



The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 15, No. 2

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February 2004

The **PILGRIM** is a periodical from the **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)**. The **PFMC** is a ministry of lay Catholic evangelization and healing through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

A PRAYER



Jesus Have Mercy on each of us. Open our memories to the effects of our sins, and heal them Lord. Deliver all that has for so long harmed us. We ask You for deeper insights and repentance into our behaviors. There is so much You want to show us Lord. Help us to change, to be converted, and to be renewed.

This war of darkness and light intensifies as we struggle to grow in the virtues to bring us to holiness. For it is only in holiness, Lord, that we find true love, love that gives unconditionally.

Heal us Lord by Your Almighty Hand. Be compassionate with us when we cry tears of repentance. Be generous with us with Your overflowing graces.

Lord, give us the gift of Joy with Your Cross. Help us to have cheerful hearts, and smiles that radiate and witness to all the Love and forgiveness You have for each of us. Strengthen us Lord, so that we may be strong spiritual warriors and Your instruments of healing to others.

We thank You, Lord, for all that You are doing in our lives. We thank You for the majesty that You show us in each day. We praise Your Holy Name.

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

FATHER BILL HALBING

On Thursday, February 12, 2004, at 7 PM: Father Bill Halbing is scheduled to celebrate Holy Mass followed by a Healing Service with anointing and laying on of hands at **Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Berlin, NJ**. Call for a green color information sheet if you don't have one. Bring a friend. Ask your family to come with you and be responsible for driving at night.

The **January** MESSAGE, alleged to be from GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, is presented beginning on page 14 (centerfold page) with the 2/26/04 PRESS BULLETIN.

PRAY for FATHER BENEDICT GROESCHEL, CFR

He was involved in a car and pedestrian accident near the Orlando, FL, airport in the late evening (dark) of Sunday, 11 January 2004. He was severely injured with right arm, leg (broken in two places), and head injuries. He spent many days recovering in a Trauma Unit. Father Glenn Sudano, CFR, with the rest of the Franciscan Friars of Renewal (CFR), are maintaining a presence with Father Groeschel. Father Glenn is posting daily letters on his status at the CFR web site: <http://www.franciscanfriars.com/>.

“THE PASSION of the CHRIST”

The movie “The Passion of the Christ” opens on **February 25, 2004, Ash Wednesday**. Every adult claiming to be Catholic should see this movie and bring non-Catholic friends. Try to see it during opening week to boost its ratings. Children should be counseled about the graphic content and taken with adults who can explain the truth in the Gospels, the medical doctor opinions and books, and the Shroud of Turin. See articles on pages 17 – 22 as well as the detailed Bulletin Notice on page 26.

PLEASE SIGN UP NOW for PFMC EVENTS YOU WISH to JOIN

The PFMC has suffered, as have all ministries since 9/11/2001, with lower participation in planned events. The ministries we coordinate with find that participants in events wait until the last minute to register their intent to participate.

We often hear that people are planning to participate but do not have their registration on file. We do not

“**The PILGRIM**” for **February 2004** is dedicated to “**Mary, Inaccessible to Venomous Serpents.**” See page 3 for an “**IN THIS ISSUE . . .**” or **Table of Contents** listing.

have enough volunteers to track down every rumor of a possible attendee.

PLEASE REGISTER for PFMC events in a timely fashion. Events are listed on page 4 and following as well as in the Bulletin Notices on pages 26 and 27.

Please help us with posting Bulletin Notice in your Parish Bulletin. Ask your pastor if you can put out information sheets in the church or have them posted on the Bulletin Boards.

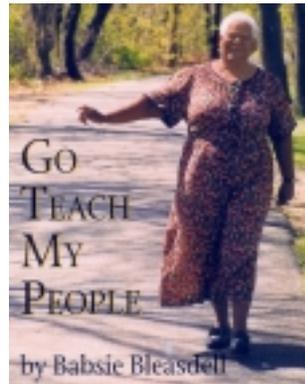
We need to have registration forms for the 24 March 2004 through 4 April 2004 Pilgrimage to Medjugorje via Prague. See the cherry colored information sheet with reservation forms. We have heard that a number of people are working on getting the funds together. We need to have deposits, at minimum, and names to hold our seats. The airline wants a name for every seat with a deposit. The hotels need to have names for rooms with deposits. Hearsay will not support us in keeping seats and hotel rooms. We need your reservation forms. We will lose \$2000 of PFMC funds if we can't make the group numbers for this pilgrimage. Father Tom Kiely has worked hard to get pilgrims from his parish and acquaintances. Please do your part and send in your reservation form.

As in the past the Hilton Hotel has more names on their room reservations than we have for the RETREAT CONFERENCE. Please see the yellow colored information sheet with reservation forms and send in your registration with the PFMC. Continue to call the Hilton Hotel for room reservations. The PFMC guaranteed room rate was only contracted through 2/12/04. Ask for it as we are negotiating an extension for this rate.

VISIT with URSULA "AUNTIE BABSY" BLEASDELL

What a tremendous experience of many blessings for Kathleen, Keith, and Father Tino to have lived more than 5 days with Ursula "Auntie Babsy" BleasdeLL and others in her home and the Word of Life Prayer Community in her previous home in Arima, Trinidad and Tobago.

Her spiritual wisdom is a delight to witness. She was not involved in the Caribbean Charismatic Conference as either a coordinator or a speaker but her presence was noticed by all.



We experienced the gift of community prayer in the mornings, and Babsie and Father Michael Moses, prayed over each of us daily. Father Tino celebrated Holy Mass for us on the little porch just off of our bedrooms. What a beautiful experience of hearing the many birds resounding in chorus throughout the Mass. We studied and listened a lot, and prayed in healing with each other. Our time with Babsie was such a blessing to each of us, and we will never forget our time there.

Father Moses, who lives in her home, even though he is a Pastor of a large parish with two churches, three chapels and a cemetery, was also a blessing. He leads those who live with Babsy in morning prayer each morning at 6 AM, and celebrates NOON Holy Mass at the Word of Life Prayer Community Center or arranges for another priest to say the NOON Holy Mass. He is very active with work for the Archdiocese of Port of Spain. While we were there he was working with the government on both COURAGE for those with homosexual tendencies, but a willingness to ask the Lord for healing and ABSTINENCE based on the Louisiana program. Pray for him and all that he and Babsy are trying to accomplish within their country.

We wanted to especially thank Wilma, who has been with the community since she was 25 years old. Her cooking talents delighted Kathleen, as she served true Caribbean meals that were so delicious. We were introduced to new flavors with ginger, and curry, and fruits of every sort that we had never heard of. Thank you Wilma, also for your cheerfulness, and your willingness always to serve with love.

Even though she is now in her 80's, **Babsie** shows her love and understanding of God as well as the gifts of the Holy Spirit particularly when working with His Spouse, Mary, the Blessed Virgin Jewish Mother of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We will so enjoy hearing her speak at the 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE. She has so much to share with us all. One cannot underestimate how the Holy Spirit works through her.

(Kathleen and Keith Werner)

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 John Paul II. See page 5 for additional PFMC information.

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.

CONTACT with the PFMC

Do you wish to keep receiving “*The PILGRIM*”? We will be cutting our bulk mail addresses if we do not hear from you.

Most of you see a copy of “*The PILGRIM*” on a monthly basis, but make no written contact with the **PFMC**. We need this contact on a **regular basis to keep our mailing lists up to date**. See NOTICE in the box on page 7 about a regular response to these mailings. The enclosed envelope has a form on which you can indicate your desires to continue or discontinue receiving “*The PILGRIM*” on a monthly basis.

If you wish to be completely deleted from regular or annual contact by the **PFMC**, please let us know that as well. We do respond.

Take a minute to contact us by phone, FAX, e-mail, Internet guest book, and/or regular mail. Please let us know you are getting “*The PILGRIM*”, and want to keep receiving it.

Donations are not keeping up with monthly expenses. We must trim the bulk mail list down to those who regularly contact us. Just because we see you in church or at a prayer meeting does not mean that we remember to check off the regular contact box for the **PFMC**. **PLEASE CONTACT US REGULARLY and AT LEAST ONCE PER YEAR.**

Please include a donation for our ministries in your regular mail contact with the **PFMC**.

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

THE SISTERS MINOR OF MARY IMMACULATE (SMMI): PROLONGING the MATERNAL MISSION of MARY

We are an international Franciscan Religious Congregation of women who follow the spirituality of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, OFM Conventual, in an active-contemplative life founded on his Total Consecration to the Immaculate. We are also spiritual daughters of Saint Therese of Lisieux. A unique characteristic is our Fourth Vow by which we pledge to be at God's disposal, like Mary, without reserve, for the “greatest glory of God” through the salvation of all in Jesus Christ.

We were founded by Mother Maria Elisabetta Patrizi, SMMI in Rome, Italy with the assistance of Father Elia M. Bruson, OFM Conventual, on August 14, 1983 and canonically erected in that diocese in 1993.

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Who are the SMMI?

In the beginning...

on August 14, 1983, in a small chapel at no. 65 Via dei Fienili in Rome, Maria Elisabetta Patrizi, our Foundress, prayed and consecrated to God and to the Immaculata that “little mustard seed” of the first two Sisters, gathered with her to follow in the footsteps of Saint Maximilian Kolbe. He had lived seven significant years of his life in the nearby International Franciscan College, now “Casa Kolbe”. A few hours earlier, Fr. Elia Maria Bruson, OFM Conventual had blessed their blue habits and entrusted them to Mary Immaculate. In this way the “little seed” now known as the Religious Institute of the Sisters Minor of Mary Immaculate began to develop and grow.

Twenty years have passed...

since this new Religious Institute began in the Church. Through the 80 or so Sisters that they now number, many tears have been dried, souls comforted, conversions obtained, wounds healed, persons sustained, children educated... yet all of this is very

little compared with the great mystery of the graces of God that their prayers, Eucharistic Adoration, sacrifice and missions have obtained through the intercession of Mary Immaculate.

In fact, their goal is to prolong the maternal tenderness of Mary towards all people.

The spirituality...

is not simply a hybrid of Franciscan and Carmelite spiritualities, but a new creation in the Holy Spirit. As true daughters of Kolbe who wanted to use all licit means to promote the Kingdom of God through the powerful mediation of Mary Immaculate and of Saint Theresa, whose vocation was to be love in the heart of the Church, the Sisters Minor, with their roots firmly attached to the rock of Peter and their branches free to move in the breeze of the Holy Spirit, are not tied to any specific sector or apostolate.

Activities...

with a generous gift of self they work with youth in nursery schools, elementary schools, religious education, parish organizations and summer programs; they evangelize through theater, art, the written word; they care for the sick, elderly, and dying in nursing homes and are thus able to prepare them for the most important meeting of their life- that final meeting with our loving God and Father. The SMMI also work in retreat houses and shrines, giving talks, preparing the liturgy, guiding pilgrims to faith and the sacraments, lending an ear, ready to listen one on one. Their simple Franciscan living allows them to open their own convent chapels for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to the public. A favored apostolate is to promote total consecration to Mary Immaculate in the spirituality of Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe. Knowing Mary to be the shortest route to Jesus, they encourage individuals, groups, schools, and parishes to consecrate themselves to the Immaculate, thus placing them under her protective mantle.

From God's merciful love, attained in liturgical and private prayer, the SMMI go forth and they manifest the maternal love of Mary:

By caring for children in day cares and elementary schools;

By working with youth in religious education, youth programs and summer camps;

By being there for others in parish missions, one-on-one encounters, and Family of Mary Immaculate groups;

By caring for the elderly through home visitations, hospital visitations, nursing home care;

By serving the Church's clergy and the faithful in parishes, shrines, and retreat houses.

The Sisters Minor of Mary Immaculate are present in Italy, Czech Republic, Poland, Turkey, France, Slovenia, and the United States of America.

In the U.S. you can find us in Waterbury, Danbury, New Haven, Stamford, and Trumbull, CT.

