



# The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 15, No. 3

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March 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



*Oh, Lord, help me to still myself, to close my eyes and let go of all my worries and concerns. Help me to let go of all the busy-ness of this day, and all the attempts to control my tomorrows.*

*Open my ears to new spiritual sounds for nearby, from far away, from those around me, from those who love me, and even from those who do not love me.*

*Help me Lord to open my eyes to the spiritual interior life you offer me daily. Let me be open to all that You put directly in front of me.*

*With new colors and shapes, let the bodies that stand before me as trees, be seen as persons, whole and healthy, embraced in Your love.*

*Lord, let me seek to be open to Your love that is pouring into me at this very minute. Help me to enter into the woundedness, and help me to give You my all.*

*In touching the garment of Your cloak, grant that I might be healed. Open this heart to a divine desire that will move all obstacles to Your presence in my life.*

*Increase my longing in my heart for trust and for truth. Teach me Your WORD. In calling me by name may I respond, Lord, with the prayer of this weak heart – "Open me up Lord, to all Your Love."*

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

## LAST OPPORTUNITY to SIGN UP for 12-17 MARCH 2004 EVENTS

Please make your hotel room reservation with 1-800 HILTONS and send your event registration

The **February** MESSAGE, alleged to be from GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Hercegovina**, is presented beginning on page 16 (centerfold page) with the 3/26/04 PRESS BULLETIN.

forms to the PFMC. FAX to (856) 768-9428 as late as 11 March 2004. Bring forms with you if you intend to walk-in as a courtesy to the other walk-in registrants and the registration volunteers.

We have been told that a great number of people are coming to one or more of the events but we have not been able to understand the late registrations this year. We need to hear from you if you are coming to any of the events: Retreat Conference (RC), 3-Day Extension (3DX), or Youth Track (YT).

The speakers are all very powerful evangelists. Activities begin at 6 PM on Friday March 12, 2004, with registration open around 4 PM. Plan to begin a wonderful escape into the interior life. Use the previously enclosed canary color information sheets with registration forms for all particulars.

Because of the immense cost of printing, we can only guarantee an event booklet, pre-printed nametag and free packet to those who have pre-registered. Please respect our need for your pre-registration.

## IVAN DRAGICEVIC to VISIT NEW JERSEY and PENNSYLVANIA

GOSPA's *Missionaries of Peace* has arranged for Ivan Dragicevic to participate in events in **New Jersey and Pennsylvania** on **Sunday, 21 March 2004**, through **Tuesday, 23 March 2004**. **Monday, 22 March 2004**, will be hosted by **Dom Lettieri** and the team from **In His Sign (IHS) Ministries**. **Tuesday, 23 March 2004**, will be hosted by **Kathleen Werner** and the team from the **PFMC**.

The evenings will last from about 5:30 PM until about 10 PM with prayer, praise, and worship including 10-20 decades of the Rosary starting at 6 PM, Holy Mass (except Allentown) about 7 PM, and a talk by **Ivan Dragicevic**. A free-will or love offering is planned.

**"The PILGRIM" for March 2004 is dedicated to "MARY, OCEAN OF LOVE, UNCONQUERED BY A LACERATED HEART."** See page 3 for an **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."** or **Table of Contents** listing.

Daily, about 6:40 PM, no matter where he is in the world or in what time zone, Ivan is stopped in his prayer and blessed with an apparition of the GOSPA, Our Lady, Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mother of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The GOSPA has been giving him daily encouragement and teaching him since the first speaking apparition on 6/25/1981 in the parish of Saint James, Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina. She often gives her motherly blessing to all those assembled at the time of the apparition.

The planned locations for this visit by Ivan Dragicovic are listed below with the contact information for the ministries involved.

### ***Sunday, 21 March 2004***

**Location:**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel**, 904 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA 18101. Seating to open at 5:00 PM.

**Admission Seat Reservations (650):**

**GOSPA's Missionaries of Peace**, P. O. Box 1324, Bethlehem, PA 18016-1324  
(610) 966-6571 [GospaPA@cs.com](mailto:GospaPA@cs.com)

### ***Monday, 22 March 2004***

**Location:**

**The Drexelbrook**, 4700 Drexelbrook Drive, Drexel Hill, PA 19026. Doors open at 5 PM.

**Admission Tickets (800):**

**In His Sign (IHS) Ministries**, 136 Garrett Avenue, Rosemont, PA 19010-1359  
(610) 527-2906; 1-888-34FAITH [343-2484]  
FAX: (610) 527-1816, [praise@inhissign.com](mailto:praise@inhissign.com)

### ***Tuesday, 23 March 2004***

**Location:**

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) Church**, 178 W. White Horse Pike (US 30), Berlin, NJ 08009-2023 or

**Saint Agnes (SA) Church**, 710 Little Gloucester Road, Blackwood, NJ 08012-3311

Due to printing deadlines and the pastor's vacation, we cannot confirm the PFMC desired location: SA. If we obtain the pastor's permission, we will send out notices on the SA location containing directions and maps with the seat reservation / ticket responses in the stamped, self-addressed envelopes you submit to us. If we do not receive the pastor's permission to use SA, the visit will be as currently planned in Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) Church, Berlin, NJ.

**Admission Tickets (650 OLMC / 1400 SA):**

***Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)***  
61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043-4963  
(856) 768-9228; FAX: (856) 768-9428  
[pfmckmw@comcast.net](mailto:pfmckmw@comcast.net)

Dom Lettieri and Kathleen Werner have determined that a ticket system must be utilized to assist with making sure that limited seating is not overwhelmed. IHS and PFMC are asking a **\$10** donation for each seat reservation or ticket.

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the ministries involved for the specific night or nights you wish to be present to hear Ivan speak about his experiences with and messages from the GOSPA.

IHS and PFMC must have a name for each ticket to be issued. Please send in your name, address, and phone number, or list of names, addresses, and phone numbers, and a stamped self-addressed envelope as soon as possible so IHS and PFMC have time to return your ticket(s) to you by regular mail.

Priests should indicate their desire to concelebrate Holy Mass (except at the Allentown location). Deacons should indicate their desire to assist with either Holy Mass or the services provided. Handicapped should indicate if they will use wheel chairs or other medical apparatus that will not fit in normal seating. This is for special seating or places.

No one should come to the listed locations expecting to gain entry without pre-arrangements for admission (Allentown, PA) or a ticket (Drexel Hill, PA and NJ).

Call each ministry up to NOON on the day of each visit, if you have not received your tickets. There may be some admission seat reservations / tickets reserved for pick-up at the door of each facility.

## **SIGN-UP NOW for PFMC EVENTS**

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.

PLEASE REGISTER for PFMC events in a timely fashion. Events are listed on page 1 and following as

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.

well as in the Bulletin Notices on pages 30 and 31.

Please help us with posting Bulletin Notices 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.

## “THE PASSION of the CHRIST”

The movie “The Passion of the Christ” opened on *February 25, 2004, Ash Wednesday*. Every adult claiming to be Catholic should see this movie and bring non-Catholic friends. 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 article on pages 24 as well as the detailed Bulletin Notice on page 30.

## APATHY is APPALLING!

Even amongst the remnant, **apathy** is invading the souls of the faithful. To all volunteer ministries and those who staff parishes, this is **appalling**.

### Apathy:

1. Lack of interest or concern, especially regarding matters of general importance or appeal; indifference.
2. Lack of emotion or feeling; impassiveness.

### Appalling:

To fill with consternation or dismay.

Good priests sit in the confessional for hours waiting for penitents in the What Would Jesus Do! (WWJD) mode of their vocation. Penitents come but forget the three essentials at the conclusion of a good confession detailed in the final words of the Act of Contrition: confess sins, do penance, and amend life.

We have been trying since 1989 to bring pilgrims (sinners) to Jesus through Mary. We have planned and scheduled activities in support of our discernment in our sinfulness as ways to amend life.

Seldom have we had to cancel events due to lack of response or participation. We are struggling with the 2004 schedule of pilgrimages as we go to press. There were only 2 paid reservations for the 24 March 2004 through 4 April 2004 pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina via Prague, Czech Republic. We have had to cancel this pilgrimage and are in the process of reworking it for 2005. We are hoping to get good rates for the week following Easter, 27 March 2005. We will publish new information when we confirm it.

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If you wish to visit Lourdes via Paris with us in August, let us know now. If you wish to visit Medjugorje via Rome with Bob and Anita Rice in October, please let us know as soon as possible.

Please participate in PFMC activities even if only to visit Epiphany House for some quiet prayer or reading in the library. Stimulate your prayer life, your understanding of the WORD and the HOLY SPIRIT, both of which should be coming ALIVE in your LIFE. We all struggle with the “amend life” portion of our regular confession. Ask the Lord, Jesus Christ, and His Blessed Virgin Mother, Mary, for assistance. Listen to what they encourage you to accomplish in your life. Be open to the gifts and workings of the Holy Spirit in your life.

(Keith Werner)

## PLEASE MARK YOUR 2004 CALENDAR for *PFMC* EVENTS

See **Conference Corner** on page 31 as well as **Bulletin Notices** on pages 30 through 31. Most *PFMC* events will be preceded by their own *PFMC* information sheets with reservation forms.

### 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 22, 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 is still struggling with Diabetes and Heart problems.

### June 2004

**June 27, 2004, Sunday, Keith and Kathleen** will be celebrating their **40<sup>th</sup> 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 **19<sup>th</sup>** to the **26<sup>th</sup>**, so the *PFMC* will be closed during these days.

### July 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 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**.

**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 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. Call (856) 768-9228 if you do not have a blue color information sheet with reservation forms as enclosed in this issue. 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. 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.

(The *PFMC* Volunteer Staff Members)

## CONTACT with the *PFMC*

**D**o you wish to keep receiving **"The PILGRIM"**? 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

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the box on page 11 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.

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

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

## **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 registrations, and the hotel needs your room reservations. Please sign up with the **PFMC** and the **Hilton Hotel** as soon as possible. Help us with advance registration and room reservations.

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 using 1-800-HILTONS. Our block of rooms at the \$94 rate was to

be booked by 2/12/2004 but the hotel has graciously extended that rate for another month. Ask for it as well as smoking or non-smoking rooms. Cots and/or refrigerators may be ordered at \$15 each per night.

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 gone to **Brooklyn** to pray 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

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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**

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**Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, PA.**

**OFFICE HELP, ASSEMBLY, LABELS and MAILING:** Too many

wonderful pilgrims and volunteers to mention them all by name.

previously enclosed in "*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 with the closest FAX number and we will FAX you information sheets and registration forms. The information sheets and forms are posted for printing on the Internet at: [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04RET3CF.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04RET3CF.pdf). If you do not have a printer, ask someone to print for you. RC, YT, and 3DX schedules are also posted.

Please make your **PFMC** RC, YT, and 3DX reservations using the forms provided by the **PFMC**. Call (856) 768-9228 If you have forms

Make your Hilton Hotel reservations with the hotel via **1-800 HILTONS** or **(856) 665-6666**. 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.

**(Kathleen and the Reservation Volunteers)**

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## SALUTATIONS to SAINT JOSEPH

The memory of Saint Joseph was venerated from the very earliest centuries. In 1870 Pope Pius IX declared Saint Joseph Patron of the Universal Church. He is also patron of a happy death. We should invoke his protection often. His feast, kept on March 19, has been celebrated since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The feast of Saint Joseph the Worker is celebrated May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Hail, Joseph**, image of God the Father.

**Hail, Joseph**, foster-father of God the Son.

**Hail, Joseph**, sanctuary of the Holy Ghost.

**Hail, Joseph**, beloved of the Holy Trinity.

**Hail, Joseph**, most faithful helper in the great plan of redemption.

**Hail, Joseph**, most worthy spouse of the Virgin Mother.

**Hail, Joseph**, guardian of holy virgins.

**Hail, Joseph**, exact observer of holy silence.

**Hail, Joseph**, ardent lover of holy poverty.

**Hail, Joseph**, examples of meekness and patience.

**Hail Joseph**, mirror of humility and obedience.

**Hail Joseph**, patron of the Catholic Church.

**(Saint John Eudes, "The Maryfaithful" January-February 1989)**

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## JOSEPH, MOST CHASTE

Saint Joseph took the vow of chastity

He kept it all his life.

This must be told humanity

For they are full of strife.

Living as brother and sister

Can be done we know.

Many souls have done it.

This way they chose to go.

Mary, purest Virgin

Was ever undefiled.

She bore but God's Son

Our Jesus meek and mild

Brethren means brother

Born in a human state.

Both those who are of one mind

Please make not this mistake.

