed. For the divinity, which was never separated from Him, not even in death, in that hour of His death seemed to partake of His suffering, although the divinity could suffer no pain of penalty, being impassible and immutable. My Son suffered pain in all His members and even in His heart, which nevertheless, being divine, is immortal; His soul, also, which was immortal, suffered because it left the body. The assembled angels also seemed to be, as it were, disturbed, when they saw God in humanity suffer on earth. But how could angels, who are immortal, be troubled? Truly, like a just man, when he sees his friend suffer anything from which he is to reap great glory; he rejoices, indeed, for the glory he is to gain, but grieves, nevertheless, in a manner, for his suffering. So the angels grieved, as it were for His Passion, although they are impassible. But they rejoiced at His future glory, and the benefit to result from His Passion. The elements, too, were all troubled; the sun and the moon lost their splendor, the earth quaked, the rocks were rent, the graves opened, at the death of my Son. All the Gentiles were troubled wherever they were, because there came in their hearts a certain sting of grief, although they knew not whence. The heart, too, of those who crucified Him, was in tribulation in that hour, but not for their glory. The very unclean spirits were troubled in that hour, and gathered together were troubled. Those, too, who were in Abraham's bosom, were much troubled, so that they would have preferred to be in hell for eternity rather than behold their Lord paying such a penalty. But what pain I, who stood by my Son, a Virgin and His Mother, then suffered, no one can imagine.

Therefore, my daughter, remember the Passion of my son, fly the instability of the world, which is but a vision, and a flower that soon fades.

(Lib. vi, c.11).

This excerpt was taken from The Revelations of Saint Bridget

(<http://www.sacredheart.com/BlessedVirginMaryAtTheDeathOfJesus.ht>

LITANY OF JESUS

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the World, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Supreme Good, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Sun of Justice, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Divine Heart, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Crucified One, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Divine Master, have mercy on us.
Jesus, King of Mercy, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Heavenly Master, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Divine Infant, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Christ Crucified, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Love Crucified, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Divine Majesty, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Heavenly King, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Divine Model, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Beautiful Divine Sun, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Most High, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Dear Redeemer, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Our Life, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Immense Goodness, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Divine Love of our hearts, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Good Shepherd, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Author of Life, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Beloved of our hearts, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Our Breath, have mercy on us.
Jesus, The Way, the Truth, and the Life, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Who comforts us, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Heavenly Bridegroom, have mercy on us.
Jesus, One with the Father and the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Our Paradise, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Our King, have mercy on us.
Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament, have mercy on us.
Jesus, Resurrected, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace. Amen

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, mercifully attend to our supplications, and grant us the grace of Your most Divine Love, that we love You with all our hearts, and in all our words and actions, and never cease to praise You. Amen

This litany is based on the various titles for Jesus that are found in Saint Pio's letters.

(<http://www.padrepiodevotions.org/index.asp?pagename=litanyofjesus>)

SAN JUAN DE LOS LAGOS, JALSICO, MEXICO

This was the most spiritually moving experience of my life. I felt called to do this, as I have never felt called to do anything else.

Briefly, each year, the end of January, over 1 million people from all over Mexico walk or bicycle to this sacred place to ask The Blessed Mother (Virgin of San Juan de Los Lagos) for a favor or to show gratitude. Unlike Mexico City, where the Blessed Mother actually appeared to Juan Diego and left her image on his garment, this is the site of many miracles. You may recall the Pope visited here when he came to Mexico.

The first time I saw pilgrims was January 2005. It looked like a parade in the street. Police stopped traffic. I didn't know what they were doing. I felt strongly compelled to join them. My friend explained they were walking to San Juan de Los Lagos to see the Blessed Mother. It became my quest to find a walking partner. I did and we went. I had no idea what to expect. As a habit, I took my compass. It didn't make a lot of sense, as we didn't have any map, but I felt like it might be important. It wasn't necessary. Cheli and I were guided by FAITH. Though we didn't start our journey with very much, we had enough all along the way. We made it as far as the tiny town of La Mesa (the table). It took 13 hours. We had no idea how to get back to Leon, so we prayed about it. A man with a taxi, full of chairs, was going back home to Leon, so we rode back with him. I know it was a gift from God.

I went again in January 2006 with my 8 year old son. (He's ADD/ADHD and has limitless energy). The energy drew me like a big magnet. I want to say we walked by faith, but it was more like a big rope was attached to my chest and I was pulled along. Seeing other pilgrims filled me with a surge of excitement, like a kid riding in a car for 4 days to finally see Walt Disney World. It would be logical to get tired. Instead, I just felt more and more energized. My son

and I sang hymns, prayed, and danced barefoot in the sand. I kept thinking about Jesus and his time in the desert. I saw how it was a wonderful spiritual time. It was inspirational seeing all the elderly grandparents with their walking sticks shuffling, step by step. I knew if granny and grandpa could do it, I could too! At the end of the trail, many people were offering FREE food to the pilgrims. Arriving at the basilica is AWESOME! There is a special energy, an overwhelming sense of Holy Presence, if you will.

This year, I didn't walk, but we passed out water, juices, bananas, oranges and candies to the pilgrims and cheered for them. I did get my miracle this year! To see more than 1 million people from all over Mexico and the world have this devotion to the Blessed Mother, well, I don't have words in English or Spanish to describe it.

<http://www.arborwood.com/awforums/show-topic-1.php>

ADORATION

I came, stumbling across the threshold of your house falling into pieces on your floor.

Once again, the vessel broken scattering across the Holy Ground of your Presence.

Only so precious few hours, no, minutes, before had I petitioned for Your Strength, Your Wisdom, Your Holy Silence and your Peace.

And here I was, in pieces, Broken intentions, fallen to the floor As my tears of failure.

I love you so much Why can't I do what I intend for You?

Why do I always fail?

Why can I not step into the Silence of Your Love when I am tempted?

Why is it so hard?

Your precious hands pick up my pieces so lovingly holding them together and making me whole again with the glue of your Love.

And then, as if that wasn't enough, You poured Yourself out into my chalice to overflowing, Baptizing me once again in your Love, Holding me together with your Strength Picking me up with Your Courage Molding me.

Into my ear You Whispered Words of Love and Hope Words of comfort In Your Plan.

You poured Yourself out To overflowing.

Overflow, you said, Into my people.

All praise be Yours, my Lord, My Life, For Your loving kindness and mercy.

<http://www.sacredheartdevotion.com/love-poems.htm>

A HOMILY on the SOLEMNITY of the BODY and BLOOD of CHRIST –

"Proclaim the Lord's death until He comes"

Date: June 10, 2007

In his own words, St. Paul commanded the Corinthians to "Proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." [1 Cor. 11:26] These words were not a fabrication of St. Paul's mind. They were rephrased words that Jesus commanded to His followers during the Last Supper when He said, "Do this in remembrance of me." [Lk. 22:19]

Today, we are celebrating the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. This special Feast is celebrated in remembrance of Jesus who gave His life for our salvation. It is a Feast in remembrance of Jesus' command to us to celebrate the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

During His ministry on earth, Jesus said, "I am the living bread that came down from Heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." [Jn. 6:51] While these words were not understood at the time when Jesus preached them to the multitude, they were spoken in preparation for the sacrifice of His Body and Blood that He was about to offer for the sins of the world.

When the night of the Last Supper arrived, Jesus

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taught His followers the manner in which the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist should be celebrated. Over and above this, Jesus revealed that He would be physically present in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Before continuing, I would like to read to you the definition of the Holy Eucharist that is found in the Catholic Dictionary. This reading will spiritually enrich your minds in the knowledge and understanding of the mystery of the Holy Eucharist.

"Eucharist (Gr., *eucharistia*, thanksgiving), the Sacrament and sacrifice of the New Law in which Christ the Lord is Himself present, offered, and received under the species of bread and wine. The name is from the account of the last Supper."

"The Catholic Church teaches that in the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of the God-man are really, truly, substantially, and abidingly present together with His Soul and Divinity for the nourishment of souls, by reason of the Transubstantiation of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, which takes place in the unbloody sacrifice of the New Testament, i.e., the Mass."

"Transubstantiation is the word that was officially approved by the Council of Trent as aptly expressing the marvellous and singular changing of the entire substance of bread into the entire substance of Body of Christ, and of the entire substance of the wine into His Blood."

"This Real Presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is proved from the literal interpretation of the promise of Christ to give his Body and Blood, as found in St. John's Gospel, Chapter 6, and from the four independent account of the fulfilment of the promise at the last Supper (Mt. 26; Mk. 14; Lk. 22; 1 Cor. 11). From the same accounts it follows that Christ is present by Transubstantiation, namely the entire substance of bread and wine is changed into the Body and Blood of Christ, the accidents only of bread and wine remaining."