All inquiries should be addressed to:

Sister Mary Elizabeth Lariviere, SMMI
656 Congress Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708
(203)753-1408

For those attending the PFMC pilgrimage March 24-April 4, 2004 to Medjugorje via Prague, Czech Republic, keep your eyes open for our blue habits. You may meet our Sisters at the Basilica of the Infant of Prague where they offer their service to the pilgrims. Those attending the PFMC Retreat Conference, March 12-14, 2004, can meet us there. Hope to see you soon!

(Sister Mary Elizabeth Lariviere, SMMI)

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2004 CALENDAR for *PFMC* EVENTS

See **Conference Corner** on page 27 as well as **Bulletin Notices** on pages 26 through 27. Most **PFMC** events will be preceded by their own **PFMC** information sheets with reservation forms. Many of these are included in this issue of "**The PILGRIM.**"

February 2004

February 12, 2004, Thursday, 7 PM: We are promoting a special Holy Mass and Healing Service at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, US 30 and Franklin Ave., Berlin, NJ. Father Bill Halbing, Pastor, Saint Antoninus, Newark, NJ, will be the Celebrant.

February 15, 2004, Sunday, through February 24, 2004, Shrove Tuesday, ANYTIME: ALPHA-OMEGA 9-DAY NOVENA to the Most Holy Face of Jesus. See page 15 and pages 23 – 25 and the Bulletin Notice on page 26.

March 2004

March 5, 2004, Friday, 9 AM to 1 PM: We will host a **Retreat** in the **Upper Room** at **Epiphany House** for **Assumption School Faculty**. This **Retreat** will be conducted by **Father Ed Namiotka**, Principal of **Sacred Heart High School, Vineland, NJ**.

Don't forget the **Annual PFMC Retreat Conference (RC) March 12 through March 14, 2004**, the concurrent **Youth and Young Adult Track (YT)** and the **3-Day Extension (3DX) March 15 through March 17, 2004**. See the yellow information packet with reservation forms for details.

March 24, 2004 to April 4, 2004, This is a final opportunity to join **Father Thomas Kiely** of **Saint Lawrence Parish** in **Lindenwold, NJ**, who will be the Spiritual Director for a **PFMC Pilgrimage to Medjugorje (PPM) via Prague**. We will spend 2 nights in **Prague** with city tour and visit to the **Infant Jesus of Prague**. Then we will enjoy 8 nights in **Medjugorje**. We will stay at **Bronco's House** behind the Pizza places very near to **Saint James Church**. The cost of this pilgrimage is **\$1399** plus **\$130** to cover air taxes, and includes round trip air fare, hotel in **Prague** (3-4 star), private home in **Medjugorje**, guides, land transfers, all breakfasts and suppers. Please call (856) 768-9228 and join us. A cherry color information sheet with reservation forms is enclosed in this issue of **"The PILGRIM."**

April 2004

April 26, 2004, Monday, 9 AM to 1 PM: "Medical Day of Recollection" with **Father John O'Leary**. This is for any kind of medical personnel including aides, RNs and LPNs, Medical Office Personnel, Student Nurses, Doctors, Lab and X-ray technicians or medical staff from other departmental areas. We also invite Physician Assistants, Orthopedic Technicians, Athletic Trainers, and Physical Therapists. Spend a few hours away from all the rushing and work. **Father John** is the Pastor of **Assumption** Parish, and has been a teacher at **Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital School of Nursing**. Donation for this Day of Recollection is **\$15**. Light breakfast will be provided at **8:30 AM**. Talks will begin PROMPTLY at **9 AM**.

May 2004

May 8, 2004, Saturday, **Father Bill McCarthy** of **My Father's House** will conduct a day retreat for **"Healing of Physical and Sexual Abuse."** If you are interested in this day of retreat and prayer, please call (856) 768-9228. Advance reservations must be made for this event. Donation for the day is **\$25** including a light lunch and snacks. Pray for **Father Bill**. He was hospitalized with Bacterial Pneumonia in the middle of **November** and is still struggling with Diabetes and Heart problems.

June 2004

June 27, 2004, Sunday, **Keith and Kathleen** will be celebrating their **40th Wedding Anniversary**, and

will be away from **June 12 through June 28, 2004**. Many of the **PFMC** staff volunteers will be joining **Keith and Kathleen** from the **19th to the 26th**, so the **PFMC** will be closed during these days

August 2004

August is a busy time for Roman Catholics in the **New England / Mid-Atlantic States**. **God, The Father, Day**, is celebrated at the **National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima** in **Washington, NJ** on the **First Sunday in August**. This will be **Sunday, 1 August 2004**. The **Scranton Charismatic Conference** will be on **Friday, 6 August 2004**, through **Sunday, 8 August 2004**. The **PFMC Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Picnic**, scheduled in our by-laws for the **First Sunday in August** will have to again be moved to accommodate those who wish to attend other meetings. It will be on **Saturday, 31 July 2004**.

August 1, 2004 through August 9, 2004, **Father John Tino** will lead a **PFMC Pilgrimage to Lourdes (PPL) via Paris**. Visit the **Grotto of Massabielle**, the **Rosary Basilica**, the **Stations of the Cross**, and much more. Bathe in the healing waters of **Lourdes**, and enjoy a daily full program of Holy Mass and healing prayer. In **Paris** you will visit the **Miraculous Medal Chapel on Rue de Bac**, where **Saint Catherine Laboure** lies incorrupt. You will enjoy seeing the **Sacre Coeur Basilica, Notre Dame**, as well as the **Eiffel Tower**, as well as dining in the **Latin Quarter**. The cost of this pilgrimage is **\$1999** plus **\$130** to cover air taxes. This includes air fare

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Tino, Father John McFadden, Father Bill McCarthy, MSsA, Father

Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, Father Jim Sauchelli, Father Brendan

Williams, Father Joseph Szolack, as well as many of **Mary's** other

beloved priests from the **Philadelphia** and **Newark** Archdioceses as well

as the **Brooklyn, Camden, Harrisburg, Metuchen, Norwich,**

Pittsburgh, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses. Father

Hartman is reviewing every issue. **Father Joseph Szolack,**

szolack@camdendiocese.org, is **Dean of Men** at **Saint Charles**

Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, PA.

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

round trip, hotels, guides, land transfers, all breakfasts, and all but one supper while in **Paris**. In our planning for seeing more of **France**, we are evaluating the possibility of extensions with limited numbers of pilgrims for visiting areas to the southeast of **Paris (Ars, Paray le Monial, Taize, Nevers)** or the northwest of **Paris (Alencon, Lisieux, Pontmain, Mont San Michel, Chartres)**. Extension plan options will be sent to each pilgrim after sign-up for the main pilgrimage. A blue color information sheet with reservation forms was enclosed in the two previous issues of "*The PILGRIM*." Call (856) 768-9228 if you do not have a blue color information sheet with reservation forms. When you register for this pilgrimage, please indicate your desires for extending in France or Italy.

October 2004

We have planned a **PFMC** pilgrimage to **Medjugorje (PPM)** via **Rome** for **Doctor Bob and Anita Rice** of "*In His Omnipotent Presence (IHOP) Ministries*" with **Father Phil Sladicka** of **Olyphant, PA**. The desired dates have been adjusted to **Sunday, 10 October 2004**, through **Friday, 22 October 2004** in order to facilitate **2 days** in **Rome** with an opportunity for a **Wednesday** audience with the **Holy Father, Pope John Paul II**, and then **2 days** in **Rome** before coming home. An orchid color information sheet with reservation form was enclosed in the two previous issues of "*The PILGRIM*." Call (856) 768-9228 if you do not have a orchid color information sheet with reservation forms. Fill out a reservation form and send it in with your deposit.

(Keith and Kathleen Werner and all the **PFMC** Volunteer Staff Members)

12-14 MARCH 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) / YOUTH TRACK (YT) and 15-17 MARCH 2004 3-DAY EXTENSION (3DX)

The theme for 2004 is "*Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves*" (*Matthew 10:16 [NAB]*).

WE AWAIT YOUR RESERVATIONS, AND THE HOTEL NEEDS YOUR RESERVATION. PLEASE SIGN UP IMMEDIATELY.

The Retreat Conference (RC) will feature **Father Bill Halbing**, who will speak on **Friday night**. He will also celebrate the opening Holy Mass and give the

Homily. We will so enjoy our dynamic speakers: **Babsie Bleasdell** from **Trinidad**, **Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR**, who appears on **EWTN**, **Father Michael Semana**, **Father John McFadden**, **Sister Claire Marie de l'amore Crucifie** of the **Marian Community Oasis of Peace**, our **EMCEE** and singer **Al Barbarino**, and music by **REFUGE** and **VOYAGE**, and **People of Praise Prayer Community**.

Father Robert DeGrandis, SSJ, has had to cancel his presence this year and we pray for his time of rest.

Make your hotel reservations at the **Hilton Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ** IMMEDIATELY. Our block of rooms at the \$94 rate must be booked by 2/12/2004.

The dates for the RC and YT will be **Friday, 12 March 2004, Saturday, 13 March 2004, and Sunday, 14 March 2004**.

On **Saturday night** there will be a concert with **Father Michael Semana** and the **Gospel Singers from the "People of Praise Prayer Community"** of **Brooklyn, NY**. We have so enjoyed the music of **Father Michael** for our Gala Dinner Concert this last **November**, and we have gone to **Brooklyn** to pray with and sing with the "**People of Praise Prayer Community**." You are in for a wonderful evening of prayer and music. The concert will be followed by a healing service with individual prayer and anointing.

Father John Hampsch, C.M.F., will conduct the 3DX on the "**Holy Spirit Alive in Your Life**" on **Monday, 15 March 2004, Tuesday, 16 March 2004, and Wednesday, 17 March 2004**. He will be accompanied by **Sister Claire Marie de l'amore Crucifie** from the **Marian Community, Oasis of Peace** headquartered in **Passo Corese, Italy**. **Sister Claire** will speak on the messages of **Our Lady**.

J. P. Kasperowicz, "**Ministry of the Single Hearted**" from **Saint Ignatius of Antioch Parish in Yardley, PA**, has agreed to lead the **Youth Track (YT)**. We need volunteers to assist with the **YT**. Please call (856) 768-9228 and sign up to help.

Please review the **YELLOW** information sheet enclosed in this and previous issues of "*The PILGRIM*," fill out the reservation form or forms, and return them with your donation check or charge card information to the **PFMC** as soon as possible. If you do not have a form, please call (856) 768-9228 and we will send you one. You may use the Internet www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04RET3CF.pdf.

Please make your **PFMC** RC, YT, and 3DX reservations using the forms provided by the **PFMC**.

Do not wait to make your Hilton Hotel reservations with the hotel via **1-800 HILTONS** or **(856) 665-6666**. MANY WAIT UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE AND THEN CANNOT GET A ROOM IN THE HOTEL. All sessions are held in the **Hilton Hotel** itself. Buffet style hot lunches will be available through advance reservations with the **PFMC**.

Consider giving reservations to this event as gifts.

Ask your family to support your desire to attend even if they will not attend with you.

PLEASE do not wait to register with the **PFMC** or reserve rooms at the **HILTON HOTEL**. Our block of rooms at the \$94 rate must be booked by 2/12/2004.

(Kathleen and the Reservation Volunteers)

HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S PRAYER STAND

KINGSTON, TN ([BP](#)) -- Little did Jody McLoud know when he stood up and told those at the season's opening football game why there would be no student-led prayer that night that his words would travel across the globe via the Internet.

As a result, the Tennessee high school principal has received letters from almost every state in the nation and spoken on several talk radio stations from as far away as California.

In an interview with the state Baptist convention newsjournal Baptist and Reflector, McLoud noted that his statement was not a spur of the moment decision. He had been praying about it for nearly a week, along with others, and had written several drafts.

"I did not know for sure I would make the statement until late that day," he said, explaining that without prayer it is hard to determine when to speak out on issues or when to remain silent.

