



The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 15, No. 7

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July 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



O Holy Spirit of love, sweet kiss of the Blessed Trinity, and spouse of Mary, clasp me, and hold me tightly. I need You and desire only to be with You in all things. All my thoughts and actions, my words and my memory long to be healed through obedience to You. And, in Your great plan, You will bring me, in Your great generosity, to be all that You intended me to be in this life.

My God, through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, reveal to me the delights of the bond of love within this Trinity. Show me the many ways through the virtues that will lead me to the interior fire that burns and brings me to thirst for life in You.

You refresh my soul and bring me to truth. You sow the seeds of many fruits of life. You flow like sweet honey and bring upon me the precious gifts of the Holy Spirit. O font of the desire of my heart, I want to cling to You with all my might. I want this intimacy with You, and I desire to experience Your Peace. AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

HOLY MASS and HEALING SERVICE, FRIDAY, 9 JULY 2004

Father Bill Halbing will celebrate Holy Mass on **Friday, July 9, 2004 at 7 PM** followed by a Healing Service with anointing at **Saint Lawrence Church, White Horse Pike (US 30) at South Avenue, Lindenwold, NJ**. Maps are available on the previously enclosed white information sheet and from the **PFMC** by calling (856) 768-9228.

A well-known speaker, **Father Bill** has been very active in the **Catholic Charismatic Renewal** since **1975**. We welcome him for his second Holy Mass with healing service under **PFMC** sponsorship.

The **June** MESSAGE, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Hercegovina**, is presented beginning on page 14 (centerfold page) with the **6/26/04 REFLECTION** and **PRESS BULLETIN**.

PFMC ANNUAL MEETING and POT LUCK PICNIC is SATURDAY, 31 JULY 2004

Plan now to attend this meeting and meet the volunteers in the **Upper Room** of the **PFMC**. Bring your favorite food with some to share. The **PFMC** volunteers will provide paper goods and refreshments. The required annual meeting will be short and sweet at about **3 PM** followed by **Divine Mercy Chaplet** and **Holy Rosary**.

IS OUR LADY CALLING YOU? LATE RESERVATIONS for our PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES WITH FATHER JOHN TINO MAY STILL BE POSSIBLE

Ticketing was accomplished for pilgrims on our list on **1 July 2004** as scheduled. Both our agent and **Air France** have agreed to find seats if still available for those who sign up with full payment prior to departure. See page 2 for additional information.

OCTOBER PILGRIMAGE to MEDJUGORJE via ROME CHANGED DEPARTURE from JFK, NY to NEWARK, NJ

We recently found out that our agent is finding the flights from **Newark, NJ (EWR)** to **Rome, Italy (FCO)**, to have more space for groups than those from **John F. Kennedy (JFK), NY**, so our flights will now be out of **Newark, NJ (EWR)**.

There is an orchid colored information sheet in this

"The PILGRIM" for July 2004 is dedicated to "MARY, DISPENSER of the GIFTS of GOD." See page 3 for an **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."** listing.

issue of **"The PILGRIM."** We will let the pilgrims know the exact flight times when we get them. The **Alitalia** price is the same whether flying from **EWR** or **JFK** to **FCO**. We generally take an evening flight that arrives in the early morning hours, i.e. about **7 AM** the next day. We will see some of the exciting things around **Rome** on the way to the hotel for afternoon check-in.

If you have a desire to join **Doctor Bob** and **Anita Rice** on their first pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** via **Rome**, please register now. Full payment is due on **12 July 2004** and with reservations after that date.

This pilgrimage is special because we visit **Rome** for **2 days** then fly to **Split, Croatia (SPU)**, for **7 days** in **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, then return to **Rome** for an additional **2 days** prior to flying home.

We plan to be present for the **Wednesday** audience with the **Holy Father, Pope John Paul II**. We also plan to see all of the wonderful **Roman Catholic** and **Christian** sights in **Rome** as well as have a relaxed visit to **Medjugorje** and surrounding areas.

We are very pleased that **Father Michael Culkin, Chaplain at Lancaster Regional Medical Center, Lancaster, PA**, has agreed to be our Spiritual Director for this pilgrimage. He is a graduate of the **North American College Seminary in Rome** with the **Class of 1978**. He returned to **Rome** in **2003** to celebrate **25 years** of priesthood with his classmates.

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

See **Conference Corner** on page 27 as well as **Bulletin Notices** on pages 26 through 27. Most **PFMC** events will be preceded by their own **PFMC** information sheets with reservation forms.

July 2004

July 9, 2004, Friday: **Father Bill Halbing** will celebrate a **Healing Mass** at **Saint Lawrence Church** in **Lindenwold, NJ**.

The **PFMC Annual Meeting** and **Pot Luck Picnic**, scheduled in our by-laws for the **First Sunday in August**, has been moved to **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 (Giovanni) 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**, and the **Eiffel Tower**, as well as dining in the **Latin Quarter**.

The cost of this pilgrimage is **\$1999** plus **\$157** to cover airport and air travel taxes. This includes air fare round trip, hotels, guides, land transfers, all breakfasts, and all but one supper while in **Paris**. There were blue color information sheet with reservation forms enclosed in previous issues of **"The PILGRIM."** Call **(856) 768-9228** if you do not have one. Full final payment is due NOW should be sent with all new registration forms.

Most pilgrimages only stay in **Lourdes** for **3-4 days**. We have extended to **6 days** in **Lourdes** for time to rest, attend and fully participate in the day and candlelight evening processions, and to reflect upon the story of **Lourdes, Our Lady**, and **Saint Bernadette**. We hope to spend concentrated time at the grotto and even take a side trip to the head of the **Gave River**, a beautiful waterfall not far from **Lourdes**. There will be extra time to enjoy the **Stations of the Cross**, the **Rosary Basilica**, the **Reconciliation Hall**, and the **Adoration Chapel**.

Pope John Paul II plans to visit **Lourdes** around **August 15, 2004**, and we will be there just before that. All of the preparations for his visit should make **Lourdes** a very attractive spot for pilgrimages.

October 2004

We have planned a **PFMC** Pilgrimage to **Medjugorje (PPM)** via **Rome** for **Doctor Bob** and **Anita Rice** of

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.

"In His Omnipotent Presence (IHOP) Ministries". The dates are *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.

We are happy to have **Father Michael Culkin, Chaplain at Lancaster Regional Hospital**, as Spiritual Director. **Father Michael** has been on pilgrimage with us to **Medjugorje** via **Rome** on two previous occasions in the *early 1990's*. He is a graduate of the **North American College** in **Rome** and returned there in *2003* for his *25th* Class Reunion.

Call *(856) 768-9228* if you do not have an orchid color information sheet with reservation forms. There should be one enclosed in this issue of *"The PILGRIM"*. Fill out a reservation form and send it in with your deposit or full payment.

If you wish to know more about **Bob and Anita Rice**, read *"Former Protestant Pastor Speaks Out on the Holy Eucharist"* and *"Will the Real Apostolic Church Please Stand UP!"*, both available at or from the **PFMC**. This will be their first opportunity to visit **Medjugorje, Rome** and the **Vatican**.

(The **PFMC** Volunteer Staff Members)

DONATIONS NEEDED

Please review the enclosed canary information sheet.

We are still collecting donations for a family of 5 who want to visit **Lourdes** with the *August* pilgrimage. We need help with the remainder of the package cost, *\$1999*, plus the air tax cost of *\$157*, through donations to the **PFMC** for at least 2 of the family members. The father has **Muscular Dystrophy** that requires him to wear leg braces. This disease is causing him to take more and more time away from work. He and his family have been praying for a healing from this disease. He has gotten in prayer that he should visit *Our Lady's* miraculous waters in **Lourdes**. Please pray for him and his family.

This young family has such faith that healing will occur in **Lourdes**. They are deeply involved in their faith walk and very much in love with *Our Lady*.

If you are financially capable, but cannot travel yourself, please consider making a large donation to offset the costs of a pilgrimage for this family. If more donations come in than are necessary for two he will take the next oldest, etc., until finally he can take his wife and the new baby boy, Joseph, born on *Father's Day, June 20, 2004*.

Thank you for answering Mary's call.

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4-9 FEBRUARY 2005 EVENTS

The *2005 Retreat Conference (RC), 3-Day Extension (3DX), and Youth Track (YT)* events in the **Hilton Hotel, Cherry Hill, NJ**, will take place from *Friday, 4 February 2005* through *Wednesday, 9 February 2005*.

This change was mandated by an error on the part of the **Hilton Hotel** staff who did not notice a booking for the previous time they offered us. The contract has been signed so plan to attend.

Father Bill Halbing will speak on *Friday* and *Saturday*. **Linda Schubert** from *Miracles of the Heart Ministries* and author of “**Miracle Hour**” will be the keynote speaker for *Saturday night* and stay for the **3DX**. More information on other speakers and the theme will be forthcoming.

Information sheets with reservations forms will appear in the *August-September* issue of “**The PILGRIM**” to be mailed the first week in *September*. These 4 page flyers will be available at the **PFMC** and will be mailed to prayers groups as the volunteers can get to the mailings. If you would like a group of flyers please call (856) 768-9228.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for the MONTH of JULY

VATICAN CITY, JUL 1, 2003 (VIS) - The Holy Father's general prayer intention for the month of July is: “That all those who are able to benefit from a holiday period during this time of the year may be helped during their vacation to rediscover in God their inner harmony and to open themselves to the love of human beings.”

His missionary intention is: “That in the young Churches the lay faithful may receive more attention and may be turned to greater account for evangelization.”

(~/PRAYER INTENTIONS:JULY/... VIS 040701 (100))

JOHN PAUL II CONVOKES “YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST” - OCTOBER 2004 to OCTOBER 2005

On the feast of Corpus Christ, John Paul II announced a “Year of the Eucharist” that the Catholic Church will observe from October 2004 to October 2005.

At the Mass he presided over today in the Basilica of Saint John Lateran, the Pope explained that the Year of the Eucharist will begin with the International Eucharistic Congress, October 10-17, 2004, in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The year “will end with the next ordinary assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which will be held in the Vatican from October 2-29, 2005, and whose theme will be ‘The Eucharist: Source and Summit of the Life and Mission of the Church,’” the Holy Father added.

John Paul II, who reminded the faithful that the “Church lives from the Eucharist,” has made this sacrament the focus of his pastoral concern, as reflected in his 2003 encyclical, “Ecclesia de Eucharistia.”

“Christ, ‘the living bread which came down from heaven,’ is the only one who can satisfy man’s hunger at all times and in all parts of the earth,” he said.

In the Eucharist, “Christ gives his Body and Blood for the life of humanity. And all those who nourish themselves worthily at his table, become living instruments of his presence of love, mercy and peace,” the Pope explained.

As has been the custom since the beginning of this pontificate, at the end of the Mass John Paul II presided over the procession of the Eucharist from the Basilica of Saint John Lateran to that of Saint Mary Major.

(VATICAN CITY, JUNE 10, 2004 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)))

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

Real unity comes through living in the Holy Spirit. If we are living in the flesh, our lives will be marked by discord and division. But **if we are pliable to the spirit, love and compassion will flow easily toward other Christians – indeed, toward everyone we meet.** Scripture says, “the kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Romans 14:17). This year let the Holy Spirit establish the kingdom of God in your heart, for **there will be no peace between us until there is peace within us.**

LIVING in the SPIRIT

We live in the spirit when we set our hearts and minds on the Lord and ask his spirit for the grace to obey God’s will. The Spirit enkindles our hearts with love and empowers our wills to refuse temptations toward hatred and prejudice. We live in the spirit when we put to death the desires and judgments that flow from our fallen nature and claim in faith that that our old life of sin has been “crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20). We live in the Spirit when we stake our lives on the promise that through Jesus’ resurrection, we can be empowered to live in love and unity with one another.