Mary is a virgin, ever undefiled

Only in pure vessel

Would God place his Only Child.

Never make such an error

You insult the Son of God!

**(Sister Mary Agatha, O.S.F., The Maryfaithful,  
January-February 2003)**

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## SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

**H**ave you ever found yourself doing work that is pure drudgery? Have you ever looked at your effort as a mindless waste of time? Have you ever observed how people performing a similar task and noted that one person seemed to lift the spirit of those around him, while the other apparently inspired only joyless motion and toil?

If you have ever been in any of these positions, it is good to remember that work in itself is not holy. Bending the biceps is not superior to bending the knee, nor is salvation the fruit of dish soap, suds, and washing clothes. Work alone is not the key to Heaven.

This said; the appearance of one model of sanctity might have deceived. With feet firmly planted on the ground, and ankle-deep in wood shavings, with sawdust and sweat mingling beneath the straps of his sandals, St Joseph spent many unbroken hours of toil. Beneath the changing sun passing through his shop, his only visible "prayers" were the beads" of perspiration across his brow. Here we see no miracles or ecstasies. We see the simple, humble, dedicated work of a father earning his living. We see a provider bent in work. We see splinters, knots of wood, hammering and sawing. We see a person

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becoming a saint, no after hours but on the job, working his way to sanctity.

Somehow this picture of sanctity is easier to relate to than to the more common legends of saintly phenomena. We persist in seeing a saint wrapped in robes of holiness, prayer and conversation with God. We see the saint as a person apart, personally chosen early in life, and given a vision of his earthly duty and direction. But when we look at Joseph we generally see a brown leather work apron, a T-square and a hammer.

With all of this before our eyes, we must remember that it is the intention, the human mind and heart, which transforms work from drudgery into joy. And of course such a transformation can only occur when the work is honest and honorable. Only with such a merger, such a fusion of mind and action, does work assume the stature of prayer in the eyes of God. It is here that Saint Joseph assumes the model of the perfect worker. In peace, in solitude, in moderation, in purity of heart, in intention and a perfect balance of intellect and will merged with action, literally for the love of God, Saint Joseph sanctifies the smallest effort, the simplest chore.

From this we realize that the task, if honest and upright, though appearing lowly and humble, receives a higher rating in heaven. We cannot pray all of the time (in a formal sense). Most people's prayer must be work. How lowly that is does not matter.

Saint Joseph is also an excellent example and reminder that before God, it is not so much our position in life which counts, as the way we live our position. The grime-encrusted working man gleams as brightly as the glinting pen and speech of the politician in the eyes of God. The determining factor is how each carry out his duty.

The homemaker and her kitchenware may outshine the doctor and his sterilized instruments, especially if the doctor operates needlessly or performs abortions. The mother in her work-worn frock is more beautiful than the socialite in her gowns who leaves her children alone while she flits from one party to another. The balancing gaze of Heaven is the judge. If a man's soul is clean, the dirt on his skin remains skin deep. He is better than the well-kept and manicured type, whose soul has been submerged in evil. But in either case, the good man acknowledges his faults, his sins, and repents. The good man confesses his wrong doings and strives to amend his life. He does not make excuses about his weaknesses. He does not shirk responsibility and say, "nature made me that way."

Of course there are saints of renown. There are kings: Louis of France, Stephen of Hungary; and queens: Elizabeth of Portugal and Blanche of Castille. There are statesmen like Saint Thomas More and physicians like Saints Cosmas and Damian but it was Saint Joseph, the humble and common carpenter of Nazareth, who received the Divine charge of the Son of God. Saint Joseph was Father and guardian of Our Redeemer and His Mother, Mary Immaculate.

A well-worn phrase is "Go TO JOSEPH." It is well worn for good reason. Saint Joseph's intercession is powerful. He is Patron of the Universal Church, Patron of the Dying; he is a master of virtue and a father ever concerned for our well-being. The power of his intercession is shown in that all of the other saints have gone to him for help in their struggles toward sanctity, whereas Joseph himself went directly to the Son.

Saint Joseph is a well of favor; of sanctity and of intercession. If Christ is the Water of life, then Saint Joseph is the sure well at which to quench our thirst. He is like a well: quiet, hidden and deep. The fountain of the various dynamic and glamorous saints may attract us, but when we get down to the business of becoming holy, we must go to the well. We must "GO TO JOSEPH."

Tradition gives us different saints for specific requests, for certain needs and favors. But when our problem does not seem to fit any category, when we do not know where to turn, we "GO TO JOSEPH." Then we lower the bucket of prayer into the deep water of Saint Joseph's quiet intercession with Jesus. Saints and sinners alike have found that it rarely returns empty.

### GO TO JOSEPH

Go to Joseph.  
In thy joys thou wilt rejoice the more.  
Go to Joseph.  
In thy grief, when  
Death knocks at thy door.  
Go to Joseph.  
No matter when!  
Thy refuge he will be,  
He holds the key to Jesus' Heart;  
Its treasures are for thee!

**(Unknown - from Maryfaithful, May-June 2000)**

### CONJUGAL LOVE

From the clay of the ground, God formed a man,  
Then a suitable partner, God made for the man,  
Male and female He made them, as part of His plan,  
Equal, but different, is woman from man.

Marriage is the union of husband and wife,  
Who pledge to each other to be faithful for life.  
No longer two, but joined from above,  
They cling to each other in life giving love.

From the beginning, God gave husband and wife  
A share in creating a new human life.  
Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth;  
God's command is fulfilled in each baby's birth.

Conjugal love is a part of God's plan,  
But only between a woman and a man,  
And only for the married is this gift given,  
For all others, this gift is forbidden.

Homosexual behavior is not in accord  
With Holy Scripture, the Word of the Lord.  
Woman with woman, or man with man,  
Is rejected by God in His holy plan.

To the singles who burn with lustful desire,  
It is better to marry than to be on fire.  
And all who succumb to their lustful desire,  
Must change their behavior or suffer God's ire.

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(Bill Duncan)

## **MARRIAGE of MAN and WOMAN IS PART of DIVINE PLAN –**

### **TRAITS of CONJUGAL UNION NEEDED for "PACT of LOVE TO BE AUTHENTIC"**

At a time when new "family" models are being proposed, John Paul II says that the marital union between a man and a woman is part of God's plan itself.

"Marriage and the family cannot be considered as a simple product of historical circumstances, or a superstructure imposed from outside on human love," the Pope said today when meeting with the parish priests of his diocese, Rome.

"On the contrary, they [the family and marriage] are an interior need of this love, so that it can be realized in its truth and in its fullness of mutual self-giving," the Holy Father said in the address he prepared for the meeting, although eventually he preferred to speak spontaneously.

"Even the characteristics of conjugal union, which today are often unknown or rejected, such as its unity, its indissolubility, and its openness to life, are, on the

contrary, necessary for the pact of love to be authentic," John Paul II explained.

"Precisely in this way the bond that unites man and woman becomes the image and symbol of the covenant between God and his People, which finds in Jesus Christ its definitive fulfillment," he added. "Because of this, among the baptized, marriage is a sacrament, an efficacious sign of grace and salvation."

To understand the family and to help it, it is necessary to go back to its "source," namely, "to God, who is Love and who lives within himself a mystery of a personal communion of love," John Paul II explained.

"In creating humanity out of love in his image, God inscribed in man and woman the vocation and, consequently, the capacity and responsibility of love and communion," he said.

"This vocation can be realized in two specific ways: marriage and virginity," the Holy Father said. "Both are, therefore, each one in its proper form, a concretization of the most profound truth of man, of his being image of God."

"God's plan has not changed, who has inscribed in man and woman the vocation to love and to the family. Today the action of the Holy Spirit is no less intense, gift of Christ, dead and risen," he continued.

"And no error, no sin, no ideology, no human deceit can do away with the profound structure of our being, which needs to be loved and in turn is capable of truly loving," the Pope added.

Although the Pope did not read these words, he asked the priests to read them later in *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican's semiofficial newspaper.

(VATICAN CITY, FEB. 26, 2004 [www.Zenit.org](http://www.Zenit.org) -  
ZE04022602)

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## **DELIVERANCE MINISTRY?**

**W**hat is Deliverance Ministry? Put quite simply it is removing evil spirits from their hosts, primarily human beings. It is looking at the effects of sin in one's life, and confronting it. It is working toward changes in behaviors and of attitudes that will reflect in the person's life, so that they may come to the light of God's love, and a personal relationship with Him. However, one hears of deliverance ministry involving everything from casting spirits out of animals, cars and houses. This activity may sound strange, but before you are tempted to dismiss it completely you must consider several important factors.

Dismissing deliverance completely is almost impossible for Christians, because it is a Biblical concept and an important aspect of the ministry of Jesus Christ. The New Testament contains numerous references to Satan, demons and evil spirits. During his ministry, Jesus frequently cast out evil spirits. One example is found in Mark 5:13. "He (Jesus) gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned." Because of accounts like this one, Christians must deal with the reality of spiritual warfare and evil spirits. Generally, there is agreement among Christians, both Roman Catholics and Protestants, that evil spirits do exist and in some very unique situations deliverance may be considered.

Although there is no one definitive view of Deliverance Ministry, "Pigs In the Parlor" by Frank and Mae Hammond is perhaps one of the best known sources of looking at deliverance ministry. The book has been read by millions of Christians around the world. It lays out a very clear explanation of this ministry, which is based on the authors knowledge of deliverance based on their involvement in the Charismatic Movement.

The book begins by making a distinction between demons 'possessing' and 'indwelling' Christians. The authors say that the word possessed, "suggests total ownership. In this sense, a Christian could never be 'demon possessed'. He could not be owned by demons because he is owned by Christ." p.1 They quote 1 Cor. 6:19,20 in order to support this viewpoint. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." p.1 They then conclude, "The Christian should consider indwelling demons as unnecessary and undesirable trespassers." p.1 In other words, Christians may not be 'demon possessed' but they can be inhabited by them whenever the demons want to 'trespass'.

The basis upon which the authors of 'Pigs In The Parlor' say this trespass takes place is an "unlawfully and stealthily" encroachment upon the territory of another. p.1 "Trespassers can continue their unlawful practices until they are confronted and challenged on the basis of one's legal rights... No demon can remain when the Christian seriously desires him to go! 'Resist the devil and he will flee from you...' The Christian must be assured that no demon has a legal right to indwell his body." pp. 1,2 Apparently the Christian is safe from demons indwelling the human spirit because "the Divine Spirit indwells the human

spirit at the time of salvation. Demon spirits are confined to the soul and body of a believer. Demons afflict the emotions, the mind and the will and the physical body - not the spirit of a Christian. **The aim of deliverance is to remove the trespassing evil spirits from the soul and body in order that Jesus can reign over these areas..." p.137**

Pigs come into the picture, because "demons are called 'unclean spirits'." p.2 In the Scriptures the word unclean is used "to designate certain creatures" like "the pig" that "the Israelites were not to eat." p.2 "The New Testament lifts this prohibition by showing that these creatures were spiritual types." p.2 "As a spiritual type the pig is to the natural realm what the demon is to the spiritual realm. Just as the Israelite zealously protected himself from pigs, the Christian is to guard himself from contact with evil spirits." p.3

When Christians are indwelled with demons, what do the authors of "Pigs In The Parlor" suggest be done? They advise that one's Salvation "needs to be worked out." The primary meaning of salvation in their view is "deliverance from the molestation of enemies"... Jesus has delivered our SPIRIT from the power of Satan; now He says to us, "Work out your own deliverance from the molestation of enemies until you have freed both SOUL and BODY." pp. 137,138

**(Tremont Healing Team, Greenwood, Nova Scotia, edited from [www.glinx.com/~neila/deliverance.html](http://www.glinx.com/~neila/deliverance.html))**

## SLOW ME DOWN LORD

I want you all to look at life as I have had to do. It is such a busy world now, it is difficult to take the time to look around, to hug a person, to smile or to listen to a person's story a bit, to console a friend or even a spouse, or to mend a wound of a child. There's not enough time to call a friend, or to send a card just to say hello. There's not enough time to enter the silence of a little nap to rest the temple of God. And the responses to life are always hurried as though this was your last hour to get everything of all your goals in life done in one easy stroke.

The Church is full of people looking as though they have spiritual maturity, because of their good behavior. But look around good readers. Look at the person next to you, and look at the priest in front of you. Look to those in back of you and whose hand you shake in the sign of peace. You will see in their eyes that every one, in some small way, is keeping pain hidden as though it was a virtue to do so. It is time to leave the emotional bondage and the secret hidden defects. It is time to call for an abstinence from sinning. It is time to search for freedom.

