



# The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 15, No. 11

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November 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



*Lord Almighty God, we ask You today to tame our Spirits so that we will not respond in anger and unforgiveness. We want our hearts to be new hearts filled with peace, kindness, and healing love. Give our hearts wisdom, and teach our souls discernment. Let our hearts praise You and sing in Your honor. Let there always be a little space in our hearts where we can find the quiet of Your love and presence.*

*Help us to see and admit our own errors and to make amends, and to be eager to be reconciled. Remind us through it all that prayer is at the heart of our relationship with You. Turn us often toward You to pray in praise, longing, need, and hope. Let our lives become prayers of Your sustaining presence.*  
**AMEN**

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

## FATHER BILL HALBING – 11/19/04, 7 PM, SAINT MARY’S, Williamstown, NJ

**F**ather Bill Halbing plans to visit the Upper Room of the **PFMC** on *Friday, 19 November 2004*, and hold a Healing Service after he celebrates Holy Mass at 7 PM in *Saint Mary’s Church, Williamstown, NJ*. See enclosed blue information sheet with maps also available on the Internet at: <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2004/11-19-04HalbingMass-SM.pdf>.

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

**S**pend some time with our **Eucharistic Lord** in the **Monstrance**, if only for 5 or 10 minutes. **Eucharistic Adoration** will be available from 6 AM to 7 AM, *Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday*, starting the *Monday* of the *First Week* in *Advent, 29*

The *October* MESSAGE, from *GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace*, to an alleged visionary from *Medjugorje, Bosnia-Hercegovina*, is presented beginning on page 12 (centerfold page) with a REFLECTION and the PRESS BULLETIN.

*November 2004* at *Saint John Neumann Church* in *Sicklerville, NJ 08081-0438 (856) 728-1060*. This is a wonderful way to start your day on the way to work or school. This early morning **Eucharistic Adoration** is in addition to the normal *October-May, First Friday Eucharistic Adoration* from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM. There will be no **Eucharistic Adoration** when the 9 AM Holy Mass is cancelled.

For those of you in other areas, please check out the **Directory of Eucharistic Adoration** maintained by **The Real Presence Association** and posted on the Internet: <http://www.therealpresence.org/chapels.htm>.

Consider sending them a donation for the maintenance of this wonderful **Directory of Eucharistic Adoration**. They receive mail and donations at:

**The Real Presence Association, Inc.**  
7030 West 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Chicago, Illinois 60638.

If you need a printout of pages from the **Directory of Eucharistic Adoration** for your state or area, send us a note at the **PFMC** with a small donation and we will print what you ask for and send it to you.

## A LETTER to OUR READERS

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING, MERRY CHRISTMAS, and HAPPY NEW YEAR - A THOUGHT from OUR HEARTS**

**D**ear friends in the Lord, we write this letter to express our sincere thanks for your tremendous support in helping us succeed in fulfilling our mission. For over 15 years this little newsletter now become a periodical has been written, organized, published, and mailed only through your generosity and the generosity of volunteers that have come month after month to put it into the mail for you.

The **PFMC** is totally run on your donations. This is why we put into every issue an envelope, a donation

**“The *PILGRIM*” for November 2004 is dedicated to “Mary, Mother of the Sacrificial Lamb.” See page 3 for an “IN THIS ISSUE . . .” listing.**

coupon, and ask for your prayers of petition. The petitions are brought to a shrine of pilgrimage, and until that time, we pray for them all every day.

We realize that there are numerous causes and organizations that ask you for donations, and this makes us even more grateful for your support. You honor us with your gifts. We want you to know that we do not take your generosity for granted.

Any gifts of money go directly to helping us pay the bills of keeping the **PFMC** open and operating under all of its **Goals** and **Objectives**. We also ask that if any wish to give gifts of annuities or make us beneficiaries of life insurance policies or IRA accounts that you honor us with your gifts and make possible the events that we hold, such as retreats and conferences, days of recollection and various classes. We try hard to support the local parishes by bringing in speakers and holding healing services. And with pilgrimages, we bring to people the memorable gift of opening of the heart, mind, and soul to God.