Paul was so convinced about the Spirit’s power to bring unity that he gave the Galatians a simple formula: “Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16). Paul knew that the more the Galatians sought wisdom, strength, and guidance from the Spirit, the softer their hearts

would be, and the more willing they would be to honor and forgive each other.

(Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Winter 2001-2002)

MAY IRAQI HOPES for PEACE, FREEDOM, and PROSPERITY BE FULFILLED

VATICAN CITY, JUN 28, 2004 (VIS) - The following telegram was sent today in Pope John Paul's name by Cardinal Angelo Sodano, secretary of State, to His Excellency Sheikh Ghazi Ajeel Al-Yawar, president of Iraq:

“On the happy occasion of the transfer of power to the Interim Government of the State of Iraq, the Holy Father sends his cordial greetings to Your Excellency and to the citizens of your country. He prays that, as a new chapter begins in the life of the nation, the hopes of the Iraqi people for peace, freedom and prosperity will soon be fulfilled. His Holiness has always been deeply concerned for the suffering people of Iraq. He has expressed his solidarity with them on many occasions, not least through the constant presence among them of his personal representative, the Apostolic Nuncio. Now, as you take up the office of President, the Catholic Church throughout the world offers you every support and encouragement in the task of building a new Iraq. Your noble country, once home to Abraham, is now home to a rich variety of faith traditions. The Holy Father is confident that all religious groups within the country will be able to make their voices heard and to play their rightful part in forging a new society, committed to true freedom of conscience, to justice for all and to peaceful dialogue. Assuring Your Excellency and all the Iraqi people of his prayers, the Holy Father invokes upon you the abundant blessings of Almighty God.”

Analogous messages were sent from Cardinal Sodano to His Excellency Mr. Iyad Allawi, Prime Minister of Iraq, and from Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, secretary for Relations with States, to His Excellency Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, Iraqi Minister for Foreign Affairs.

**(TGR/INTERIM GOVERNMENT:IRAQ/SODANO
VIS 040630 (290))**

POPE JOHN PAUL: BELIEVING IN CHRIST MEANS DESIRING UNITY

VATICAN CITY, JUN 29, 2004 (VIS) - Today, the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles, at 6 PM in Saint Peter's Square in the presence of Ecumenical

Patriarch Bartholomew I, Pope John Paul celebrated Mass, during which he blessed and bestowed palliums on 44 metropolitan archbishops from different countries throughout the world. Both the Pope and the Patriarch pronounced homilies, following the reading of the Gospel in both Latin and Greek. The Nicene-Constantinople Creed was then recited in Greek according to the liturgical use of the Byzantine Churches.

Patriarch Bartholomew, whose homily was introduced by Pope John Paul, spoke of the progress that had been made since the embrace 40 years ago between Paul VI and Patriarch Athengoras, but added that “it has not been possible to eliminate in these 40 years the opposition that has accumulated during over 900 years. ... We hope that what has not been possible up to now will be obtained in the future, a near future. ... Our presence here today shows our sincere desire to remove all ecclesial obstacles which are not dogmatic or essential, so that our interest is concentrated on the study of the essential differences and the dogmatic truths that up to today have divided our Churches, as well as on the manner of living the Christian truth of the united Church.”

The ecumenical patriarch said that the unity of the Churches is not like that of a business or of States, “but is a spiritual search that aims at living together our spiritual communion with the person of Our Lord Jesus Christ. ... In this delicate spiritual effort difficulties emerge due to the fact that the greater part of us men most often present our own positions,

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

opinions and evaluations as if they were expressions of the mind, of the love and, in general, of the spirit of Christ. Since such personal opinions and evaluations ... do not coincide, either among themselves or with how Christ lived, discord emerges.” What we must seek, he said, is not only external union, but union of spirit, in the spirit of Christ.

Pope John Paul’s homily centered on Christian unity and he noted that the presence of Patriarch Bartholomew at this evening’s liturgy marked the 40th anniversary of “the fraternal embrace” in 1964 between Pope Paul VI and then Patriarch Athenagoras. He called that meeting “not just a memory, but a challenge for us, indicating the path of reciprocal discovery and reconciliation.”

Quoting his 1995 Encyclical “Ut Unum Sint,” the Holy Father said: “To believe in Christ means to desire unity; to desire unity means to desire the Church; to desire the Church means to desire the communion of grace which corresponds to the Father’s plan from all eternity. Such is the meaning of Christ’s prayer: ‘Ut unum sint’.” He added that the commitment to communion “is not a question of a vague relationship of good neighbors but rather the indissoluble bond of theological faith for which we are destined to communion, not to separation.”

The Pope remarked that “Whatever, over time, has broken our bond of unity in Christ we find painful today. Thus, today’s encounter is not just a gesture of courtesy but is an answer to the Lord’s command.” He stated that “The Church of Rome has moved with firm will and with great sincerity on the path of full reconciliation, through initiatives that have shown themselves to be, every time, possible and useful. ... We know that unity is above all a gift from God, ...but bringing about its realization depends also on us.”

The Holy Father told Patriarch Bartholomew that he has “always been guided on the path to unity by the sure compass of the teaching of Vatican Council II. ... I repeat today that the commitment undertaken by the Catholic Church with Vatican Council II is irrevocable. We cannot renounce this!”

In conclusion, the Holy Father addressed the archbishops about to receive the pallium, telling them that this “is a sign of the communion that unites you in a special way to the apostolic witness of Peter and Paul. It links you to the Bishop of Rome, Successor of Peter, called to undertake a special ecclesial service with regard to the entire episcopal college.”

**(HML/PALLIUM:PATRIARCH
BARTHOLOMEW/... VIS 040630 (720))**

DESIRE for JUSTICE MANIFESTS DESIRE for SALVATION

VATICAN CITY, JUN 23, 2004 (VIS) - In today’s general audience celebrated in the Paul VI Hall, the Pope spoke about the Canticle in Chapter 15 of the Book of Revelation, “Hymn of adoration and praise.”

John Paul II said that this hymn “is sung by those who are saved, the just of this earth. ... Like the Hebrews, after having crossed the seas, the chosen people raise up to God their ‘hymn of Moses and the Lamb,’ having conquered the beast, the enemy of God.”

With this hymn, he continued, those who are saved “exalt the ‘great and admirable works’ of the ‘Lord God Almighty’, his saving action in the governing of the world and in history. True prayer, as well as supplication, is praise, thanksgiving, blessing, celebration, and profession of faith in the Lord who saves.”

The Holy Father indicated that “the universal dimension in this hymn, which is expressed in the terms of Psalm 85, is significant: ‘All the nations thou hast made shall come and bow down before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name.’ Our gaze extends to the whole horizon and we see crowds of people going toward the Lord in order to recognize ‘His just judgements’, His interventions in history to fend off evil and to praise good. Therefore, the desire for justice present in all cultures, the need for truth and love that is perceived in all spiritualities, manifests a desire for salvation which can only come from the Lord.”

(AG/HYMNS REVELATION/... VIS 040623 (260))

THE EUCHARIST TRANSFORMS the LIFE of BELIEVERS

VATICAN CITY, JUN 19, 2004 (VIS) - Made public today was a message from the Holy Father to Bishop Egidio Caporello of Mantova, on the occasion of the special Jubilee for the 12th centenary of the Italian diocese, founded in 804, which began on November 30, 2003 and will conclude on November 21, 2004, Solemnity of Christ the King.

The Pope writes in the Message dated June 10, Solemnity of Corpus Christi, that “the Church of Mantova has put Christ, hidden behind the veil of the species of the Eucharistic, at the center of the Jubilee celebrations.”

“Daily participation in the Eucharist,” he continues, “the nourishment of eternal life, is capable of transforming the life of believers. ... The Eucharist

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gives us the courage and joy to be saints. The Jubilee is, therefore, an appropriate occasion to take a closer look at the universal vocation to sanctity. The world needs people who are saints more than anything else.”

After highlighting the social changes and economic difficulties that Italy is experiencing, John Paul II says that “a certain consumer and secularized mentality undermines the unity and stability of families, and, seducing a growing number of Christians, it leads them to distance themselves from the values of the faith in the social, civil and political spheres. It is necessary to react to these destructive forces, and, therefore, we must rediscover the Christian roots of our culture. All the faithful are called to this duty and will contribute effectively to this urgent need if they put Christ at the center of every personal, community and family project. Beginning with Him, we can build up a world that is more just and fraternal.”

(MESS/JUBILEEE DIOCESE
MANTOVA/CAPORELLO VIS 040619 (290))

NO AUGUST ISSUE of “*The PILGRIM*”

Since there will be no *August* issue of “*The PILGRIM*” and it will be combined as an *August-September* issue in early September probably not mailed until around **9 September 2004**. We honor Mary for her celebrated birthday of **8 September** and her alleged real birthday of **5 August** in this issue.

SAINT MARY MAJOR - MIRACLE of the SNOWFALL

VATICAN CITY, JUL 29, 2003 (VIS) - On August 5, as it has done for centuries, Saint Mary Major Basilica will celebrate the miraculous snowfall that occurred during the night of August 4-5, 358 on the site where the basilica was built, according to a communiqué from the basilica administration.

Three days of preparation, in which Cardinals Francesco Mario Pompedda, prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, Sergio Sebastiani, prefect of the Prefecture of Economic Affairs of the Holy See, and Virgilio Noe, archpriest emeritus of St. Peter’s Basilica will participate, will mark this annual event. The highlight on August 5 will be a Pontifical Mass celebrated by Cardinal Carlo Furno, archpriest of the basilica. During both Mass and Second Vespers the most noteworthy moment of this feast day occurs when there is a shower of flower petals from the ceiling of

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the basilica, to commemorate the 358 August snowfall.

According to tradition, the Virgin Mary appeared in a dream to two faithful Roman Christians, the patrician John and his wife as well as to Pope Liberius (352-366), asking that a church in her honor be built on the site where snow would fall the night of August 4-5. Pope Liberius traced the outlines of the church in the snow and the first basilica was built on that site. It was completed about a century later by Pope Sixtus III, following the Council of Ephesus in 431 during which Mary was declared to be the Mother of God.

The basilica is called Saint Mary Major as well as Saint Mary of the Snows and the Liberian Basilica, for the Pope who ordered it built. It is famous for housing the relic of the crib of the Baby Jesus as well as the image of “*Salus Populi Romani*” which is revered by Romans, and which tradition says was painted by Saint Luke.

(from Vatican Information Service (VIS) - 29-July-2003)

NOVENA for the NATIVITY of OUR LADY

The prayer of each day is preceded by the following:

V. O God, come to my assistance

R. O Lord, make haste to help me

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

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

First Day: Heavenly Child, lovable Mary, the Eternal Father delights in your birth, for He beholds in your coming into this world one of His creatures who is so perfect that she will become the worthy Mother of His divine Son. May your birth give joy to my soul also, by obtaining for me from the heavenly Father, the pardon of my sins, and an abiding sorrow for them.

Hail Mary...