Slow down a bit and become more aware of all around you. Notice what stirs you up emotionally in negative ways. Don't stuff what you find, but take the time to feel what is happening and to deal with it. It is just too easy to embrace one's behavior unless you look at the pain. With eyes wide open, God calls us all to walk in inner peace. Our Lady comes and says "Peace, Peace, Peace". Peace is a byproduct of your truthfulness with yourself. You will know it all from within. You will have perfect peace only if you look to Christ, ask Him to heal within, and you are walking in a relationship with Him.

So, slow down. God wants to give you a new heart, new spiritual eyes, and new spiritual ears. He offers them for free. But you have to open your arms to receive these gifts. If you don't they may go right around you without your learning of their benefits to a new life in Christ.

(by Kathleen Werner)

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## HEALING of MEMORIES

There are many uses of healing of the memories that can be used and are important in a person's life. In healing of memories of abortion, women are freed of the deceit under which they allowed the abortion to occur. Many have tried to put their past behind them and they struggle with behaviors that will cover their memories and feelings and thus their pain.

Out of memories one seeks to build one's life in such fashion as will yield the greatest self actualization. This is true for Christian and non-Christian alike. All of us seek that which we believe will best fulfill our lives. While the Christian seeks to find freedom to live out God's will as a means of finding fulfillment, the non-Christian seeks freedom to seek satisfaction through obedience to another god or even his or her own self will.

One tends to build their own kingdom as we accumulate memories and experiences. It is our remembered perceptions of our past that give the quality to our lives and define us as persons. We tend to interpret experience through them, even as we add to their content. We will repress those memories and feelings which cause pain, and savor those which cause pleasure.

We will tend to believe what we want to believe, and in those areas of life that are critical to our kingdom, we will insist that we are right and anyone who disagrees must be wrong. What we perceive as truth becomes our reality.

I relate a simple story, which was given to me. It will give you an example of how inner healing can occur through healing of memories.

"As I was driving through the hills of Georgia one afternoon, I heard a talk-show host say, "Perception is reality." That was in accord with what I knew about people. They believed what they perceived was reality - if not for the rest of the world, it was for them.

The host then followed with another statement, "Perception is reality, but it is not actuality." That was what I needed to complete the equation for me. I have always suspected that human beings hold the most complete view of reality they can know, but they do not yet have a complete view of God and the creation of which they are a part.

We meet the world daily with the data furnished by our own unique memory content. We don't see things quite the same as the others; but for most of us, it is similar enough to communicate. Our view is not clear enough to set us free from the trauma we have recorded in our past.

Our problem then is how to change the stored memories to set us free from the trauma without changing history. We cannot go back and change the outcome of the events we have recorded in our memories, but we can go back, even through the pain, and look at one's perception of those events. We cannot go back and change what the senses perceived, but we can go back and change the emotional content of the record we hold of our past.

I use a story I once heard:

"A small boy was shifted from one household to another until he reached the age of fourteen. The record was one in which there was a great deal of anxiety and insecurity.

Since the mind has the capacity to drop emotional pain into the unconscious level of the mind, the young man was not aware of the pain recorded in the memories of his childhood. If someone asked him how his childhood was, he was quick to say it was as happy as one could imagine. In fact it was happy because he imagined it to be happy. His childhood was edited to leave the happy memories at the conscious level, while the pain was in the unconscious.

This arrangement enabled him to cope with the world in which he lived - through school and in a variety of situations after he had completed school. It was not until he had been ordained that he was brought into an environment in which those deep memories were stimulated and brought close to the surface.

He had always used his family images to deal with the church. He saw it as being the family of God, and hence HIS family. When he attended his first Diocesan Convention (our name for a convocation or a synod), he was very excited. It was a thrilling thing for him to participate in the decision-making actions of the family.

That feeling held until the arguments that plague all church conferences began to rise to the floor. At that point he became physically ill. That illness pursued him from convention to convention. He used to get sick about a month before we met, and he would remain sick until well after the convention.

While my friends were able to pray his illness down to a week before convention and a few days following, it came to expression at a special convention where two of the clergy began to argue in an exclusive fashion, "If you don't agree with me, you are not a Christian."

He remembered feeling that his world was coming apart at the seams. He stood up to speak, but was incoherent. He sobbed like a small boy whose family was being torn apart. He embarrassed all of the people on the floor of that convention, but he managed to communicate his concern and involvement.

It was later that he was able to talk and pray with a friend, who helped him find the source of the pain that needed to be healed. As they prayed and talked it was revealed to him that he had grown up in a number of households that had dominant women and recessive males. The males were frequently alcoholic. It was the little boy from that past whose feelings were shared on the floor of the convention.

When he got back to his parish, he asked one of the ladies who had learned to pray for Healing of Memories to pray for him as a little boy in such an environment. He had been prayed for before, but had not known the situation where the prayer was needed and it had done little to set him free.

When she prayed, "Jesus, will you please go to the little boy who cannot stop the arguments," his memories gave up their images. He saw on his mind's TV screen, the little boy lying on his side, holding his stomach, feeling just as he did on the floor of that convention.

He saw Jesus walk into the picture from the right side of the screen. When He got to the center, the little boy looked up and saw Him, and he asked, "Jesus, where were you? I couldn't see you." The truth is that he had no idea that Jesus was on earth at that time in his life. As a little boy he was told that Jesus was up in Heaven.

Jesus said nothing at all. He simply walked over and put His hand on the little boy's head. When He did, the peace of God flowed into the little boy. He could see the change in the little one, and could feel the change in himself. Jesus had supplied the memory with His presence. In His presence, the pain no longer had room. The lie was dissolved. There was in its place a peace that was able to carry him through the next convention without any illness at all.

There is one other aspect of that picture that is believable and is worth noting. In that same picture, one saw two adults arguing as the little boy lay on the floor. Even with the entrance of Jesus they continued to argue. God did not change the situation. He did change the perception of it.

Jesus redeemed that time of pain in his memory, and He used the experience of healing to show him something about what happens as we use the ministry. It was not a fantasy. It was a reality. He could not swear that he remembered the exact time of the argument, but the lie brought him to that night his father and mother yelled at each other just before their divorce."

So how does ministry works to bring a person into a closer relationship to God? All healing must be from Him. It takes trust in Him, and surrender to the healing process. Jesus points out in Scripture that He had come to heal the broken hearted in Luke 4. And that is what occurs.

When one's memory bank is cluttered with fear, resentment, anger, jealousy, rage or some other disease, the heart, where our experience and one's wounded mind meets, does not function properly. When one allows Jesus into one's core memories, one learns not only the reason for the pain and experiences the pain, but knows what to do when it is discovered. Then one may perceive His presence,

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confront the lie, and they are healed. When the lies keep one in bondage to negative emotions and behaviors, this hinders one from living effortlessly in the life WITH Christ. To the extent that one receives such healing, one's heart is healthy. This is called freedom, genuine recovery.

I point out the passage of Scripture where Jesus spoke in Ephesians 5: 6-14

*“ Let no one deceive you with empty arguments, for because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the disobedient. So do not be associated with them. For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness, rather expose them for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible.”*

How does one walk in redeeming time and in wisdom? Redemption is not something that one can do. It is something that only God has done by sending Jesus into the world to die for you and me. God's work for YOU and ME is complete. He opened all the doors for us to enter into a Kingdom that is His. You no longer belong to the world. We do not deserve anything. He wills that we be redeemed through Him. He desires us to enjoy eternity with Him.

He has not completed the work that He intends to do in us. We must enter into the pain caused by the lie, and allow God to purge us of the sin and its effects. And through entering the memory and the pain of that illusion or circumstance, one must be brought into His image and likeness, the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. God desires to bring one's life into that **redemptive realm** as one invites Jesus to enter one's life. One asks Him to make changes that would purify and make one Christ Like. God desires this in each one of His children.

What is this redeemed time? Redeemed time is that time in which one becomes aware of His being with us. He is always with us, but one is not always aware of His presence. So, because time is infinite with God as to the past, present and future, we record the time with HIM purifying one in the present time. That was the cause of disease in the little boy whom Jesus visited to heal the emotional hurts. He had recorded the time without Jesus, and he recorded the insecurity that went with his false perception.

When Jesus revealed Himself to the little one in that crisis of life, the time was redeemed. The little boy recorded the time as though Jesus was now, and the insecurity which was recorded without Jesus, could not stand in His presence. Healing was immediate.

There is no other way we can interpret the intent of that bit of Scripture. It means inviting Jesus into every waking moment of our lives, so we can know He is with us. It means re-recording our memories so they include His presence, because where He is, there is both peace and love. There is no room for disease to abide.

If one is to embrace this truth and use it as a basis for healing of memories ministry, we must make a decision about what we believe. Do you believe that Jesus has been present with you since the moment of your conception? Certainly the Psalmist declares this faith in the 139th Psalm.

Do you believe that Jesus is bound in the same finitude of time and space that binds us? or can He go back in time? Can He go back to those of us who have recorded the memory without Him and make Himself known to redeem that time? That must be one's belief, because it is the experience of so many when they pray in this manner. And, it is in accord with the witness of the Scriptures as they reveal the intent of God.

(by Kathleen Werner)

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## TRANSFORM ME LORD

Divine Savior,  
Transform me into yourself.

May my hands be your hands.

May my tongue be your tongue.

Grant that every faculty of my body may serve only to glorify you.

Above all,

Transform my soul and all its powers that my memory, my will, and my affections

May be the memory, the will, and the affections of you.

I pray you to destroy in me all that is not of you.

Grant that I may live but in you and by you and for you,

That I may truly say with Saint Paul, “I live, now not I, but Christ lives in me.” AMEN

(Vincentian Prayer, Association of Miraculous Medal,  
1811 West Saint Joseph Street, Perryville, MO 63775)

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## A PERSONAL HEALING STORY – ANONYMOUS from a READER

### MY HEALING – A NEW BEGINNING

Many years ago, I was privileged to go to Medjugorje with a wonderful priest. I will call him Father Mike.

*The PILGRIM*, Volume 15, Number 3 - March 2004

To protect God's ministry and the persons involved I am changing all the names.

It was a pilgrimage that I would always remember, because I was introduced to a need for some inner healing of my own. I had come to Medjugorje, but did not know the real reason. I just knew there was this terrible wall in front of me and within me. I couldn't even identify what it was. But it paralyzed me at times. I had thought this pilgrimage was for my own physical healing. I also wanted a deeper relationship with our Mother Mary. I received all these things, except that the wall did not lift.

Father told me about a lovely lady that he hoped I would meet some day. I will call her April, as she became a reality to me in that month. While sitting on a huge rock on Apparition Hill in Medjugorje and praying with my eyes closed, I saw her face as clear as day. I saw her in a very specific place. In my heart, Our Lady had given me some words to tell her. At the time, I did not know who this lady was, but I never forgot her face nor did I forget the words I had heard.

Once home, and while visiting Father Mike, I glanced over at his bookcase. He pointed out the lady that he wanted me to meet. I looked at the picture and almost fainted. It was the lady's face that I had seen while praying while in Medjugorje. I then told Father that I saw her just exactly as she was in the picture. He asked me if it was ok if she could call me. I was very glad I would be able to meet her

Several days later, April called. We talked, and I told her what had happened to me in Medjugorje, how I had seen her face and where. I didn't know what any of it meant. I also told her the words I had heard. She said that she understood them exactly, and that they were not for me to understand, they were for her. We talked for what seemed forever. She sounded very nice, and it was easy to talk to her. I had never had that before....someone to talk to so easily.

We decided to meet for lunch. It was an uplifting meeting, and again we talked for hours. Somehow as we talked I began to speak of this feeling I had that I could not touch inside. Gradually April began to open the door for me, and finally spoke that she was in healing ministry. I didn't have to think very long before I remember blurting out "will you help me, please? I don't know where to go with this, but I think I really need your help." April said that she would go home and pray about it.

I don't remember how much time elapsed before she called back. We talked several more times on the phone before she finally said that she had prayed and The Holy Spirit spoke to her heart to help me. I was

elated and had some hope that this darkness would leave me.

To describe what happened over more than a year is to tell you that it was one of the most difficult years of my life. It was a time of looking at my life with April, and occasionally with Father Mike present. I don't know if the spiritual pain or the emotional pain or the physical pain of the tears was greater. But, I began to know pain and support of exploring my areas of my life with another person.

We looked at my childhood, my young dating life, and my married life. I was able to tell her of my brokenness that I had never told anyone before. To tell someone of our unseen pain is an act of opening up the chambers of one's heart, mind and soul, yielding and surrendering. It brings light to those things born in the silence of each new morning and each close of day in darkness again. It was agonizingly difficult at times, for a lot had burdened my soul.