Looking back, McLoud, principal at Roane County High School, Kingston, and an adult Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church, sees how God directed him through the thought process. "I finally decided to do it. I would obey the law, but state where I stand."

McLoud stepped to the microphone on Sept. 1 and spoke these words:

"It has always been the custom at Roane County High School football games to say a prayer and play the national anthem to honor God and country. Due to a recent ruling by the Supreme Court, I am told that saying a prayer is a violation of federal case law.

"As I understand the law at this time, I can use this public facility to approve of sexual perversion and call it an alternative lifestyle and if someone is offended, that's OK.

"I can use it to condone sexual promiscuity by dispensing condoms and calling it safe sex. If someone is offended, that's OK.

"I can even use this public facility to present the merits of killing an unborn baby as a viable means of birth control. If someone is offended, no problem.

"I can designate a school day as earth day and involve the students in activities to religiously worship and praise the goddess, mother earth, and call it ecology.

"I can use literature, videos and presentations in the classroom that depict people with strong, traditional Christian convictions as simple-minded and ignorant and call it enlightenment.

"However, if anyone uses this facility to honor God and ask him to bless this event with safety and good sportsmanship, federal case law is violated.

"This appears to be at best, inconsistent, and at worst, diabolical. Apparently, we are to be tolerant of everything and everyone except God and his commandments.

"Nevertheless, as a school principal, I frequently ask staff and students to abide by rules with which they do not necessarily agree. For me to do otherwise would be at best, inconsistent, and at worst, hypocritical. I suffer from that affliction enough unintentionally. I certainly do not need to add an intentional transgression.

"For this reason, I shall 'render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's' and refrain from praying at this time. However, if you feel inspired to honor, praise and thank God, and to ask him in the name of Jesus to

PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING LIST

We do need to hear from you in writing at least once a year in order to keep you on our mailing list. Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery address is incorrect. Please respond now for 2004.

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

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

bless this event, please feel free to do so. As far as I know, that's not against the law, yet."

McLoud said he made that statement not out of a sense of righteousness but out of guilt and shame that he had not taken a stand before.

He said he began to feel convicted about not taking a stand on issues when he heard of a prayer prayed by a minister before the opening session of the Kansas state legislature.

"It was more out of shame and a conviction that I had been silent too long that made me make the statement," McLoud said.

The school principal also noted he had to speak out because of a deep sense of love for his country. "I love this country and I want it to stay one nation under God. God has blessed this country because of that and that alone. If this country abandons God, how can it continue to be blessed?"

He also noted that he knows God does not need him to speak up for him. "I need me to speak up for God. And this country needs Christians to speak up. God is going to win."

McLoud said he does not know who first forwarded his statement across the Internet. Someone asked him for a copy after the game. "The next thing I knew I was getting calls from all over the country. It really took off.

"I have gotten feedback from about every state in the nation," McLoud related, describing the overwhelming majority of it as positive.

He also has received positive reactions to his statement from local school board members who have talked with him.

The publicity and requests from radio talk show hosts to be on their shows have been overwhelming, McLoud admitted, but he said it has given him further opportunities to share his faith.

"I hope they realize I am just a sinner saved by grace, fighting battles here, winning some, losing some."

The principal shared that prayer has continued at Roane County High School.

A group of kids began to huddle on the 10-yard line after the football teams left the field prior to the game and to say a prayer, he shared. The number has grown to about 150 students, he added.

What's more, a local booster who owns the lot across from the stadium put up a sound system on his property, McLoud said.

The man then gave the kids a wireless mike. When they pray, the prayer comes across his sound system on his own property, McLoud said.

"God is still in Roane County and he is still in control. The lordship of Christ will not be threatened by the Supreme Court."

<http://www.mcjonline.com/news/00b/20001027d.htm>

Post date: October 27, 2000 © 2000 Baptist Press)

LEGEND of SAINT VALENTINE

The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century with an oppressive Roman emperor and a humble Christian Martyr. The emperor was Claudius II. The Christian was Valentinus.

Claudius had ordered all Romans to worship twelve gods, and had made it a crime punishable by death to associate with Christians. But Valentinus was dedicated to the ideals of Christ; not even the threat of death could keep him from practicing his beliefs. He was arrested and imprisoned.

During the last weeks of Valentinus's life a remarkable thing happened. Seeing that he was a man of learning, the jailer asked whether his daughter, Julia, might be brought to Valentinus for lessons. She had been blind since birth. Julia was a pretty young girl with a quick mind. Valentinus read stories of Rome's history to her. He described the world of nature to her. He taught her arithmetic and told her about God. She saw the world through his eyes, trusted his wisdom, and found comfort in his quiet strength.

"Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Julia asked one day.

"Yes, my child, He hears each one."

"Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you've told me about!"

God does what is best for us if we will only believe in Him," Valentinus said.

"Oh, Valentinus, I do believe! I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand.

They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Radiant, Julia screamed, "Valentinus, I can see! I can see!"

Praise be to God!" Valentinus exclaimed, and he knelt in prayer.

On the eve of his death Valentinus wrote a last note to Julia, urging her to stay close to God. He singed it, "From your Valentine." His sentence was carried out

the next day, February 14, 270 A.D., near a gate that was later named Porta Valentini in his memory. He was buried at what is now the Church of Praxedes in Rome. It is said that Julia planted a pink-blossomed almond tree near his grave. Today, the almond tree remains a symbol of abiding love and friendship. On each February 14, Saint Valentine's Day messages of affection, love, and devotion are exchanged around the world.

(The Mary Faithful January-February 2003)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

If you need vocation information and you do not find it in your local parish or diocese, please call Elizabeth Wisniewski at (856) 768-9228. She has been collecting vocation information for years and now provides that information willingly to friends of the PFMC. She has been acquiring pamphlets for distribution from religious communities, particularly those who have Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

(Kathleen, Keith, Liz, and all the *PFMC* Volunteers)

NAZARETH HOUSE

A place of discernment and formation for men aspiring to priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, Nazareth House is located on the campus of Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill.

It houses the Diocese of Camden formation program to help young men investigate whether God is calling them to a priestly vocation.

The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation.

The staff provides them with the foundation for seminary theologate formation, through a shared community life of prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service.

It now houses the Camden Diocese Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Director of Vocations, Diocese of Camden,
Father Cadmus Mazzarella,

mazzarella@camdendiocese.org,

or visit: <http://www.beapriest.org>, or

Nazareth House, 300 Cuthbert Boulevard, Cherry Hill,
NJ 08002 (856) 910-4930 or FAX: (856) 662-8917

PRIESTLY BLESSING

How sad that the priests of our day are so neglectful of their power, we might even say, ignorant of what the sacerdotal benediction is!

Many of them hardly believe in it. They blush at a blessing as if it were a superstitious and antiquated ceremony, while some never reflect upon the power given them by Jesus Christ.

When they neglect to give me a blessing, I receive it sometimes from God himself; but as Our Lord has instituted the priesthood and imparted to it the power to bless, I languish with desire for it.

The whole Church is but one body. All must be deprived of what one member refuses to bestow.

(edited from the "*Life of Anne Catherine Emmerich*"
The Mary Faithful January-February 1989)

[BLESSED] MOTHER THERESA of CALCUTTA PRAISES the GIFT of PRIESTHOOD

In a warm invitation to every priest, Mother Theresa stated: "Be holy, just as the Father in Heaven is Holy! Holiness is not a luxury that only some can afford, it is a simple part of our duty, especially for priests. It is they who must take joy, peace and the tender love of Jesus into the families and in our persons. Think how holy priests must be, how pure they must be to be able to take away the sins from a sinner who is on his knees before the priest."

"Some time ago, a man came to Calcutta without notice while we were in Adoration. He came and he prayed. After the Adoration, I met him and he said to me: 'A big weight on my heart told me to come to Calcutta and pray with you.'" At the time there was a priest in our house and I told that man, "load this weight, go to the father and you will become a pure

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.

man, all for Jesus.”” He went to confess his sins, and I have never seen such a wonderful thing; he came out after his confession and was like a new being, a sinner without sin. Then, in front of the tabernacle, he knelt down and thanked God for this great love, for this great gift of a pure heart. The day after he caught his plane and went away.”

“Can you see the tenderness of God’s love, to have made that man come for this, can you see what an extraordinary, yet terrible gift God gave to the priests: the gift of donating a pure heart!”

“What a wonderful gift the priests have, to be able to say, ‘this is my Body’. In our house we have a handicapped child. She is both mentally and physically retarded, but when we have Adoration, I take her to the chapel, and I am struck by joy every time I look at the way she receives JESUS. Struck by the light in the face of this child who knows, Who she is looking at.”

“One day I asked the father, ‘please give Holy Communion to this girl.’

And he replied, “How can we prepare her?”

I said, ‘Father I will put her to the test.’. So, I took a piece of bread and a simple Host and a crucifix, I placed them before the girl and I indicated to her. She put her finger on the piece of bread and then took her finger to her mouth. Then she put her finger on the Host and then on the crucifix.

Then the father said to me, ‘She knows,’ and he gave her Holy Communion.

“See how wonderful the love of God is Who comes to us? That priest was very grateful to God for having let him give so much joy to the child. “

“Humbleness and purity of Mary are conditions for fruitfulness in the priesthood. “

“Priesthood is a beautiful gift, but what a wonderful and marvelous responsibility. You have a responsibility to be holy because you cannot give what you do not have. That is why it is important to have a profound love for Mary. Mary will guide you. She will protect you. She will keep you for Jesus, because there are so many certain temptations and difficulties in the world of today, especially where purity and pride are concerned.

“So let’s cleanse ourselves. Let’s try to be pure and humble like Mary. She will help us to be holy like Jesus. God Himself was attracted by this purity and humbleness, and that is why She was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus. That is why She was chosen to give a body to Jesus. In all sincerity, She can say, Yes this is My Body, and yet, She was never chosen to be a priest.”

“She gave everything to Jesus and for this reason you priests must remain attached to Her. You must love Her, She will become your real mother. She will guide you and protect you.”

“When we look at the cross, we know how much Jesus loved us, and when we look at the tabernacle, we can see how much Jesus loves us today. For this reason, it is extremely important that every priest should have a tender love for Jesus in the Sacraments and in the Eucharist.”

“I can declare without any difficulty, that we must thank God for having given us Adoration in every community. Take the joy of Adoration to others. We are trying to take it all to all the parishes because people are hungry for God.”

Mother Theresa stressed the importance of the priest being the only one able to give the Sacraments, which are needed by the poor and dying people to be able to meet God with pure hearts. “In this way the sick people die in peace and the Sacraments and Adoration are the biggest help that these people receive.”

(Mother Theresa to international meeting for priests, Evangelization 2000, held in Vatican September 15, 1990, edited from Echo Medjugorje #10, Mantova, IT)

PRAYER and VOCATION

I recently had the opportunity to be present at a vocation discernment retreat that was conducted by members of my community, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ (A.S.C.). The retreat is a part of the *Life Choices*® program. The women who attended are very serious in their consideration of a vocation to religious life. I came away from the experience feeling affirmed in my own vocation as I observed the persons on the retreat so purposefully seeking to know God’s will for their lives.

We provide guidance to the women on the retreat as well as various aids to help them in their discernment process. Perhaps the most important assistance we offer is prayer for them. ASC, many of whom have decades of experience in religious life, send supportive notes to the participants at the retreat and pray individually for each one of them.

In some ways it is hard to measure the effect of these prayers. We know that several persons who have experienced the retreat have joined religious communities. We certainly consider their choice to be an answer to our prayers! Others have made different choices for their life’s path. We often do not know how our prayer affected them. I am certain, however, that our prayer had a positive effect.

We sometimes limit our understanding of prayer to be the collection of words that typically comprise our prayers. Prayer is much more than stringing together eloquent thoughts, heartfelt requests or rote phrases. Prayer is, at its essence, a means of connection, a powerful tool for the building of relationships. When we pray we grow in our relationship with God and we also are drawn closer to our human brothers and sisters. Prayer transforms the person offering the prayer as well as the person for whom the prayer is offered. It is for this reason that I ask members of my religious community to pray for the participants of the retreat. I want them to be connected with the retreatants as they move through the process of discerning their life's calling.