Second Day: O Chosen One among the daughters of Adam, admirable Mary, the Son of God delights in your birth, for He beholds the one chosen to be His Mother, and oh! such a beloved Mother. May your birth give joy to my soul also, by obtaining from your divine Son the grace to be born again spiritually to a holy life, perfectly conformed to yours, so that I may merit to obtain eternal glory.

Hail Mary...

Third Day: O Chosen One among the daughters of Adam, lovable Mary, the Eternal Word takes delight in your birth, for He sees the source of His Immaculate Blood. May your birth give joy to my soul also, by obtaining for me from the Word made Flesh, the grace to find in this Divine Blood the eternal happiness of my soul.

Hail Mary...

Fourth Day: O Chosen One among the daughters of Adam, admirable Mary, the Redeemer, promised to mankind from the beginning of the world, takes delight in your birth, for He sees the one who is destined to become the [Co-redemptress](#) of souls by uniting her tears to the Blood shed on the Cross to save mankind.

Hail Mary...

Fifth Day: Resplendent Lily of Paradise, lovable Mary, the Holy Spirit takes delight in your birth for He sees in you the soul never stained by sin, which would forever be His worthy Temple. May your birth give joy to my soul also, by obtaining for me from the Holy Spirit His divine love and final perseverance.

Hail Mary...

Sixth Day: Most Beautiful Branch of the tree of David, most admirable Mary, whose birth was such a consolation to Saint Joachim and Saint Anne who were delighted to be the parents of so holy a child, may your birth be the consolation of my soul, by obtaining for me from God, victory over the world and detachment from all the things of this earth.

Hail Mary...

Seventh Day: Resplendent Morning Star, lovable Mary, your birth was the cause of great joy to the angels, for they beheld in you the Mother of the Redeemer of the world, who by His Death would repair the loss sustained by the fall of rebellious angels in paradise. May your birth give joy to my soul also, by obtaining for me from God, victory over the infernal enemy, deliverance from all his snares, and the grace to be associated in glory with the angels in heaven.

Hail Mary...

Eighth Day: Brilliant Aurora of Heaven, lovable Mary, your birth brought great consolation to the souls of the saints detained in limbo, for it announced the approach of the Sun of Justice, Jesus Christ, who would enlighten their darkness and then conduct them to paradise. May your birth give joy to my soul also,

and obtain for me from God, patience in all adversities, a perfect and constant conformity to His most holy will.

Hail Mary...

Ninth Day: Mediatrix between God and mankind, admirable Mary, by your birth you perfected the joy of all the children of Adam, who, through you, have received the Author of Grace, for He has made you the treasurer of all the graces which are imparted to us. May your birth be a special cause of joy to my soul by obtaining for me from God, eternal salvation and all the graces necessary to obtain it.

Hail Mary...

The prayer of each day is ended by the following:

Antiphon: Your Nativity, O Virgin Mother of God, was the herald of joy to the whole world; since from you arose the Sun of Justice, Christ our God, who, destroying the curse, bestowed the blessing, and confounding death, rewarded us with life everlasting.

V. Let us celebrate with joy the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

R. That she may intercede for us with Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us pray

Grant to us your servants, we beseech you, O Lord, the gift of Your heavenly grace, that as our salvation was begun in the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin, so from this solemn festival of her Nativity may we obtain an increase of peace. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Nihil Obstat: **Iacobus P. King, I.C.D. Censor Deputatus. Imprimatur: Bryan Iosephus McEntegart, D.D., LL.D. Episcopus Bruklyniensis.**)

THE GIFT of MARY

The day Mary came into the brightness of human living was a wonderful day for our world. It marked the advent on earth of pure and singular holiness embodied in one of God's creatures. No other creature can ever come close to her holiness. Mary is, as the poet Wordsworth has so beautifully worded it, "our tainted nature's solitary boast." She is exclusive, an appropriate gift from God the Father selected by God the Son from all eternity. As Mary is also the bride of the Holy Ghost, all three Persons of the most Holy Trinity would delight in her immediate affirmative response to Their Redemptive Plan.

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Mary's birth was indeed THE DAWN OF OUR SALVATION.

That the Word, the Son of God, from all eternity, chose His created Mother, should not surprise us. Indeed, in the very bosom of the Eternal Father the Eternal Word was given the choice of His Mother Mary. We cannot comprehend the joy and gladness this choice afforded Jesus. In fact, according to Father Faber, in his classic work entitled BETHLEHEM, Jesus likeness to His Mother was and is one of His eternal joys.

We receive a rather dim glimpse of this joy of Jesus, when reflecting upon our own joy in THINKING OF MARY, her supernatural loveliness, and studying the greatness of her gifts and the surpassing purity of her virtues. At best, we have but a faint idea of the incomparable gladness given the Eternal Word in the choice of Mary, and the act of creating her through that very choice.

Much of the above was taken from Father Faber's book, BEHTLEHEM, with permission from Thomas A. Nelson, TAN Books and Publishers, Rockford, IL.)

To the Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity was given the choice of one who would be worthy of being the Mother of God, a Mother suitable to the tremendous mystery of Hypostatic Union (the wondrous joining of His Divine Nature with our human nature through Mary, in whom the Word was made Flesh). Let us consider that in his choice of a Mother he would select one fitted to minister to His marvelous Body out of her own heart's blood, and who would be, for nine months, the very tabernacle of His Most heavenly Soul.

"There was no accident in His choice of Mary. She was not merely the holiest of women living on earth at the time when His resolved to come. She was not a mere tool, an instrument for the passing necessity of one hour, to be used and flung aside indistinguishable in the crowd when her use was gone

"This is not God's way. He does not deal this way with His elect. God does not use His creatures. They enter into His purposes and are an integral part of them. Mary was, in fact, THE GATE by which the Creator entered into His own creation." (op.cit. – Faber)

Mary was ever grateful for the gifts showered upon her by God. In her MAGNIFICAT we read of her beatified gratitude its words state in part: "He Who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is His Name."

"The Most Holy Trinity so gifted Mary that she is the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. She was a new **The PILGRIM, Volume 15, Number 7 – July 2004**

creation, though she had existed from all eternity in the Mind of God. The creation of the material world was an event of less moment by far than the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: (op.cit. -Faber)

Blessed with the use of reason from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception, Mary was able to advance in grace and merits beyond all calculation. No other creature corresponded so humbly, lovingly and faithfully to graces given as did this exquisite Vessel of Election, Mary Immaculate!

In his treatise, THE GLORIES OF MARY, Saint Alphonsus Liguori holds that opinion that at the very first moment of her birth, Mary had already merited more than had all the angels and saints combined. So he exclaims: "Hail, Mary, full of grace! even at the first moment of her birth! Father Faber also affirms that in her very first act of love, her heroic virtues began far beyond the point where those of the highest saints have ended.

We would do well to praise and thank the Most Holy Trinity for all the graces conferred on Mary, the Mother of God from the first moment of her Conception and ever afterwards.

How joy-filled our Blessed Mother would be if a group of her children -and that we all are- would remember her birthday in a special way. (So often we give our mothers anything but what they are looking for!) What could the Mother of God need from us? For one thing, it is her personal concern that each one of us becomes what God intended us to be a SAINT. What if we took the first step in that direction on her birthday, September 8th? No gift would mean more to her than our sincere effort to live our lives to the fullest in imitation of Jesus.

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

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

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

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

Please read the enclosed canary information sheet and consider responding to what it says.

Turn to your Heavenly Mother, Mary. She will lead you to Jesus. (The quickest and surest way to become His friend is to befriend His Mother.) She will make you all God ever intended; it will be the greatest choice of your life.

Each year, as our Mother Mary's birthday comes around, we would do well to remember how much our own fidelity to grace means to God, our heavenly Mother and the entire Church. In imitation of Mary, in her Magnificat and the Te Deum of her whole life on earth and throughout eternity, let us never cease thanking God for His graces and blessings. Too often, we take these for granted!

Let us not be ashamed of our love for Mary, but show it faithfully and outwardly by setting up a line of communication with her. The best one is her Rosary.

And, as sister Lucia (now Sister Mary of the Immaculate Heart) reminds us, our Brown Scapular worn about our necks is an integral part of the Fatima Message, and must go hand in hand with our fidelity to the Rosary and daily duty. May we gratefully wear her Scapular, held out to us at Fatima! The strings remind us of her motherly arms about our necks and the brown wool clothes us with her own garment: "a sign of her heart."

The autobiography of Gilbert Keith Chesterton states: "If people do not like that cult (the honor paid to the Blessed Virgin), they are quite right not to be Catholics. I want the idea not only liked but also loved and loved ardently, and above all proudly proclaimed. I want it to be what the Protestants are perfectly right in calling it: the badge and sign of a Papist. I want to be allowed to be enthusiastic about the existence of the enthusiasm, not to have my chief enthusiasm coldly tolerated as an eccentricity of myself."

Though these words were written in 1936, the love of our Blessed Mother and devotion to her are still the "badge and sign" of a Catholic – of a good Catholic deserving of the name. Did not Jesus give us the gift of Mary as He was breathing His last, on the Cross? In Saint John, we take her as our Mother, as our own.

A New Jersey Sister of Charity, whose cause for canonization is being examined by Pope John Paul II, has this to say in her book **GREATER PERFECTION**:

"No wonder the Church rejoices with boundless joy on this happy festival, in truth the beginning of salvation (the Immaculate Conception). No wonder the Church shouts with exultation... Truly, Saint Anne, in bringing forth the Morning Star, brought forth through her the Sun of Justice, Christ our God. And if our joy be not so great as that of the Church, it

is only because we do not understand the greatness of the Mystery that has come to pass."

This writer adds that if we did, we would find each birthday of the Mother of God more joy-filled than the one, which preceded it. For, as each new year dawns for us, we ought to be that much closer to Jesus, her Divine Son.

(by Sister M. Barbara Anne, F.M.S.C. from "The Maryfaithful" Spring-Summer 2002.)

HOLY COMMUNION MUST NOT BE USED AS A WEAPON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Oh Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed."

Each of us prays those words at every Mass before receiving Holy Communion. In recent months, however, some Catholics have been asking whether some others are so "not worthy" that they should be denied the sacrament. It has been suggested, for example, that bishops refuse to offer Communion to pro-choice politicians, or to legislators who favor same-sex marriage, or cloning, or stem cell research, or capital punishment, or the war in Iraq, or . . . the list seems to grow longer every day. It has also been suggested that Catholics who vote for politicians who hold certain views on these issues should not present themselves for Communion.

In addition, bishops have been encouraged to deny Communion to members of groups known to oppose Church teaching on various matters of faith and morals. On the parish level, priests are sometimes urged to withhold the sacrament from individuals in the community who are rumored to be "living in sin."

The question of who should and who should not receive Communion is not only on the minds of people in the pews. The bishops of the United States have established a task force to study what kind of response ought to be made to Catholic politicians who publicly oppose Church teachings. The Vatican has announced that the next Synod of Bishops will focus on the Eucharist, including the circumstances under which Communion should be denied. Thankfully, the task force will not conclude its work until after the general election in November and the synod does not convene until 2005, thereby avoiding accusations of political partisanship.

You may be wondering about my position on the question of denying Communion to various categories of people. I want you to know that I refuse to allow the Eucharistic liturgy to become politicized. What I

mean is that I will not allow Holy Communion to be used as a weapon in ongoing political and ideological battles. For this reason, it is not my intention to reject anyone who comes forward in a respectful manner to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

At the same time, I uphold Church law which states that a Catholic who is conscious of grave sin may not receive Communion without previous sacramental confession, unless there is no opportunity to confess. The Church recognizes that it is for each individual to examine his or her own conscience in this regard, and I assume that those who come forward to receive the Body and Blood of Christ have done so and honestly believe they are not in a state of grave sin.