There was a great compassion I felt through April. Compassion means to "suffer with" or to "bear with". April indeed did this with me. She never closed her eyes or ears to my self-centeredness or my self-protectiveness. She endlessly held me in all my afflictions. She listened endlessly on the phone, and we met several times in person. She taught me to pray and to trust in God more. She held me many times and I cried tears from somewhere I didn't even know they came from.. There were times of embarrassment or fear, but holding it all in only made the situation worse for myself. More pain! She kept telling me that I had to go through the pain now, and not around it. I had buried it long enough. I felt the aloneness of the past when I carried all unseen and unaided. But in speaking out my suffering I entered an area of surrender. The secrecy and inner turmoil was washing away.

In surrender she shared her own journey. Hers was not an easy life either. I could relate to her story as she did to mine. I was surprised because I thought she was perfect, so strong, so in control, with no sorrows. But I felt more comfortable knowing that we are all a bit in pain and in our own sinfulness in our own imperfections. She could do no wrong. But I found out that I was operating from my own views in the world, and that world was not always as one sees it. Everyone has their own Crosses, their sins, their pain and their difficulties. And everyone is in a stage of God's healing grace. We talked a lot more those days, and April chose to respond in mercy, God's loving Mercy.

April and Father Mike, arranged a healing of the Family Mass for me and my family members. We

also had several other counseling sessions, even with my husband and me. The Holy Mass began to open the door for a lot of forgiveness of family members that had harmed me or that I had harmed. Forgiveness comes off in layers, but it began with their help. It encompasses all time, because God has no time. With their help I entered generations of known suffering and sin. But I only saw one layer of it all. Then, the day arrived and the gift of deliverance ministry opened up for me. There was a lot of love there as others who prayed with them joined to pray with me. I had feelings of fear of the unknown, but was assured of their love, and Father was there to allow me the gift of Confession and Eucharist.

We confronted those spirits of my fear, and darkness from occult practices of palm reading, seances, Oji boards, and so much more. I examined those spirit influences that impacted my marriage vows and worked on purity within my marriage. We looked at some of the distorted perspectives on life, my hate and for my parents, and a layer of shame and guilt.

With each identification, the spirits that had held on to me for so long were chipped away and cast away. And, then filling prayer was prayed over me...prayer for God's love filled me, love of Our Lady for me, and I was surrounded by many angels. I was supported for weeks afterward by phone calls, and visits to make sure that the spiritual surgery I entered into was bringing me into recognition of life's goodness. I was learning a new relationship with my Creator.

I had to now look at my attitudes toward people, my family, relationships that were not healthy. I began to look at my relationship with God, and my prayer life, and my behaviors toward my husband and family. Everything needed renovating. It's been a difficult job for me as I had to be honest with myself. I didn't like to look at the lies from which I operated day after day. But, I began to see that God had a better plan for me in my life, and that my plan could be changed, and I wanted that change. My deliverance was a beginning and was very effective, for I began to like the me that God wanted me to be.

Now years later, I continue to enter into this ongoing gift of ministry, and God is not in a distant Heaven any more. Deliverance does not end. It is ongoing. I have a friend with whom I have repeated my stories, and that person has shared with me. We have gone deeper into the pain, and into the relationships, into the feelings, the effects in my behaviors. It is good that God manifests Himself in such a generous way, to heal our souls and our hearts. We have become more authentic with each other, open to helping each

other in that difficult walk of looking at behaviors, affirming and correcting each other.

Now, God carries my sufferings and my weaknesses WITH me. I am never alone. The Cross is a reality in my life, but it is also a daily joy. He speaks to me in correction and forgiveness through confession. He is my friend to whom I go to speak in quiet moments and in quiet places. He is the Jesus who nourishes me day after day with his Body and Blood. And he is the one present in those I touch to pray with, and even in those who cry out in their own pain. As a temple of the Holy Spirit, I am open to being taught, but also to pass on what He so generously shares with me.

Thank you Father Mike. Thank you April. And thank you my precious friend. Being authentic is a gift of being very real, with nothing hidden underneath anymore. You all are the living Christ's in my life. I only ask God that I be able to give to others what you have given to me. For what was given me must be given to others in more abundance.

To those who took time to read this letter, never be afraid of entering into healing, and working hard at meeting Jesus in truth in your life. Find another person you can trust, and ask God to help you to walk that path to holiness that He draws everyone to. It is worth the work.

**(Anonymous, but living in God's freedom and love)**

## **PRAYER for HEALING of the SOUL**

Father, I lift up my soul to you. Claim me for yourself, Lord. Reach down into my memory and remove any obstructions to your grace. Reach down deep into my soul, into the substance of my body where I was wounded, and release me to your most powerful embrace, where nothing is left untouched or undone – unlocked. Cover me, O Blessed Mother, with your mantle of grace and claim me for yourself, to be given to Jesus, holy and blameless.

O Magnificent Holy Spirit, uncover and release thought patterns of rebellion entrenched in my understanding, which I may have used to survive. Sweep down upon me with your anointing, O Holy Spirit, and immerse me in the Precious Blood so that any patterns of unlove will be erased and replaced by the sacrificial love poured out on the cross. Pour love in abundance into my memory, understanding and will.

Lord Jesus Christ, by the power of the cross and the Precious Blood, I command every demonic spirit that attaches itself to me to be gone in Jesus' Name; to leave me now, quietly and without disruption, and be disposed of at the foot of the cross. And Blessed

Lord, as I begin to feel a newness within me that leaves me unsure and puzzled, walk in, march in, and fill every crevice of my soul with the felt sense and knowledge that I am a child of the King. Fill every crevice with a new substance of love and acceptance of who I am.

As the walls of Jericho come tumbling down, may the quiet walls of the light of your Holy Spirit, assure me that it is okay to be male/female, to be \_\_\_\_\_put your name here\_\_\_\_\_ in this world.

Shed your light, shed your love Lord...let the skin I shed be released, cut away so that nothing will impede my response to your embrace, for you are my true Father.

Thank you O Shepherd of Shepherds for hearing my prayer. AMEN

(sent by Carl Mayo)

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## MEANING of PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING in LENT

The journey back to God that Lent represents has in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving three fundamental points of support, says the preacher of this year's retreat at the Roman Curia.

Monsignor Bruno Forte, a member of the International Theological Commission, will begin preaching the Spiritual Exercises this Sunday.

In an interview with Vatican Radio, the theologian said the world's current situation calls for living Lent "as a journey of profound return from the heart of life to God."

Indeed, "international scenes of conflict and violence" make imperative the need to "rediscover the path of peace as a way of dialogue and justice," something that "happens through the heartfelt conversion of each one of us," he said.

Secularized Western society also evidences the need to "rediscover the horizons of meaning, of hope," something that "only the living God can give with his promise," the priest said. Therefore, "it is important to return to God," following Jesus, "the way, truth and life," he added.

To do so, Lent suggests three means:

**prayer,**  
**fasting,** and  
**almsgiving.**

For a Christian, "to pray means to allow oneself to be loved by the Father, to place oneself in an attitude of listening, of interior docility" and to present to him

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"all that we are, our expectations and hopes"; it is to live "prayer as a sacrifice of praise and intercession," Monsignor Forte said.

**Prayer** also "means to unite ourselves to Jesus, in the Church and his Body in history," and to open ourselves "to the breath of the Holy Spirit, who makes all things new; in brief, prayer in the Trinity is what we must increasingly discover," he added.

**Fasting**, the theologian continued, "in the great spiritual tradition, has an eschatological meaning, as when an important moment is awaited." It is as "if the physical need to eat takes second place," as one is "nourished by this desire and this expectation," he said.

In Christian tradition, fasting "represents above all the dimension of expectation of the Lord," and "the opening of the heart, stripping oneself of everything that is an obstacle to the gift of his coming," the priest said.

During Lent, "fasting represents being pilgrims toward the great gift of Easter," he added.

**Therefore, we must "rediscover the need and desire of God as the profound soul of our existence, disposing ourselves to be empty of ourselves in order to be full of him."**

**Almsgiving**, far from being an act of giving, "is an attitude of the heart," Monsignor Forte said, "a heart that is humble, repentant, merciful, compassionate, which seeks to reproduce in its relations with others the experience of mercy that each one of us lives in our relation with God."

Almsgiving, therefore, "is care, is making concrete, is discernment, is gift -- all of these being dimensions that have been experienced by the believer when he contemplates the love of God that accepts and forgives him," he said.

The priest made yet another suggestion for this Lent: to rediscover the value of sacrifice. "A small sacrifice, a gesture of love, possibly humble, hidden, but genuine, which costs something and is done in praise of God and for some one who is suffering and in need," he said.

In fact, "there is no love without sacrifice," just as "without love, sacrifice would be simply external constriction," he noted.

"Sacrifice is an offering of love. And we must not forget the great example that Jesus gave us, and remember that 'God so loved the world that he did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all.'"

(Monsignor Bruno Forte, Theologian, NAPLES, Italy, FEB. 26, 2004 [www.Zenit.org](http://www.Zenit.org) ZE04022604)

## **MESSAGE of 2/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti**

*Dear Children! Also today, as never up to now, I call you to open your hearts to my messages. Little children, be those who draw souls to God and not those who distance them. I am with you and love you all with a special love. This is a time of penance and conversion. From the bottom of my heart, I call you to be mine with all your heart and then you will see that your God is great, because He will give you an abundance of blessings and peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

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

## **REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 2/25/2004**

### **BE THOSE WHO DRAW SOULS to GOD**

At the beginning of this time of Lent, Mary - our Heavenly Mother - invites us and requests from us: "*Open your hearts to my messages*", to my words, to my heart. As a Mother, the Virgin Mary cannot cease calling, cannot cease loving her children. The desire of the encounter with God and with his love must be born within us. Our duty is to desire this encounter more, and it will take place if we desire it seriously, because God takes seriously our desires and our prayers. Without this desire of our heart, all the maternal cries and calls are useless. A mother cannot do otherwise but call, direct, advise what is best for her children.

In one of her messages, she told us: "*You, dear children, are not able by yourselves, therefore I am here to help you.*" (Message of December 4, 1986) By ourselves, we are not able; by ourselves, we do not know how to open our heart nor do we know why it became closed. She opened her heart to God and gave it to him; this is why she knows best which are the means that can help us. She can teach us best, because she also crossed the ways on which we are still walking. She comes to us because she wants us to be where she is.

Through Mary, Jesus knocks today at the door of our heart: "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.*" (Ap 3,20)

It is necessary to listen to the voice of God and to pray with Saint Augustin, who asked to hear the Lord knocking on the door of his heart. In this time of grace of Lent, it is necessary in particular to listen to the voice of God who speaks to us through his Word in the Scriptures, through people, events and situations of our life, through small and simple things

that happen to us daily. It is important to open the eyes of our heart and of our spirit, to ask the Lord to open them. This is why - in this time - it is necessary to decide to read the Scriptures, to go more often to Mass, to make a concrete decision, to cut the bonds that attach us to evil, to hatred, to idleness, to grumbling and any other iniquity.

Through Mary, God calls us and leads us to fasting, to renouncement, to brotherly love, to prayer, in order to break in us the tendency to count on human power, and in order to attach us to himself. As long as we are governed by vice, sin, covetousness, idleness, human attachments, lack of dignity, it is a sign that we are not yet free, but under the power of the sin.

Penance always implies a renouncement. The renouncement means not to take always what we like, to leave what hurts us, not to offend the other, not to allow to each small desire of our body to be satisfied, not to procure to oneself every comfort. To give up means to become free. The Fathers of the Church teach us: "Do what is contrary to your corrupted human nature", so that God can make in us his works of peace, of love and of freedom.

**Father Ljubo Kurtovic**  
**Medjugorje, February 26, 2004**

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## **IVAN DRAGICEVIC VISIT to NEW JERSEY LOCATION**

As indicated on pages 1 and 2, Ivan will visit New Jersey and Pennsylvania from 21-23 March 2004. Due to printing deadlines and the pastor's vacation, we cannot confirm our desired location: Saint Agnes (SA) Church in Blackwood, NJ. We will send out notices on the New Jersey location containing directions and maps with admission ticket responses in the stamped, self-addressed envelopes you submit to us. If we do not receive the pastor's permission to use SA, the visit will be as currently planned in Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) Church, Berlin, NJ.

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## **PRESS BULLETIN 195, 2/26/2004**

### **TEARS of JESUS, OUR LADY'S TEARS and MY OWN TEARS**

Jesus is God and man. As a true God, sent by the Father, He took upon himself our human destiny and He became similar to us in all, except the sin.