"With the single exception of Berengarius of Tours (in 1088 A.D.), none denied this doctrine until the 16th century, when the reformers put forth various errors of a mere figurative or virtual presence, as also of the manner of Christ's presence. They were all condemned in the Council of Trent."

"The accidents of bread and wine are therefore without their proper substance, yet are real and not mere subjective impressions. The mode of Christ's presence is spirit-like, somewhat as the soul in the body. Jesus is whole and entire in the whole Host and whole and entire in every part thereof. At one and the

same time He exists in heaven and in many different places on earth."

"From the Real Presence it follows that He is to be adored. It is evident that the Eucharist is a Sacrament, for it is a visible sign of invisible grace instituted by Christ. Its principal effect is the union of the soul with Christ by love, and spiritual nourishment by increasing sanctifying grace. It produces also a certain spiritual delight, blots out venial sin, and preserves from mortal sin by exciting to charity, and as Christ explicitly promised is the pledge of a glorious resurrection and eternal happiness." (Source: "The New Catholic Dictionary", Copyright 1929.)

My brothers and sisters in Christ, keeping in mind all the undeserved graces that we receive through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, with this Sacrament also comes responsibilities.

Our first responsibility is the manner in which we receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Prior to approaching the Altar of the Lord Jesus to hold His Body and Blood in our hands, we must be in a state of grace. Those who neglect the Sacrament of Confession and receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist while in a state of mortal sin, they greatly offend the Lord Jesus. On this subject, St. Paul tells us,

"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves." [1 Cor. 11:27-9]

In other words, it is not acceptable to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion when one lives in mortal sins and has no intention of changing his or her lifestyle. Those who live common-law, they are not in a state of grace and do not qualify to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. The same applies to those who live in adultery, the prostitutes, practising homosexuals, those who are participating in abortions, and those who freely commit other mortal sins as if they are on holidays.

Our second responsibility is to defend our Catholic Faith. What I mean is that it is a sin against the Body and Blood of Christ and against our Faith when a Catholic receives Communion in another religion or when a Catholic invites a non-Catholic to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in the Catholic Church. According to the Canon Law of the Catholic Church, a Catholic can only receive communion from a properly ordained Catholic priest. It is a sin against the Body and Blood of Christ because other religions

do not accept the truth that Jesus is present in Body and Blood in the Holy Eucharist. To partake in the communion of a religion that does not accept as truth that Christ is present in the Holy Eucharist is to deny the Divine Presence of Jesus in this Sacrament.

Jesus died for our sins so we may obtain our salvation in His Most Holy Name. He gave us the means to obtain life in Him through the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. As such, we are obligated by our Faith to show the utmost reverence towards this precious Sacrament of life.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, this week, let us reflect on our actions. Are we all showing the utmost reverence to the Body and Blood of Christ? If some of us have fallen short of doing so, may this week be a time to repent of the sinful way through the grace of God. And may it be a time to once more obtain the righteousness of God through the Body and Blood of Christ so we may proclaim His death until He comes.

[The readings were taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (C) 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the United States of America. <http://www.catholicdoors.com/homilies/index.htm>]

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.

WHO ARE THE HANDMAIDS OF THE SACRED HEART?



We are Roman Catholic women of all ages, races, and cultural backgrounds. In the USA province, we have Sisters of Spanish, American, Peruvian, Chilean, Cuban, Vietnamese, Taiwanese, Argentine, Chinese, Colombian, and Irish upbringing and heritage.

We find this unique mix is a beautiful representation of God's kingdom and helps us to be the bridge-builders and reconcilers we long to be.

We have been drawn together by a common spirituality, to give our lives completely to Jesus Christ and His people.

We find a mentor in our foundress, Saint Rafaela Maria Porras, who answered God's call generously and began our congregation. In 1877 she described the mission of the Handmaids as "true love for Jesus in the Eucharist and the desire of His Heart for the salvation of souls."

In the USA, the Handmaids attempt to live this out in our Wyncote, PA school; in our South Philadelphia convent; in our Haverford, PA retreat house; in our "Oasis" in Athens, GA; in our Atlanta, GA community; and in our Miami, FL convent. We are in many other parts of the world...24 nations and counting!

Today, as in the first days of our congregation, we strive to be true servants of the Sacred Heart of Jesus by being agents of Reconciliation. By His sacrifice, Jesus repaired the broken relationship between God and humankind. By our prayer and work, the sacrifice of our lives, we Handmaids cooperate with Jesus and do what we can to bring healing to a world in need.

As therapists, counselors, and educators, we work to bring healing to broken relationships between individuals.

As a diverse international congregation, we live among those we serve and work to bring healing to broken relationships between those of different economic classes, races, languages, and cultures.

As spiritual directors, catechists, and retreat directors, we help to repair the broken relationships between God and His children.

We are women of prayer, and we depend on our "daily bread" of Eucharist. We find the fuel for our ministry through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and a rich community prayer life. At the same time, our ministry is "an encounter with God which transforms us into contemplatives in action." (Constitutions 9).

HOLY MASS TIMES

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

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

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

Our Charism

Each month, an aspect of our reparative, Eucharistic charism will be explored. In April, the topic is Eucharist and Mission. The following statement is an excerpt from a work by Francisca Luz entitled "Integration of Our Life -- In Everything to Love: To Adore - To Serve."

Our Mission, Charism, and the Integration of Our Life

In Number 2 of the Constitutions it says that "The call to religious life is concretized for us in the mission that the Institute has received from the Church through the foundresses: Reparation to the Heart of Jesus."

God, through His Spirit, has, throughout history, raised up men and women whose special charisms responded to the needs of the moment in the Church and in the world.

Like Ignatius of Loyola, Rafaela, open to the Spirit, responded to his call: "Our whole life is directed to God's greater glory."

Ignatius of Loyola, in his century, a century of powerful temporal kings, placed the greater glory of God in the following of the King and Lord of the universe and the coming of his Kingdom. Rafaela Maria, child of another century, placed the greater glory of God in the emphasis of another dimension: reparation. Reparation as the following of Christ "in the Eucharist," "to work with him, through him and in him to reconcile all people among themselves and with God. We strive so that creation placed at the service of all might truly reflect God's glory."

Both saints center the following of Christ within a vital synthesis, the key to which is the recapitulation of all things in Christ, so as to go in Him, with Him, and through Him, to the Father, in the Spirit.

For Rafaela Maria, the central point of the life of God made human was the love with which He gave himself to the end in the Eucharist, as the reconciliation of humanity and the whole of the universe with the Father. This love, symbolized by His Heart, impelled her to want to bring the Good News of salvation to all peoples. She wanted everyone to love God, to receive the salvific presence of Christ in the Eucharist, to make their own the cause of the Kingdom. This is what Rafaela wanted for her own life, for those of us who follow her, and for all of humanity. The call to the apostolate was born of this love of Christ and led her to say, "If they want to take this away from me, it would be like turning my head backwards!"

Each one of us, when we consecrate ourselves to Christ in the mission of the Institute, promise through our personal call to take part in this charism, to become united with Christ in His salvific work of Reparation. This union must be made real for each of us through sharing in the Eucharist -- Celebration and Adoration, in apostolic work, and through our own lives lived out in a fraternal community.

Reparation / Redemption springs forth from the Eucharist as from its source -- Christ. Through His sacrifice He brings about Reparation, the restoration of the order of creation established by God but broken through sin. Through Christ, people can now enter into communion with God, and God Himself will be glorified in this new creation. Redemption is brought about once and for all in Christ. Yet, in order to be able to come to the fount of salvation, the Eucharist, people have to be called to faith and conversion. This is the basis of all evangelization and of the greatness and depth of our mission.

Union with Christ impels us, with Him and like Him, into His redemptive work. There is, in the Eucharist, a radical unity in Christ -- his work and his person. United with him, we cannot remain idle or scattered. In this communion, in this sharing, we are called to a unity between our person and our work. This springs from our radical union in Christ. In this union with Him we are urged towards a personal renewal -- dynamism -- and to the renewal of the covenant of all people with God -- apostolate, redemptive action -- inspiring and drawing the faithful to the compelling love of Christ.

Each of us has to work to bring about personal integration, to live it and make it manifest in the Church. Integration which can be brought about in Him, with Him, and through Him, transforming us in a daily "making Eucharist" of us. Identification with Christ. Living in service and commitment to others, as He Himself lived. Loving, forgiving, accepting, adoring.