I want to emphasize that no human is capable of judging someone else's relationship with God. While I admire efforts to preserve the integrity of Holy Communion, I caution against allowing the Communion procession to become an occasion for pointing out the supposed sins of others.

I return to the prayer with which I began. Note that it says, "Oh Lord, I am not worthy." It does not say, "Oh Lord, my neighbor is not worthy."

(+John F. Kinney, Bishop of Saint Cloud, May 27, 2004, http://www.stcdio.org/bishop/bishop_easter.html)

PREPARATION for the CONTEMPLATION of the EUCHARIST

*H*oly Spirit, You who reveal Jesus to us, help us to discover Him in His Eucharistic presence;

beneath the veil of the Host, show us the powerful and generous Christ of the Gospels;

let us see the Good Shepherd who knows each one of us, watches over us and calls us by name;

allow us to listen to the incomparable Master who presents His doctrine and wishes to enlighten us in all things;

let us touch the Savior whose contact heals, and transforms bodies and souls;

let us recognize this friend, happy to live with us and share our human existence;

allow us to recognize the victim of Calvary who spares nothing of the gift of Himself to obtain for us pardon and holiness.

Give us a profound attachment to Jesus in the Eucharist; that His ardent desire to remain among us be met by our readiness to welcome Him;

Holy Virgin, you who knew how to look at Jesus and penetrate the most profound depths of His person:

Teach us to look at Him, to look at Him at length and quietly, in the tabernacle where He is present.

Teach us to listen in silence to the words which He speaks to us and to establish an intimate dialogue with Him.

Let us see the marvels which He desires to work in the depths of our souls.

Teach us to appreciate His closeness to us and the immeasurable friendship He shows us.

Help us to respond to His love with all the fire of our being, and like you, to immerse ourselves in a loving gaze fixed on Him.

("The Forty Hours," The Capuchin Minor Friary "Our Lady of Graces" 71013 San Giovanni Rotondo)

PRAYER to SAINT JOSEPH for EMPLOYMENT

Dear Saint Joseph, you were yourself once faced with the responsibility of providing the necessities of life for Jesus and Mary. Look down with fatherly compassion upon me in my anxiety with my present inability to support my family. Please help me find gainful employment very soon, so that this great burden of concern will be lifted from my heart and that I am soon able to provide for those whom God has entrusted to my care. Help me guard against discouragement, so that I may emerge from this trial spiritually enriched and with even greater blessings from God. Amen.

FOR YOU, YOUNG PERSON

Lord, I am here before you to ask you a question: "What must I do to live and grow in Your life and to obtain eternal life?" It is written: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (see Matt. 22,37-40).

Lord, how can I love You if I do not see You and do not see You?"

"You say that you do not see Me, that you do not hear Me, but if so, why do you not ask Me to be seen and heard?"

When I was on the earth I opened the eyes of the blind and the ears of the deaf. Ask me to increase your faith.

Lord, You are right. I believe You exist, I discover You in the beauty, order and perfection of creation, but increase my faith so that I can discover You present in my life, in that little consecrated Host with which you desire to come within me and I can love you. See how the light is already penetrating into your heart? Stay here beside Me and I will reveal a great secret to you. It is I who loved you first. It is I who continue to love you. Let yourself be loved only by Me. Open your heart to Me.

Lord, excuse me, but how can I open my heart to You? Observe the commandments. Lord, I am sincere; Your commandments, which perhaps I cannot remember very well anymore, take away every chance of fun I have. I have a great desire for freedom in my heart. Tell Me, are you happy then when you say that you have fun committing a sin?

I hear that I cannot hide anything from You. I try to laugh and to joke but there is a great emptiness and a great sadness in my heart. I avoid thinking, I am always on the mobile phone or listening to music at high volume, or even drinking in the pub. And this is freedom for you?

I do not know anymore. I seem to be looking for something, something which will gratify all my desires but I do not know what it is and where I can find it.

Look at me. Raise your eyes to this little Host ... do you not feel a great peace? Your soul thirsts for Me; you thirst for God. You look for Me but cannot find Me in the things which surround you.

So where can I find you then?

Let Me repeat, observe the commandments. Did I not say that those who love me will keep My word, and MY Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them? (see John 14,23).

Lord Jesus, You know that Your commandments are too difficult to be put into practice. What can I do?

Did I not say that my yoke is easy and my burden light? (Matt. 11.30). Have faith. I will be with you. .. I who am the Almighty.

Only when I am in your heart will you have the joy of living in true freedom, despite life's difficulties. You will no longer be a slave to things, but will serve yourself in everything in accordance with the purpose for which they were created. You will also love your neighbors but will love them with My love.

Now that you know everything, never let yourself be deceived by false masters. Clasp Me to you and we will walk together on this earth. Look, it was My desire to be in this Sacrament and make Myself your food and be close to you in a unique manner so that

we will be together for all eternity where that which has been prepared for those who love God cannot be seen by any eye, nor heard by any ear nor ever enter into man's heart (see 1 Cor. 2,9).

(The Forty Hours, The Capuchin Minor Friary "Our Lady of Graces" 71013 San Giovanni Rotondo)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

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

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

NAZARETH HOUSE

A place of discernment and formation for men aspiring to priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, Nazareth House is located on the campus of Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill. It houses the Diocese of Camden formation program to help young men investigate whether God is calling them to a priestly vocation.

The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation. The staff provides them with the foundation for seminary theologate formation, through a shared community life of prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service.

It now houses the Camden Diocese Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Director of Vocation Recruitment for Priestly and Religious Vocations, Father Chris Bakey, Director of Nazareth House, 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

KNOWING WHAT'S RIGHT, KNOWING YOURSELF

Just two years ago, Time magazine named Colleen Rowley, Cynthia Cooper, and Sherron Watkins as

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Persons of the Year. Time wrote of its choices, “They were people who did right just by doing their jobs rightly—which means ferociously, with eyes open and with the bravery the rest of us always hope we have and may never know if we do.”

[Publisher’s Note: “Sherron Watkins blew the whistle on Enron. Colleen Rowley blew the whistle on the FBI. Cynthia Cooper blew the whistle on WorldCom. Women are whistling while they work and sounding an alarm that all is not right in corporate America.” <http://www.ctnet.com/features/ev/whistle.asp>]

But women have been doing the right thing in simple and heroic ways for centuries. In the ancient Persian Empire Esther, who has an entire book of the Bible devoted to her, becomes queen and uses her position to protect her people from extermination. Esther reminds scripture readers of God’s providence in continually watching over us. Jewish people still celebrate how Esther used her many gifts for the general welfare of her people during the annual March festival of Purim.

Esther was faced with a complex decision that held huge consequences. She faced the difficult choices of protecting her safe and comfortable position as queen or risking all to try and save her mentor and thousands of her fellow Jews from death. Her faith in God’s providence, intense prayer, and the encouragement of those she loved empowered Esther to take an unconventional approach that eventually saved thousands of lives. Today, Esther would probably make Time magazine’s Person of the Year list!

Doing the right thing was deep within Esther—she knew it. Yet she still needed the grace of her faith, the practice of prayer, and the encouragement of good people around her to follow God’s will.

I’d like to think most women do know what’s right. But not everyone does. And sometimes even when we know the right thing to do, we lack the resolve to act accordingly. When we see women doing unspeakable wrongs to other human beings or looking the other way as in the situation at Iraqi’s Abu Ghraib prison, we can be shocked. How do we as women know what is right?

Knowing yourself and God’s plan for you is a first step in understanding not only what’s right but in providing the resources we each need to make a good decision when we the pressure is on. Over Labor Day Weekend this September, women from all across the country will come together to learn about discerning God’s individual plan for each of them at the Adorers of the Blood of Christ’s Gathering of Women III. Held at the Kings House Retreat and Renewal Center in Belleville, Illinois, the weekend will provide opportunities for single, Catholic women between the

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ages of 20 and 45 to pray, listen, reflect, and celebrate with other women what messages God has for each of us and how to build the spiritual muscle we need to respond.

Members of my community, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ will be joining the women who attend and assisting them in exploring what it means to be Gospel Women, the theme of this year’s Gathering. Chances are that Esther could be on the agenda for discussion. One thing is sure—if you attend, you will have time for prayer, fun and a deeper insight into how God is calling you to be a Gospel woman. The Gathering III, much like the two Gatherings before it, is designed for each participant to be spiritually renewed, to participate in different types of prayer, and to commit to a deeper living of our Baptismal call as Gospel Women.

Whether simply or heroically, all women have the ability to live with and act on principals of right and wrong just as Colleen Rowley, Cynthia Cooper, and Sherron Watkins have shown us most recently. As Time magazine noted, they worked “with eyes open and with the bravery the rest of us always hope we have and may never know if we do.” For those women attending the Gathering of Women III, God’s presence will be felt in solitude and celebration. But more importantly, they will learn how to clarify what the right thing is for them and how deep their relationship with God can grow to allow courage and a Gospel response when it is most needed.

Join other women and the Adorers of the Blood of Christ this Labor Day Weekend for the Gathering of Women III. The weekend will begin on September 3 and go through September 6, 2004, at Kings House Retreat and Renewal Center, Belleville, Illinois. To learn more about the weekend, visit our web site at www.adorers.org or contact me via e-mail me at rawlingsd@adorers.org, or call our Wichita Center at 1-887-236-7377.

(by Sister Diana Rawlings - Vocation Director for the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, United States Province)

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 currently located, please call **1-410-676-6000**.

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

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

MESSAGE of 6/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also today, joy is in my heart. I desire to thank you for making my plan realizable. Each of you is important, therefore, little children, pray and rejoice with me for every heart that has converted and become an instrument of peace in the world. Prayer groups are powerful, and through them I can see, little children, that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world. 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 6/25/2004

EACH ONE OF YOU IS IMPORTANT

Twenty-three years of love and presence of Mary passed, but Mary is still with us and in front of us. Also today, heart filled with love, she is addressing her maternal word to us. Also today, she is opening to us her heart, which is delighted for each heart that has been converted. Although each message begins with words "dear children", she is speaking to you personally, she is thinking of you, of your heart; she cares for your life and your future.

Today, she is thanking us for all that we are doing so that her plan may be carried out. In the message of 25.08.1991, she told us: "I invite you to the renouncement during nine days, so that with your assistance, all that I wanted to carry out through the secrets that I began in Fatima may be accomplished".

Mary has not become our mother 23 years ago. She is our Mother since Jesus gave her to us on the cross through his words: "Behold your Mother!" At this moment, the disciple took her to himself. (Jn 19,27) Mary wants us to take her to ourselves, into our house, as John did.

Today, it is her anniversary and our anniversary, her day and our day. Today, we are proud and joyful with her, for all the graces of heaven, which came into this world through her. We are joyful and we give thanks to God for each heart that has been awakened, which has been healed and released from evil that is destroying life.

This world needs God, it needs his grace, and these needs are enormous. Medjugorje may appear as a drop in the ocean of all these needs. It is an oasis in the desert of this world. Many have found it, but many more must still recognize that it exists, that God exists, and that He is waiting for them. It is important that people know that this oasis exists, and that they believe in the possibility of being refreshed there, of quenching their thirst for peace, for love and for God.