We thank you again for making all this possible, and give to you our promise to work with zeal in the service of our **Roman Catholic Church**. We ask Our Lady to bless you abundantly, and to envelop you in her most Immaculate Heart through her Son's Sacred Heart. Have a beautiful Thanksgiving and Advent Season. Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

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

## JOE BRIDGEMAN PASSES AWAY

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Joe Bridgeman**. Joe was hospitalized recently and passed away on **Wednesday, 10/13/04**. His funeral was **Saturday, 10/16/04**. He was a volunteer at the **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)**. He wrote a prayer for the **PFMC** that was so well liked that we had it printed on the back of a holy card and distributed 100's of them. This **PFMC** prayer was revised slightly and printed on the back of more than **4000 Christmas Cards** inserted in the **December 2003** issue of "**The PILGRIM**" and then printed in the text of the **January 2004** issue of "**The PILGRIM**." Joe's **PFMC** prayer was originally printed in the **July-August 1996** issue of "**The PILGRIM**" and was printed again on the front page in **January 1999**. Thanks again, **Joe**.

## PFMC PRAYER

O Precious Mother of God, I come before you this day in union with your most Immaculate Heart and the most Sacred Heart of your Son, Jesus. I ask for special blessings upon the Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center, as well as all Marian Centers. Bless them in their work of spreading your messages of Prayer, Fasting Reconciliation, Conversion and Peace. Bless them with the gifts of Charity to all who seek their guidance, of love for all hearts both hardened and converted, for healing of the wounded areas of all aspects of physical, emotional, and spiritual life. Fill each person with a desire to serve you and your Son in wisdom, and as ambassadors to bring forth the Kingdom of God. Allow each Marian Center to work with a freedom in the fullness of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit .so that every soul who comes in contact with them will be touched with His gentle hand, His truth, His Knowledge and His Justice. I invoke the spiritual warfare armor of Saint Michael, the Archangel, and all the angels and saints. May they protect this Center of Peace, and enable it to function and prosper with Heavenly guidance. AMEN.

(The above **PFMC** Prayer was originally written by **Joe Bridgeman** in the middle **1990's**. It may be printed from or sent electronically to others using: [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/PFMCPrayer.htm](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/PFMCPrayer.htm))

## PRAYER for JOE BRIDGEMAN

Heavenly Father, in child-like innocence we cling to this mortal life on earth. On Wednesday, you blessed your son Joe Bridgeman, calling him home to his true life, immortal happiness with You in Heaven! While we mourn the loss of his daily presence and sweet company, may we find joy and hope for his great reward.

May those who know and love Joe, close their eyes and be rewarded by a glimpse of him at your side, smiling radiantly. May they hear the joyful sounds of angels singing and may they sense the feeling of complete and total peace.

May their sadness be replaced by longing for their own eternal happiness and reunion with Joe.

Joe, please remember your family and friends, pray for them as they pray for you. Smile on them to provide comfort and consolation for the great sense 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.

loss they feel at this temporary separation. Intercede on their behalf, carrying their needs and petitions to the Heavenly Father.

May the soul of Joe Bridgeman, through the unfathomable mercy of God, rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him.

God bless you, your family and all those for whom you pray.

(Sent to us in e-mail by a very kind and loving friend of Medjugorje who prefers to remain anonymous.)

## “*THÉRÈSE*” – THE 2004 MOVIE

This movie is opening in more theaters nationwide based on its initial success in just 34 theaters. Please try to see it in a theater near you. Visit [www.theresemovie.com](http://www.theresemovie.com) or print a list of theaters from [http://www.theresemovie.com/en/showing/theatrical\\_print.html](http://www.theresemovie.com/en/showing/theatrical_print.html).

If you miss it in the theaters, plan to buy it on videotape or DVD and watch it with your family.