All Christ's work was towards a restoration of the order established by God, to the new creation, to glorification of God, to humankind's communion with Him.

Christ, the living bread, gives life to everyone through His risen and life-giving body. The active life, therefore, promotes communion of all people among themselves and God.

We see the Eucharist as the point of departure and as the point of arrival: it is both source and summit. From it flows the power which is able to reunite everyone and so create community, create the Church. At the same time, it urges Christians to

redemptive action in the most authentic sense of apostolate.

A deeper understanding of our identity summons us to live our mission, our vocation, in a more integrated and transparent fashion. It is a real challenge for us, one that touches both our being and our doing

<http://www.acjusa.org/howe.htm>

REST YOUR HEAD IN OUR HEARTS

O Lamb of God,
So gentle, so pure,
The Unblemished One,
You, who brought us life,
You who brought us Hope,
You who brought us Love,
A love so immense
Even the universe and eternity
Cannot contain it.
You ask so little in return.
You, who gave until every precious drop of Blood
Drained from Your Body,
Breathing words of love and mercy until the end,
Have mercy on us!

Most Holy One,
Behind Your gentle eyes lies an
Eternity wrapped within
Your Sacred Heart of Love
Receive our hearts into Yours!

You, Lord, could have been anything
But You chose to be Love:
Pure, unblemished,
Unaffected by time and neglect,
Ever-hoping, ever-waiting
For a small return of our love.
Ever knocking at the cold door
Of our hardened hearts.
You whisper through the
Cracks in our hearts.
You weep in the cold,
The wounds in Your hands and feet aching,
Your pierced side seeping still
The precious Blood of Life Eternal,
The water of forgiveness.
But You die on that Cross alone, again,
In a world
That seldom hears You
That seldom see You,
That turns away from Your precious gift of Yourself.
Forgive us for we know not what we do!

"The foxes have their lairs
The birds of the sky have their nests,
But the Son of Man
Has nowhere to lay His head." (Luke 9:58)
The world of sin and weakness
Could never be home
To a love as pure as Yours.
Lord, we throw open the doors
Of our hardened heart for You, our Perfect Lord!
Take comfort in our imperfect love
And find in our hearts a place
Washed clean by Your Sacrifice,
Made whole in Your Love,
A place of comfort to lay Your head and heart!
Teach us to love You, O Lord.
Teach us to love You as You desire, O Lord!
May you find Your rest in us,
May we find our rest in You.

<http://www.sacredheartdevotion.com/love-poems.htm>

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. If the donations / free will offerings are sufficient to cover **PFMC** costs, we share them with the parish.

ENCLOSED ITEMS

In this *June 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.

PRAY to END PORNOGRAPHY

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

Our Father, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

MESSAGE of 5/25/2007 via MARIA PAVLOVIC LUNETTI

Dear children! Pray with me to the Holy Spirit for Him to lead you in the search of God's will on the way of your holiness. And you, who are far from prayer, convert and, in the silence of your heart, seek salvation for your soul and nurture it with prayer. I bless you all individually with my motherly blessing. 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 5/25/2007

SEARCHING FOR GOD'S WILL

The Virgin Mary calls us to pray with her to the Holy Spirit in order for us to draw strength and force from above, to be wrapped in the power coming from God. Together with the apostles she was perseverant in her prayer waiting for Jesus' promise – the Holy Spirit. She is the fiancée of the Holy Spirit and full of mercy. She is the one who knows best the mysterious power of the Holy Spirit and therefore knows how much we still need His strength today. We received the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Baptism and Confirmation, and we have heard that he exists. And yet, it seems as if all other spirits are around us but the Holy Spirit. That is why Our Lady's call is serious and so much needed to all the hearts, families and to this world. The only way towards the experience of the strength of the Holy Spirit is prayer.

The first thing we should do is to convert. In other words, it means to stand before God in prayer over and over again, to confess our sins, forgive to others, renounce everything that prevents us from embracing the will of God, disown all idols, renounce dependence, and our false images of God. To convert means to take God as the master of our lives, to let it be His will. It is only the Holy Spirit that may enlighten our hearts so we can find God's will and live by His will. Only the moment in which we renounce our will, our plans, designs and intentions may we start praying for God's design, God's plan for our lives. By having given up our plans, we in fact remove the ties and become free, capable of accepting God's will. That is why Jesus says: „If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me!“ (Luke 9, 23). To be Jesus' disciple does not mean receiving information or schooling of any kind from Jesus. It means to be the one who can receive Jesus' grace and strength, his miracles and his kingdom. A disciple is the one who becomes like his teacher. That is why Jesus was able to say that anyone who had faith in him would do

what he had been doing, and even greater things (cf. 14:12).

While in the search of God's will on the way of one's holiness, one should thank God for every single moment of life, either good or bad. Accepting everything that happens in our lives means entering the will of God thus receiving His strength to conquer evil we have entered. We shall always recognize God's will while in prayer getting closer to Him. We also observe ways of life, as well as pathways to work and vocation that God opens or closes for us. If we constantly surrender ourselves to the will of God, God will close those ways He does not want us to take and those doors He does not want us to enter, whereas he will open the ones He wishes us to embark upon. Rarely does God lead one from the inside by speaking to him/her where he/she must go. It is not in our mind, imagination or feelings, but in the bottom of our souls where God dwells in us and where we are inspired, enlightened and led by the Holy Spirit. God will use signs to reveal His will to us. We should recognize these signs with our spiritual senses that grow sharper and stronger in those who take these motherly words more seriously, in those who have been following them throughout all these years of her appearing and being close to us. Let us listen to the words of our heavenly Mother with our hearts so that we can find a new life that only God may give.

Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, 26.5.2007,
(<http://medjugorje.hr.nt4.ims.hr/Main.aspx>)

ANOTHER REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 5/25/2007

Very recently, the Church celebrated the Solemnity of Pentecost commemorating the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. For the apostles, the coming of the Holy Spirit changed their lives in a very positive way. The fear and anxiety that had overwhelmed them during Jesus' passion was replaced by a courageous strength that enabled them to preach and teach Jesus' message of love and mercy. As their apostolic work began, they determined that God's

will for them was to share Jesus' message with all who would listen. Their accomplishments were amazing. Their witness to the faith changed the world. Through God's grace they were very successful in bringing people to Jesus.

As we contemplate upon the work of the apostles in the early Church, may we be personally inspired to bring Jesus to all those we encounter in our lives. For most of us, this seems to be more than an enormous task. However, like the apostles, we have been given the Holy Spirit and Our Lady to lead us in this work. May we begin this challenge by reflecting upon the first sentence of Our Lady's message of May 25, 2007.

“Dear children! Pray with me to the Holy Spirit for Him to lead you in the search of God's will on the way of your holiness.” As we read these words, may we remember that the Holy Spirit is our sanctifier and Our Lady is His well-beloved spouse. May we open our hearts in humility to this beautiful gift of the Holy Spirit and Our Lady. We must be ready to pray to the Holy Spirit in a very fervent way not necessarily for our own personal wants, but, ***“for Him to lead you in the search of God's will on the way of your holiness.”*** Are we willing to allow the Holy Spirit to purify and sanctify our souls? This will help us to determine God's will which will lead us to holiness. However, we must change and turn away from those selfish impulses that constantly bring us away from God. In the second sentence of Her message of May 25, 2007, Our Lady shows us the way.

“And you, who are far from prayer, convert and, in the silence of your heart, seek salvation for your soul and nurture it with prayer.” With these words, Our Lady has challenged us to embrace the holy way of God. Prayer, conversion, and the contemplation of God's presence within our life are so necessary for us. Have we begun to truly seek salvation for our souls and those souls that God has placed in our lives? We must pray, and we must embrace conversion. This has to be an on-going process for the rest of our lives. However, we are not alone as we undertake these challenges. We have the paternal love of the Father, the sacrificial love of Jesus, the sanctifying love of the Holy Spirit and the motherly love of our dear Blessed Mother to sustain us as we embrace God's work each day.

“I bless you all individually with my motherly blessing.” May we always accept Our Lady as our dear Blessed Mother. We have been called to embrace Her love believing that She will place us in the loving arms of Her son. As we continue to embark upon our own personal journeys of faith, may we live by the motto, ***“to Jesus through Mary.”*** May

the humility of Mary and Her absolute trust in God encourage us to serve God in the fullest sense of the word. In this manner, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be purifying our souls for Jesus.