Jesus, like Mary, His Mother, knew all the bitterness of this world. The sword of pain pierced their hearts. They were saddened, in tears, misunderstood, persecuted, ridiculed. Nothing was spared to them; they did not have privileges. In fact, they are there to give priority to others, to give them privileges. Jesus cried several times. He did not hide his tears. He cried over the tragedies of the others, He cried confronted with the hardness of human hearts, He cried in loneliness while meditating on the will of the Father in his life. Together with Him, Mary poured her tears, especially at the foot of the cross, holding the body of her dead Son in her arms.

And us, how much do we cry and how? Are our tears the expression of the desire of a better and holier life, or we cry because of our unrealized desires, projects, and personal careers? In times of penance, especially in Lent, we should determine the reason of our tears and of our sadness. Jesus did not cry because of Himself but because of me and you. Our Lady did not cry and did not groan to draw the attention to her family, but to inspire the others to come to Jesus. Jesus and Mary are saddened and they cry when their sons and their daughters are not on the way of the grace offered by Heaven.

In Medjugorje, the pilgrim of Gospa cries over his sins; he cries the lack of acceptance in the marriage or the family. In the confessionals, on Apparition Hill or on Cross Mountain, he cries because he feels far from the One who can be and who is his consolation and his hope. It is good so. It is good to tear our heart and not our clothing. It is good that our conscience pushes our tears, so that we may leave all that chokes and submerges us. These tears are not a sign of despair - far from there - they open the door to Jesus. Those tears are a song of joy watered by the grace of God.

In this time, let us also pour our tears for those souls that cannot cry. On our face, with our tears filled with prayers, let us wipe also the faults of the others. A Christian is responsible for the world. Each one of us has to pray for those who do not do it, for those to whom it is not given. Gospa is delighted to see us on the way traced by Jesus. Let us become fully her children and close to Jesus, since she invites us to that through her apparitions.

**Father Mario Knezovic**

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## **COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS**

During the month of January, 35,000 received Holy Communion and 801 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

### **CARDINAL JOSIP BOZANIC, ARCHBISHOP of ZAGREB:**

#### **NO JUDGMENT about MEDJUGORJE**

On Thursday, February 12, 2004, during an encounter with students of a Secondary School in Zagreb, Cardinal Josip Bozanic, archbishop of Zagreb, answered the question about the position of the Church on Medjugorje:

“The Church says that what we are called to, is to believe the Sacred Scripture. The Church, however, also recognizes the possibility of the so-called private revelations, but the faithful are not obliged to believe in them. Medjugorje can be considered under this aspect.” The Cardinal reminded that, in the beginning of the 90's, the Bishops concluded in Zadar that, on the basis of their investigations, they cannot speak about the supernaturality of Medjugorje, but neither have they denied it. “Still today, we do not wish to give our judgment, because we do not have sufficient argument although we do not deny people the right to pray there or to go on pilgrimage. We desire that, what is given there, be a true catholic doctrine, but for Masses not to be linked to the alleged apparitions.”

**(Slobodna Dalmacija, 2/13/2004)**

### **HOLY MASS for the DEPARTED DOCTOR FATHER LEONARD OREC, OFM**

On Wednesday, January 21, was commemorated the second anniversary of the death of Father Leonard Orec, a dynamic Herzegovinian Franciscan who was very devoted to the Queen of Peace of Medjugorje. On that day, Masses for the rest of his soul were celebrated in Posusje and in Medjugorje. In St. James' parish church in Medjugorje, Holy Mass was presided by Father Ivan Landeka, the former pastor of Medjugorje and Father Leonard's close collaborator. While speaking about Father Leonard, Father Ivan Landeka said that - in the beginning - he was only observing Medjugorje and the apparitions of Our Lady. When he came to Medjugorje, he informed himself about the events, he sought clarity, and he understood the reality of the presence of Our Lady. This is how he became devoted to Gospa. In his old age, he was spreading love and care for the needy through the humanitarian association “Medjugorje-Mir.” On January 22, Holy Mass for Father Leonard

was also celebrated in Split, where he used to spend much of his time during the last years of his life.

### **HOLY MASS for WAR VICTIMS from the PARISH of MEDJUGORJE**

The feast of the Blessed Croatian Cardinal Alojzije Stepinac, celebrated on February 10, is commemorated in our parish as a day of remembrance and prayer for all the victims of the war. On that day, the Evening Holy Mass was celebrated in the parish church in Medjugorje in memory of the martyrdom of Father Krizan Galic, Father Jozo Bencun, Father Marko Dragicevic, Father Mariofil Sivric, Father Grgo Vasilj and Father Jenko Vasilj, killed perfidiously in 1944 and 1945. The faithful who assisted at Mass prayed for the victims of World War I and II and of the most recent war in defence of the Homeland. During these three wars, almost every family of the parish lost someone. The Eucharistic celebration was presided by Father Mario Knezovic.

### **THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR for MARRIED COUPLES TOOK PLACE**

The 4th International Seminar for Married Couples took place in Medjugorje from February 11 to 14. The theme was "The fruit of peace is love and the fruit of love is forgiveness" (Message of January 25, 1996).

There were 75 couples from 11 countries speaking English, French, Croatian, German, Spanish, Slovak and Italian.

The married couples participated in the Evening Prayer Program in the church and climbed Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain together.

On the last day of the seminar, during the final Holy Mass, the couples renewed their promises and confided their union to the Lord.

### **THE 11<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL MEETING for GUIDES and LEADERS of PEACE CENTRES and MEDJUGORJE PRAYER, PILGRIM and CHARITY GROUPS TOOK PLACE**

The 11th International Meeting for Guides and Leaders of Peace Centres and Medjugorje Prayer, Pilgrim and Charity groups took place in Medjugorje from February 22 to 26. There were 100 leaders and priests who lead Medjugorje associations all over the world. The lecturers were dr. Father Jozo Vasilj, OFM, Doctor Father Slavko Topic, OFM, Father Ivan Landeka, Father Jozo Zovko and Father Ljubo Kurtovic. Father Mario Knezovic, Director of the

Information Centre "Mir" Medjugorje, coordinated the meeting. Throughout five days, the participants prayed and meditated on the essentials of the events of Medjugorje, they climbed Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain, and spoke about practical things linked to the pilgrimages to Medjugorje. The meeting ended by Holy Mass presided by the Pastor of Medjugorje, Father Branko Rados.

At the end of the meeting, the participants adopted a common declaration, which will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin.

### **BISHOPS in MEDJUGORJE and ABOUT MEDJUGORJE in 2003**

In 2003, 12 bishops from Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Asia and Oceania came to Medjugorje. Chronologically, they are:

- Monsignor Luigi Bommarito, Retired Archbishop of Catania (Italy)
- Monsignor Salvador Pineiro Garcia-Calderon, military bishop in Lima (Peru)
- Monsignor Angelo Massafra, a Franciscan, Archbishop of Skodra (Albania)
- Monsignor Gerard Ndlovu, retired bishop of Umzimkulu (South African Republic)
- Monsignor Irynei Bilyk, bishop of the diocese of Buchach (Ukraine)
- Monsignor Doctor Ludwig Schwarz, Auxiliary Bishop of Vienna (Austria)
- Monsignor Hermann Raich, Bishop of Wabag (Papua New Guinea)
- Monsignor Donal McKeown, auxiliary bishop of Down and Connor (Ireland)
- Monsignor Abilio Ribas, Bishop of Sao Tome and Principe- Monsignor Jesus a Cabrera, Bishop of Alaminos (Philippines)
- Monsignor Thomas L. Dupre, Bishop of Springfield (Massachusetts, USA)
- Monsignor Tarcisio Ziyaye, Archbishop of Blantyre (Malawi, Africa)

Cardinal Vinko Puljic, Archbishop of Vrhbosna (Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina) gave an interview for Radio "Mir" Medjugorje, as well as an award to the Parish Medjugorje and Radio "Mir" Medjugorje.

Monsignor Franjo Komarica, Bishop of Banja Luka (Bosnia and Herzegovina) gave an award to Radio "Mir" Medjugorje.

Doctor Franc Rode, the Archbishop of Ljubljana (Slovenia), gave an interview for Radio "Mir" Medjugorje.

## **THE 9<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL PRIEST SEMINAR**

The 9th International priest seminar will take place in Medjugorje from July 5 to 10, 2004. The theme of the meeting is: "THE IDENTITY OF THE PRIEST".

### **PROGRAMME OF SEMINAR**

[Details deleted but available if anyone wants them.]

You may make reservations by e-mail: medjugorje-mir@medjugorje.hr, at the Information Office personally, or by phone: +387-36-651-988; fax: +387-36-651-999 (for Marija Dugandzic).

We ask all priests who have arranged their own accommodation with a family in Medjugorje to note in their application the name and the phone number of the family where they will be staying. We will arrange accommodation for all the priests who have no direct contacts and have not arranged their own accommodation. (Please note in your application if you wish us to arrange accommodation for you.)

Instead of a monetary payment, we ask you to kindly celebrate five Mass intentions.

It is necessary to bring with you: your celebret given by your superior, an alb and stole, a Bible, a small FM radio with headphones (for simultaneous translation).

Many priests who do not have access to Internet may not have been informed about the existence of this international meeting in Medjugorje. Therefore, we kindly ask all Organisers of pilgrimages, Prayer Groups and Centres for Peace to publish this information as widely as possible by all means at their disposal, so that as many priests as possible may participate. In as much as it is possible, we also kindly ask you to financially assist the priests who would like to come but do not have the necessary funds for such a journey. We thank you in advance and pray for God's blessing and the blessing of the Queen of Peace upon you and your work. [If any priest want a paper copy of this Press Bulletin with the full schedule in it, please call (856) 768-9228.]

Lecturer at this year's seminar is Professor Doctor Father Tomislav Ivancic, who was born in 1938 in Davor, Croatia. After his studies of philosophy and theology, he was ordained a priest in 1966 for the archdiocese of Zagreb. Having obtained his master's degree in philosophy and his doctorate in theology at the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome, he came back to Zagreb, where he became a professor at the

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Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb. He is the director of the Cathedra for Fundamental Theology, editor of magazines, he writes for many local and foreign theological magazines, and is a member of the Society of Croatian Literary Translators. His scientific and professional articles have been published in local and foreign magazines, and many of his numerous books were translated into other languages. He is a Dean of the Zagreb Metropolitan Chapter, a member of the Counsel of the Presbyters of the Archdiocese of Zagreb and a member of the Counsel for the Doctrine of Faith of the Croatian Bishops' Conference. Since 1971, he has been a Students' Chaplain at Zagreb, initiator of a movement of prayer in the Croatian Church, founder of the Association of the Faithful called "Prayer and Word Community" (Zajednica Molitva i Rijec - MiR) and a leader of numerous seminars for spiritual renewal and evangelisation, in Croatia and abroad. For 10 years now he has been training collaborators to work in the Centre for Spiritual Help and leaders of Seminars for Evangelisation. Since 1988, he has been the Dean of the Catholic Faculty of Theology at the Zagreb University.

Subjects of his scientific work are philosophy, theology and literature. He is especially interested in the research pertaining to the human existential and spiritual dimension. He has developed a contemporary way of evangelisation and a method of spiritual medicine, which - together with the somatic and psychological - is unavoidable in healing of the whole person, and especially in healing of spiritual illnesses and addictions. His method is called hagiotherapy. In Zagreb, in 1990, he founded a Centre for Spiritual help, of which he is a director.

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

## **SISTER EMMANUEL REPORTS on an INTERVIEW with VICKA**

February 1, 2004

Dear Children of Medjugorje!  
Praised be Jesus and Mary!

The village is quiet during these winter months. For many pension owners and the visionaries, less pilgrims means more time spent with family around the wood-burning stove. This past month a woman from China stayed in Medjugorje, with my community. She mentioned that she thought it must be easy for the visionaries to discern what God wants of them. "When you see Our Lady every day", she

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said, “you know how to follow the right path. But for us, how are we to know the will of God in our lives and how can we be sure not to be mistaken?” I took a chance that Vicka would have some “winter time” to spend with us and would share some insights of hers. She welcomed my friend very kindly. Because she radiates such a heavenly joy and love, one may think she can give a magic recipe for peace! Well, she did draw a clear line to happiness, but indeed nothing magic!

Vicka spoke directly to my friend without even one question being asked. She said, “People who think they are clever and intelligent will do things according to their own plans and not care about God’s plan. Because of pride, they fail and face many difficulties in achieving their goals and in seeking God”.