## PLEASE MARK YOUR 2004 and 2005 CALENDARS for *PFMC* EVENTS

See **Conference Corner** on page 23 as well as **Bulletin Notices** on pages 22 through 23. Most *PFMC* events will be preceded by their own *PFMC* information sheets with reservation forms.

### November 2004

*19 November 2004, Friday:* Father Bill Halbing plans to visit the **Upper Room** of the *PFMC* and hold a Healing Service after he celebrates Holy Mass at 7 *PM* in *Saint Mary’s Church, Williamstown, NJ*. See enclosed blue information sheet with maps.

### December 2004

*1 and 2 December 2004, Wednesday and Thursday:* Father Donald Calloway, MIC, will celebrate Holy Mass at 7 *PM* and give a talk on his conversion, vocation, and **Divine Mercy**.

On *12/1/04* he will be at *Saint James the Less Church, 36 Lincoln Avenue, Jamesburg, Middlesex County, NJ* with Rosary at 6:30 *PM*. Coordinators for this evening are Mrs. Karen Falkowski, (732) 904-3151, and Mr. Rafael Villongco, (732) 441-0567 or (732) 441-1513.

On *12/2/04* he will be at *Saint Thomas More Church, 1040 Flexer Avenue, Allentown, Lehigh County, PA* with Rosary vice Holy Mass at 7 *PM*. Coordinators for this evening are *Gospa’s*

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*Missionaries of Peace, Ray Mooney, (610) 966-6571.*

During the day of *2 December 2004* he will be with **Doctor Rosalie Turton** and **Rafael Villongco** for a **NOON** Holy Mass at the **Fatima House** of the *101 Foundation, (908) 689-8792* or *(908) 835-0669*.

(The *PFMC* Volunteer Staff Members)

## 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 *Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005*.

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**. The enclosed orchid color information packet with registration forms is also available at: [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf). Please consider registering with the **PFMC** as early as possible so we can make better plans to accommodate you. Pray that those called will register early.

Please call the **HILTON HOTEL** at **1-800-HILTONS (445-8667)** or **(856) 665-6666** with your reservation for hotel rooms within the **PFMC** room block. They will not charge your credit card for more than the first night until you arrive, check-in and are ready to check-out. Our room block is scheduled to close on **1/7/05** so we need reservations before **Christmas**. Consider giving a **PFMC** registration and the **HILTON HOTEL** reservations as **Christmas** gifts to your loved ones. Put these gifts as requests on your own **Christmas** gift lists.

If you would like a group of information sheets for the **2005 RC/3DX/YT**, please call **(856) 768-9228**.

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## **PILGRIMAGES for 2005**

**W**e are in the planning stages for our **2005** pilgrimage and hope to have at least one pilgrimage to **Medjugorje**. We know there will be a **New Jersey** based pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** from **5 to 15 September 2005**. This pilgrimage will be coordinated by **Rafael Villongco, (732) 441-0567** or **(732) 441-1513**. The **Spiritual Director** will be **Father Donald Calloway, MIC**.

The volunteers of the **PFMC** will coordinate several pilgrimages in **2005**:

**9 to 14 October 2005: San Giovanni Rotondo (Saint Pio of Pietrelcina)** with **Father Glenn Hartman** as **Spiritual Director**. **Father Hartman** will have information sheets with reservations forms at **Saint John Neumann Parish** in **Sicklerville, NJ**. They will be mailed to anyone who asks for them.

**1 to 7 August 2005: Lourdes** via **Frankfort, Toulouse, and Pau**. **Father Ronan Murphy** has been asked to be **Spiritual Director**. Information sheets will be mailed to anyone who asks for them.

What would you like to do with regard to visiting **Medjugorje** or any other shrine or holy place recognized by the **Magisterium** of the **Roman Catholic Church** as a worthy place of pilgrimage?