I hope you are well. Give my best to all of your families. Give praise, honor, glory, thanksgiving and love to the Triune God. As we accept Christian discipleship, may we be forever grateful to God for all of His wonderful gifts. God's grace has touched our lives. With much faith, hope, and love may we endure through the trials and tribulations of life to prepare our souls for our dear Savior, Jesus Christ. 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, Friday, 6/1/2007

SELECTED “NEWS ARTICLES”

Medjugorje in Hong Kong and Macao



In May 2007, a group of pilgrims came to Medjugorje from Hong Kong and Macao. The group was accompanied by a priest, and led by

Michelle Yau Ivy (Hong Kong) and S. Claire-Marie (Macao). Lidija Paris spoke with them.

Can you tell us about the beginnings of the pilgrimages from Hong Kong to Medjugorje?

Michelle Yau Ivy: Everything started in December 2001, with my first trip here. I was coming just for fun with a group of friends from Hong Kong. I did not expect anything. I just wanted to come with friends. After this trip, I received a great blessing. When I returned, my husband asked to learn to pray the Rosary and became truly devoted to this. I was very amazed. Soon after, he asked to learn the catechism, and five months later, he was baptized, on the feast of Our Lady of Assumption. He is working now for the monks, in the monastery “Our Lady of Joy” in Hong Kong! For me, this is a fruit of Medjugorje. Then, I was thinking to come back, so I decided to bring a group here. I know that people wanted to come, but they were very afraid. I tried to organize a trip. There was a rumor in Hong Kong that this was a very cold place without electricity and without water, where people eat just bread, so they thought that they should bring along as much food as they can! This is what we have done on the first trip!

What happened during your second pilgrimage?

Michelle Yau Ivy: I heard Our Lady call me to join her plan, to help her. I was thinking that I was not worthy, that I cannot. I had my work, I was working in a school as a school administrator, and it was difficult to get holidays. I had to spend all my holidays for Medjugorje. However, the urge from Our Lady was so strong that I could not resist. As soon as I came back to Hong Kong, I thought about coming back to Medjugorje. We came for the Youth festival with 46 people. I see in all pilgrimages people convert. We see how Our Lady is resolving all the problems in the group. She is truly the leader of the pilgrimage. It is such a joy to see changes in people's faces and in their hearts, because of the deep intimacy with Our Mother and with Jesus.

How often are you coming?

Michelle Yau Ivy: Last year I gave up my work and now I am free for Medjugorje. At the beginning, we came once a year, but now twice a year, for the Youth festival and for Christmas. We love to come with the youth for the Youth festival. They enjoy it very much. They feel home here. It is their place! Three months ago, we started a Youth ministry in Hong Kong in the Medjugorje spirit, we meet once a month and we go everywhere, to the parishes, to the schools... young people have a fire in their hearts to do something for Mary. We are doing now a CD with Adoration songs in Chinese... in order to bring Medjugorje to China! Christmas is a good experience here, because in Hong Kong we are very materialistic. Christmas means buying, eating, shopping, having parties... it is a very good experience to see here what true Christmas is. This year is the first time that we came in May. We are 39. We came in May, because we want to do here the Consecration to Our Lady. On the second Saturday of May we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of China, and on the 13th of May is Our Lady of Fatima, and there is also the Mother's Day. Everything comes together!

Do you have a priest with you?

Michelle Yau Ivy: Almost every time. This time, we have a priest who came for the third time. He was very touched by Medjugorje.

What are you doing between the pilgrimages with those who have been in Medjugorje or with those who are preparing to come?

Michelle Yau Ivy: Since our first pilgrimage, we started to gather together. When we come back, we gather for regular meetings those who have been in Medjugorje. In the beginning, it was once a month, on the second of the month, to pray for the unbelievers. We had Rosary, Mass, Adoration, confessions, but it

was quite difficult to find a priest who wants to come regularly, so we stopped for a while, we just prayed together. Now, for almost 3 years, we have a regular prayer group with those who have been in Medjugorje. They are committed to come once a week. We pray together, we share the Bible, the message of Medjugorje, and those who want to know about Medjugorje can come. Our aim is to come together to pray, to remain faithful to the call. It is very difficult to live alone the spirit of Medjugorje in Hong Kong, which is very materialistic. People work very much, from 8 am to 10 pm. If you leave the office at 10 pm, your boss may look at you and ask why you are leaving so early! We pray the Rosary together, for the intentions of the Virgin Mary. We welcome people who cannot come to Medjugorje, but want to live this spirit. We have four prayer groups in Hong Kong and three in Macao. There are about 30.000 Catholics in Hong Kong and 300.000 in Macao.

Sister Claire-Marie, you are French, but you are living in Macao. What are you doing there?

S. Claire-Marie: I came to Macao because I received a call to go to China. I chose to arrive on June 24, because I wanted to put myself under the protection of Our Lady of Medjugorje, I wanted my first day in China to be June 25. In the nineties, our founder Ephraim came to Medjugorje, and he said, this was my second conversion. After this trip, he wrote a book about the 33 days consecration to Mary. I did not know that I would be involved in Medjugorje in China, but quite quickly, they asked me to accompany a group from there to Medjugorje. I did not expect the first impact of our community in China to be connected with Medjugorje, but this is how God led it. In fact, I joined a group of Ivy the first Christmas after my arrival. We came once, and they asked me to continue. Truly, it has become my life now. I am coming three times a year to Medjugorje, and in-between, we have prayer groups to accompany; I am giving conferences for prayer groups in Macao and in Hong Kong. Macao and Hong Kong are at a distance of only three hours. Fr. Slavko has been in Macao, it was a tremendous event. People had filled the cathedral.

What is the difference between Hong Kong and Macao?

S. Claire-Marie: Hong Kong is more protestant, because it was a British protectorate, and Macao is rather Catholic because it was under the Portuguese. The Church in Hong Kong is very much under the influence of the Protestants, very open and dynamic, and in Macao, it is rather traditional. Macao was consecrated to Our Lady 10 years ago. You can see

the impact of Mary in the Catholic Church of Macao. You can feel it.

Michelle Yau Ivy: Macao is called Rome of Asia. All the missionaries who went to China stopped first in Macao. Hong Kong and Macao were special administrative regions, but they were recently given back to China. There are agreements between China and Portugal and China and Great Britain. There is a period of 50 years for adjustments between mainland China and Hong Kong and Macao.

Are you spreading books and messages of Medjugorje in Chinese?

Michelle Yau Ivy: We spread the news by word of mouth. We do no advertisements in the newspapers. We tell those who joined us for a pilgrimage: if you see the fruits, speak about them. Therefore, our groups grow together with our pilgrims. Most of them are invited by those who have already come. As for the books in Chinese, we have the Messages. For other books, we only have the book written by Wayne Weible and the book by Sister Emmanuel. In addition, we have a web site.

Can you tell us about the difference between mainland China and Hong Kong and Macao?

Michelle Yau Ivy: Hong Kong is a very international place. We are rooted in the Chinese culture, but educated in a western way, most of the time by the missionaries. For the Chinese in China it is very difficult to understand western ways... but I would almost say that their faith is deeper than the faith of those in Hong Kong and Macao. They pray a lot, they are very interiorized. We are more dynamic, in contact with the protestant and charismatic world. Since the border has been opened between Hong Kong, Macao and China, many come over here to discover the Casinos and similar things. But they also have the possibility to discover other things.... 450.000 people came last month from China to Hong Kong and Macao. The door is open now.

Here in Medjugorje, your group is going to make a consecration to Our Lady?

Michelle Yau Ivy: We need her help to spread her message to China. Medjugorje is a prolongation of Fatima, and in Fatima, she asked the consecration of the world to her Immaculate Heart. We cannot reach China there, so we bring China here, and Our Lady can work miracles for this country. We come here to ask Mary to touch the hearts in China.

S. Claire-Marie: We are doing the consecration here in Medjugorje on behalf of all those who have not done it. To consecrate the whole country to Our Lady of China. Our Lady of Fatima has announced the end of the communism... This is why we have chosen to

The PILGRIM, Volume 18, Number 06 – June 2007

do this consecration this year, on the 90th anniversary of Fatima. If each one of us makes this consecration on behalf of those who live in Mainland China, I think Our Lady will use this. She will make use of it. Mary is so deeply our Mother. (6/1/07)

A Testimony: Mons. Boulos Emile Saadé, Maronite Bishop of the Batroun Diocese (Lebanon)



Mons. Boulos Emile Saadé, Maronite Bishop of the Batroun Diocese in the Lebanon visited Medjugorje on a private pilgrimage from the 8th to the 14th of May, 2007. He accompanied a group of pilgrims along with the Association “Friends of Mary Queen of Peace” from Beirut. Mons. Boulos Emile Saadé was ordained a priest in 1958, and consecrated bishop in 1986. He is in charge of the Batroun Diocese in the north of the Lebanon since 1999. This is what he said:

“In my diocese, 95% of the population are Maronite Christians. There is a small Muslim minority and also a small orthodox minority. We are a very old Church, which has always been faithful to Rome and to devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the Middle east, we have been persecuted for centuries now, ever since the arrival of Islam in the 7th century. Saint John Maron, the founder of the Maronite Church, lived in Syria, but as a result of the conquests, he withdrew with his faithful to the mountains of Lebanon. The persecutions continued, and the only protection has always been that afforded by the Blessed Virgin Mary. In the past, our Patriarchs had no established dwelling, moving from place to place, all the time establishing places of devotion to the BVM. All the residences of our bishops are consecrated to the BVM.