--In my case, I follow my own plans, yes, because of pride, but also because I want to know what will come step by step?

Vicka: You know, many people say they want to do the Will of God, but actually, when they have to choose a way, they choose what they like most, what brings them pleasure. But one cannot do the Will of God some of the time and at other times follow one’s own feelings! Many say, ‘Lord, show me the way’, but deep in their heart they have not yet made a strong decision to put God in the first place. They keep going back and forth with Him, and then they lack peace. After a while, they are stuck with no way out, and they find themselves in great pain. Then they cry to God saying: ‘Lord, why have you allowed this to happen to me?!’ Unfortunately, these people have created their own problem! But God is merciful. When you follow Him again, He will work everything out for you. When you start with a strong decision to fulfill God’s plans for your life, then God sees your good will and He gives you everything! God is always ready to give! And if you have missed the right path, He is always ready to take you back in His arms and to console you! But all this time spent going the wrong way and then returning to where you started, see how much time you’ve lost? You have no time to lose! All you have to do is to ask for the thing you need and then be open to receive God’s graces. People just do not ask God for it. There is in every person’s heart, God. Everyone knows somehow that God exists but some people avoid thinking about it and they deny it.

--Is it not right to follow our feelings? Aren’t our feelings from God too?

Vicka: You have to see God’s Will first so that you have inner security and peace in your heart! When you have fear in your heart, you cannot feel right.

You are not in harmony within yourself and you cannot trust your feelings. Seek first to be happy with yourself, to love yourself. When something is from God, you feel great joy, peace and harmony within you. When you feel fear, confusion and anguish, that is something from the enemy. If it is God’s will, there will be problems, yes, but He will smooth out the way for you. When it is God’s will, God will give you everything you need, problems and difficulties will finally go.

--That sounds so easy for you!

Vicka: You have to do it step by step, don’t think of something big. It doesn’t happen overnight! Usually, the most difficult part is the start. You have to start slowly to understand and to listen to God’s will. Day by day you are learning to listen to God’s will. You will find God’s graces working for you. You’ll receive God’s graces when you follow God’s will. There are times that God wants to test you to see if you are truly willing to follow His Will. God wants you to choose. Sometimes you have struggles among other attractions and alternatives. God has given everyone a great gift: a free will, a freedom, he wants you to choose and to use your free will. God does not want to force you into anything. Sometimes we fail and choose the wrong things. God is merciful and God knows. As long as we have the good will to follow Him, God will help us.

--How can we win over those feelings that trouble us?

Vicka: Don’t be afraid of anything, just renounce them and give them to God. You cannot pray if you let those troubles in. You know, Satan is always trying to trouble our hearts. We have to be aware of him, of his actions, and not let him work in our hearts. He will introduce worries and fears and he will disturb you in many ways. But all this, just give it to God and accept his peace! People do not realize how much He wants to give us, how much He loves us! You don’t need to be afraid of anything.

Three days later an American friend visited Vicka. That day the question was about Vicka’s out-of-town missions:

-- How do you decide where to go, does it depend on invitations??

Vicka: “But you know, people are constantly asking us (the visionaries) to come to them, requests arrive day and night! No, you see, the important thing is to look into your own heart and ask, ‘what does the Gospa need me to do?’ I receive many invitations from countries with all they need materially and I could spend my time in the United States, in Italy or so. But I also have to listen to those countries with nothing that have many difficulties and to tell myself,

'I will respond when the Gospa puts a sign in my heart'. I wait peacefully and sure enough, she shows me the right time, the right place, how and when she wants me to go. When this sign comes, you just know it, you can feel it, it is clear. And even if some friends push me to go and visit them instead, I must not pay attention to their request, because friendship has nothing to do with it, it is something else. You should not decide on a trip in order to please your friends; you have to follow what y!

our heart tells you in prayer and stick to it. You have to be strong. The important thing is to go forward, in peace, in the way God shows you in your heart."

These words from Vicka may help a lot of people who, in the Marian movement, have an earnest desire to be instruments in the plans of the Gospa. As a matter of fact, when confusion comes up and pressure is felt in working together for a mission, a retreat or other activity, what a grace it is to be able to share the same goal and decide together: "We are going to open our hearts and welcome what God has in store for us. How can we put ourselves at the service of Jesus and Mary, finding their plan for us, and not putting our own plans first?"

When God really holds the first place in our dealings, our first concern is to please Him. Obviously, we all see that God blesses the efforts of those who do not compromise His work with other priorities.

Dear Gospa teach us to listen to you in our hearts and live in the blessing of God!

**Sister Emmanuel**

PS. In 2nd part of the January 15 the report, a mistake slipped, it should have read in this way:

2 - An unprecedented event took place in Medjugorje. Since 1981, the Gospa always appears on Christmas evening carrying newborn Baby Jesus in her arms. Now for the first time in 22 years, Mary came with Baby Jesus on a day other than Christmas, during her apparition to Mirjana on January 2nd, at 9:12 am, under the tent of the Cenacle. Our Lady was carrying the Baby in her arms. When Mirjana came out of her ecstasy, she was shaken by the event. Back home, after having prayed, she wrote the message received during the apparition. She said later that she could hardly see Baby Jesus, for Our Lady was standing high before her.

Here is the message that Mirjana transmitted to us then: "Today I bring you my Son, your God. Open your hearts in order to know how to accept him and carry him with you. Welcome the happiness and peace that he offers you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

This coming of Baby Jesus among us carries a meaning that cannot be passed over. Why did Baby Jesus come at the beginning of this year 2004? Why does the Gospa ask us to "carry him with us"? Why does our Mother see that we need this very grace now? How are we going to open our hearts to the "Baby" that she gives us so warmly? Mirjana did not give any explanation, for it is not her role to do so. But everyone will know in prayer how to make this message resound within him in a unique way. May Baby Jesus really be the center of our hearts and captivate our attention, for, according to the prophet Isaiah: "A child will lead them."

(from Georgia Capozzi [gcapozzi@shaw.ca](mailto:gcapozzi@shaw.ca))

## 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

## HOLY MASS TIMES

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

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

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

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](mailto:mazzarella@camdendiocese.org),

**Director of Vocation Recruitment for Priestly and  
Religious Vocations, Father Chris Bakey, Director of  
Nazareth House, [cbakey@camdendiocese.org](mailto:cbakey@camdendiocese.org)**

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

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

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## WHEN CELIBACY WORKS

When working at its best, celibacy is a unique, powerful way of loving, serving, and finding union with God and neighbor and a profound path to wholeness, holiness, singleness of heart, unfettered service, extravagant loving, joy, and personal friendship with Christ. Invariably a discussion of the celibate way of loving leads to a contrast with the more ordinary way of loving which occurs in marriage.

First, let me state the obvious: both ways of loving are from God and therefore good. Marriage is a sacrament in the Church, as is ordination. Both involve vows. So the question is not which is “better” but rather to which way of loving does God personally call each of us. Whereas married love is a very particular commitment to one person and one family, celibate love -- grounded in a profound experience of God’s grace permeating our hearts and souls that forces our love to explode without limit to all God’s people -- dares to be more expansive.

The power of God’s grace and a passionate love of Christ can impel some to forgo raising a family in order to serve Christ’s people without limit. It’s hard to imagine Christ saying to a wife and children, “I’m sorry, but I must be about my Father’s business, so I’m going to have to neglect you now.” Christ’s commitment to his mission from his Father implied a celibate commitment to serve God and neighbor without constraints. Regrettably, we all know some couples whose marriages are in distress and whose

children suffer along with the parents. Marriage at its worst can lead to much hurt and unhappiness. On the other hand, celibacy at its worst can lead to an emotionally restricted, self-absorbed, bachelor or spinster life.

But when celibacy works - and fortunately in most cases it does - what marvels it can give life to! I can think of many wonderful celibate lovers whose love for others is so personal, joyful, and nurturing that it’s heart-warming to experience their unconditional, whole-hearted loving presence.

While I could cite many such people, the most profound personal example for me was my novice director, provincial, retreat director, mentor-in-Jesuit-life, and true spiritual father, Father Joe Sheehan, SJ (RIP). A big, strapping, gentle man, Father Joe delighted in everyone he was with. He exuded personal warmth, love, and care. Whenever I saw him, his booming, jovial voice would call out my name with affection. He saw me as a good Jesuit, priest, man, and his spiritual son. I grew in the warmth of his love and affection through which I developed more fully as a man and a Jesuit. Despite the fact that he knew my imperfections and even my sins, he loved me totally as I am. And that is a wonderful feeling.

He touched other people’s lives in a similar way and became my personal image of God the Father’s unconditional, total love for each of His sons and daughters. I keep a picture of Father Joe in my room and my office to remind me of his and God’s love for me and also to remind me that I am called to love others in the same way.

Father Joe was a powerful celibate lover who loved many people very personally, had many spiritual sons and daughters, and whose personal closeness to God radiated in his joy of life. Joe was a great example of the saying that “joy is the echo of God’s presence in our lives.” I pray every day that God’s presence in my life will empower me to be half the caring, celibate lover Father Joe was.

Of course, as in any form of committed love, there are sacrifices and some inevitable suffering involved in celibate loving. Married people make tremendous sacrifices and can suffer much for their children and spouses. But when a marriage works according to God’s plan, the rewards are so great that the sacrifices seem worth it. Similarly, when a celibate commitment to love in religious life works according to God’s plan, the “hundredfold” reward promised by Jesus in the gospels (Mt. 19:29, Mk. 10:29-30, Lk. 18:29-30) makes the sacrifices seem eminently meaningful and worthwhile. We experience a loving life lived in faith and joy.

Personal prayer, the Eucharist, community, and celibate friendship are very important to living celibacy well. Prayer and the Eucharist ground the celibate's life in union with God and give daily life deeper meaning. Religious community offers the celibate lover a context of brotherhood or sisterhood with soul mates who share the same commitment, faith, vision, communal spirituality, and mission. Contrary to what the dominant culture would have us think, we don't need sex. However, we all do need intimacy, and celibate friendship is a bulwark of celibate living. While the celibate lover forgoes a particular life-long companion and sexual partner, intimate friendships that are non-exclusive and non-genital greatly enrich the celibate's life. In turn the celibate enriches the lives of others. Celibacy is a powerful, joyful way of loving and witnessing God's presence in the world.

(by Father Warren Sazama, SJ, Vocations Director,  
Wisconsin Province Jesuits,  
<http://www.jesuitwisprov.org/meetvocation.html>.

This article originally appeared in the Fall 2001  
"Callings" Wisconsin Province vocations newsletter)

## SOCIETY of JESUS (S.J.)

The Society of Jesus is a Roman Catholic religious order founded by Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) in Spain. Its members are popularly known as Jesuits. Organized by regions throughout the world, the Maryland and New York Provinces include the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Maryland and New York Jesuits also serve in Chile, India, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Nigeria and Ghana, Micronesia, and throughout the world.

Robert E. Reiser, S.J., Director of Vocations,  
39 East 83rd Street, New York, NY 10028-0810  
Phone: 212-774-5500, FAX: 212-794-1036  
[www.jesuitvocation.org](http://www.jesuitvocation.org), [vocations@mdsj.org](mailto:vocations@mdsj.org),  
[vocations@nysj.org](mailto:vocations@nysj.org)

## CARDINAL GEORGE BACKS TRADITIONAL LITURGY

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago has given his clear support for the use of the Tridentine-rite liturgy.

In a preface written for a collection produced by the International Committee for Liturgical Studies (CIEL), Cardinal George has referred to the Missal of Saint Pius V as "a precious source of liturgical

understanding for all other rites," and said that the pre-conciliar liturgy should be "better accepted." The work by CIEL, a Versailles-based organization faithful to the traditional liturgy, was published in France.

Several months after Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos (bio - news) celebrated a Tridentine-rite Mass at the Roman basilica of Saint Mary Major, Cardinal George said that the Church has reached "a moment of considerable importance" for the future of the traditional liturgy and thus for CIEL. He pointed out that Pope John Paul II has repeatedly mentioned the beauty and depth of the traditional Mass.

A broader use of the old liturgy, the Chicago archbishop continued, should be more than a "nostalgic revival." The authorized use of the Tridentine rite, he explained, should be encouraged because the old liturgy "belongs to the entire Church" as part of the patrimony of the faith.

The American prelate made reference in his preface to a forthcoming Vatican document on liturgical norms, which is expected to appear sometime late this year or early in 2004. (A draft version of the document, which sets out clear norms for the proper celebration of the Eucharistic liturgy, was rejected by the Roman Curia, apparently because it was judged too strict; a corrected draft is expected soon.) Cardinal

## SINGLES, SHARING the JOURNEY

You are invited to join other single, divorced and widowed men and women for an overnight retreat at **Dominican Retreat House, Elkins Park, PA.**

Come, enjoy the sounds of Selah; Presentations and discussions on leading a Christian, single life; Wine and Cheese Reception; Chinese Auction; Author Lydia Brownback.