Please let us know the times of the year you might want to go on pilgrimage and interim stopover points. We can go via a number of airports with moderate layovers in the airport. We have always preferred to

spend at least a day visiting holy places around the airport by arriving early and departing late.

If you would like us to set up a pilgrimage or a retreat cruise for your prayer group, parish, or school, with or without **PFMC** coordination, please call **(856) 768-9228** for estimates on your ideas.

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## **THE EUCHARIST**

**P**ut your sins in the chalice for the precious blood to wash away.

One drop is capable of washing away the sins of the world.

The Eucharist is connected with the Passion.

If Jesus had not established the Eucharist we would have forgotten the crucifixion.

It would have faded into the past and we would have forgotten that Jesus loved us.

To make sure that we do not forget, Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a memorial of his love.

**(Mother Teresa)**

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## **ONE FINE MILITARY CHRISTMAS POEM**

**T**he embers glowed softly, and in their dim light,  
I gazed round the room and I cherished the sight.  
My wife was asleep, her head on my chest,  
my daughter beside me, angelic in rest.

Outside the snow fell, a blanket of white,  
Transforming the yard to a winter delight.  
The sparkling lights in the tree, I believe,  
Completed the magic that was Christmas Eve.

My eyelids were heavy, my breathing was deep,  
Secure and surrounded by love I would sleep  
in perfect contentment, or so it would seem.  
So I slumbered, perhaps I started to dream.

The sound wasn't loud, and it wasn't too near,  
But I opened my eye when it tickled my ear.  
Perhaps just a cough, I didn't quite know,  
Then the sure sound of footsteps outside in the snow.

My soul gave a tremble, I struggled to hear,  
and I crept to the door just to see who was near.  
Standing out in the cold and the dark of the night,  
A lone figure stood, his face weary and tight.

A soldier, I puzzled, some twenty years old  
Perhaps a Marine Man, huddled here in the cold.

Alone in the dark, he looked up and smiled,  
Standing watch over me, and my wife and my child.

“What are you doing?” I asked without fear  
“Come in this moment, it’s freezing out here!  
Put down your pack, brush the snow from your  
sleeve,  
You should be at home on a cold Christmas Eve!”

For barely a moment I saw his eyes shift,  
away from the cold and the snow blown in drifts,  
to the window that danced with a warm fire’s light  
then he sighed and he said “Its really all right,  
I’m out here by choice. I’m here every night”

“Its my duty to stand at the front of the line,  
that separates you from the darkest of times.  
No one had to ask or beg or implore me,  
I’m proud to stand here like my fathers before me.

My Gramps died at ‘Pearl on a day in December,”  
then he sighed, “That’s a Christmas ‘Gram always  
remembers.”

My dad stood his watch in the jungles of ‘Nam  
And now it is my turn and so, here I am.

I’ve not seen my own son in more than a while,  
But my wife sends me pictures, he’s sure got her  
smile  
Then he bent and he carefully pulled from his bag,  
The red white and blue... an American flag.

“I can live through the cold and the being alone,  
Away from my family, my house and my home,  
I can stand at my post through the rain and the sleet,  
I can sleep in a foxhole with little to eat,  
I can carry the weight of killing another  
or lay down my life with my sisters and brothers  
who stand at the front against any and all,  
to insure for all time that this flag will not fall.”

“So go back inside,” he said, “harbor no fright  
Your family is waiting and I’ll be all right.”  
“But isn’t there something I can do, at the least,  
“Give you money,” I asked, “or prepare you a feast?  
It seems all too little for all that you’ve done,  
For being away from your wife and your son.”

Then his eye welled a tear that held no regret,  
“Just tell us you love us, and never forget  
To fight for our rights back at home while we’re  
gone.  
To stand your own watch, no matter how long.

For when we come home, either standing or dead,

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to know you remember we fought and we bled  
is payment enough, and with that we will trust.  
That we mattered to you as you mattered to us.