The Virgin Mary knows well that there are many who still must become instruments of peace in this world. Today, she is speaking principally to those who were converted: those who carry in them the love of God, and who have become carriers of healing of human relations, wounded by envy, selfishness, hatred and wickedness. Mary our Mother knows that it is better to light a small light than to become exhausted while cursing darkness. She is not pointing at our wounds and our sins, but she is encouraging what is good, holy and divine in us.

In the eyes of our heavenly Mother, we all are necessary and important. We do not need to boast or to claim to be what we are not. We do not need to carry a mask, as Adam and Eve did after the fall. In front of Mary, we can be like children: in front of her, we can expose our nudity, knowing that she will cover us with purity and strength of her maternal love, which can heal what the sin has wounded.

Neither God nor Mary expect from us the impossible. They do not expect from us great and magnificent deeds, but small things with much love and kindness.

We came into this world thanks to kindness and love of others. We cannot grow in faith and arrive to God without others. We have received so much from others. This is why Mary speaks about prayer groups, through which the power of the Holy Spirit is working, and in which we can grow as children of Mary.

Mary, our Mother, Queen of Peace, Queen of Heaven and earth, do not become weary of us; do not become weary to call us and to guide us on the way of Salvation.

(Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje, June 26, 2004)

PRESS BULLETIN 199, 6/26/2004

23 YEARS OF GRACE

We have just celebrated the 23rd anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Medjugorje. These apparitions

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continue to be an open topic on all the levels of the Church and of the society. The questions are numerous; as for the answers, they are too scarce or too numerous, it depends. Each one appreciates in one's own way the events, which - for 23 years now - are placing Medjugorje at the center of the attention of the Church and of the society. Many expect a clear definition of these events, but there is none. Each one, in fact, has one's own definition; that seems to be most realistic. The definitions lock up and put a final point on an event, as on a completed history. Medjugorje, however, cannot be contained in a definition, and it is even less a completed history. Medjugorje exceeds all the frames. In Medjugorje, everything is moving, everything is in motion, and everything is developing... The message of Medjugorje is in permanent pilgrimage towards the hearts of people, and people are in pilgrimage towards Jesus through Mary. This is the dynamic and the meaning of Medjugorje. Each pilgrim experiences personally the graces that God gives to his "beloved ones" through Our Lady.



If we would try to define Medjugorje in a few sentences, it would be unavoidable to speak about fruits that are occurring each day, at every moment. Jesus himself said: "It is by their fruits that you will recognize them". The fruits are "the trump" that nobody can dispute. Can one hide a city built on the mountain or a burning candle? Impossible!

What counts in this story are witnesses. They are thousands. By their life, they testify that God is at work and that - through Mary - he is present in a special way in the contemporary world. Witnesses are ready to assume sacrifice in order that the voice of Our Lady may be heard, this voice which speaks for 23 years now to each person of this planet on which we live. Among these witnesses, the central place belongs to the visionaries. In this context, I recall what, at the age of nine, Jakov said to the psychiatrist who asked him:

"Have you seen Our Lady?"
"Yes."
"What would you do for her?"
"I would die for her", said Jakov, the little witness of Our Lady.

.....
Father Mario Knezovic

COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of May, 256,000 received Holy Communion and 2869 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

TO PORTUGAL with OUR LADY from MEDJUGORJE

Answering to the request of the Croatian Football Association, the Parish Office Medjugorje offered a statue of Our Lady, rosaries and "T" signs for the members of the administration board, the trainers and the footballers who are going to play during the European Football Championship in Portugal. The members of the Croatian national team will take the statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje to their pilgrimage to Fatima, and they will connect through prayer these two Marian shrines. The statue of Our Lady was blessed and offered by Father Branko Rados, pastor of Medjugorje, and Father Mario Knezovic, Director of the Information Center "Mir" Medjugorje. The Croatian national team staff told us that all the players expressed the unanimous desire to carry with them the signs of the Queen of Peace from Medjugorje.

THE SOLEMNITY of CORPUS CHRISTI

On the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, on June 10, 76 candidates from the parish of Medjugorje received the sacrament of Confirmation from the

AIRLINE CONSTRAINTS REQUIRE EARLY PILGRIM NAMES and RESERVATIONS

Much has changed in the airline industry since **9/11/2001**. The airlines now ask that we assign names to our pilgrimage reserved seats as soon as possible after setting up a group seating arrangement with them. They call us, or our agents, at the **120 days** before departure point and ask for these names. They threaten to pull **half** of the seats without names on them at that time. We normally get a grace period for this until the **90 days** point. They ask again at **90 days, 60 days, and 30 days**. They want tickets issued for the seats no later than **30 days** before the flight. Obviously they need to fill each plane with paying passengers in all seats.

For each pilgrimage we publish a full payment date. This is **90 days** before the pilgrimage. For **Lourdes** this date was **5/1/2004**. For **Medjugorje**, this date is **7/12/2004**. **We need NAMES NOW!!**

Please, if you intend to join us for either of these pilgrimages, send in your reservation form with full payment NOW!!

hands of Monsignor Ratko Peric, Bishop of Mostar. The pastor of Medjugorje, Father Branko Rados, addressed his words of welcome to the Bishop.

After the evening Holy Mass, according to tradition linked to the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, there was a procession with the Blessed Sacrament through the parish, in which many local and foreign priests participated, as well as numerous parishioners and pilgrims.

PEACE MARCH



The 13th traditional Peace March was held as every year on June 24th, the eve of the anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady. It began with prayer and the blessing of the pilgrims in front of the Franciscan monastery of Humac. About 3 500 pilgrims started their march at 6 am. Upon their arrival in Medjugorje, pilgrims gathered in front of the parish church for a short common prayer. "The Peace March" is the fruit of an idea born in the hearts of Medjugorje pilgrims and friends of Medjugorje at the time of war, in 1992. Although the years of war are behind us, Our Lady reminds us in her messages that there are wars "in our hearts". This 13 km-long march is a response to the trouble, violence and hatred, as well as an appeal to real peace and reconciliation. This Peace March was led by Father Ljubo Kurtović and Father Božo Milić.

THE CELEBRATION of the 23rd ANNIVERSARY of OUR LADY'S APPARITIONS in the PARISH MEDJUGORJE



During the last 23 years, Our Lady's message of peace was spread all over the world through pilgrims, reached homes all over the world, and made Medjugorje one of the most visited places of pilgrimage. This is confirmed by the presence of more than 100 000 faithful that came to Medjugorje for the 23rd anniversary. It is impossible to enumerate all of the countries where the pilgrims came from. They came from all the five continents. Very many local pilgrims came on their bare feet to pray to the Queen of Peace.

In the morning of June 24th and June 25th, Holy Masses were celebrated in 16 languages. During these two days, 34 000 communions were distributed.

The evening Mass on June 24th was presided by Father Miljenko Šteko and concelebrated by 125 priests. About 15 000 faithful were present.

The evening Mass on June 25th was presided by Father Josip Grbavac in front of about 40 000 faithful. 171 priests from approximately twenty countries concelebrated the evening mass.

ANNUAL APPARITION to the VISIONARY IVANKA



The visionary Ivanka Ivankovic-Elez had her regular annual apparition on June 25. According to the visionaries, Vicka, Marija and Ivan continue to have daily apparitions, and Mirjana, Ivanka and Jakov have an annual apparition.

At her last daily apparition on May 7, 1985, Our Lady confided to Ivanka the 10th secret and told her that she would have an apparition once a year on the anniversary of the apparitions. It was that way also this year. The apparition lasted 9 minutes. Ivanka had the apparition at home in the presence of her family, her husband and her three children.

Our Lady gave the following message: *Dear children! Pray for those families who have not come to know the love of my Son. Receive my motherly blessing.*

Our Lady came joyful and spoke to Ivanka more extensively about Her life.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR from MEDJUGORJE TOOK PART in the 20TH "GOLDEN HARP"

The celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Children Festival of Spiritual Music, "The Golden Harp", took place on May 23, 2004, in Zagreb (Croatia). For this occasion, the jury selected 14 choirs from Croatia and 3 choirs from Bosnia and Herzegovina (more than 900 children), who performed 30 of the best songs that were sung during the last 20 years. "The Little Doves of Peace" from Medjugorje, under the direction of Sister Slavica Kozul, sang two songs written by Nedo Zuban and Djelo Jusic: «Love and peace» and «Let us praise the Lord».

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for MARRIED COUPLES

The 5th International Meeting for Married Couples will take place in Medjugorje in the New Hall from November 3 to 6, 2004. The theme of the seminar is [“How to heal the marriage and the family?”](#)

Bring with you: a small FM radio with headphones (for simultaneous translation) and a Bible. The seminar will take place in Medjugorje in the New Hall. Participation per couple: 30 €. You may make reservations by e-mail: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr, or at the Information Office personally, by phone: +387-36-651-988 or by fax +387-36-651-999. The number of participants is limited because of the available space in the Hall, so we ask you to send your registration as soon as possible, latest by the end of September. All the participants are invited to individually provide their accommodation in Medjugorje.

<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>

ROBERT REISER, S.J. - OPEN TO CHANGE

Father Reiser is Director of Vocations for the Maryland and New York Provinces.



I began my ministry as Director of Vocations in 1999, and since that time one of the most consoling graces of the experience has been watching young men, as they gradually become Jesuits. The transformation from Associate to Jesuit is truly remarkable, and I have been blessed to witness it.

Our Associates are a diverse group. Some are teachers, lawyers, and doctors, professionals in the prime of their careers. Others are in the midst of a typical college experience, while still others are recent college graduates serving in organizations like JVC and Mercy Corps. Some are new immigrants, and others have families who have been in this country since its inception. There is no “typical” candidate for the Society of Jesus, and there is no “normal” path to be taken. Our Associates reflect the face of the Church in the United States in this early part of the twenty-first century. And if admitted to the novitiate, they all come together on a late summer day in Syracuse, NY – in all their diversity – to begin the next phase of their journey.

The novitiate can be an intense period of time for a new novice. Imagine the group described above

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coming together to live in community. The daily realities and duties of living together ought to be challenge enough. In addition, however, the novices study the Constitutions and other core Jesuit and Church documents, serve in local apostolates, engage in regular spiritual direction, focus on the experience of prayer, enter into the full Spiritual Exercises, learn another language, journey as pilgrims to distant lands, and work as mere orderlies in a cancer hospital. How could a person not be changed?

My favorite gathering of the Jesuit year has become Ordination Weekend because it is the first time since the fall that I get to be with our newest novices. When I leave Saint Andrew Hall on the morning after Entrance Day, except for our “Come and See” weekend at the novitiate in October, I typically will not see the novices until the spring celebrations at Loyola College. Among many things, what strikes me most about our reunion is how these young men have changed. In very palpable ways, lawyers, doctors, businessmen, teachers, students, have slowly become Jesuits.

What does this mean? Upon reflection, I must admit that the change has less to do with the external realities – weight lost in Mexico or clothes worn from time – and more to do with internal conversion. A few years ago, Bruce Maivelett, S.J., our former novice director, began his Entrance Day homily by inviting his new novices to put aside their concerns and expectations, and to simply focus on the Lord. Bruce invited them to trust, knowing that this would ultimately transform them, as it did for those who had gone before them, including Ignatius himself.