Our relationship with Mary is very emotional. For us, she is very important. Prayer to the BVM is an old Maronite tradition. Everywhere in Lebanon, there are grottos where we venerate her. There are no places of apparition in Lebanon, but we like to say that this is not at all surprising, because she is with us all of the time! The fact that we have kept our faith in spite of fifteen centuries of persecution is Our Lady’s work. We have hundreds of martyrs... we have always lived in fear, and even today we live in fear that Lebanon may become an Islamic state, despite the fact that almost 50% of the inhabitants are Christians. We are against emigration. There are about 500,000 Lebanese abroad while there are about 1,500,000 in Lebanon itself.

Medjugorje reminds me of Lebanon. They are very similar. In our country, when people go to work, they go with the Rosary. We are a Marian people. We came here to pray with the people here, to ask for the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for peace everywhere, here, in the Lebanon and throughout the whole world.”
(5/25/07)

The 18th International Youth Prayer Meeting



The 18th International Youth Prayer Meeting will take place in Medjugorje from August 1st to August 6th, 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 the 25th of March, 2005*) (See also: [International meetings](#))

This theme harmonises with the theme of the 22nd World Youth Day, which took place in the local Churches this year. The Holy Father addressed the young people, saying:

“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.”

Program:

Morning: Morning Prayer, talks, testimonies.

Afternoon: talks, testimonies, Evening Prayer Program of the Parish.

Evening: Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, Whole-night Adoration, Procession through the Parish, Cenacolo Theatre and Musical show, Farewell in songs.

At dawn on the 6th of August, Feast of the Transfiguration – celebration of Holy Mass on Krizevac.
(5/24/07)

Peace Marathon “Let’s run to Gospa“



The first “Peace and Reconciliation Marathon” from Grude to Medjugorje (42,195 meters) called “Let’s run to Gospa“ took place on Saturday the 19th of May, 2007. It was organised by the Kup-Karmel Christian Association in collaboration with the Dinamo-Zrinjevac athletic club from Zagreb (Croatia), and Studio Nada D.O.O. from Ljubuški (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The marathon started in Grude and ended next to Our Lady’s statue in front of the parish church in Medjugorje. Ordinary citizens were free to participate in the Ljubuški to Medjugorje 15 kilometre stretch of the course.

The inspiration for this marathon came from Our Lady’s message of the 25th of July, 1990: *“Dear children! Today I invite you to peace. I have come here as the Queen of Peace and I desire to enrich you with my motherly peace. Dear children, I love you and I desire to bring all of you to the peace which only God gives and which enriches every heart. I invite you to become carriers and witnesses of my peace to this unpeaceful world. Let peace reign in the whole world which is without peace and longs for peace. I bless you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”*

Robert Rukavina, president of the Kup-Karmel Christian Association explained: “This sports-recreational-pilgrim race should bring together athletes and pilgrims of different nationalities and from diverse social environments and cultures by manifestly promoting traditional Christian values: peace, reconciliation, forgiveness. This race should symbolically provide encouragement for the establishment of peace and confidence in this region as well as beyond its limits. At the same time it is of crucial importance to fully comprehend the meaning of the motto of the race, which is “Let’s run to Gospa!”. This is a simple statement about man’s inability to accomplish great things, especially peace and reconciliation, without God’s help and support. For quite some time now the words ‘Medjugorje’ and ‘Our Lady’ have been synonymous with God’s call to people to reconcile and live with peace in their hearts, in harmony with themselves, with other people and with God. Therefore we considered it appropriate to choose to finish this marathon at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje under whose protection this sporting endeavour will be held. Furthermore, the very organisation of this marathon is our response to her call of the 25th of May, 2006: “Little children,

seek and work with all your strength for peace to win in your hearts and in the world...”

About one hundred participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Hungary, Spain, Austria, Italy and Ireland participated in the marathon.

Milan Bandić, the Mayor of Zagreb who was born in Grude, also took part. On his arrival, he went into St. James’s Church and prayed in front of Our Lady’s statue. Commenting on this experience he said: “I am so happy that, for the first time in my life, I ran this Marathon to the Mother of all mothers, the Queen of Peace. I dedicate my participation to my mother and to all mothers, to my wife, my daughter and to all the wonderful people here from Grude to Medjugorje, to all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, most of all to my Herzegovina, to Croatia and to all good people around the world.”

(More about the race: <http://www.kup-karmel.com>) (5/20/07)

Interview: Mons. Bernardo Cazzaro, Archbishop Emerito di Puerto Montt (Chile)



Mons. Bernardo Cazzaro, Servant of Mary, Archbishop Emeritus of Puerto Montt (Chile) spent most of his life as a missionary in Chile. At the end of his active episcopal service, he returned to Italy to give support both as spiritual counselor and confessor at the Marian Shrine of Monte Berico.

In May 2007, during a pilgrimage to Medjugorje with a group from Vittorio Veneto, he outlined his impressions of Medjugorje in an interview with Lidija Paris.

Monsignor, this is the first time that you have visited Medjugorje. Why did you come?

This is my first visit to Medjugorje and I have come at the invitation of a group of pilgrims who come mainly from Vittorio Veneto in Italy. Despite spending many years so far away in Chile, I had heard about Medjugorje, but not in any great detail due to the huge distance involved. Back in Italy, whenever possible, I listen to Radio Maria and Father Livio who diffuses the messages, with the result that I desired to know Medjugorje better, not just through others but from first-hand personal experience. I accepted an invitation from this group of pilgrims and I am delighted to be here. Excluding travel time, we are spending four complete days on pilgrimage here, which is really quite a short time. Although I participate in many beautiful community liturgies, I

would also enjoy some quiet time alone, to meditate and savour these events in a more personal way. However, when you are with a group, you follow the program.

Would you please outline your first impressions?

My first impressions are totally beautiful and positive. I see that the things that I had previously heard are true. Indeed, I found a lot more than I had expected. This I found on two different levels. Firstly, there are these physical structures... I have found a great number of prayer places apart the places of apparition themselves, places where it is easy to pray, where people have full access to and can congregate. I had no idea that this was so! I knew about the two bell towers and the church, a very beautiful church indeed... and so very solid! And then on another level, I am very impressed by the sheer numbers of pilgrims who arrive here, so many of them displaying so much fervour and so much cordiality. Every group is a small community that moves with one heart and one spirit, living the Gospel in these moments of prayer and of movement made together. I am very impressed, because the messages are more or less already known, as there is nothing new in the messages, and yet the number of persons coming to see, to feel and to experience, is really very impressive!

Have you met the visionaries?

No, I have not met the visionaries. I don’t particularly desire to speak to the visionaries. Yesterday I was present at Mirjana’s apparition. I am pleased apparitions take place. If Our Lady is appearing so often, I give thanks to God because these charisms are not only for the visionaries, they are for all of us. In fact, it is through them that Our Lady appears to all of us and speaks to all of us. Personally, something else is of importance to me. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who believe without having seen”! I am peaceful anyway because I know what I must do in response to the messages that I receive, even though I do not hear them directly from Our Lady. The messages reach the whole world through the print media. Not everyone will check if every event is true or not!

These apparitions have provoked a movement of prayer throughout the world...

Yes, this is a typical response in human psychological terms. The human psyche tends towards what is new. When these new things are beautiful, they generate reaction, even to the extent of conversion. Sure, the Lord who has created us knows that we have this inner mechanism that attracts us to what is new, and fortunately, the events taking place here are beautiful! Many people are attracted in this manner. The Lord

uses these things for the greater good. He also uses miracles because some people can only be moved by miracles!

The apparitions are ongoing for 26 years now...