(Sunday, December 21, 2003 [ADori@aol.com](mailto:ADori@aol.com))

## A SIMPLE, BLESSED EXAMPLE

In formally beatifying Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II has bestowed the Church’s formal recognition on one who in her years ministered to the destitute and multi-handicapped. By extension, he has also blessed all in this world who knew her or even enjoyed the blessing of a casual meeting with this amazing woman. To the former, she ministered to body and soul; to the latter, she elevated and inspired the soul and heart.

Blessed Teresa was remarkable for her faith in humanity and her respect for human life. No person was too destitute, too sick or disabled, too abandoned to escape her notice. In fact, it was their seemingly hopeless condition that drew her to the needy in the first place.

She began on the streets of Calcutta, but her ministry soon spread to the ghettos everywhere. To visit one of her hostels in person was to come face-to-face with human grief and human suffering in shocking proportions. But it was also to stand side-by-side with the most caring, the most unbelievably caring of persons.

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**Pittsburgh, Scranton, Trenton and Wilmington Dioceses. Father**  
**Hartman is reviewing every issue. Father Joseph Szolack, is Dean of**  
**Men at Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, PA.**  
**OFFICE HELP, ASSEMBLY, LABELS and MAILING: Too many**  
**wonderful pilgrims and volunteers to mention them all by name.**

The Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order that Blessed Teresa founded, mirror her concern in a wonderful, dare we say, almost miraculous manner. People look for the miracles of Mother Teresa to support her candidacy for sainthood. They need only look into the eyes of her Sisters, the remarkable women who are continuing her work right here in Brooklyn and throughout the world.

Or perhaps they can observe the inevitable evolution of those who visit one of her facilities. They come as visitors, even tourists. But they leave transformed by the experience in ways they cannot begin to describe. They have experienced a bit of heaven here on earth - the wretched and the needy being transformed by angels.

Beatification is a formal Church procedure, complete with pomp and pageantry as only the Church can do it. In many ways, such ceremony is strangely out of tune with the simple virtue of the Sister being honored in this case. Yet it is appropriate that as we honor this special life on this special occasion, we draw attention to it as well, for it serves as an example for us all.

("The Tablet" Brooklyn, NY, Vol. 96, No. 31, 10/25/03)

## **MAY the EUCHARIST ALWAYS BE the CENTER of YOUR LIFE**

VATICAN CITY, OCT 9, 2004 (VIS) - Today the Pope received a group of young people from the diocese of Rome who are participating in a mission, aimed at their peers, in preparation for the Year of the Eucharist, entitled "Jesus downtown." The youths are also taking part in a meeting of representatives of European youth groups of Eucharistic adoration.

These pastoral initiatives in which young people from Europe and the United States are participating, said the Holy Father, "introduce us in this special time of grace for the entire Church" to the Year of the Eucharist.

"Eucharist and mission are two inseparable realities. ... Authentic celebration and adoration of the Eucharist that does not lead to mission does not exist. At the same time, mission assumes another essential Eucharistic characteristic: union of hearts."

John Paul II expressed his hope to the youths that "this pastoral experience, which is an authentic school of communion and new evangelization, will continue and expand. I encourage you to continue so that the creativity and generosity that you demonstrate in

these days may become a stimulus for the entire Church of Rome to keep its missionary spirit alive."

The Pope gave the young people two instructions. "In the first place," he said, "love the Eucharist. Never get tired of celebrating and adoring the Eucharist, together with the entire Christian community, especially on Sunday. Know how to put it at the center of your personal and community life, so that communion with Christ may help you to carry out your courageous choices. In the second place, have missionary passion. Do not be afraid to bear witness to hope ... which has a specific name: Jesus Christ!"

"In order to facilitate young people's encounter with true Eucharistic spirituality, do not cease forming yourselves in the school of listening to the Word of God, prayer, and celebrating the sacraments. Always remember that the first place of evangelization is the human person. ... In this sense, I encourage the diocesan service for the youth ministry to study new proposals to create true schools of evangelization for young people."