It is unquestionably true that personal invitation is the key to drawing a person to religious life. The prayers and the notes written by the members of my community are one form of this personal contact. Face to face conversations that help a person seeking to know their life's path are essential as well. The sisters who coordinate the *Life Choices*® program have many conversations with those discerning their life's calling. They need not be alone in this task. Each of us is capable of asking someone the question, "Have you ever thought you might have a vocation to the religious life?" This conversation isn't about talking someone into a decision. It is about helping to reveal a desire that already exists. It is a free invitation to consider a life path that is often portrayed by our culture as anachronistic or marginal to modern life. Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth. Religious life provides a context and community to support what is desperately needed in the world: compassion and love.

If a direct conversation is too daunting a prospect, I ask you to pray for the many men and women who have a calling to religious life and need a little help to realize what draws them. January 11-16 is National Vocational Awareness Week. This is an excellent opportunity to experience the power of prayer to transform your life and the lives of those for whom you pray. Like the sisters of my community who well know the benefits of prayer I am confident that you will be renewed in your life's choice as you pray for the discernment of others.

Saint Maria De Mattias founded the Adorers of the Blood of Christ in 1834 in a small Italian village to serve and educate the poor. Pope John Paul II canonized De Mattias on May 18, 2003. The Adorers' American mission was founded in 1876 and has evolved into the United States Province. Today, more than 430 sisters, 371 associates, 150 volunteers, and 229 employees serve Adorer ministries in

spiritual enrichment, health care, education, long-term care and social justice here and abroad. The Adorers' United States Province has headquarters in Saint Louis and centers in Ruma, Illinois; Wichita, Kansas and Columbia, Pennsylvania.

(Adorers of The Blood of Christ Krystaalovsia@cs.com
Sister Diana Rawlings 1-877-236-7377
rawlingsd@adorers.org)

MY LIFE as a RELIGIOUS SISTER

Vocations evolve in ways mysterious even to those of us who are called. "Who knows the mind of God?" (Lev. 24:12)

I grew up on the island of Malta. My family was very religious and active in the Church. My father also sang as a baritone in many of our churches. I attended catholic school, which was a private school run by the Sisters in my community. When I was in the fifth grade, I started feeling an attraction towards religious life. This desire continued to grow in me during my secondary school years. I remember spending time with the Sisters, going on retreats and outings with them, helping them to clean the classrooms on a Saturday, etc. Through all this, my parents and family were very supportive. They helped me to follow what the Lord was asking of them and me. Eventually, after secondary school, I joined the Community of the same Sisters who taught me for twelve years. At age 17, I left my home and my native land in order to go to Rome to start my formation.

My childhood dream was to become a *missionary*. Since I joined a Missionary Congregation with convents spread around the world, I had asked to be sent to a *mission country* to work with poor children. "God's ways are not our ways." In 1965 I was sent to the United States of America to start teaching at *Saint Jude* in Blackwood. I still harbored that desire in my heart to be in a *mission land*. Thirty-five years have passed since that first day on American soil and I am grateful to God for it because through the years, I became more convinced that this is where God's will wanted me to be.

I live with Sisters from different countries, cultures, and backgrounds. Some might ask: "How is this possible?" My answer to them is that it is possible because we grow to trust the Spirit of God within each one of us. This same Spirit has brought us together and is our common ground as He was to the first disciples. It is a trustworthy foundation on which to risk the challenges that we may face. All of us must risk the comfort of the familiar and accept a different

framework for seeing God and for knowing the truth and ourselves within it.

My life as a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary has been an endless series of graced events and also human rewards in terms of lifetime friends from my years in education, parish work, Vocation apostolate, etc. These graced events could only happen because I try to be mindful every day that my baptismal and confirmation commitments and my religious vows demand constant renewal. Each day I make sure that daily Mass and Eucharist are a priority; scriptural reflection and also devotional prayers are part of my daily life.

I may not have been sent to my idealized *mission territory*, but my years spent in this country have helped me to grow in the person I am today. Each day I pray for the grace of fidelity to my baptismal and confirmation promises and to my vows of religion. I pray that I may continue to fulfill them in the service of others, according to the charism of our foundress, Blessed M. Catherine Troiani.

My hope is that by giving “witness” and demonstrating availability, perhaps I will inspire others to take the risk and respond to their own special call. In the words of Pope John Paul II, I tell all those who are discerning: “*Do not be afraid! Take the risk!*”

Sr. Dorothy Aloisio is a Franciscan Missionary Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (FMIHM) who resides at Holy Saviour Convent in Westmont, NJ. She is presently the Associate Vocation Director for the Diocese of Camden as well as Vocation Director for her community.

(By Sr. M. Dorothy Aloisio, FMIHM)

Sister may be contacted at:

Office of Vocations/Nazareth House,
300 Cuthbert Road,
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
856-910-4930

E-mail: Dorothy@camdendiocese.org,

Web Site: www.camdendiocese.org OR

Holy Saviour Convent,
30 Emerald Ave.,
Westmont, NJ 08108
856-858-2638

e-mail: holsaviourconvent@holsaviour.org

Web Site: www.fmihm.catholicweb.com

SELF-OFFERING

HOLY SPIRIT, GOD OF LOVE, be present to me; accept the offering of myself which I make to you.

Receive these hands, these feet, these eyes, this tongue, and all my senses.

Receive my memory, my will, my understanding, my desires, my sighs, the longings and the aspirations of my soul.

Receive my every hour, my every moment, and all the happenings of my life.

HOLY SPIRIT, GOD OF LOVE, knit my soul to you.

Let YOUR LOVE possess my whole being, my senses, my faculties, my emotions, my very life.

Let YOUR LOVE rule my labor and my rest, my going and my staying, and move me as it pleases you.

Let YOUR LOVE disquiet and comfort me, humble and exalt me, and burn away my faults.

HOLY SPIRIT, GOD OF LOVE, draw me to yourself.

Do with me what you will.

Nothing will cause me fear if only YOUR LOVE enfolds me.

(APOSTLES of the HOLY SPIRIT)

LETTING GO

LETTING GO does not mean to stop caring; it means I can't do it for someone else.

LETTING GO is not to cut myself off; it's the realization that I can't control another.

LETTING GO is not trying to change or blame another; but to make the most of myself.

LETTING GO is not to care for, but to care about.

LETTING GO is not to fix, but to be supportive, not to judge but to allow another to be a human being.

LETTING GO is not to be in the middle arranging the outcome, but to allow others to affect their own destinies.

LETTING GO is not to deny, but to accept.

LETTING GO is not to nag, scold, or argue, but to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.

LETTING GO is not to regret the past, but to grow and live in today for the future.

LETTING GO is not to criticize and regulate anybody, but to try to become what I dream I can be.

(Anonymous, “The Maryfaithful” January-February, 1989)

CIRCLE of HUMAN SPIRITUAL LIFE

Sin, Confession, Sin Again

Original Sin gives human beings a propensity to sin. This is true even after Baptism cleanses a true believer from Original Sin. The effects remain and must be dealt with through prayer.

Satan and the other evil spirits or devils wish to have their temptations cause humans to sin, i.e. willfully turn away from the Love of God. Many have said that the Holy Trinity, One God in Three Persons, is made up of God, the Father, Creator, God, the Son, Savior, and God, the Holy Spirit, Their Love for all Their creation.

The effect of sin is a weakness to temptations and a disposition toward further sin.

The Sacrament of Confession / Penance / Reconciliation affords Roman Catholics with an opportunity to confess sins, do penance, and amend their lives through a good Act of Contrition and Absolution by a priest standing in for Jesus.

Spiritual Direction

Those who find themselves repetitively sinning should ask their Confessor for Spiritual Direction. This should be a regular diet for most sinners. Often a Spiritual Director different from a Confessor may be of benefit. Only a priest can be a Confessor for Roman Catholics.

Counseling, Healing, and Deliverance

Spiritual Direction may lead to Counseling, Healing, and Deliverance.

These may be done by Roman Catholic Laity but are most effective when done with the assistance and support of a priest.

A priest and a lay person work together to assist an individual in changing behavior in relation to the temptations of the world and evil spirits. There is a lot of work in this area with few cases that must be referred to an exorcist.

Exorcism

Exorcism is only performed after all other efforts to free a person from possession by evil spirits have been exhausted.

Special arrangements have to be made with the local diocesan authorities to make use of specially trained and designated priests who are authorized to act as an exorcist.

(Keith Werner)

DON'T QUIT

*When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit
REST if you MUST, BUT don't you QUIT!
Life is strange with its twists and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns
And many a fellow turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out.
Success is failure turned inside out
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you're never sure how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit
It's when things seem worst*

THAT YOU MUSTN'T QUIT.

Author unknown

(Submitted by K. Kosman, Hartford CT, "The Maryfaithful" January-February 1989)

WHAT IS A FAMILY

A family is a very special gift from God
Made up of the love of a Mother

The wisdom of a Father

And the innocence of a child.

It is an endless source of laughter, tears, and smiles
and sighs...and very special memories.

A family is there to cheer us when we're blue to
reassure us when we are troubled to tease us, to spoil
us... and to pray for us.

A family is a guiding light—a light of Gods love and
a lamp of his understanding

A family is this and much more

A family is a feeling

A warm special feeling

That stays with us wherever we may be

And reminds us of those loved ones who share

The spirit of belonging.

(By Ellen Krupp)

MESSAGE of 1/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also today I call you to pray. Pray, little children, in a special way for all those who have not come to know God's love. Pray that their hearts may open and draw closer to my heart and the Heart of my Son Jesus, so that we can transform them into people of peace and love. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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

[Publisher's Note: We have prayed and waited until after 9 PM on Saturday, 1/31/04, to see the posting at <http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm> of the REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 1/25/04 by Father Ljubo Kurtović, OFM. We believe that he or a substitute would have written it on January 26, 2004.

For the past few months the English translation has been very delayed in its postings. We even sent e-mail to the INFORMATION Centre "Mir" Medjugorje, Director: Father Mario Knezovic, Gospin trg 1, 88266 Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tel: +387-36-651-999, E-mail: medjugorje-mir@medjugorje.hr and Web-Site Editor: Lidija Paris E-Mail: lidija.paris@medjugorje.hr but still no REFLECTION was posted.

We have no idea when it will be posted. We can not risk missing our mailing deadline of 2/6/04 because of our need to get the word out on so many PFMC events in the month of February and March. We will either print it separately and enclose it or print it in the March 2004 issue of "The PILGRIM"]

PRESS BULLETIN 194, 1/26/2004

Human Beings and Time

A philosopher noted that the difference between human beings and other creatures consists in their capacity to re-emerge from the river of time, which is passing. Water carries away everything; only human beings are able to fill the time and to give to it a meaning according to the plan of God. Having that in sight, we ask the question: do we re-emerge from the torrent of time or the torrent carries us away, and we do not even realise from where we come and where we go? It is really easy for us to get lost in daily work, in the abundance of our obligations, needs and worries, running from one appointment to another, from one duty to another, losing orientation in time and in space - and what is worst of all - moving away from God and losing the concept of His presence.

We begin a new year of our life, but we still seem to live in what is old and over: our personal history, unfinished work, unaccomplished promises,

uncompleted projects, unpaid bills, missed attempts... The world and the consumer society oppress us and impose their own logic to us. In such an environment, it is difficult for us to position ourselves, and - as Christians - we neglect our identity and our spiritual orientation. In the "modern" world and in the conscience of the "modern" man, God seems little by little to disappear from our hearts and to lose in value.

A spiritual writer had written: "The desert in the hearts causes chaos in the world" Thinking of that, we should not be astonished that there are so many wars and so much evil. Why divorce, immorality, abuse in family, drugs, crimes? We feel all that, we seek answers, but at the same time we seem not to want to receive them from Jesus. We know that Jesus is moderate and concrete, that He asks for a maximum of love, forgiveness and sacrifice. With Him, there is no compromise. Jesus is demanding.