This is another noteworthy topic, the sheer length of time these apparitions are taking place. This is not a great problem for me. I don't call God to account. Rather He calls me to account, not I Him. If the Lord wants to appear twice, or twenty times or two hundred times indeed, what need I say in response? I should rather listen. The number is not the issue here. The main issue is what the Lord says to us, what he wants from us, and the problems that he wants to resolve. That is the bottom line. He wants to change us, he wants to change the whole world, but because we are stubborn, the Lord becomes more insistent... he educates us slowly through the messages, which are simply a reflection of the Gospel. If we read the Gospels more often and meditated upon them, the messages wouldn't be necessary. But the fact is, we have forgotten, and so the messages remind us. They are not saying anything extraordinary, or difficult. We just have to change our hearts. Jesus is asking this for 2000 years now.

Throughout the history of private revelations, there have been cases in which the apparitions lasted the whole life of a person, yet remained hidden. Here in Medjugorje everything has become public.

The Lord has his plans. There are charismata. A charisma is always given for the benefit of the Church... of the whole community. Sometimes the benefit remains hidden. But the charismata are never exclusively and absolutely personal. Their purpose is always the common good above and beyond the personal good. Here, the charismata are out in the open, in the sunlight, in the public arena.

What's your view of the pastoral life of the parish?

Here in Medjugorje Our Lady has chosen a well organized place from the ecclesiastical point of view. She has chosen a small portion of the flock of God, a parish responsibly cared for by its priests. You are fortunate to have the excellent Franciscan fathers in charge, and not just one single person but rather a whole community of consecrated priests. Our Lady wishes to speak to all parishes. The language that she uses here is valid for all of them. All parishes should be communities of prayer, of faith, of love. When a community is too large this becomes more difficult because of the anonymity. Personal relations are no longer easy or fluid. In Latin America, in Chile where I have been for many years, we call the parish a "community of communities". Ideally a parish is a group of communities, comprised of 25 or 30 small

communities, just like a bunch of grapes, bound together by the main stem, the priest. The parish is a community of communities, and each one of them has a little autonomy, while the priest leads them all with the cooperation of the laity, often because of the shortage of priests. Our Lady has chosen this parish in order to say that the structures of the Church must be at the service of love and of faith, more like a staircase that helps one ascend, rather than a fixed legal structure.

How should the Church proceed if it wants to recognize or give legal status to a place where something happens that attracts so many pilgrims, as is the case here in Medjugorje?

The Church is doing very well to do as it is doing. Prudence... I say prudence not just because the demon can show himself as an angel of light. This we know as Saint Paul has already forewarned. But I say so for another reason. I will give you as a little example the legal process. This type of process can take a considerable amount of time. The judge has to hear all the voices: those who say one thing, those who contradict, those who accuse one and those who accuse another... Here, it is not quite such a process, but it is a useful comparison. The judge must listen. When all have finished, he pronounces sentence. In Fatima, the extraordinary facts of the apparitions happened in 1917, but the Church only gave her final approval in 1942, 25 years later! People had gone to pray, there was a spiritual, a religious movement you might say, but the Church had not yet made a pronouncement. However, the necessary delay didn't impede the spiritual profit. It is understandable, therefore, when we enquire: "These apparitions, these phenomena, are they of divine origin or not?" I do not at all condemn this line of inquiry, but I ask: What really matters here? The main issue is not so much the origin but rather the fruits that derive from the phenomena... yes, the fruits. If I go into an orchard full of trees with beautiful, mature fruit, I do not go to see whether the roots are all right or diseased and worm-eaten. I see the beautiful fruit. I can take it, eat it, or offer it. Jesus says that if the fruits are good, the roots must also be good. When one says, "I do not believe", I understand it because it is a human attitude which is not condemned because the Church allows us that freedom. Only the Creed must necessarily be accepted in faith. All else is a private matter. Therefore you do not so much have to investigate the roots. Look rather at the invitation and the content of the messages, their fruits... the fruits of conversion. The messages are evangelical in content. You cannot throw away the Gospel just because it is given in the easily digested form of baby food, because we are like children, and therefore Our Lady gives us baby

food. We have become children, who need to be re-evangelised. Our Lady outlines the Gospel in a simple way like a mother, in small but precious portions, to enable us digest the Gospel that we have forgotten. This is important. Let the Church proceed slowly and studiously, establish commissions, examine the pros and the cons and whatever else it deems necessary. We say that the Church “should approve”. What is this “Church”? And who are we? We are Church and we have already approved! The responsible hierarchy is necessarily prudent, in order to avoid errors and to confirm all the good that ensues. When I go to eat, I do not go to see what is happening in the kitchen. It is enough that they bring me a good plate to eat! I feed myself and I am happy, for I trust the kitchen! I do not refuse the food because I do not know if everything is done hygienically in the kitchen. These are but minor comparisons... I understand the poor bishops. Sometimes people bring us so many messages, including even silly things, often enough in print, claiming for instance that eternal salvation depends on your works. What! There can even be false messages stating that eternal salvation does not depend on Jesus but on your rosary, or on your pilgrimage, and not on confession, communion, conversion...

What of Fasting?

Fasting is correctly advocated here. I have given a lot of thought to it. Fast entails the moderate, correct use of things. We humans are tempted to exaggerate so much. We are inclined to abuse so many of the good things that arrive in our hands. We ruin so much because we are sinners. We can abuse food by overeating, even to the extent of damaging our health. Then we diet, we have to go for walks, and jog... Our Lady says: Fast... twice a week. This is very good, excellent in fact. This type of fast is beneficial for those who are able to do so. There are people who cannot because of their personal circumstances. They should then make an alternative fast. We abuse many things, television for example. I say that one of the greatest fasts that we can undertake is to turn off the television, the dirty programs, or the Internet. We must fast from the immorality that is in the press, or in the mass media. That is the kind of fast that we should knowingly make. This is necessary for our wellbeing. Evil comes because we abuse the mass media. We are sinners. There are also those who organize evil on a worldwide scale. Yet another type of fast is to fast from our vices. The very word fast has broad, indeed profound implications. It is not enough to abstain from food. There is the fast which Jesus spoke of: “Whosoever wants to be my disciple let him deny himself”. That is the greater fast: to deny your pride, your vanity, your anger, your

concupiscence, your avarice... to keep your wayward inclinations under control. This is Christian asceticism. This is what we need. We have forgotten the Gospel, and we have also forgotten the Cross that is so evident in the Gospel. This is fasting... to carry the cross day after day, to be good, to dominate our passions. Fasting is not just one singular type of action, but it is rather a life program.

Here in Medjugorje Our Lady has invited us to venerate the Cross.

Yes, because we have forgotten the cross, not just the physical cross, but life’s sufferings which Jesus speaks about in the Gospel. Veneration of the Cross is an act of piety that must be reflected in real life. We must educate the children well and teach them to renounce their whims. When I was a child, I was taught to make “the florets”, those small sacrifices that were made especially in honour of Our Lady during the month of May. Veneration of the cross focuses attention on one point. That one point must illuminate all the rest. The cross - you have it on your back - involves acceptance of suffering in union with the Lord Jesus. An act of piety must find expression in life. That is the cult that pleases God. It would be pharisaic to honour God in the church, and then outside to honour yourself and your pride, to throw away the cross, doing everything possible to avoid the cross in life. By so doing, when the cross does come along, you despair and you do not know what to do...

Regarding Confession, the pilgrims come from right across world in order to make a confession here in Medjugorje.

This is so beautiful. This is one of the most beautiful fruits of this place, of the phenomena of these apparitions. In fact, Our Lady asks for confession in order to entrust us to the Mercy of God and bring about a change of life.

I come from the Shrine of Monte Berico where similar things have happened, but not on the same grand scale. Our Lady appeared in 1426 and 1428, twice altogether. There was a great plague then and Our Lady intervened and asked for a chapel to be built. Nobody, neither the Bishop nor any other authority believed Vincenza Bassini, the seer involved. Consequently, the plague continued for two years. When some good people prayed, Our Lady appeared again, in the same place, and traced with a cross the perimeter of the chapel. People finally believed, and they constructed the chapel in three months. From the very day they began to construct the chapel, the plague began to diminish. After three months, it had disappeared altogether. Our Lady added that she wanted not only healing of the body but also spiritual healing, because as always there

were many sins. God wanted conversion... not just health of body, but health of spirit also. We hear confessions on a daily basis. This happens at all shrines where there are priests involved.

Medjugorje has also become a place of renewal for priests. In July of this year, we will have a retreat preached by father Raniero Cantalamessa.

Beautiful! We priests are men like all the rest. We have our weaknesses, and we also need conversion. We are not confirmed in grace!

Here we pray so much for priests...