**When:**

**June 26 to June 27, 2004**

**Time:**

**June 26th - 5:00 PM thru June 27th - 3:00 PM**

**Cost:**

**\$95.00 including meals**

For more information, call **JoAnn** at (856) 596-2052 or **Diane** at (856) 727-1047.

To register, provide: Name, Address, City, State, Zip, and Phone Number. Mail with a deposit of \$40 to **Dominican Retreat House, ATTN: Singles Retreat, 750 Ashbourne Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027.** Make checks payable to **The Dominican Retreat House.** Balance due at time of retreat.

George said that the new norms should help to foster greater devotion to the Eucharist. He expressed the hope that “we are at the dawn of a truly fruitful renewal for the liturgy of the Catholic Church.”

In his preface, Cardinal George indicates his support for those Catholics who are attached to the traditional liturgy. He also appeals to the Catholics who have become separated from the Holy See since the Lefebvrite schism of 1988. Relations between the different branches of the traditionalist movement are generally more cordial in the US than in Europe, where tensions are more pronounced. Cardinal Jorge Medina Estevez, the former prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, has also expressed his support for the work of CIEL in promoting the traditional liturgy. On November 22, the Chilean prelate will celebrate Mass using the Missal of **Saint Pius V** in **Saint Cecilia’s** parish in Rome, as part of a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the motu proprio *Tra le Sollecitudini*, a work by **Saint Pius X** devoted to sacred music.

(Versailles, Oct. 14 CWNews.com  
<http://www.ewtn.com/news/index.asp>)

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## MARY THE STAR

Look to the Star  
Call upon Mary!  
In danger, in difficulty  
or in doubt,  
think of Mary,  
call upon Mary,  
Keep her name on your lips,  
Never let it pass  
out of young  
in her footsteps,  
you will not go astray:  
praying to her,  
you will not  
fall into despair:  
thinking of her  
you will not err.  
While she keeps hold  
of your hand,  
you will not fall ...  
you will not grow weary ...  
you will have no fear ...  
Enjoying her protection,  
you will reach the goal.

(Saint Bernard)

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## “MORNING STAR” MORGENSTERN AS MARY

Quoted below are two significant passages from a lengthy review of the movie “The Passion of the Christ” entitled “A Passion of Violence and Love” by Vittorio Messori who is the first journalist in history to publish a book-length interview with a pope, the multimillion-selling “Crossing the Threshold of Hope” (1994), as well as numerous other works such as “The Ratzinger Report” (1987) and his best-selling “Ipotesi su Gesù” (The Jesus Hypothesis, 1976).

“When the long list of credits ends, where American names alternate with Italian, where recognition of the municipality of Matera is side by side with that of theologians and experts in ancient languages, where Rosalinda, the daughter of Celentano (the devil) is next to a Romanian Jew, Maia Morgenstern (the Virgin Mary), and the technician presses the light switch, silence continues in the little room.”

“... the Madonna with the face of the Jewish actress with the name Morgenstern which, it was only noticed later, is, in German, the “Morning Star” of the litanies of the rosary.”

The full text is available from Zenit News Service.

([www.zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org) Code: ZE04021821 Date: 2004-02-18)

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## MESSAGE of JUNE 25, 1992

*Dear children! Today I am happy, even if in my heart there is still a little sadness for all those who have started on this path and then have left it. My presence here is to take you on a new path, the path to salvation. This is why I call you, day after day to conversion. But if you do not pray, you cannot say that you are on the way to being converted. I pray for you and I intercede to God for peace; first peace in your hearts and also peace around you, so that God may be your peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

(<http://www.medjugorje.org/framconc.htm>)

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## DEAR GOD

Why didn't you save the school children at:  
Moses Lake, Washington 2/2/96  
Bethel, Alaska 2/19/97  
Pearl, Mississippi 10/1/97

West Paducah, Kentucky 12/1/97  
Stamps, Arkansas 12/15/97  
Jonesboro, Arkansas 3/24/98  
Edinboro, Pennsylvania 4/24/98  
Fayetteville, Tennessee 5/19/98  
Springfield, Oregon 5/21/98  
Richmond, Virginia 6/15/98  
Littleton, Colorado 4/20/99  
Taber, Alberta, Canada 5/28/99  
Conyers, Georgia 5/20/99  
Deming, New Mexico 11/19/99  
Fort Gibson, Oklahoma 12/6/99  
Santee, California 3/5/01 and  
El Cajon, California 3/22/01 ?

Sincerely,

Concerned Student

**Reply:**

*Dear Concerned Student:*

***I am not allowed in schools.***

*Sincerely,*

*God*

### **How did this get started?**

Let's see, I think it started when Madeline Murray O'Hare complained she didn't want any prayer in our schools. And we said, OK... Then, someone said you better not read the Bible in school, the Bible that says "thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbors as yourself," And we said, OK

Doctor Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem. And we said, an expert should know what he's talking about so we won't spank them anymore...

Then someone said teachers and principals better not discipline our children when they misbehave. And the school administrators said no faculty member in this school better touch a student when they misbehave because we don't want any bad publicity, and we surely don't want to be sued. And we accepted their reasoning...

Then someone said, let's let our daughters have abortions if they want, and they won't even have to tell their parents.

And we said, that's a grand idea...

Then some of our top elected officials said it doesn't matter what we do in private as long as we do our jobs. And we said, it doesn't matter what anybody, including the President, does in private as long as we have jobs and the economy is good...

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And someone else took that appreciation a step further and published pictures of nude children and then stepped further still by making them available on the Internet.

And we said, everyone's entitled to free speech And the entertainment industry said, let's make TV shows and movies that promote profanity, violence and illicit sex... And let's record music that encourages rape, drugs, murder, suicide, and satanic themes... And we said, it's just entertainment and it has no adverse effect and nobody takes it seriously anyway, so go right ahead...

Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, classmates or even themselves. Undoubtedly, if we thought about it long and hard enough, we could figure it out. I'm sure it has a great deal to do with...

"WE REAP WHAT WE SOW,"

(Charlotte Coletta, [ccoletta@UDel.Edu](mailto:ccoletta@UDel.Edu))

### **LETTERS from READERS**

Thank you for the update on your trip. I've looked forward to the March retreat the past two years and was spiritually renewed. This year, due to familial and work obligations, I will not be able to attend. However, I'll probably be with you in 2005. Please continue to send "The PILGRIM." I look forward to it and especially enjoy Kathleen's prayer on the front page.

May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you in your ministry. You will never know how many lives are touched through your hard work.

My prayers are with you,

**Yolande**

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Thank you! Twice! [Note about getting two copies at her address was also enclosed.] "The PILGRIM" just arrived. What an upper! I thought no one cared anymore. After 13 years of Medjugorje Marian Holy Hours every Friday, we were forbidden to continue. Our group continues to die off one by one, physically; many were older, some young. I refused to lead the people in liberal songs that did not follow our faith. That did it. The people have no place to gather for that Holy Hour. No one wants to hear of Fatima or Medjugorje; but NO one can stop that sweet fruit that is ripening and producing more. Thank you,

**God Bless,**

**Nanette**

Thank you thank you thank you! Your issues of "The PILGRIM" are always read cover to cover. This latest issue (Jan. '04) ministered to my soul so directly. Thank you for your love for God, His Mother, Mary, and God's people. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Sincerely,

-----  
Sheila

I have been remiss in writing as our life is so full that sometimes I think I may break apart. . . .

I enjoy your newsletters and wish we lived closer to participate in the conferences. Such a mighty work!!

Please continue to pray that our 3 daughters return to the sacraments to celebrate with us our 50 years of marriage. It is such a heartbreak when the family is so divided. The Catholic Church is not only our religion, it is our culture! Can't imagine being separated from it and to have 1/2 the family away is beyond belief.

Many good wishes to you.

-----  
Jeanne

## MESSAGE of SEPTEMBER 25, 1987

*Dear children! Today also I want to call you all to prayer. Let prayer be your life. Dear children, dedicate your time only to Jesus and He will give you everything that you are seeking. He will reveal Himself to you in fullness. Dear children, Satan is strong and is waiting to test each one of you. Pray, and that way he will neither be able to injure you nor block you on the way of holiness. Dear children, through prayer grow all the more toward God from day to day. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

<http://www.medjugorje.org/framconc.htm>

## LONG YEARS IT TOOK

Long years it took my heart to find Thee,

Many false turns did I make,

But what mercy and forbearance,

Did You harbor form my sake.

Many years of wasted chances,

I may not re-live again,

And dear Lord, You almost lost me,

Down the boulevards of sin.

Long it took for me to find Thee,

And what bitter lessons learned,  
But no better teacher than the  
Fire in which we have been burned  
Times it seemed that You would surely  
Have to give me up for lost  
Even though for me You suffered,  
And You died upon the cross.  
Long it took me, many detours,  
Many walls I had to climb,  
Many bridges burned behind me,  
...I was running out of time.  
And then suddenly within me,  
Love's voice, which through all endures,  
And I ran into Your open arms,  
And knew that I was Yours.

-----  
(Grace E. Easley).

## CONTEMPLATING the FACE of CHRIST

### A Brief Meditation on the Pope's Letter

Shall I confess that upon arriving in Rome near the end of the Jubilee Year, my first impulse on seeing the loveliness of the land I had left a dozen years before was not altogether pious? In fact, seized by a sudden and most ungodly craving for cappuccino, I straightaway scanned the horizon for the nearest bar. Fortunately, the good monsignor who picked us up at the airport proved both worldly and wise, and so we blissfully set out in search of caffeine relief.

A decent interval having passed, I at last made my way to Saint Peter's, where a great throng of pilgrims could be seen threading its way across the threshold of two massive Holy Doors. But I of course, on seeing a third door, its entrance undisturbed by human traffic impulsively shot through, not quite realizing the graces I'd lost in my haste to enter the basilica. Not, I'm afraid, an altogether auspicious return to the Holy City.

But the remaining days of my visit proved rather more successful. And now that the Pope has issued his apostolic letter on the whole experience, *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, I can look back and see how everything fell perfectly into place. Whom, after all, does the Pope have in mind in writing this beautiful and timely text if not Christ Himself, the Holy Door we have all been urged to enter in order to obtain the joy and happiness of heaven?

“We wish to see Jesus, “ exclaim the visiting Greeks who have come on pilgrimage to the holy city of Jerusalem where the Apostle Philip hastens to show them the human face of God (Jn. 12; 21). Is not this, the Pope asks, the task of the Church in every age, to produce such a likeness of God before the world as to satisfy the deepest desires of the human heart? More than ever, he reminds us, our gaze must remain fixed upon the face of Christ. Ah, but not by human effort alone may we succeed in seeing the face of God! In the absence of grace, there can be no possible entry through the door. “Only the experience of silence and prayer,” says the Pope, is sufficient to enable the encounter with grace to take place (no.20).

### **The Word Became Flesh**

How could it be otherwise with beings infinitely distant from God? Indeed, we are creatures of such radical contingency that between Him and us there lies an abyss no human may presume to cross. Only God is free to move across that divide. Which as the Gospels tell us He dared to undertake in that most dramatic descent we call the Incarnation: the startling and unforeseen event of eternity’s eruption into time. This horizon-shattering event of God’s taking flesh changes everything. Neither the universe nor those who dwell therein can ever be the same again. “Never was a tale told, “ insisted the immortal J.R.R. Tolkien, “that men would sooner believe to be true.” Here the impossible union of spheres more disparate than night versus day that of time and eternity, nature and grace, creature and Creator takes place in the very midst of our most suspect humanity. *Logos* and *Sarx* (Word and Flesh), now and forever, wedded most improbably together.

Here, it seems to me, we locate the heart of the Pope’s message, the core of the great legacy left to us in the wake of the Jubilee celebration. In marking this stupendous event of God becoming of choosing two millennia ago to pitch His tent in our midst the Pope urges all of Catholic Christendom to move at once “to contemplate the face of Christ.

O brighter than that glorious morn  
Shall this fair morning be,  
When Christ, our King,  
In beauty comes  
And we His face shall see!