In such a world, in such a mentality, Medjugorje is a light in the night, a place of opening up to God. Here, under the protection of Our Lady, the pilgrim realizes that - without God - we are poor and lost in the world. Gospa feels this very well, this is why she is here, and this is why she does not give up her children. We, the Christians, have to work for a better world, a world where there is more justice. We have to be another Christ and the voice of hope for the others, we have to bear witness and shout where there is silence about God, we have to bring the values of God to our time. We will not be able to do it without the renewal of our personal sacramental life, because it is through the sacraments that God gives us the means for salvation and the force for the road.

Let us make the decision to take this step, to fulfil the task that God has given us in this world.

.....
Father Mario Knezovic

Communions and Concelebrants

During the month of January, 69,000 received Holy Communion and 1089 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

During the year of 2003, 1,179,000 received Holy Communion and 27,498 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

Radio “Mir” Medjugorje Transmits through Satellite

Beginning with Christmas, December 25, 2003, Radio Mir Medjugorje begins to transmit its program live through a satellite. You can listen to our radio and to the voice from Medjugorje in Europe, in the Near East and in North Africa. Radio “Mir” Medjugorje offers a rich daily schedule, and we recommend to you especially the direct transmission of the liturgical prayer program (Holy Mass, Rosary and Adoration) from St. James’ church, at 5 PM.

How to find us and how to listen to our Radio?

Name of the satellite: HOT BIRD 6
Position: 13° E (degrees east)
Transponder No. 90
Reception frequency: 12 520 MHz
Polarization: Y (vertical)
Symbol rate: 27 500
FEC (Forward Error Correction): 3/4
Covering: Europe, Near East and North Africa

How can you support us in this project?

As this project requires important financial expenses, we feel free to ask all the friends of the Queen of Peace – Medjugorje, all our listeners and all those who want to spread Our Lady’s message and the voice from Medjugorje, to support us with their donations. Only with your help will we be able to reach you and your continent.

How to send your donations?

For donations from abroad:
Informativni centar MiR Medjugorje
Zagrebacka banka BH - D.D. Mostar
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Annual Meeting and Recollection for the Scholarship Recipients of the Fund “Fra Slavko Barbarić”

The Association “Fra Slavko Barbaric” organised in Medjugorje on December 29, 2003, “The Students’ Day”.

Several conferences were given: “The Bible speaks to us in images”, by Dr. Fr. Ivan Dugandzic, “What the Croats hold in their coffer” by Branka Separovic, and “Sacrifice is in the foundations” by Prof. Dr. Zvonimir Separovic. There was also an exhibition of paintings created during the Art Colony “Medjugorje 2003”. The program was accompanied by music, performed by scholarship recipients of the Association. The participants assisted at the Evening Prayer Program at St. James’ Parish church. From December 29 to January 1st, the Association also organized a seminar of spiritual recollection for students.

Those who wish to help in the realization of the goals of this Fund may contact the Fund on the following address: Fund “Fra Slavko Barbaric” – Medjugorje / 88266 Medjugorje / BiH / PP 29 / Tel/Fax: +387 36 651 549 / e-mail: studenti.talenti@tel.net.ba

New Year in Medjugorje

This year, several thousands pilgrims from numerous countries and from all the continents gathered together for the New Year’s Vigil. The Vigil was presided by Fr. Mario Knezovic and Fr. Ljubo Kurtovic. About one hundred priests concelebrated

THE FEAST of the HOLY FACE of JESUS - Shrove Tuesday, 2/24/04

Jesus covered with blood and much sadness said to Mother Pierina: "See how much I suffer. I am understood by so few: what ingratitude on the part of those that say they love Me! I have given My Heart as a sensible object of My great love, and I give My Face as a sensible object of My sorrow for the sins of humanity. I desire that a special feast honor it on Shrove Tuesday. The feast will be preceded by a novena in which the faithful make reparation with me, uniting themselves with My sorrow."

The feast occurs on February 24, 2004 (Shrove Tuesday). The nine-day ALPHA-OMEGA Novena begins on Sunday February 15th, 2004. See leaflet enclosed and the article on pages 23 - 25 as well as the Bulletin Notice on page 26. Several people have tried to arrange for public devotions in local churches in the Southern New Jersey area but nothing is currently available for print. Call (856) 768-9228 or use the Internet to get a copy of the Novena to pray with your family at home. We have prepared a LARGE PRINT version of the Novena and posted it at <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/HolyFaceNovenaLP.pdf>. This is a very appropriate preparation for LENT and good preparation for seeing the movie “The Passion of the Christ.”

Mass with them. Pilgrims and parishioners were accommodated also in the New Hall and under the tent, where they could follow on a large screen whatever was happening in the church. The vigil and Holy Mass lasted from 10 PM to 1 AM, and they were translated into several languages.

In our restless world, where sometimes everything seems to be hopeless, this large crowd of the faithful, especially of young people who represent the majority in Medjugorje for the New Year, are a sign of hope for a better world.



On the first day of the year, Marijana Zovko, a pilgrim from Germany, gave a concert of spiritual music in the parish church.

The 4th International Meeting for Married Couples

The 4th International Meeting for Married Couples will take place in Medjugorje from February 11 to 14, 2004. The theme is, *"The fruit of peace is love and the fruit of love is forgiveness."* (Message of January 25, 1996) [Information previously published.]

The 11th International Meeting for Leaders of Peace Centers and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity groups

The 11th International Meeting for Leaders of Peace Centers and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity groups will take place in the New Hall in Medjugorje from February 22 – 26, 2004. The theme of this meeting will be, *"Penance and Contemporary Men"*.

[Information previously published.]

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

PASSIONATE about the PASSION



I really did not know what to expect. I was thrilled to have been invited to a private viewing of Mel Gibson's film "The Passion" but I had also read all the cautious articles and spin.

I grew up in a Jewish town and owe much of my own faith journey to the influence. I have a life long, deeply held aversion to anything that might even indirectly encourage any form of anti-Semitic thought, language or actions.

I arrived at the private viewing for "The Passion", held in Washington D.C. and greeted some familiar faces. The environment was typically Washingtonian, with people greeting you with a smile but seeming to look beyond you, having an agenda beyond the words. I moved out of Northern Virginia over three years ago and realized at that moment that I did not miss this kind of approach at all. I live in southeastern Virginia now, among people who are neither geographically nor constitutionally close to "the beltway" mindset or manner. The film was very briefly introduced, without fanfare, and then the room darkened.

From the gripping opening scene in the Garden of Gethsemane, to the very human and tender portrayal of the earthly ministry of Jesus, through the betrayal, the arrest, the scourging, the way of the cross, the encounter with the thieves, the surrender on the Cross, until the final scene in the empty tomb, this was not simply a movie; it was an encounter, unlike anything I have ever experienced. In addition to being a masterpiece of film making and an artistic triumph, "The Passion" evoked more deep reflection, sorrow and emotional reaction within me than anything since my wedding, my ordination or the birth of my children. Frankly, I will never be the same.

When the film concluded, this "invitation only" gathering of "movers and shakers" in Washington, D.C. were shaking indeed, but this time from sobbing. I am not sure there was a dry eye in the place. The crowd that had been glad-handing before the film was now eerily silent. No one could speak because words were woefully inadequate. We had experienced a kind of art that is a rarity in life, the kind that makes heaven touch earth.

One scene in the film has now been forever etched in my mind. A brutalized, wounded Jesus was soon to fall again under the weight of the cross. His mother had made her way along the Via Della Rosa. As she ran to him, she flashed back to a memory of Jesus as a child, falling in the dirt road out side of their home. Just as she reached to protect him from the fall, she was now reaching to touch his wounded adult face.

Jesus looked at her with intensely probing and passionately loving eyes (and at all of us through the screen) and said "Behold I make all things new." These are words taken from the last Book of the New Testament, the Book of Revelations. Suddenly, the purpose of the pain was so clear and the wounds, that earlier in the film had been so difficult to see in His face, His back, indeed all over His body, became intensely beautiful. They had been borne voluntarily for love.

At the end of the film, after we had all had a chance to recover, a question and answer period ensued. The unanimous praise for the film, from a rather diverse crowd, was as astounding as the compliments were effusive. The questions included the one question that seems to follow this film, even though it has not yet even been released. "Why is this film considered by some to be "anti-Semitic?"

Frankly, having now experienced (you do not "view" this film) "the Passion" it is a question that is impossible to answer. A law professor whom I admire sat in front of me. He raised his hand and responded "After watching this film, I do not understand how anyone can insinuate that it even remotely presents that the Jews killed Jesus. It doesn't." He continued "It made me realize that my sins killed Jesus"

I agree. There is not a scintilla of anti-Semitism to be found anywhere in this powerful film. If there were, I would be among the first to decry it. It faithfully tells the Gospel story in a dramatically beautiful, sensitive and profoundly engaging way. Those who are alleging otherwise have either not seen the film or have another agenda behind their protestations.

This is not a "Christian" film, in the sense that it will appeal only to those who identify themselves as followers of Jesus Christ. It is a deeply human, beautiful story that will deeply touch all men and women. It is a profound work of art. Yes, its producer is a Catholic Christian and thankfully has remained faithful to the Gospel text; if that is no longer acceptable behavior than we are all in trouble. History demands that we remain faithful to the story and Christians have a right to tell it. After all, we believe that it is the greatest story ever told and that its' message is for all men and women. The greatest right is the right to hear the truth.

We would all be well advised to remember that the Gospel narratives to which "The Passion" is so faithful were written by Jewish men who followed a Jewish Rabbi whose life and teaching have forever changed the history of the world.

The problem is not the message but those who have distorted it and used it for hate rather than love. The solution is not to censor the message, but rather to promote the kind of gift of love that is Mel Gibson's filmmaking masterpiece, "The Passion". It should be seen by as many people as possible. I intend to do everything I can to make sure that is the case.

I am passionate about "the Passion." You will be as well.

Don't miss it!

(by Deacon Keith A. Fournier, © Third Millennium, LLC, [but erroneously attributed to Paul Harvey] [Catholic Way, http://home.christianity.com/topics/christianity_and_culture/73121.html](http://home.christianity.com/topics/christianity_and_culture/73121.html)

Keith A Fournier is a constitutional lawyer and a graduate of the John Paul II Institute of the Lateran University, Franciscan University, and the University of Pittsburgh. He holds degrees in Philosophy, theology, and law. He has been a champion of religious liberty and appeared as co-counsel in major cases at the United States Supreme Court. He is the author of seven books and, along with his law practice, serves as the president of both the "Your Catholic Voice Foundation" and "Common Good".)

MEL GIBSON'S PASSION FOR 'THE PASSION'



How ironic that when a movie producer takes artistic license with historical events he is lionized as artistic, creative and brilliant, but when another takes special care to be true to the real-life story, he is vilified.

Actor/producer Mel Gibson is discovering these truths the hard way as he is having difficulty finding a United States studio or distributor for his upcoming film, "The Passion," which depicts the last 12 hours of the life of Jesus Christ. Gibson co-wrote the script and financed, directed and produced the movie.

For the script, he and his co-author relied on the New Testament Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as well as [the diaries of St. Anne Catherine Emmerich](#) (1774-1824) and Mary of Agreda's *The City of God*.

Gibson doesn't want this to be like other "sterilized religious epic(s). I'm trying to access the story on a very personal level and trying to be very real about it." So committed to realistically portraying what many would consider the most important half-day in the history of the universe, Gibson even shot the film in the Aramaic language of the period. In response to objections that viewers will not be able to understand that language, Gibson said, "Hopefully, I'll be able to transcend the language barriers with my visual storytelling; if I fail, I fail, but at least it'll be a monumental failure."

To further ensure the accuracy of the work, Gibson has enlisted the counsel of pastors and theologians, and has received rave reviews. Don Hodel, president of Focus on the Family, said, "I was very impressed.