To sum up, I don't find anything crooked or worrisome here. Neither do I, as a bishop, find anything strange or whimsical. Everything happens according to the norms of the Church: liturgy, prayer, sacrifice, and above all conversion. All is orthodox here and so we are grateful to God. If the Church decides "it is true", and whether it says so tomorrow or in twenty years time, the actual timing is of no great consequence. Let us avoid undue haste! Let us leave the Church free! Let us leave the competent authorities free, the local bishop, or as is the case here, the Vatican. None of this is of great significance. Indeed, it is *the fruits* that I respect.

(5/18/07)

Mons. Boulos Emile Saadé, Maronite Bishop of the diocese Batroun (Lebanon) on private pilgrimage in Medjugorje



Mons. Boulos Emile Saadé, Maronite Bishop of the Batroun Diocese in the Lebanon visited Medjugorje on a private pilgrimage from the 8th to the 14th of May, 2007. He accompanied a group of pilgrims along with the Association "Friends of Mary Queen of Peace" from Beirut.

(5/14/07)

On bicycle from the Czech Republic to Medjugorje for the first anniversary of his priestly ordination



In the beginning of May 2007, Zdenek Fučík, a young priest from the parish of Mikulov in the Brno Diocese of the Czech Republic, decided to make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje on his bicycle in order to thank God both for his priestly vocation and for the first year of his priesthood. He received his priestly ordination on June 24th, 2006, which was precisely the 25th anniversary of the first apparition in Medjugorje.

He had already visited Medjugorje in 1988, and ever since then, he had desired to return again on pilgrimage on his bicycle. The 856 kilometer long journey took him 6 days to complete, which he accomplished riding for 7 hours a day, covering an average of 150-160 kilometers daily. He slept outside in the open. Early each morning he celebrated Mass every day, and each day had its own special intention: for his parishioners, for the families, for priests, for the pilgrims, for the sick...

He had the courage to undertake this pilgrimage because he had read a book about a Jesuit priest who went on foot to Santiago de Compostela, walking 3000 kilometers in the process. (5/7/07)

A story of a late vocation: Sister Rita Marie Sofka, USA



In 1991 after partaking of dinner at my parents' house, my father asked me to watch a video

concerning Medjugorje. I have always loved Our Blessed Mother, so I was fascinated to hear that she was appearing in Medjugorje, and I asked my father if this was truly possible. Ten years had elapsed, and I hadn't heard one single priest speak about it in a church! My father told me that it was a protestant man who had made the tape. That evening, there was a dreadful storm which prevented me from driving back to my own home, so I spent the night at my parents' house. During that night, I truly felt Our Lady's presence in the room. Nothing like that had ever happened to me before. On the one hand, I was excited, but on the other hand I was nervous, nevertheless I felt at peace. Something happened that night. She touched me. That experience remained etched in my mind. Whenever I heard Medjugorje mentioned, the fascination returned.

In 1993, despite working for 26 years, I was laid off by the company. They gave me a year off, or rather a year's salary I should say. I went to Mass the following Sunday and found that the priest needed help. I decided I would volunteer. After all, I had a year off! The next morning, the priest invited me to attend daily Mass. I had never done so before. Up until then I would simply go on Sundays. So, I began to attend daily Mass. Then he invited me to visit the sick with him, visiting the nursing homes... He made me a Eucharistic minister. I experienced great joy going a couple of times a week with him visiting the sick. Some of the elderly would call me "Sister" because sometimes I wore a navy blue jacket... I experienced a lot of joy deep within myself. I began

to reflect: I was paid a good salary... as a single person I had a three-bedroomed house, a lot of clothes, new cars regularly, I was always traveling, I had twice been engaged to be married, and yet I now experienced great joy despite making no money! The next thing the priest asked me to do was to teach Sunday school – the Confirmation class, and I did so! Next I became a coordinator for Adoration. I signed up for my hour, but then, as I followed through, I stayed on for two hours, then three hours, then four hours... My friends wondered: What is she doing in there? The Lord really was drawing me to Himself.

Then, at the beginning of 1994, a friend of mine asked me to go on a pilgrimage to Betania, in Venezuela, where Our Lady was appearing, and all kinds of extraordinary things happened to me there. Subsequently, I joined two Rosary Cenacles, one of which was a Medjugorje prayer group, while the second was a Fr. Gobbi Cenacle, but we also followed the messages of Our Lady from Medjugorje on the 25th of each month. The desire to visit Medjugorje was ever-present to me. During that year, I experienced many spiritual happenings. However, I began working for an insurance company, but the desire to ascend the corporate ladder no longer mattered to me. I was attending spiritual conferences, healing Masses and Cenacles, my reading matter was changing, indeed my whole life was changing. The one thing I continued doing that the world was doing was going out dancing with my friends because I always loved to dance. Rather than desiring to date, we evangelized in fact, talking to the men about Jesus and Mary instead!

In January 1997, I entertained 12 spiritual friends for dinner. We watched movies about saint Francis of Assisi, and movies about Our Lady's apparitions. When they all left, while washing the dishes I thought, if I were to die the following day, how would I account for my life? What was God really calling me to do? From January until August, I received so many signs pointing towards a religious vocation that I was very angry at first: I was too old to be a religious, I was already 49 years old, on the very threshold of 50! Most religious communities cut off at 30 or 35! But the signs were so strong that I said: there has to be a place! On my 50th birthday, I went to Adoration. It was three o'clock, and I said to Jesus, "OK, you have been haunting me all year about the religious life. I still think I am too old, but if that is what You want, I am willing to accept, but give me one more sign relating to it. That very night, my friends took me out for an evening dinner to celebrate my 50th birthday, and one of my friends whom I hadn't seen all year wasn't fully aware of all that was going on in my life. She gave me a gift, a secular

magazine entitled "New Woman". In it there was an article on mature women entering the convent, three of whom were women in their forties and one other who was fifty! She had no idea... it was nine o'clock. That night, I said to Jesus, "You did not waste much time!" I had asked Him at 3 o'clock, a mere six hours earlier, for another sign...

Two weeks later, after I had said "yes" to Jesus, my friends called me and said, "We bought a ticket for a priest from India to go to Medjugorje, but he has some difficulties with a visa. He was afraid he wouldn't be allowed back to the US. Can you go instead? We know how much you wish to go there." I said, that it would mean having to ask for 2 weeks off! My company was so strict. They would never give me two weeks off! I had a protestant boss, but I went and told her the story. She said OK. I had 9 days leave left. As accounts manager, I was responsible for 450 accounts. My boss said I would have to find somebody to cover my work. I knew that everybody was overworked. My chances seemed bleak, but I asked five people. All of them said yes! I just couldn't believe it!

Soon, I found myself on a plane with 30 people, none of whom I knew, heading for Medjugorje for 2 weeks. It was undoubtedly a gift from our heavenly Mother to let me pray about my budding vocation. I asked her to lead me! I did not know what to do next. I knew God was calling me, but how should I respond? One day, I chanced to meet Fr. Slavko Barbarić. My friends had told me to talk to him. I told him: "I think... God is truly calling me to the religious life, but I am 50 years old." He said: "Well, if you were dating three men and you wanted to decide which man to marry, what would you do?" I said: "I would spend time with each of them to see if we were compatible." He said: "With religious life it is the same. There are three kinds of communities: the totally apostolic who work out in the world; the totally contemplative who pray all the time; and thirdly, a combination of those two. So, to which of these do you think you would go?" I said: "The last one. I love people, and I love the Lord." He said: "When you return home, visit the communities that are both contemplative and apostolic. As you visit them, you will see if you have something in common spiritually with them, if you possess the particular charism. You will know it. When you go to the right one, peace will come over you." I thanked him and I went on my way. I thought that what he had said was interesting. Furthermore, the whole time I was in Medjugorje, wherever I went, a nun would sit next to me! Despite being amongst the usual September throngs of people, a nun would always come and sit

right next to me! Then, there was this recurring hymn: "Here I am, Lord." As I prayed, it felt just right...