I am currently reading a talk by George Aschenbrenner, S.J., entitled, “The Experience of Ignatius of Loyola,” delivered at a conference at Fordham University in October of 1999 marking the 400th anniversary of the first definitive “Ratio Studiorum” of Jesuit education. In his talk, George points out that throughout his life, Ignatius grew in his trust of the Lord and was changed because of it. He was a pilgrim who traveled an internal journey from Loyola to Manresa, from “heroism of heart” to “rock-bottom foundational trust.” At Loyola, “he was emotionally on fire to do even greater things for the God than Francis or Dominic had done.” At Manresa, after experiencing “desolations and struggles,” he “clung to his trust in Jesus.” Ignatius was a different person because his heart had grown. Ignatius had changed.

Change, conversion and healing are popular themes in the gospels. The eighth chapter of Mark’s gospel tells the story of Jesus’ healing of a blind man. The man’s friends bring him to Jesus in the city of Beth-sa’ida,

and he is later healed because of his experience with the Lord. But the experience is gradual. At first, the man is able to see other people, “but they look like trees, walking.” He needs more time to grow in trust. His conversion is a process very much like ours. Eventually, the man’s vision is restored, and he sees “everything clearly.” He is changed.

So what does this mean for me? In May I will celebrate my fortieth birthday and in August I will celebrate the completion of my eighteenth year as a Jesuit. There are obviously those who are older than I, both in years of life and in years as a Jesuit. Yet, as I age – and after five years on the Province staff – I do notice myself uttering some of those more infamous phrases like, “We did this before.” I find myself just a little more resistant to change.

In “Creative Fidelity in Mission,” the opening talk to the world-wide gathering of the Society’s Provincials in Loyola, Spain in 2000, Father Kolvenbach reminds us: “Our experience of Ignatius is not that of a founder who builds on stable and enduring underpinnings, but of an animator, an inspirer who sends us out on one of the possible paths toward God.” Father Kolvenbach encourages each Provincial, and by extension, each Jesuit, to ask himself: Is my life “‘moved with a desire of serving’ the Divine Majesty and of ‘going forward in greater service to God?’” In other words, am I open to conversion, healing and change in my personal, communal and apostolic life? How can I work with my resistance?

Over the past five years, our younger men have taught me a lot about what it means to be a Jesuit. If they are open to growth, conversion, and change, if they trust, then they will become what God desires, included in which is the possibility of becoming a Jesuit. I have been graced to witness this, and I have been invited to the same. In other words, if I trust in the Lord, and if I am open to change, then I will be as God desires me to be, and with time **I, too**, will “become” a Jesuit.

http://www.jesuitvocation.org/Jesuits/reflection_reiser_robert.htm

THE 10 JESUIT PROVINCES of the UNITED STATES

A man interested in joining the Society must contact the Jesuit Vocation office in the Province where he lives or attends school.

Each Jesuit Province vocation office has a website where you can find out more information and contact the director of Vocations.

Click on any area of the map (use the link at the end of this article to get the map if the links on it do not work) to visit the vocation website of that province.



Vocation websites for other dependant regions: [Micronesia](#); [Nigeria-Ghana](#). Vocation offices in Canada: [Upper Canada](#); [French-speaking Canada](#)

[Information on other regions of the world can be found by visiting www.jesuit.org.](#)

http://www.jesuitvocation.org/USA%20Map/USA_imagemap.html

COMPANIONS IN GRACE - THE MINISTRY of SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

“Where is God in my life?”

“What is God inviting me to?”

“How do I know what God wants me to do?”

These are some of the questions people bring to the graced relationship of spiritual direction. The “spiritual director” or companion does not answer these questions, but rather helps the person to explore and deepen his or her own relationship with God. A spiritual director focuses on what happens when a person listens to and responds to a self-communicating God.

The director is primarily concerned with the person’s actual experience of his or her relationship with God rather than with ideas about God. Since God works in all areas of our lives, we experience God not only in moments of prayer but at work, in the family and in society – literally in any and all spheres of life. The spiritual director can help one to notice where and how God is present and how best to respond to God’s invitation.

In the past, spiritual direction was confined for the most part to priests and religious. Today, increasing numbers of lay people are looking for growth in their relationship with God and seeking help in deepening that relationship.

How does Spiritual Direction differ from therapy?

Spiritual Direction is NOT a substitute for therapy! In therapy a person presents a problem. Through the relationship between client and therapist or counselor the problem is worked through and hopefully resolved. This usually necessitates one or more visits a week for a period of time. Spiritual Direction, on the other hand, is not problem-oriented and the focus is not the relationship between director and the person seeking direction. Rather the focus is the relationship between the individual and God. Ordinarily one sees a spiritual director about once a month.

Who goes to Spiritual Direction?

Anyone who experiences a real spiritual hunger and wants to explore ways of nourishing it. A spiritual director can help another person to become aware of the feelings and emotions evoked by the experience of encountering God in the various areas and times of one's life. A person is encouraged to express his or her struggles, pain, joys and gratitude and to share them with God; to savor, relive and respond to one's experience of God and to notice interior changes and the effect these changes have on one's relationships and on one's entire life.

A sincere desire to lead a life of prayer is a basic consideration for spiritual direction. Prayer always remains like the water source which irrigates the entire area so that growth can take place. Prayer is the essential part of the resolution to any crisis that may arise in the spiritual life. Ask yourself, "Do I pray?" "Do I attempt to pray?" "How do I pray?" "To whom do I pray?" Questions like these make up much of the beginning phase of spiritual direction. In fact, spiritual direction is concerned with an individual's prayer life from the first session to the end of one's life. Within a faith context, spiritual direction helps a person grow in a loving relationship with God no instant magic, just life-giving grace. Occasionally, breakthroughs are dramatic, but solidifying growth needs the patience of time. There are no limitations on spiritual direction. We never totally outgrow it. For us to approach it lightly or to reject it as of no value is to find ourselves undermining the deepest roots of our Christian faith.

What happens in a spiritual direction session?

You enter into a conversation and a trusting relationship in which your director helps you to notice and respond to the movement of God as experienced in prayer and in the events of everyday life. Your director acts primarily as a listener, as a supportive person who can help you look honestly at your relationship with God as it is lived out in everyday life. The director listens in a non-judgmental, open way, knowing that the real Spiritual Director is God.

Who is the "Spiritual Director"?

A person of faith, a person of depth, a person of warmth and empathy, an excellent listener, aware of his or her own spiritual journey. The director should have some background in theology and the tradition of the Church as well as an understanding of basic psychology. Most spiritual directors have attended a training program, served a supervised practicum and hold certification. Spiritual Directors should be in direction themselves and also should be in ongoing supervision. They should understand and respect the sacredness and confidentiality of the relationship. In short, a spiritual director must be someone with whom you can trust your life story. The operative word in finding and choosing a spiritual director is "freedom." "Someone may be an excellent spiritual director, but not for you. In seeking a spiritual director, don't be afraid to ask questions about the person's background. Also, notice your own sense of comfort, of being "received." The ancient Irish had a word for spiritual director: *Anamchara*, or "Soul Friend."

As a particular Ministry of the Society of Jesus and the wider Ignatian family, spiritual direction is offered here at Saint Ignatius Loyola Parish on a limited basis. If you feel this ministry might be helpful for you, please contact Mary Naughton at the Parish House for more information about available directors.

(Mary Naughton, Pastoral Associate, Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola, New York, NY 10028, www.saintignatiusloyola.org from http://www.jesuitvocation.org/Assets/Images/Information%20Photos/SpiritualDir_naughton.pdf)

THE PROFUNDIS for the MARRIED MAN

The Catholic husband is torn between the moral discipline of his faith and the values of his

culture. His Church exhorts him to conjugal chastity. In negative terms, conjugal chastity means no sex with anyone other than his spouse, no forced sex with his spouse, no contraception, masturbation, pornography, lustful glances, or divorce. Viewed positively, these negative precepts are conducive to great growth in conjugal love and mutual appreciation; they are the base condition for totally giving oneself, “a school of the gift of the person” (Catechism, no. 2346). Taking conjugal chastity seriously inevitably means much self-abnegation, which demands tender love free from self-absorption.

Meanwhile, American culture submerges the Catholic husband in a sea of contradictory ideals. Everywhere he sees images of seductive women calculated to arouse his desires; these snares cannot be entirely avoided. They are on movie, television, and computer screens, they peer at him from magazine covers as he stands in line to buy milk, they are in newspapers, store windows, and mailboxes. These images do not age as his spouse does; they do not fight with him over finances, complain about aches and pains, or look frightening in the morning. In short, they are very alluring; they hold out the deceitful promise of pleasure without responsibility, and Satan offers them with the temptation that immediate self-gratification is the greatest good. Abstinence appears as an anti-value, and marriage is viewed as a purely human and entirely dispensable institution that can be readily dissolved when it is no longer convenient or pleasurable.

The contrast is striking. Yet Catholic husbands are buying (literally and figuratively) the cultural understanding of sex and casting aside the virtue of conjugal chastity. One need only consider the surveys indicating that Catholics use contraception, divorce, and pornography at the same rate as non-Catholics in the general population-and that rate is quite high. This trend is destructive of family life, causes untold pain for spouses and children, and is exceedingly dangerous for immortal souls.

Despite the glaring need, the Catholic Church currently offers few pastoral aids for the spiritual formation of husbands and fathers. Moreover, today’s emphasis on the importance of expanding women’s roles in the Church at times has the effect of alienating men from the Church and her doctrine of conjugal chastity. The current decline in the cult of the saints has deprived husbands of a great source of inspiration and intercession. Saint Joseph. In view of this lacuna, perhaps the following prayer, inspired by the *De profundis* (Psalm 130), will prove a spiritual resource to husbands struggling with sexual purity.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord hear my prayer. The enemy has hedged me in with fleshly temptation in the mail, in the stores, on electronic screens of all sorts. Everywhere I turn, lo! I am confronted with wickedness, and the weakness of my own flesh. Wherever I flee he overtakes me, that ancient serpent who strives to put enmity between husband and wife, between spouses and the Lord. Why have you turned your back on me, that even on my own bed I am assailed with thoughts of selfish pleasures that drag my soul into the pit, and my sin is exposed before you. My heart yearns for your saving help, infuse it with manly virtue. Send forth your holy angel to cast into the pit that devil who lays snares for my life and the life of my family. Strengthen, I beseech you, my arms for battle, set my feet on the path of righteousness, for by your grace only can man prevail. I trust in the Lord, who supplies aid to my weakness And I praise his name in the presence of the faithful. Grant, Lord, that with clean hands and a pure heart I may receive you in the assembly, and render you due worship with all my life, refreshed by your holy sacraments

Doctor Van Slyke is a professor at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, IL.

(by Daniel Van Slyke, “Lay Witness” May-June 2004)

“GOD BLESS AMERICA – God’s Vision Or Ours?”

As mentioned in the last issue, we strongly recommend the above titled book by **Father Bill McCarthy, M.Ss.A.**, co-founder of **My Father’s House, Moodus, CT** for your summer reading.

All parents should familiarize themselves with the contents of the book in preparation for sending children back to school in the Fall. There will be so much twisted truth in relation to local and national elections that the children and the voters must be properly educated on the truth. In this issue of “**The PILGRIM**” we are highlighting the contents of the entire book and **Father McCarthy’s** comments on the **Students’ Bill of Rights** issued by the Federal Government.

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Our School Children Can Pray in Public Schools

Although it is not well known, our school children in public schools are allowed to pray, to do religious term papers, to ask religious questions, to form a Bible club, and even to pray at graduation. Our Supreme Court has made it most clear that there is a distinction between those religious activities that are "student initiated" and those that are "administration initiated." "Student initiated" religious activities are

allowed. Administration initiated religious activities are not.