The movie is historically and theologically accurate." Ted Haggard, pastor of New Life Church in Colorado Springs, Colo., and president of the National Evangelical Association glowed, "It conveys, more accurately than any other film, who Jesus was."

During the filming, Gibson, a devout Catholic, attended Mass every morning because "we had to be squeaky clean just working on this." From Gibson's perspective, this movie is not about Mel Gibson. It's bigger than he is.

"I'm not a preacher, and I'm not a pastor," he said. "But I really feel my career was leading me to make this. The Holy Ghost was working through me on this film, and I was just directing traffic. I hope the film has the power to evangelize."

Even before the release of the movie, scheduled for March 2004, Gibson is getting his wish. "Everyone who worked on this movie was changed. There were agnostics and Muslims on set converting to Christianity... (and) people being healed of diseases."

Gibson wants people to understand through the movie, if they don't already, the incalculable influence Christ has had on the world. And he grasps that Christ is controversial precisely because of Who He is -- God incarnate. "And that's the point of my film really, to show all that turmoil around him politically and with religious leaders and the people, all because He is Who He is."

Gibson is beginning to experience first hand just how controversial Christ is. Critics have not only speciously challenged the movie's authenticity, but have charged that it is disparaging to Jews, which Gibson vehemently denies. "This is not a Christian versus Jewish thing. '(Jesus) came into the world, and it knew him not.' Looking at Christ's crucifixion, I look first at my own culpability in that."

Jesuit Father William J. Fulco, who translated the script into Aramaic and Latin, said he saw no hint of anti-Semitism in the movie. Fulco added, "I would be aghast at any suggestion that Mel is anti-Semitic."

Nevertheless, certain groups and some in the mainstream press have been very critical of Gibson's "Passion." The New York Post's Andrea Peyser chided him, "There is still time, Mel, to tell the truth." Boston Globe columnist James Carroll denounced Gibson's literal reading of the Biblical accounts. "Even a faithful repetition of the Gospel stories of the death of Jesus can do damage exactly because those sacred texts themselves carry the virus of Jew hatred," wrote Carroll. A group of Jewish and Christian academics has issued an 18-page report slamming all aspects of the film, including its undue emphasis on Christ's passion rather than "a broader vision." The

report disapproves of the movie's treatment of Christ's passion as historical fact.

The moral is that if you want the popular culture to laud your work on Christ, make sure it either depicts Him as a homosexual or as an everyday sinner with no particular redeeming value (literally). In our anti-Christian culture, the blasphemous "The Last Temptation of Christ" is celebrated, and "The Passion" is condemned. But if this movie continues to affect people the way it is now, no amount of cultural opposition will suppress its force and its positive impact on lives everywhere. Mel Gibson is a model of faith and courage.

(David Limbaugh, 9 July 2003, ©2003 Creators Syndicate, Inc.

<http://www.townhall.com/columnists/davidlimbaugh/dl20030709.shtml>)

'THE PASSION' REVISITED



A few weeks ago, I defended Mel Gibson's upcoming movie, "The Passion," against unwarranted criticism. After having had the privilege of attending a private screening of the movie, I am even more convinced of its value.

The movie, which depicts the final 12 hours in the life of Jesus Christ, was so deeply moving and profound one cannot do justice to it by attempting to describe it in words.

The closest I can come to a description is to say that viewing it makes you feel almost like a live witness to the historical events (abbreviated from 12 hours to two hours) as they unfolded. It was not like watching a movie from a detached perspective, but being inescapably drawn into the realism of the action.

No punches are pulled here, no emotions are spared, no sensitivities are coddled. It is a depiction of suffering, agony, passion and raw, uncensored violence visited on one man (and God) who volunteered for the indescribable torment out of His sheer love for humankind.

I am sure that Gibson chose stark realism not for the sake of shock and awe or sensationalism, but to recreate as accurate a portrayal of the historical events as humanly possible. The viewer sees the scourging because there was scourging, he sees blood because there was blood, he sees pain because there was pain.

Ironically, many of the attacks on the project are based on its alleged inaccuracy. Some Christian "scholars" are panning the movie, without having

seen it and based on a purloined and now obsolete movie script, because of its dubious historicity and theology.

Gibson erred, they say, not by deviating too much from scripture, but by trying to adhere to it too closely. These "experts" believe they know better than the eyewitnesses to the events what did and didn't happen and what Jesus did and didn't say. Manifestly, their quarrel is not with Mel Gibson, but with the Bible.

As "The Passion" makes clear in terms I could never adequately express, the Gospel message is not reserved for Phds and Biblical scholars. It is simple enough for children to understand, but profound enough to rescue the entire human race and all of its wickedness.

Certain Jewish groups are criticizing the movie, saying it is anti-Semitic and will inflame anti-Semitic sentiments among those who view it. While anti-Semitism in the world is real and we've even witnessed a disturbing resurrection of its infernal irrepressibility throughout the world in recent years, this movie is not an example of it. Quite the opposite.

The movie endeavors to show the historical events "as they went down," without any editorial comment or innuendo, and especially without judgmentalism. It is not about blame and finger pointing, but love and redemption. It does not convey a message of selective condemnation, but universal hope. After all, as sinners, we are all culpable in Christ's death, as Gibson points out, careful to confess his own responsibility.

I believe one of Mel Gibson's main purposes is to use the medium he knows best to spread the Gospel message, which is essentially one of love and eternal life. And the way Gibson has decided to share that message is to focus on the price Christ paid to redeem mankind.

We are so removed from Christ's suffering that we could, if not careful, view the Gospel as a mere mathematical equation. The sacrificial death of the sinless, God-incarnate cancels out the past, present and future sins of all those who place their faith in Him. But this is real life, not an abstract exercise.

God didn't just zap out man's sinfulness by divine edict. Being a God of perfect justice and unlimited mercy, He had to deal with sin -- that is, physically and spiritually deal with it. The Son, while still 100 percent God, humbled and demeaned Himself to become man, to suffer all the indignities of human existence, to become separated from the Father with whom He was united in perfect love and harmony,

and to suffer His full wrath for the sum of all mankind's sins.

We must understand that for this equation to work, for man's redemption to be possible, Christ's suffering, His anxiety, His despair, His sense of betrayal and His separation from the Father had to actually occur in the flesh. "The Passion" emphasizes the reality of Christ's substitutionary suffering in the flesh. In terms that words alone cannot articulate, "The Passion" homes in on the full value of the ransom Christ paid for all of us in the greatest demonstration and act of love ever exhibited.

(David Limbaugh, 30 July 2003, ©2003 Creators Syndicate, Inc.

<http://www.townhall.com/columnists/davidlimbaugh/dl20030730.shtml>

E-MAIL REPORTS on "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"

Hello friends and family, Nathan and I wanted to share with you that we were able to attend a private screening of the new Mel Gibson film titled "The Passion Of The Christ" this past Monday night. We unexpectedly got on the list to go and view it at First Baptist Church, Hendersonville, TN. Neither of us were really prepared for what we viewed. It's really hard to find the Words to tell you how life-changing this film was for both of us.

First of all, Nathan and I felt completely out of place. We got in somehow through Don Donahue (thank you Don) but most of the crowd was the Country Music Industry...artists, radio and press. Ricky Scaggs sort of hosted the event.

This movie changed our lives forever. The room was full of the sound of weeping and loud sobbing, including our own. I told Nathan on the way home that I only wish that I would have seen it as a young teen.

It is so fitting that the whole movie begins with a black screen with the text of Isaiah 53:5, "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

I've attached an e-mail below from Lisa Bevill who attended the viewing as well. She very beautifully describes the experience of viewing the film and then getting to have a question and answer time with Mel Gibson himself. (PLEASE take time to read it because she goes into great detail about the Q & A time that we had with Mel...it was so cool.)

The room was silent as the movie ended and even as Mel walked down the aisle of the chapel people remained completely stunned by the film. After he was formally introduced, everyone stood and applauded him loudly. He so graciously answered each question, and was very candid with us. It was very apparent, though there was a huge absence of "Christian lingo" coming from his mouth (breath of fresh air...thank you) that he has a deep relationship with God, he believes that Jesus is the Messiah, and that he's coming back to get his people.

Mel and his small band of believers around him are asking the church to take on a "grass roots" approach to this film. They are asking us to tell everyone we know about it... They are wanting artists to show the DVD trailer at concerts, to do pre-sales on tickets through churches and FOR EVERYONE TO GO SEE IT OPENING WEEK! It really does matter that you go the first 2 weeks of opening which is FEB. 25TH. It is so important!! THIS MOVIE IS LIFE-CHANGING AND I PROMISE YOU IT IS ANOINTED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD. THIS MOVIE WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

I fell in love with Jesus on Monday night. Either for the first time, or all over again. It is so amazing that the same King who endured that cross and was broken for me, lives inside of me! I am in Him and He is in me. I cannot wait until Noah and Ellen are young teens so that we can let them view this movie.

Please pray for Mel Gibson. Pray for protection for he and his family. Pray that God would pour back on him 100 fold what he spent on this movie so that MORE MOVIES LIKE THIS CAN BE MADE! He spoke about the major warfare that has been going on over this movie. He also told us about several miracles and conversions that happened throughout the making of this film. (Lisa tells about these in the letter below) So amazing...

Anyway, we just wanted you to know about this so that you can have a huge part in the success of this film! Lisa gives out the web site info as well below. You can put a link to it on your web site and you can also request promotional materials from their web site as well.

Blessings to all of you in the name of our Lord!

Christy and Nathan Nickels

(E-mail from Lisa is below)

Hey friends and family,

Last night I attended a private screening of Mel Gibson's movie 12/8/2003, at Ricky Skaggs' church in Hendersonville. I attended with Bonnie and Brent King. There were about 200 people in attendance.

Well, let me just say that I am speechless, moved beyond words and sobered by what I saw last night. I'm sure many of you will be receiving emails from some of your friends who were there as well...and you'll probably be bombarded with their own personal stories.

There were many country artists as well as Christian artists there, along side some radio and press folks.

The movie was in a rough cut version...but still I thought a very finished state, special effects had not been added yet, nor was the music complete still it brought uncontrollable weeping from Everyone. I couldn't stop crying through the whole movie. And when the movie was over, there was complete silence in the church. I wanted the story to go on and on for another two hours. I think the movie was about 2 hours long. It got started late, like around 7:30, and the next time I looked at my watch it was 10:30 so I actually don't even remember. There was a question and answer time with Mel Gibbon himself, so who cared what time it was. Every moment of the movie was captivating, breathtaking still there are no words.

The beating and suffering of Christ was almost unbearable to watch. The scenes with flashbacks of Jesus when he was a little boy and a scene of his mother running to comfort him and then cradling him in her arms after he had fallen down about the age of 4 or 5 was interlaced with scenes of him falling to the ground carrying his own cross, so bloody and unrecognizable and then her holding him in her arms after he had been taken down from the cross. Her face then stared into the camera while she was holding him...and you could just imagine the things she was thinking. Every parent who was seated near me fell apart.

The nails being hammered into his hands was the most real thing I had ever seen. One scene of Jesus and the interaction with his mother...just reminded me of every 20-year old man/child and mom relationship. Where she's trying to get him to come to eat and has to remind him to wash his hands before eating...she brings water to wash his hands and after washing, he gently splashes water on his mother but then wraps his arms around her and kisses her on the cheek and takes off running to the food. I don't know it just reminded me of something my 15 year old Cody would do to me. And the thought of one of my boys going through that, just made me want to die inside.

Anyway, I could go on and on but I truly have no words as you can tell by the book I'm writing here - haa.

There was a question and answer period last night with Mel himself. We had heard rumors that he's

been showing up to these screenings. I got brave enough to put my hand up and ask a question about the miracles that we had heard about, on the set. And he began to talk about so many I couldn't really keep track. I remember hearing about one of the actors being hit by lightning twice yet walking away from it with only smoking fingertips, healings, conversions on the set but I especially remember him talking about a Two-year old child's, hearing and sight being restored...and he said...you know you can't fake that when you're two. So we know it was real.