Back in the United States, a friend called me, saying that the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary were organising a support group for women. I went along. That was in September 1998. Most of the women were younger. All the communities that we visited seemed small in number. Many sisters today live in houses and have lots of nice clothes, but I knew that the Lord was asking me to rid myself of all of that. I knew that I wanted to be in a habit, to pray the Rosary and Adore, and to follow the Pope, but when I visited these sisters, I realized they were not quite that way. They were very New Age, wearing blue jeans. They did not have a community either. I was very disappointed. Then, a priest in his fifties came to my parish. He had been married but had his marriage annulled. He had been vice president of a company. He began to give me spiritual direction. He advised me: "Write down everything you wish to find in community. Judging from the signs you told me of, God is definitely working in your life. We just have to figure out whereto, and how to accomplish it." He went to New York on retreat and he spoke about me to Fr. Benedict Rochelle who gave him a list of different communities in New York. "Sisters of Life" was among them, but they had a cut-off age of 35 years! In summer of 1998, I received an invitation from the Sisters to come and visit them. It was just as Fr. Slavko foretold: the minute I entered the door I felt this peace come over me. I had a statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje when I visited them. I used to take it with me when traveling, even when I was visiting the sisters. One night, I experienced something apparently evil that was trying to discourage me, but then I felt Our Lady's mantle come over me. Later, the sisters invited me to Cardinal O'Connor's discernment retreat, because the Cardinal founded their community. He said: "You were looking for love, I think you found the right love!" I knew then that my vocation was a gift. Our Blessed Mother had planted the seed. She truly guided me in selecting the right vocation. When I had broken up with my last boyfriend, I felt really dejected. Another broken heart! I just picked up my rosary to rid my mind of this person... to find peace. I began praying the rosary every day, and now I know for sure that I was led in grace by Our Lady.

After I became a Sister, I prayed constantly for the opportunity to return to Medjugorje to thank Our Lady. Ten years earlier I had come as a layperson praying to discern my vocation. Now, as I prepare for my final vows, I realize it is all such a gift, such a liberation!

Sisters of Life take a fourth vow: to protect life from conception to natural death. Cardinal O'Connor really wanted this, especially during these times of abortion, euthanasia and cloning... We pray for four and a half hours a day. By our fasting and our sacrifices, we can save babies. I always wanted to be a mother... to have children. We take care of pregnant mothers in our community, so I now have babies around me all the time! It is a spiritual motherhood! Everybody has his own vocation. Marriage is truly beautiful. As for myself, I have found great happiness as a religious!

(5/5/07)

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



The 8th 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 1st, 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, 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 12th International Seminar for Priests

The 12th International Seminar for Priests will be held in Medjugorje from 2nd to 7th July 2007. The theme of the seminar is: "With Mary – waiting for the Holy Spirit". The preacher is Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap. (<http://212.39.96.6/sveeng%2007.htm> and [registration seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr](http://registration.seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr)). (11/16/2006)

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

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

The **PFMC** is not a church, store or travel agency but had 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 were 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** accepted **DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE (NOVUS)**, **MASTER CARD (CIRRUS)** and **VISA (PLUS)** for all transactions requiring donations to the **PFMC**. This included for books and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, seminars, **The PILGRIM, Volume 18, Number 06 – June 2007**

"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** operated 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** had 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, 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 several articles in this issue about **INVENTORY MOVEMENT** and **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 other locations where it will remain available to the **PFMC** volunteers.

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** hosted by the **PFMC** using **PFMC** volunteers only 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** have ceased as the sale of **61 Cooper Road** is imminent and the religious articles, inventory, pictures, statues, etc. are being removed to other spiritual locations.
- The contents of **Epiphany House**, i.e., furniture, files, inventory, etc., are being 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 must be completely removed. They are currently being 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, look at what is left, and

bid. We have lots of brand new boxes and large manila envelopes for anyone in the shipping business or mailing business. We have electric staplers both heavy duty and normal. We have desks, credenzas, file cabinets, partitions, folding tables, folding chairs, and shelving materials. The library shelves upstairs are built in and will go with the building unless the new owners want us to rip them out. They are not free standing so the cedar boards would have to be fixed as free standing units if they do not fit exactly into the space you might want to put them.

- 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 on a large scale 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 will utilize our FAX list as well as our mailing list to get out the word on pilgrimages or retreats that we may be assisting with. We will also continue the web pages at <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith> at which all of our event, pilgrimage, and periodical information has been posted.

We continue to ask for your donations to keep the **PFMC** operations going wherever they might be located. 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!

Kathleen and Keith

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.

Kathleen and **Keith** have met with **Monsignor William Hodge, Pastor of Saint Nicholas of Tolentine, 1409 Pacific Ave, Atlantic City, NJ, 08401 (609) 344-1040** <http://www.stnicholasac.org/> and well as **Father Ed Namiotka, Principal of Sacred Heart High School, 15 North East Avenue, Vineland, NJ, 08360, (856) 691-4491** <http://www.shslions.com/index.htm>. Both have

agreed to help us with the location of our library materials into a **Marian Library** for the **Camden Diocese**. **Monsignor Hodge** has long been the leader of the **Marian Commission** of the **Camden Diocese**, <http://www.mariancommission.org/>. He was directed by **Bishop McHugh** to set up a **Marian Library** at **Camden Catholic High School, 300 Cuthbert Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002, (856) 663-2247, http://www.camdenatholic.org/index.php and did that. The expansion of the **Bishop Schad Memorial Library**, currently located on the second floor of the high school in **Vineland, NJ** with support for both the high school and the elementary school, may give the opportunity to have a more centrally located **Marian Library** for the **Camden Diocese**.**

Monsignor Hodge has set up a religious article display and **Saint Nicholas Religious Articles Shop** <http://www.stnicholasac.org/> in the basement of his rectory and will take most of what is left in the **PFMC** inventory after everyone else has taken what they want.

As mentioned elsewhere we have transferred a lot of the religious article inventory to **Bill Spillman** who is operating the **Little Flower Religious Goods, 425 Hurffvile-Crosskeys Road, Sewell, NJ** across from the hospital and near the branch post office in **Point Plaza**. He thinks he wants more but needs to see how his space and funding support picking up more. You now have at least two locations to find items you previously obtained from the **PFMC** inventory.

The support for **PFMC** operations set up in **Epiphany House** may be moved to a new location or completely sold with other contents. **Ken McIlvane, Camden Diocese Real Estate**, is looking for suitable private office and intercessory prayer chapel space for the **PFMC**. **Monsignor Hodge** asked **Kathleen** and **Keith** if they could wait until **Bishop Galante** promulgates his decision of church and school closings for the possibility of occupying office and chapel space in property owned by the **Diocese of Camden**.

We will continue to handle requests for intercessory and healing prayer. The main phone line (856) 768-9228 and the FAX line (856) 768-9428 will be maintained and monitored remotely for the near future. Mail will be routed to a P. O. Box.

As you can see, there are a lot of details in this issue of "**The PILGRIM**" we hope it's not the last one. 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

CONFERENCE CORNER

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

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 or call 518-943-5745

PICTURE on BACK PAGE

This picture comes from the web page of <http://www.interfaithmarianpilgrimages.com/pages/blackmadonna.html>.

(<http://www.interfaithmarianpilgrimages.com/pages/blackmadonna.html>)

CALENDARS:

In *June* the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **HOLY TRINITY (3)**, **CORPUS CHRISTI (10)**, **SACRED HEART (15)**, **BIRTH of JOHN the BAPTIST (24)**, 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)**.

In *July* the Church celebrates the Feasts of **SAINTS THOMAS, APOSTLE (3)**, and **JAMES, APOSTLE (25)**, the Memorials of **SAINTS BENEDICT, ABBOT (11)**, **JOACHIM AND ANN (26)**, and **IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA (31)** and **BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA (14)**, and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Elizabeth of Portugal (4)*, *Anthony Mary Zaccaria (5)*, *Maria Goretti (6)*, *Augustine Zhao Rong and his Companions (9)*, *Henry (13)*, *Camillus de Lellis (18)*, *Apollinaris (20)*, *Lawrence of Brindisi (21)*, *Bridget of Sweden (23)*, *Sharbel Makhluf (24)*, and *Peter Chrysologus (30)* as well as *Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16)*. Most Church calendars recognize **Independence Day (4)**.

AROUND the **PFMC** AREA

Please review the announcements on *pages 1* through *3*, as well as on *pages 25* through *28*.

Thank you for your support in all we try to do for Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, and His Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary.

Please visit our web pages for more information. They will be kept up as we have a chance to do that.

We really appreciate your help in getting the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages.

Pray for all the **PFMC** volunteers.

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 *JUNE 2007*

Pope Benedict's general prayer intention for the month of *June 2007* is: "That the Lord may protect sailors and all those involved in maritime activities."

His mission intention for the month of *June 2007* is: "That the Church in North Africa may bear witness to God's love for every individual and all peoples."

<http://www.apostlesofprayer.org>

Page 28

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

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

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The *PILGRIM*, Volume 18, Number 06 – June 2007

**PRIORITY DATED
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PLEASE DO NOT THROW THIS AWAY!!!!

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

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