What a beguiling prospect the Holy Father has set before us. Both in the perspective of the human history of our brother Jesus and in the divine mystery of God’s anointed Son, the Christ: “the Word and the flesh, the divine glory and His dwelling among us!” Only in the most “intimate and inseparable union of these two aspects,” declares the Pope, may we find

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and thus rejoice in this unheard of event of the Incarnate Word. “The still point of the turning world,” the poet T.S. Eliot calls it. “Except for the point,” he tells us in *Four Quartets*, the poetic masterpiece of 20<sup>th</sup>-century literature, “the still point, There would be no dance, and there is only the dance.”

### **Our Cousin Zacchaeus**

Christ-the heart of the Jubilee experience-has come to us as a rare and precious gift from God. To gaze upon the face of Christ-Isn’t this in fact what we all secretly long to do? To see God in the human Jesus, to hear His voice and, all at once to know the consoling presence of the Lord of history and the universe?

I like to think that we are all waiting, like Zacchaeus, to climb up into that sycamore tree, there to await the coming of the Lord. If only, we think, we might catch a fleeting glimpse of Him as He passes by. And then, all at once, it happens, the miracle we could not foresee and cannot refuse. Christ appears, and stopping beneath the very tree in whose branches we imagined ourselves so cleverly concealed, looks up and says the most amazing thing to us: “You there, Zacchaeus, come down out of that tree. For today I mean to stay at your house.” So the two of us go off together, ensuring that salvation will come, yes, even to this house, this sinful man. “For the Son of Man,” Jesus tells us, “has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

So wonderful and unexpected a testimony to the primacy of grace, the Holy Father seems to be telling us, ought not to go unheeded. We have all got a bit of Zacchaeus in us. Who among us would not wish to welcome Christ back into his house, there to restore the childlike innocence and wonder we had lost? Read this splendid letter of Pope John Paul II and see if your heart does not awaken to the signs of God’s presence among us, especially in the gift of God’s own body broken to become our bread. *Take and eat!* And then, in the glad ardor of a grateful heart, extend this Eucharist to others, to the whole world. That Christ may be all in all.

**(by Regis Martin “Laywitness” July-August 2003,)**

### **A VERY SPECIAL EVENT**

As young parents we search for information that will help us become the best parents ever. We soon realize that it is through our personal experiences with our children that we are formed into this parental role.

We begin living each day for the good of our children, thinking of them before ourselves. Each day becomes a new adventure filled with unexpected joys and trials. Our lives become richer and deeper because of our children, who daily stand before us receiving and accepting our love.

God in his wisdom continues to shape our humanness as parents, as we become the expression of his unconditional love.

As our children grow, mature, and begin families of their own, we are transformed. Our purpose in life as parents has come to fruition and we thank God for designing our part in creation.

I am watching and waiting for the fulfillment of my daughter's first pregnancy. I look on with much joy and happiness as she blossoms into motherhood. My life is coming around full circle as I see the next generation coming into being. Life truly is a gift from God.

My daughter and son-in-law, along with his parents invited my husband and me, to experience a moment in time we will never forget. I am amazed by modern technology but what I witnessed was far beyond my expectation. I must admit that hearing the heartbeat of this new creation and even feeling the movement of life within my daughter did not prepare me for this very special event.

As the technician prepared my daughter for the ultrasound procedure, the four grandparents reminisced with stories about our children who are about to become parents themselves. We shared that personal time in our lives when we ourselves were transformed into parents, and dedicated our lives to raising good Christian families.

The technician was ready, and the ultrasound procedure started. On the screen we began seeing the still image of a little boy, in black and white. We watched with joy and anticipation. The technician took a few measurements and several pictures.

She then asked, "Are you ready?" My daughter answered, "Oh yeah!" The technician made a few adjustments to the ultrasound machine and before our eyes a live moving picture "Little Tommy," appeared on the screen.

This ultrasound image gave us a sneak preview of our new grandson. Seeing the movement of his tiny hands and feet, his spine adjusting to his fetal lips, was such a miracle.

This image a real live picture of our grandson is only a taste of the joy we will soon experience when we hold our grandson on the day of his birth.

God is so full of surprises! Just imagine our earthly experiences are only a glimpse of what God has in store for us.

**(By Sandra Mullarkey, nurse at Epiphany Parish, Brick, and a candidate in the diocesan Institute for Lay Ecclesial Ministry. *The Monitor*, September 18, 2003)**

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## THE SHOE MAN

My alarm went off  
It was Sunday again.  
I was sleepy and tired  
My one day to sleep in.

But the guilt I would feel  
The rest of the day  
Would have been too much  
So I'd go and I'd pray.

I showered and shaved  
I adjusted my tie.  
I got there and sat  
In a pew just in time.

Bowing my head in prayer  
As I closed my eyes.  
I saw the shoe of the man next to me  
Touching my own. I sighed.

With plenty of room on either side  
I thought, "Why must our soles touch?"  
It bothered me, his shoe touching mine  
But it didn't bother him much.

A prayer began: "Our Father"  
I thought, "This man with the shoes has no pride.  
They're dusty, worn, and scratched  
Even worse, there are holes on the side!"

"Thank You for blessings," the prayer went on.  
The shoe man said a quiet "Amen."

I tried to focus on the prayer  
But my thoughts were on his shoes again  
Aren't we supposed to look our best  
When walking through that door?  
"Well, this certainly isn't it," I thought,  
Glancing toward the floor.

Then the prayer was ended  
And the songs of praise began.  
The shoe man was certainly loud  
Sounding proud as he sang.

His voice lifted the rafters  
His hands were raised high.  
The Lord could surely hear  
The shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering  
And what I threw in was steep.

I watched as the shoe man reached  
Into his pockets so deep.

I saw what was pulled out  
What the shoe man put in.  
Then I heard a soft “clink”  
as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me  
To tears, and that’s no lie  
It was the same for the shoe man  
For tears fell from his eyes.

At the end of the service  
As is the custom here  
We must greet new visitors  
And show them all good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow  
And wanted to meet the shoe man  
So after the closing prayer  
I reached over and shook his hand.

He was old and his skin was dark  
And his hair was truly a mess  
But I thanked him for coming  
For being our guest.

He said, “My name’s Charlie  
I’m glad to meet you, my friend.”  
There were tears in his eyes  
But he had a large, wide grin

“Let me explain,” he said  
Wiping tears from his eyes.  
“I’ve been coming here for months  
And you’re the first to say ‘Hi.’”

“I know that my appearance  
Is not like all the rest  
But I really do try  
To always look my best.”

“I always clean and polish my shoes  
Before my very long walk.”

“But by the time I get here  
They’re dirty and dusty, like chalk.”

My heart filled with pain  
and I swallowed to hide my tears  
As he continued to apologize  
For daring to sit so near.

He said, “When I get here  
I know I must look a sight.  
But I thought if I could touch you  
Then maybe our souls might unite.”

I was silent for a moment  
Knowing whatever was said  
Would pale in comparison  
I spoke from my heart, not my head.

“Oh, you’ve touched me,” I said

“And taught me, in part;  
That the best of any man  
Is what is found in his heart.”

The rest, I thought,  
This shoe man will never know.  
Like just how thankful I really am  
That his dirty old shoe touched my soul.

(sent to us by **Bill Krupp**)

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## **PRAY for FATHER BENEDICT GROESCHEL, CFR**

**H**e 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 who is now home in Brooklyn. Father Glenn is posting daily letters on his status at the CFR web site: <http://www.franciscanfriars.com/>.

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

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

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

The **PFMC** was established in the home of Keith and Kathleen Werner based on pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and other holy places or shrines worthy of pilgrimage.

Books, pamphlets, and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and acquire for themselves based on donations.

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 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**

**W**ould 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.

### **"The PASSION of the CHRIST"**

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) is collecting information on local showings. National Amusements, <http://www.nationalamuzements.com>, and AMC, [www.amctheatres.com](http://www.amctheatres.com), are showing the film on at least one screen in nearly every theater complex. The site <http://www.movietickets.com> shows times as for these as well as the Loews Theaters that are showing the film.

Regal Cinemas with Hoyts, United Artists, and Edwards Theaters, have the film on at least one screen per theater, <http://www.regalshowtimes.com>. Tickets can be obtained by calling 1-800-FANDANGO or visiting <http://www.fandango.com>.

Carmike Theaters will all be showing the movie on at least one screen. They have dedicated a page: [http://www1.carmike.com/dsp\\_movie\\_passion.cfm](http://www1.carmike.com/dsp_movie_passion.cfm) to support their showing of this movie. They also use FANDANGO.

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

To read articles: <http://seethepassion.com>

You can go to this web site [www.passion-movie.com](http://www.passion-movie.com) and register to find out more info on how to help.

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:

[www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04PPL08.pdf](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>.

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### 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:

[www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/04PPM10.pdf](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>.

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Thanks for anything you can do to post these notices in parish bulletins or even with local prayer groups. Please help us to spread the word.

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

## CONFERENCE CORNER

**26-28 March 2004: Camden Diocesan Charismatic Retreat “Eucharist - True Communion with the Lord”** Father Jim O’Connor, Saint Pius X Retreat House, Blackwood, NJ. Contact (856) 589-7205.

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**23-25 April 2004: Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, “Stir into flame the gift of God [1 Tim 1:6]”** Alliance of Filipino Catholic Charismatic Prayer Communities (AFCCPC), Baltimore Convention Center. (888) 213-5263 [www.afccpc.org](http://www.afccpc.org)

**24 April 2004: Day of Prayer and Healing** with Frank Kelly, Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Contact *In His Sign (IHS) Ministries* (610) 527-2906.

**25-27 June 2004: National Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference “Lord, we long to see Your face.”** Paul E. Tsongas Arena, Lowell, MA [www.nsc-chariscenter.org/Massachusetts/index.asp](http://www.nsc-chariscenter.org/Massachusetts/index.asp).

**22-24 October 2004: Ninth Annual Catholic Unity Conference, Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA.** Contact *IHS Ministries* (610) 527-2906.

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

Please FAX any printed notices to (856) 768-9428 or mail them to the address on page 32.

### Where The Master Reigns (WTMR) AM – 800 – Catholic Radio

From **1 PM to 6 PM, Monday thru Friday**, unless otherwise indicated, ministries supportive of the Roman Catholic faith offer Catholic Radio most of it with call-in opportunities.

Listen and support the ministries who have stepped out in faith to buy radio time.

Call in to **WTMR** using (856) 962-8178.

**1 PM: Our Lady of Fatima** with Betty Fyke

**1:30 PM:** Rosary from *Saint John Neumann Shrine*

**1:45 PM – 2 PM (Wednesday): “Divine Mercy of My Soul”** with Rudy Valentino and Friends.

**2 PM – 2:45 PM (Monday thru Thursday): “Help Wake Up AMERICA!”** with Dom Lettieri and others from *In His Sign (HIS) Ministries*.

**2 PM – 2:45 PM (Friday): “God the Father”** with Rudy Valentino and Friends.

**2:45 PM – 4 PM: “Voices of the Holy Souls”** with Joe Veltri and Friends. “Live Stations of the Cross” begin each program.

**4 PM – 5 PM: “As the Spirit Leads”** with Drew Mariani, Barbaranne Marion, and others from *Marian Communications*.

**5 PM – 6 PM: “Putting It On The Line”** with Dom Lettieri from *In His Sign (IHS) Ministries*.

## CALENDARS:

In *March*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of *SAIN*T *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)*.

In *April*, the Church celebrates Solemnities of *PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY (4), EASTER SUNDAY (11), and DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (18)*, the Memorial of *Saint Catherine of Siena (29)*, and Optional Memorials of *Saints Francis of Paola (2), Anselm (21), Adalbert (23), George, Martyr (23), Fidelis of Sigmaringen (24), Peter Chanel (28), Louis Mary de Monfort (28), and Pius V, Pope (30)*. The *EASTER TRIDUUM* is *Holy Thursday (8), Good Friday (9) and Holy Saturday (10)*.

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.

## DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Remember that the Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday, 9 April 2004, and run through Divine Mercy Sunday, 18 April 2004.

Anyone who wants to have the Divine Mercy Novena in their parish should contact us (856) 768-9228. If you know of scheduled devotions, particularly Divine Mercy Novena, please FAX any printed information to (856) 768-9428.



## PFMC PRESENTATIONS

**K**athleen 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.

## AROUND the PFMC AREA

**P**lease review the announcements on pages 1 through 6, the information sheet with reservation forms for the August 1-9, 2004 pilgrimage and the Ivan Dragicevic visit information sheet enclosed as well as the Bulletin Notices on pages 30 through 31.

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**

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

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**The PILGRIM, Volume 15, Number 3 - March 2004**

**PRIORITY DATED  
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,  
Friday, 3/5/2004**

U.S. POSTAGE  
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ATCO, NJ  
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## 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!"