In fact, last year, there was prayer at more than 10,000 public school graduations - all, of course, initiated by the students themselves. There are also at present more than 11,000 Bible student groups meeting regularly in public high schools. Once again, each of these is lead by the students, themselves. The American Civil Liberties Union, however, still tries to intimidate school systems with law suits. The American Center for Law and Justice constantly wins because it is the law of the land that a student does not leave their religious convictions on the doorstep as they enter the school building.

Following is a list compiled by Dave Roeber of Ft. Worth, Texas that spell out students' religious rights that are guaranteed under the present laws of the United States.

STUDENTS' BILL of RIGHTS on a PUBLIC SCHOOL CAMPUS

I. The RIGHT to Meet with Other Religious Students

The Equal Access Act allows students the freedom to meet on campus for the purpose of discussing religious issues.

Students may meet informally in cafeterias or hallways to discuss religious issues. Students may form religious clubs if other non-curricular clubs exist on campus. Students may invite school employees to speak at their religious club meetings. Students may invite speakers from off campus to speak at their religious club meetings. Club members may seek advice from clergy or lay people off campus.

II. The RIGHT to Identify Religious Beliefs through Signs and Symbols.

Students are free to express their religious beliefs through signs and symbols.

Students may wear clothing that displays religious sayings or symbols. Students may wear religious jewelry. Students may put religious posters inside their lockers or on their book covers.

III. The RIGHT to Talk about Religious Beliefs on Campus.

Freedom of speech is a fundamental right mandated in the Constitution and does not exclude the school yard.

Students may discuss religious issues while walking to and from class. Students may discuss religious issues during lunch even though other students may overhear them. Students may invite other students to attend church with them.

IV. The RIGHT to Distribute Religious Literature on Campus.

Distributing literature on campus may not be restricted simply because it is religious.

Students may hand out tracts, flyers or other religious materials on campus. Religious club members may use the school bulletin board to advertise their clubs just as other clubs do.

V. The RIGHT to Pray on Campus.

Students may pray alone or with others so long as it does not disrupt school activities or is not forced on others.

Students may pray with others, one-on-one, or in group settings outside the classroom. Students may pray over their meals on campus even though others may overhear them. Students may ask others to join them in prayer.

VI. The RIGHT to Carry or Study a Bible on Campus.

The Supreme Court has said that only State Directed Bible reading is unconstitutional. Students may bring their Bibles to School.

Students may read their Bibles quietly to themselves after a test while waiting for other students to finish. Students may read their Bibles to other Students. Students may give a Bible to another student.

VII. The RIGHT to Do Research Papers, Speeches, and Creative Projects with Religious Themes.

The First Amendment does not forbid all mention of religion in public schools.

Students in biology classes may do research papers on abortion from a Biblical perspective. Students may talk or write about the Bible in literature and history classes. Students may do presentations on religious subjects in speech classes. In art classes, students may do projects with religious themes.

VIII. The RIGHT to Be Exempt.

Students may be exempt from activities and class content that contradicts their religious beliefs.

This right extends to being exempt from participation in class assignments contrary to their religious beliefs. Students may discuss problems they have with certain theories or ideas taught in the classroom. Parents may review taught in the classroom, and, when they feel it necessary, request alternate materials.

IX. The RIGHT to Celebrate or Study Religious Holidays on Campus.

Music, art, literature, and drama that have religious themes are permitted as part of the curriculum for

school activities if presented in an objective manner as a traditional part of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday.

Students may celebrate Christmas or Easter by handing out cards to other students. Schools may place Nativity scenes on campus. Students may study the meaning of Easter, Christmas, or other religious holidays.

X. The RIGHT to Meet with School Officials.

The First Amendment to the Constitution forbids Congress to make any law that would restrict the right of the people to petition the Government, which includes officials.

Students may meet with school officials to discuss matters concerning religious freedom on a public school campus. If students and parents do not feel a principal is being fair concerning religious matters, they may go to the school board. Parents may organize in an attempt to influence or change a school board.

<http://www.webedelic.com/church/rights.htm>



**SISTER
MARGHERITA
MARCHIONE,
Ph.D.**

In this time of historical revisionism, truth and accuracy fall victim to hidden agendas and political correctness. Nowhere is this more evident than in the many recent scurrilous attacks

on Pope Pius XII. The time is long overdue for setting the record straight, and Sister Margherita Marchione does just that in her books.

Author of over 90 articles and 35 books.

Books include:

- Americans of Italian Heritage
- Yours Is a Precious Witness: Memoirs of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy
- Twentieth Century Italian Poetry
- Philip Mazzei, World Citizen
- Consensus & Controversy
- A Statement For These Times

Honors include:

Fulbright Scholar

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Columbia University Garibaldi Scholar
Star of Solidarity of the Republic of Italy
Induction into the New Jersey Literary Hall of Fame.
Sister is a Professor Emerita at
Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The past experience of the consequences of terrorism in the USA, when hijacked airliners crashed into the World Trade Center, has affected all Americans. It was the worst day in the history of our Country. So many innocent people perished - the result of such unfathomable wickedness - and for these victims and their families all Americans continue to pray. We pray for protection of our nation, for wisdom of our leaders, and for the suffering victims of terrorism in our Country and throughout the world.

This photo of a child presenting an American Flag to Pope Pius XII after World War II, is a reminder of past terrorism and a symbol of the present demonstration of respect and love for the red, white, and blue by the American people.

I am reminded of the year 1943, when millions of Jews and other Europeans suffered the horrors of the Holocaust. The eternal city was bombed during a two-hour attack. The Holy Father hurried from the Vatican to the streets of Rome. He stood in the midst of the terrorized people as buildings collapsed in piles of smoldering rubble and bombs exploded on all sides. The Romans ran toward him for guidance and strength. With hands and cassock smeared with the blood of the dead and the wounded, he blessed them. Then, Pope Pius XII consoled his flock and took care of the immediate needs of the victims. He was acclaimed "Defensor Civitatis."

Today, Americans look toward their leaders for inspiration as they help sustain the victims of terrorism and continue to carry the American Flag with love and pride in the USA.

A Recent Honor from "Inside the Vatican" January, 2003 The Ten Top People of 2002

There are many men and women of faith among us, many who are seeking to follow Christ by serving the poor, the Gospel, and peace. Here are 10 such people among a "cloud of witnesses."

Selecting 10 people out of many billions for recognition as "People of the year" is evidently a partial and imperfect endeavor. There are so many people who have done so much during the year 2002 that choosing 10 from among them inevitably overlooks dozens, hundreds, thousands, even millions

deserving of recognition, from children to old people, from mothers and fathers of families to vowed men and women religious, from doctors and nurses to poets and artists, why then, do we even attempt this "foolish" task?

We do so because we think the wisdom outweighs the folly. And this is the wisdom: in a world where the most popular journals recognize as "People of the Year" rock stars and fashion models, billionaire business tycoons and millionaire athletes, we think it is a special contribution we can make to the "culture of life" to choose 10 people who, in one way or another, are spending their lives on behalf of others: working with the poor, or for the poor; protecting the unborn, or praying for them; helping to build a more peaceful society in places where violent forces are threatening to bring chaos and war; helping to build the kingdom of God through their work and their prayer.

This year we chose 10 people, three women and seven men, three lay people and seven in religious life, from Italy, England, Russia, the United States, the Netherlands, Vietnam and Poland. We propose these 10 people as models of the Christian culture Pope John Paul II sees as a sign of hope for our world.

(The Editor - Inside The Vatican)

Another Honor

On October 15, 2003, Sister Margherita Marchione received the papal award, *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* Cross for her work in promoting the truth about Pope Pius XII. This Award from Pope John Paul II was presented at Villa Walsh, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend Frank Rodimer, Bishop of Paterson.

In her remarks, Sister Margherita stated: "I accept the Award in the name of the Religious Teachers Filippini, as I repeat the words of Our Lady: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord!' (*Magnificat anima mea Domine!*). These words inspire me today as they did on June 12, 1938, when I knelt before this altar and dedicated my life to the Church and to the Pontiff. I have never regretted my decision to serve God. I was 16 years old."

After thanking Bishop Frank Rodimer and the guests present, she addressed the students of Villa Walsh Academy: "In 1924, a New Jersey State Charter to establish a High School was granted to the Religious Teachers Filippini. It is now known as Villa Walsh Academy! You may not be aware of this fact: I belong to the Class of 1938. As I look at you, I think of the past sixty years of teaching on all levels and of the thousands of students I remember and love.

“For several years, I have defended Pope Pius XII against the calumnies and misrepresentations about his so-called “silence” and “anti-Semitism” during World War II. This is not true! Documents show that Pius XII was not anti-Semitic. He was not silent. He chose to be prudent. Had he taken a more public stand, he would have endangered the lives of thousands of Jews who, at his direction, were hidden in 155 convents and monasteries in Rome alone. The Religious Teachers Filippini saved 114 Jewish men, women and children in three convents. In gratitude to our Sisters, the Jews presented a five-foot statue of the Madonna which remains on the fourth floor of the convent where 60 Jews were hidden during the Nazi occupation of Rome.

“Pius XII was a saintly man, a man of peace and compassion. Allow me to tell you a story. One day, Pius XII learned that a woman and her extremely deformed son had arrived in Rome and had been refused an audience. He was indignant, and immediately ordered his car to be sent to the mother and child. When they arrived, he took the boy in his arms and asked the mother what had been done for him. “I took him to Lourdes because doctors could do nothing. There was no miracle, but my son wanted to see you. We want the assurance that God is with us.” The Pope warmly gave her that faith, as he comforted them, blessing her and the young child he held in his arms.

“A friendly human being, Pius XII greeted everyone with a smile in his eyes and spoke to each one as a friend. Always a gentleman, he tried to save people from embarrassment. One American congressman asked him to bless a package of medals. He accidentally pulled out of his pocket a pack of cigarettes. The Pope blessed it. As the congressman put it back in his pocket, he blushed with embarrassment, but the Pope laughed and then blessed the medals.

“Pius XII strongly condemned the anti-Semitic persecutions, the oppression of invaded lands and the inhuman conduct of the Nazis. He urged the Christian restoration of family life and education, the reconstruction of society, the equality of nations, the suppression of hate propaganda and the formation of an international organization for disarmament and maintenance of peace. He was a champion of peace, freedom, human dignity. He encouraged Catholics to look on Christians and Jews as their brothers and sisters, all children of a common Father. Pope John Paul II consistently praised Pius XII. This generation should be talking about the debt of gratitude it owes the saintly Pope Pius XII, not maligning him! I

challenge you to help me spread the truth and obtain justice.”

Sister Margherita closed her acceptance of the Award from His Holiness, Pope John Paul II with the prayer “that the Holy Spirit increase in each of us, the wisdom to promote dialogue and to seek the ideal of one world” with love for one another, with hope in the integrity of future generations, and with faith in the Almighty Father of us all.”

Sister Margherita Marchione

A leading scholar on the life of Pope Pius XII, this Italian-American nun has led the fight to defend Pius against charges that he did little on behalf of Jews during World War II.

Margherita Marchione, 81, a sister with the Religious Teachers Filippini, breaks every mold her heritage, calling and age might suggest. Her Italian parents, immigrants to America, were dismayed when their cherished youngest daughter at age 13 announced she was leaving home for the convent.