He was asked about Spiritual warfare on the set...and he just laughingly said..."Oh yeah.. just being in Italy alone was enough warfare, but he said it was intense.

He said that the bad press surrounding the movie is just a few small pressure groups that are causing all the noise. But seem to have the loudest mouths. And that became the reason for having these small private screenings.. is to get the word out and to start a grass roots campaign into a swell. WOW....that sounds familiar. We all get the chance to be Christ's disciples all over again, in a fresh new way...

Ricky Skaggs asked the final question of the night to Mel about how we can pray for him, help him, spread the word etc. He said that "prayer was the most powerful thing. And not to pray for all our enemies to have warts grow on their faces, (laughter), but to pray for our warring angels to fight against Satan's angels, because the people don't know any better, they are clueless...and they are just being used by Satan."

It was mentioned to everyone in the crowd who were artists, press folks, radio and such anyone who had a website to get on a mailing list and sign up. That they would be sending links, so that everyone could put it on their websites, there would be movie trailers that artists could take on tour with them, show at concerts any type of promo material on product tables etc.

They passed out a poster flyer last night as we left... and the official website address is www.thepassionofchrist.com. This is the address they have on all promo materials for the movie. It was a little easier to see the trailer on this site....as it was equipped for all computers video capabilities.

You can go to this website www.passion-movie.com and register to find out more info on how to help. This other site that is listed will just give you more info on press stuff and more press on the miracles that happened.

The movie comes out February 25, 2004. Ash Wednesday...in theaters nationwide. And the movie's official title is The Passion of the Christ. Mel said that he spent 35 million of his own money to make this movie.

Mel, I have to say is a man of the word! He knows the Bible..and is a sold-out believer. He said that this movie has been his passion for the past 12 years....just 3 years ago did the Lord begin to give him landmark signs that now was the time to start filming the movie. He mentioned some of them...but one that stuck in my mind, was him saying that some random little old lady in France I think...came up to him and said something to him that nobody could've known, I don't know what she said to him.. but he said the signs to get started on it, were unmistakable.

Ok....well...I know that I am changed.. and I pray that what I saw will be etched on my brain forever...and Lord, help me to never forget the price you paid for us all. Whenever I begin to argue, or complain....shut my mouth Lord. And help us all to remember,...we are not home yet...that heaven awaits all of us who believe in Him....and that we all have a part to play, a heart to share, a burden to carry...and a story of love and hope to spread....

Thank you for the cross LORD! Make it a point to take your entire family to this movie!

I love you all.... and have a blessed Christmas holiday if I don't see or talk to any of you before then...

Lisa Beville

(Leon J. Gratkowski, FN, DD #4
kcweights@yahoo.com via LFE210@aol.com and
Mullen343@aol.com)

Dear Prayer Group [International Internet Prayer Group (IIPG)],

As I have shared with you before, I have been involved on a voluntary basis helping to promote "The Passion of The Christ," Mel Gibson's movie based on the last twelve hours of Our Lord's life.

The movie will be released on Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday, on 2000 screens all over the country, this is a miracle for a movie that 8 months ago did not have a distributor.

In my area 6 parishes have already booked screens for preview nights on Feb 23, and Feb 24. The Jesuit School will take the entire high school (600 students) at 10:00 AM, on Ash Wednesday and continue with a day of reconciliation and reflection after the movie.

If any of you are interested in putting together groups for your parishes you can go to the AMC web site or Regal Theater web site or call: AMC 800 326 2432 ext 627 Regal 303 792 8622 or call your local theater for information.

To view the new short clip (trailer) it is powerful, go to: <http://www.themoviebox.net/>

The official web site: <http://thepassionofchrist.com>

To read all of the articles: <http://seethepassion.com>

Please get everyone you know to go to the theaters on Feb 25, the first 72 hours will either make or break this movie. I really feel this has the potential to change many hearts and maybe the world, let's keep it in our prayers.

Thank You, God Bless,

Lourdes
(lour92@aol.com)

COMMANDMENTS OF CHRIST

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee.

Matthew 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Matthew 6:2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

Matthew 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.

Matthew 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Matthew 7:7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Matthew 18:8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from

thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

Matthew 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Matthew 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

Matthew 19:18 He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 22:21 They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

Matthew 22:39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Matthew 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Mark 6:8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse.

Mark 9:35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.

Mark 13:37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Luke 6:27 But I say unto you which hear, Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you.

Luke 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

John 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

(Gustavo Daniel Gopar Echeverría, psychologist with children and adults in Montevideo, Uruguay, <http://www.netgate.com.uy/~ggopar/prayers.html>)

JESUS WANTS HIS HOLY FACE TO BE MORE HONORED

Why do you think Jesus miraculously printed His Body on the Holy Shroud on Easter Morning? Jesus Himself gave the answer to Sister Pierina on the First Friday of Lent in 1936:

“I firmly wish that My Face reflecting the intimate pains of My Soul, the suffering and love of My Heart, be more honored! Whoever gazes upon Me, already consoles Me”...

Principal reasons why we must honor the Holy Face of Jesus

Jesus asked it of Sister Pierina on the First Friday of Lent, as we read above. This reason should be enough but for those Thomases who still doubt, there are more.

Thirty-Three Popes have spoken in favor of The Holy Shroud. Here are the statements of a few of them:

Leo XIII declared enthusiastically that this photograph of The Holy Shroud with its undeniable revelation of the true likeness of Christ was a providential event and “a means well-adapted in our time to stimulate everywhere a revival of the religious spirit.”

Saint Pius X referred to the photograph as the “true image of The Holy Shroud” and declared it can be a very effective aid in meditating on the Passion and Death of our Divine Savior. Saint Pius X expressed the desire that this image be published and seen around the world and venerated in every Christian family. He recommended it to all bishops and priests and gave a special blessing to all who propagate the image and devotion to Jesus Christ pictured on the Holy Shroud.

Why do we so rarely see the picture of The Holy Face of Jesus in Catholic churches, religious orders and Catholic homes? Why are so “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him.” many Catholics not more devoted to The Holy Face of Jesus? Why? Because, there is a plot of silence! Demons do not like The Holy Face of Jesus and are doing everything to stop the devotion to The Holy

Face of Jesus. How can we not fall in love with Jesus seeing His Holy Face?

Catholic churches, religious families, Catholic families have nice human pictures of Jesus. Why not have the miraculous Holy Face of Jesus given to us on Easter Morning by the risen Jesus, just as Saint Pius X recommended? When I have to choose between a picture made by a man or by Jesus, the choice is easy for me. I have The Holy Face of Jesus in my office, in my living room, in my room, in my Bible, in my Breviary, in my many books. The result: I am always walking in the presence of Jesus, thinking, loving, adoring and speaking of Jesus. Then it is also impossible not to live in the presence of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Jesus' Mother and ours.

Saint Pius X expressed the desire that the image of The Holy Shroud of Jesus be seen around the world and venerated in every Christian family.

When Catholics will see The Holy Face of Jesus in their churches and hear their priests preaching Saint Pius X's call to devotion to The Holy Face of Jesus, then the devotion to The Holy Face will be spread all over the world like the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

If you want to please a father, speak nicely of his son and publish his picture everywhere. If you want to please God the Father, speak nicely of Jesus, and publish and show The Holy Face of Jesus everywhere. Believe me, doing so is a special way to have the Heavenly Father shower on you and your family graces and blessings so abundantly that you will be obliged to say: Heavenly Father, please stop, because my heart will burst with joy and happiness.

Pius XII asked the faithful to spread knowledge and veneration of so great and sacred a relic. On the occasion of the golden jubilee of Sister Celine Martin, sister of Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus of The Holy Face (her full religious name!), he sent her his photograph and the one of The Holy Face of Jesus! He was truly a pope with faith and without fear of the truth.

John XXIII, on seeing the relic, said, “This can only be the Lord's doing... There we see the finger of God.”

Paul VI added these words: “The Holy Face of Jesus printed on The Holy Shroud of Turin appeared to us so true, so profound, so human and divine, that we admired and loved it like no other image...”

John Paul I has been named “The Pope of The Holy Shroud.”

John Paul II said “The Holy Shroud is the most splendid relic of the Passion and Resurrection [of Our

Lord Jesus Christ]. People say: 'Who will make us see happiness? Raise the light of Thy Face over us!' We become what we contemplate... Why don't we contemplate the Icon of Icons: The Holy Face of Jesus!" Instead of icons made by man, let us venerate the greatest icon of all: The Holy Face of Jesus!

Saint Peter Chrysologus Father of the Church tells us: "A love that desires to see God may not have reasonableness on its side, but it is the evidence of filial love. It gave Moses the temerity to say: 'If I have found favor in Thine eyes, show me Thy face'. It inspired the psalmist to make the same prayer: 'Show me Thy Face'. Even the pagans made their images for this purpose; they wanted to see what they mistakenly revered."

Mass of the Holy Face

The feast of The Holy Face is always on Shrove Tuesday, the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Pius XII confirmed that feast on April 17, 1958 and gave the Mass of The Holy Face of Jesus for all dioceses and religious orders who ask for the Indult from Rome in order to celebrate it.

Papal documents like this can be forgotten unless priests preach on them often. I hope the devotion and Mass to the Holy Face will become as popular as the feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Priests who go to the Basilica of Saint John, in Turin, Italy, can celebrate the Mass of The Holy Face on the very altar above which is a silver box that contains The Holy Shroud on which is imprinted the Holy Face of Jesus. There they can incense the Holy Shroud itself. I myself celebrated the Mass of The Holy Face and incensed The Holy Shroud three times, in three separate visits with my pilgrims.

Great Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus and of The Holy Face, one of the greatest saints of our modern time, Patroness of Missions with Saint Francis Xavier, was also one of the greatest apostles of the Holy Face. Let us all be apostles of the Holy Face of Jesus. Let us speak up and write on the Holy Face. Let us stop doubting like Saint Thomas, but believe, venerate, and distribute copies and show the world the Holy Face of Jesus.

I think and I really hope that one day the Holy Face of Jesus will be seen in all Catholic churches. The Holy Face of Jesus is already in many Catholic cathedrals and churches in Montreal, Quebec City and elsewhere.

What should Catholics think and do about the devotion to the Holy Face? Why not have a nice, large, beautiful Holy Face picture in your living room, your bedroom, in your Bible, Breviary and in

your spiritual books? Like Saint Paul, you will be thinking and talking only of Jesus.

To encourage the faithful to honor the Holy Face of Jesus, Jesus made wonderful promises, just as He did with the twelve promises for those who practice the devotion to His Sacred Heart.

Eight promises of Our Lord to those devoted to His Holy Face:

1. I will grant them contrition so perfect that their very sins shall be changed in My sight into jewels of precious gold.
2. None of these persons shall ever be separated from Me.
3. In offering My Face to My Father they will appease His anger and they will purchase as with celestial coin pardon for poor sinners.
4. I will open My Mouth to plead with My Father to grant all the petitions that they will present to Me.
5. I will illuminate them with My light, I will consume them with My love, I will render them fruitful in good works.
6. They will, as the pious Veronica, wipe My adorable Face outraged by sin, and I will imprint My Divine Features in their souls.
7. At their death, I will renew in them the image of God effaced by sin.
8. By resemblance to My Face, they will shine more than many others in eternal life and the brilliancy of My Face will fill them with joy.

These priceless promises are drawn from the works of Saint Gertrude, of Saint Mechtilde and from the writings of Sister Maria de Saint-Pierre, a Carmelite, who died at Tours, in the odor of sanctity.