As a sister in a conservative order, she nevertheless attended the secular Columbia University in New York City, earning a Ph.D. Now, at age 81, she travels the world, promoting causes that have earned her the name, the Fighting Nun.

In a habit she’s worn since 1938, only slightly modified, Sister Margherita balances her devotion to God and her passion for scholarship. As a dedicated member of her order, she still serves as the treasurer at the Villa Walsh motherhouse in Morristown, New Jersey, where we visited her. But she also is active in the secular world, serving on the New Jersey Historical Commission.

This tiny nun, a little more than five feet tall, has been described as charming, courageous and compassionate. The woman we met deserves the epithet “feisty.” Indeed, her latest “mission,” as she describes it, tends to incite feistiness. She is a passionate champion of the canonization of Pope Pius XII.



But Pope Pius XII, once internationally acclaimed as “saintly,” is now widely vilified. So, Sister Margherita has gone on the offensive. She has several titles in print on the subject of Pope Pius, including a biography, “Pope Pius XII: Architect for Peace.” Two books tackle head-

on the history of the Holocaust in Italy and the Pope’s role. “Consensus and Controversy: Defending Pope Pius XII,” and “Yours Is a Precious Witness:

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Memoirs of Jews and Catholics in Wartime Italy” make a strong case for the active role the Vatican and Italians took to save many Jews. Her latest book is “Shepherd of Souls: A Pictorial Life of Pope Pius XII.”

Even in her autobiography, “The Fighting Nun: My Story,” she devotes more than two chapters to setting the record straight. The British historian John Cornwell in his book, “Hitler’s Pope: the Secret History of Pius XII,” claims the Pope’s silence during the Holocaust condemned thousands of Jews to death by the Nazis. He further argues that Pius cut deals with Hitler in order to save German Catholics from persecution by the Nazis. Ultimately, Cornwell condemns Pope Pius as an anti-Semite who was a willing agent to Hitler’s master plan.

“Absolutely untrue!” bellows the tiny nun. (She has argued with Cornwell on several occasions on radio and television.) Was Pope Pius silent? No, actually he spoke out officially on several occasions against Hitler and the actions of Nazi Germany. Moreover, those official statements had violent repercussions in Germany and Poland: in Dachau alone, 2,800 priests were imprisoned. More than half died there. What Pope Pius determined was that the Church, and Rome, could do more good by acting quietly besides speaking officially against Hitler. To that end, convents, monasteries, even the Vatican itself, on the Pope’s orders, were opened as havens for Jews. One amazing photograph in Sister Margherita’s collection shows a dozen young Jewish mothers holding their infants in what is captioned “The Nursery.” The tapestry visible in the background has the Pope’s coat-of-arms: the Pope gave up his private quarters to house these women and their babies.

As a member of the Religious Teachers Filippini, Sister Margherita has access to the sisters of her order in Italy who participated in the sheltering of Jews. They share stories of setting up their cots throughout the convents, including the basements, so Jewish families could have the small bedrooms.

After the “fighting nun,” takes apart her opponent’s arguments, she asks the compelling question, “Why?”

“Controversy sells, and they are making money,” Sister Margherita says of Cornwell and others.

But why are Time magazine, the Washington Post and most especially, the New York Times so eager to promote and praise what has been proven to be inaccurate writing?

“By discrediting Pope Pius XII, the Church is discredited,” Sister Margherita suggests. “He was widely admired and is now no longer widely known. If his voice of moral authority, thus the Church’s

moral presence, can be taken out of the social ratio, the media’s voice is empowered.” Fighting words from the fighting nun. She has a spirit and a voice that are hard to ignore.

<http://www.piusxiipope.info/sister.htm>

POPE HIGHLIGHTS the NEED to REAFFIRM MARRIAGE, and THE FAMILY

VATICAN CITY, JUN 25, 2004 (VIS) - The Holy Father today addressed the participants in the European Symposium of University Professors who have been meeting in Rome on the theme “The Family in Europe, foundations, experiences and prospects” by looking at the philosophical, juridical and theological bases of the institution of the family. As the Pope noted, the symposium is taking place within the context of the International Year of the Family.

The Pope pointed to the importance of the meeting’s theme, stating that “Europe’s future depends, in fact, on the family. One can say the family is the mirror of society and even of the Europe which is being built. The evolution of the family is the most important indicator of cultural and institutional developments of the continent.”

He added that “in the first millennium the encounter between Roman law and the Christian message gave rise to what can be called the European model of the family, spread on a broad scale to the Americas and Oceania.” In the last 50 years, he said, phenomena have occurred in developed societies “in a very visible fashion and symptomatic of a deep crisis, with consequences we all can see today. In the face of such crises, the family has always been an element of cohesion and strength and, even when bitterly contested, has been the object of hopes, desires, projects and nostalgia.”

“The central question,” said John Paul II, “is: Can we today still speak of a model of the family. The Church is convinced, within today’s context, that it is more than ever necessary to reaffirm the institutions of marriage and the family as realities which derive from the wise will of God, and fully reveal their meaning and value within His plan of creation and salvation.”

The Pope said he hoped the symposium “will contribute to allowing families in the Europe of today and tomorrow to adequately fulfill the role that is theirs because of their very high dignity.”

**(AC/SYMPOSIUM:FAMILY:EUROPE/....
VIS 040625 (340))**

BISHOP RODRIGUEZ of PUERTO PLATA APPOINTED to DIOCESE of the SHRINE of ALTAGRACIA

VATICAN CITY, JUN 24, 2004 (VIS) - The Holy Father appointed Bishop Gregorio Nicanor Pena Rodriguez of Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, as bishop of Nuestra Senora de la Altagracia en Higüey (area 5,437, population 495,300, Catholics 442,100, priests 36, permanent deacons 8, religious 107), Dominican Republic.

(NER:NA/.../PENA:NOWAK:AGUSTONI
VIS 040624 (110))

I WILL BE WITH YOU FOREVER

Lord, You demand my presence as a response to Yours: a presence of complete simplicity which is content to be there, just as You are there; a silent presence, without eloquence, happy to give everything, looking only on You; a pacific presence, satisfied by the intimacy so generously offered to it; the presence of the poor man, who comes to show You his poverty, his profound misery; the presence of the trustful sick man, who comes to uncover his secret sores to You; a presence prolonged as long as possible, which is pleased to dwell by Your side, a presence immersed in love, a love which always aspires to be sincere and ardent, a presence full of hope, which aspires to the definitive possession of Heaven and is heartened to begin here below.

(The Capuchin Minor Friary – “The Forty Hours”)

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

Please see the enclosed canary letter requesting donations and respond as best you can. As it explains, our needs for regular support are great.

Please pray for the good and proper discernment regarding balancing the budget and supporting the goals, objectives, and operations of the **PFMC**.

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

Most **PFMC** volunteers profess that faith through the apostolic and universal teachings of the Roman

Catholic Church. Those volunteers who are practicing Roman Catholics profess allegiance to the Magisterium of the Church founded upon the Rock (Kephaz / 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. Our inventory is quite extensive. The inventory management volunteers, currently **Vince and Livia Nocella**, are always happy to find something for you.

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 book rack where selections are made and donations offered based on value posted or received. Most of the other outlets are operating on a for profit basis. Your gifts from the **PFMC** may be a tax break for you.

The **PFMC** has items from inventory on display at **Epiphany House**. 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 display and 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 any of the various funds. 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, Keith, and the PFMC Volunteer Staff)

BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out the following BULLETIN NOTICE and take it to your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator?

Ask your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator to publish any portion of this notice to support this **PFMC** event for which you have an interest.

We send "**The PILGRIM**" to many parishes and ask 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 respond better to requests from parishioners.

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

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, as special pilgrims and Father Michael Culkin as Spiritual Director.

Reservation forms are available at:
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
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supplement is \$399. As with all **PFMC** pilgrimages, this includes breakfasts and suppers throughout the pilgrimage. A deposit of \$500 is required with reservation. Full payment is due by 12 July 2004.

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

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

(Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff)

CONFERENCE CORNER

6-8 August 2004: Scranton Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference, "Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life," University of Scranton, Scranton, PA (570) 346-0922 FAX: (570) 963-1731.

8-10 October 2004: Camden Diocese Catholic Charismatic Renewal Conference, Wildwood Convention Center, Wildwood, NJ. (609) 522-6586.

22-24 October 2004: Ninth Annual Catholic Unity Conference, Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Contact In His Sign (IHS) Ministries, (610) 527-2906 or visit www.inhissign.com.

6 November 2004 - Medjugorje Conference, Pheasant Run Resort, Saint Charles, IL. Dupage Marian Center, Westmont, IL (630) 968-5268.

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

Please FAX any printed notices to **(856) 768-9428** or mail them to the address on page 28.

SIGN-UP NOW for PFMC EVENTS

The **PFMC** coordinates with other ministries who 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. **PFMC** events are listed on page 1 through 4 as well as in the Bulletin Notices on this page.

Please help us with posting Bulletin Notices in your Parish Bulletin. See notes above and on page 28.

Please read the enclosed canary information sheet and consider responding to what it says.

CALENDARS:

In *July* the Church celebrates the Feast of *Saints Thomas, Apostle (3)*, the Memorials of *Saints Bonaventure (15), Mary Magdalene (22), Joachim and Ann (26), Martha (29)*, and *Ignatius of Loyola (31)* and *Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (14)*, and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Anthony Mary Zaccaria (5), Maria Goretti (6), Henry (13), Bonaventure (15), Lawrence of Brindisi (21), Bridget of Sweden (23), Peter Chrysologus (30)* and *Blessed Junipero Serra (1)* as well as *Our Lady of Mount Carmel (16)*. The Church calendar recognizes **American Independence Day (4)**.

In *August*, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the **ASSUMPTION (15)**, the Feasts of the **Transfiguration (6), Saints Lawrence (10) and Bartholomew, Apostle (24)**, the Memorials of *Saints John Mary Vianney (4), Clare (11), Maximilian Mary Kolbe (14), Bernard (20), Pope Pius X (21), Monica (27)* and *Augustine (28)* and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Eusebius of Vercelli (2), Peter Julian Eymard (2), Cajetan (7), Pope Sixtus II and Companions (7), Pope Pontian (13), Hippolytus (13), Stephen of Hungary (16), Jane Frances de Chantal (18), John Eudes (19), Rose of Lima (23), Louis of France (25), and Joseph Calasanz (25)*, as well as the *Dedication of Saint Mary Major (5)*.

In *September*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of the **Birth of Mary (8)**, the **Triumph of the Cross (14)** and *Saints Matthew, Apostle (21) and Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels (29)*, and the Memorials of *Saints Gregory the Great (3), Peter Claver (9), John Chrysostom (13), Cornelius and Cyprian (16), Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions (20), Pio of Pietreleina (23), Vincent de Paul (27), and Jerome (30)* as well as *Our Lady of Sorrows (15)* and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Robert Bellarmine (17), Wenceslaus (28), Lawrence Ruiz and Companions (28)*. Church calendars show **Labor Day (6)**.

AROUND the *PFMC* AREA



Please review the announcements on pages 1 through 4, the enclosed information sheet for the **October 10-22** pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** via **Rome** as well as the **Bulletin Notice** on page 27.

Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. 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. We are trying to network with other ministries in support of bringing people to Jesus either directly, through Mary, or through her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

PFMC DISPLAY / PRESENTATION

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

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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 7 – July 2004

**PRIORITY DATED
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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*!"