(by Father Marcel Nault

<http://www.fatima.org/library/cr47pg13.html>)

HOLY FACE MATERIALS and MEDALS

For information, leaflets, medals, novena booklets, "The Treasure of the Holy Face of Jesus" booklet, church and school programs, please write:

HOLY FACE ASSOCIATION

PO. Box 1000, Station "A"

Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H3C 2W9

or

P.O. Box 821

Champlain, New York, USA 12919-0821

Telephone: (514) 747-0357, Fax: (514) 747-9147

E-mail holyface@holyface.org

<http://www.holyface.org/prayers4.htm>

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

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

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

The **PFMC** was established in the home of Keith and Kathleen Werner based on pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Hercegovina, 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.

The **PFMC** is NOT a store and does not sell anything. We strongly support the use of Catholic stores for books, pamphlets, and religious articles wherever they are convenient to our readers.

We send people to other ministries and commercial operations such as the **Saint Jude Shops**, **Abbott's**, and **Angels of Our Lady of Medjugorje** operated by **Ceal Prizer** for things that we do not carry.

For books, pamphlets, and religious articles, the **PFMC** operates like a church pamphlet or bookrack where selections are made and donations offered based on value posted or received. Most of the other outlets are operating on a for profit basis. Your gifts from the **PFMC** may be a tax break for you.

The **PFMC** has items from inventory on display at Epiphany House. Order forms have been produced in the past and enclosed in previous issues of "**The PILGRIM**" as well as loaded on the Internet as printable pages such as the one for December 2003 <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/12OF03.pdf>.

Copies are available if you did not get yours or if you need extras. We need volunteers to help us get the entire inventory available for production of order

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forms. We eventually want to take pictures and load up a shopping cart program. If you have inventory or computer skills we would love to have your help.

If you wish to order, please determine your order request, 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 to **PFMC**. 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.

The **PFMC** is directed and operated by volunteers who monitor the donations made for all activities. These activities include coordination of pilgrimages to holy places and shrines, retreats in local retreat centers or hotels, and days of recollection at the **PFMC** as well as the inventory management mentioned above.

Operating for many years on a cash only basis, the **PFMC** now accepts DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (CIRRUS) and VISA (PLUS) for all transactions requiring donations to the **PFMC**. This includes for books and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, seminars, "The PILGRIM," or the office equipment replacement fund. We ask that those who use credit cards assist us with the costs associated with their use, about 3%.

Please come and see the **PFMC**. We know you will enjoy what you see and find a way of helping out.

Thank you and God bless you,

(Kathleen and the Volunteer Staff

BULLETIN NOTICES for *PFMC* AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out one or more of following BULLETIN NOTICES and take them to your Pastor and / or Parish Bulletin Coordinator?

Ask your Pastor and / or Parish Bulletin Coordinator to publish these notices to support the events for which you have an interest.

We send "The PILGRIM" to many parishes and ask many pastors to post our Bulletin Notices. We are told that they get so many requests from outside the parish that they simply cannot respond to them all. They have to respond to requests from parishioners.

Thanks for your assistance, we really need and appreciate it.

HOLY FACE NOVENA

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) is encouraging the praying of this novena from Sunday, 15 February 2004 through Shrove Tuesday, 24 February 2004 either in local churches or within the family. Novena prayers and other material can be obtained from the Holy Face Association by calling (514) 747-0357 or using the Internet <http://www.holyface.org>. The PFMC has a few Large Print Novena Booklets available by calling (856) 768-9228 or they may be printed from: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/HolyFaceNovenaLP.pdf>.

25 FEBRUARY 2004, ASH WEDNESDAY - OPENING of the MOVIE “The PASSION of the CHRIST”

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) is collecting information on local showings. National Amusements, <http://www.nationalamusements.com>, will show the film in Atco, NJ and East Windsor, NJ. AMC, www.amctheatres.com, is still deciding which theaters will show the film but many are already posted on <http://www.movietickets.com> as are the Loews Theaters that are showing the film.

Regal Cinemas with Hoyts, United Artists, and Edwards Theaters, will have the film on at least one screen per theater with planned pre-screenings on 2/23 and 2/24 in most of their theaters, <http://www.regalshowtimes.com>. Tickets can be obtained by calling 1-800-FANDANGO or visiting <http://www.fandango.com>.

For those outside New Jersey, particularly our Pennsylvania readers, Carmike Theaters will all be showing the movie on at least one screen. They also use FANDANGO. They have dedicated a page: http://www1.carmike.com/dsp_movie_passion.cfm to support their showing of this movie.

The official web site: <http://thepassionofchrist.com>

To read all of the articles: <http://seethepassion.com>

You can go to this web site www.passion-movie.com and register to find out more info on how to help.

To view the new short clip (trailer), go to: <http://www.themoviebox.net/>

For more information call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

MARCH 2004 *PFMC* RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC), 3 DAY EXTENSION (3DX) and YOUTH TRACK (YT)

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) will be at the Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ. The dates are Friday through Sunday, March 12th, 13th, and 14th, 2004.

The RC theme is “Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves.” (Matthew 10:16) [NAB].

Babsie Bleasdel, Father Bill Halbing, Father Andrew Apostoli, CFR, Father John McFadden, and Sister Claire Marie de l’amore Crucifie of the “*Marian Community Oasis of Peace*” will be featured speakers.

Father Michael Semana, founder of the “*World of Hope Foundation*,” will return to sing Holy Mass on Saturday, a concert Saturday evening as well as his very generous work with the youth and young adults in the Youth Track (YT). The YT will be led by **J.P. Kasperowicz**.

The **Metuchen Diocese Charismatic Music Group “REFUGE”** will be back to provide the weekend music. **Al Barbarino** has agreed to EMCEE for the Weekend and will be providing music and witness. Other musicians including **Marty Rotella, “HEARTS AFIRE,” “CEDARS in CHRIST,”** and “**VOYAGE**,” have been invited.

Father John Hampsch, C.M.F., will lead seminars and workshops in the 3-Day Extension (3DX) on “*The HOLY SPIRIT ALIVE in YOUR LIFE.*”

The 3DX will be on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 15th, 16th, and 17th, 2004.

Rooms may be booked at the **PFMC** \$94 rate with 1-4 persons in a room for both the RC and 3DX as well as up to 7 days before or after the events. Rooms have either one King bed or two Double beds. Roll-away beds are available. This rate and availability of additional rooms expires on 2/12/2004. For Hotel reservations please call NOW: 1-800-HILTONS or locally (856) 665-6666.

Please make your reservations for the RC, YT, and 3DX with the **PFMC** as soon as possible.

Please make your reservations for hotel rooms with the HILTON as soon as possible.

Consider making reservations for the RC, YT, and/or 3-DX and donating for them as a gift to your favorite relative. All donations to the **PFMC** are deductible from your income tax.

For information call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>

or find reservation forms at <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04RET3CF.pdf>.

**24 MARCH 2004 - 4 APRIL 2004,
PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE, B-H
via PRAGUE, CZ**

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will coordinate a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina via Prague, Czech Republic, with Father Thomas Kiely, Saint Lawrence, Lindenwold, NJ, as Spiritual Director.

Reservation forms are available at: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04PPM04.pdf>.

Departure is on Wednesday, 24 March 2004, from John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport, NY. Return is to JFK on Sunday, 4 April 2004.

Requested donation is \$1399 per person double occupancy plus \$130 to cover air taxes. Single supplement is \$399. As with all **PFMC** pilgrimages, this includes breakfasts and suppers throughout the pilgrimage. A deposit of \$500 is required with reservation. Full payment is due by 24 December 2003.

For more information call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

**1 AUGUST 2004 - 9 AUGUST 2004,
PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES, FRANCE
via PARIS, FRANCE**

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will coordinate a pilgrimage to Lourdes, France via Paris, France, with Father John (Giovanni) Tino, Saint Joan of Arc, Jackson Heights, NY, as Spiritual Director.

Reservation forms are available at: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04PPL08.pdf>.

Departure is on Sunday, 1 August 2004, from John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport, NY. Return is to JFK on Monday, 9 August 2004.

Requested donation is \$1999 per person double occupancy plus \$130 to cover air taxes. Single supplement is \$399. As with all **PFMC** pilgrimages, this includes breakfasts and suppers throughout the

pilgrimage. A deposit of \$500 is required with reservation. Full payment is due by 1 May 2004.

For more information call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

**10 – 22 OCTOBER 2004, PILGRIMAGE
to MEDJUGORJE, B-H via ROME, IT**

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will coordinate a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina via Rome, Italy, with Doctor Bob and Anita Rice of In His Omnipotent Presence (IHOP) Ministries, Albuquerque, NM, and Father Phil Sladicka, Saint Patrick / Holy Spirit / Saint Michael, Olyphant, PA, as Spiritual Directors.

Reservation forms are available at: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04PPM10.pdf>.

Departure is on Sunday, 10 October 2004, from John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport, NY. Return is to JFK on Friday, 22 October 2004.

Requested donation is \$2299 per person double occupancy plus \$130 to cover air taxes. Single supplement is \$399. As with all **PFMC** pilgrimages, this includes breakfasts and suppers throughout the pilgrimage. A deposit of \$500 is required with reservation. Full payment is due by 12 July 2004.

For more information call (856) 768-9228 or visit <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>.

Thanks for anything you can do to post these notices in parish bulletins or even with local prayer groups. Information sheets with reservation forms are available at or from the PFMC. Please help us to spread the word.

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

CONFERENCE CORNER

26-27 March 2004 At John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, DC. Father Seraphim Michalenko, MIC, and Doctor Robert Stackpole, STD. (413) 298-1184 or jp2@marian.org.

Other conferences will be listed as they become known. We need conference or meeting notices no later than the 25th of the month before the event. The earlier the notice arrives the better off we are with regard to making space for it. The Internet will often provide links to additional conference information sites: i.e., <http://www.medjugorje.org/medconf.htm>.

CALENDARS:

In *February*, the Church observes the Solemnity of **Ash Wednesday (25)**, Feasts of **Presentation of the Lord (2)**, Memorials of *Saints Agatha (5)*, *Paul Miki and Companions (6)*, *Scholastica (10)*, *Cyril and Methodius (14)* and *Polycarp (23)*, Optional Memorials of *Saints Blase (3)*, *Ansgar (3)*, and *Peter Damian (21)* as well as *Our Lady of Lourdes (11)*, and **Seven Founders of the Order of Servites (17)**. Most Church calendars show **Presidents' Day (16)** and **Saint Valentine's Day (14)**.

In *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **SAINTE JOSEPH, HUSBAND of MARY (19)** and the **ANNUNCIATION of the LORD (25)**, the Optional Memorials of *Saints Katherine Drexel (3)*, *Casimir (4)*, *Perpetua and Felicity (7)*, *John of God (8)*, *Frances of Rome (8)*, *Patrick (17)*, *Cyril of Jerusalem (18)* and *Turibius de Mongrovejo (23)*.

AROUND the *PFMC* AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 4 through 7, the information sheets and reservation forms for the 2004 RETREAT CONFERENCE and the March 24 to April 4, 2004 pilgrimage enclosed as well as the Bulletin Notices on pages 25 through 27.

Please help get the word out on *PFMC* events.

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

For additional information, call the *PFMC* at (856) 768-9228. Please speak clearly and slowly, leave

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Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc.
NON-PROFIT and IRS Code 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT
Keith and Kathleen Werner, Co-Directors
61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963
(856) 768-9228 FAX: (856) 768-9428

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**
**Mailed early AM,
Friday, 2/6/2004**

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

PLEASE DON'T 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 address has changed, please send a change of address.

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



your name, address, and phone number with area code so that we may return your call. You may FAX your questions to (856) 768-9428.

PFMC PRESENTATIONS

Kathleen and Keith are available to participate in Parish or other prayer group meetings with witness, and/or videotape or slide presentations, followed by a question and answer session.

The experiences and continuation of the *PFMC* ministries for Our Lady and her Son in this time of manifestation of Our Lord's mercy and graces are shared at no cost. Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value posted on each article made available at the displays.

Displays may be set up without presentations.

Call (856) 768-9228 or send request via e-mail.

INTERNET / E-MAIL

Visit our web site:

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

or send us e-mail at:

PFMCkmw@comcast.net (Kathleen) or

keithwerner@comcast.net.