The Holy Father thanked the young people "for what you are and for all that you do for Christ and the Church. I assure you that I remember you during Mass and Eucharistic adoration, something which I have done since I was young. I want you to know that I have always obtained great fruits, not only for me but also for all those whom Divine Mercy has entrusted to me."

(AC/EUCHARIST/YOUTH:ROME VIS 041011 (430)  
[visform@pressva-vis.va](mailto:visform@pressva-vis.va) Monday, October 11, 2004)

## **MY CHILD**

**Y**ou may not know me, but I know everything about you. Psalm 139:1

I know when you sit down and when you rise up. Psalm 139:2

I am familiar with all your ways. Psalm 139:3

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. Matthew 10:29-31

For you were made in my image. Genesis 1:27

In me you live and move and have your being. Acts 17:28

For you are my offspring. Acts 17:28

I knew you even before you were conceived. Jeremiah 1:4-5

I chose you when I planned creation. Ephesians 1:11-12

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. Psalm 139:15-16

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. Acts 17:26

You are fearfully and wonderfully made. Psalm 139:14

I knit you together in your mother's womb. Psalm 139:13

And brought you forth on the day you were born. Psalm 71:6

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. John 8:41-44

I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. 1 John 4:16

And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. 1 John 3:1

Simply because you are my child and I am your father. 1 John 3:1

I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. Matthew 7:11

For I am the perfect father. Matthew 5:48

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. James 1:17

For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. Matthew 6:31-33

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Because I love you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. Psalm 139:17-18

And I rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17

I will never stop doing good to you. Jeremiah 32:40

For you are my treasured possession. Exodus 19:5

I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. Jeremiah 32:41

And I want to show you great and marvelous things. Jeremiah 33:3

If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. Deuteronomy 4:29

Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. Psalm 37:4

For it is I who gave you those desires. Philippians 2:13

I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. Ephesians 3:20

For I am your greatest encourager. 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. Psalm 34:18

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. Isaiah 40:11

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. Revelation 21:3-4

And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. Revelation 21:3-4

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. John 17:23

For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. John 17:26

He is the exact representation of my being. Hebrews 1:3

He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. Romans 8:31

And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. 1 John 4:10

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. Romans 8:31-32

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. 1 John 2:23

And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. Romans 8:38-39

Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. Luke 15:7

I have always been Father, and will always be Father. Ephesians 3:14-15

My question is: Will you be my child?. John 1:12-13

I am waiting for you. Luke 15:11-32

Love, Your Dad. Almighty God.

(Permission to Copy: "Father's Love Letter")

Compiled by Barry Adams, Copyright 1999, Visit The Interactive Website at [www.FathersLoveLetter.com](http://www.FathersLoveLetter.com)

## **YEAR of the EUCHARIST: SUGGESTIONS and PROPOSALS**

VATICAN CITY, OCT 14, 2004 (VIS) - The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments today published a document entitled "The Year of the Eucharist: Suggestions and Proposals," in answer to a idea put forth by Pope John Paul in his October 7 Apostolic Letter "Mane nobiscum Domine." Today's document, published in Italian, is expected to be available shortly in other major languages.

In Number 29 of "Mane nobiscum Domine," the Holy Father wrote:

“There is room here for any number of initiatives, according to the judgement of the Pastors of the particular Churches. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments will not fail to provide some helpful suggestions and proposals. I do not ask, however, for anything extraordinary, but rather that every initiative be marked by a profound interiority. If the only result of this Year were the revival in all Christian communities of the celebration of Sunday Mass and an increase in Eucharistic worship outside Mass, this Year of grace would be abundantly successful. At the same time, it is good to aim high, and not to be content with mediocrity, since we know we can always count on God’s help.”

The text is divided into an Introduction, a Summary of the five Chapters (Frame of Reference, Worship Contexts, Lines of Eucharistic Spirituality, Pastoral Initiatives and Commitments and Cultural Paths), a list of documents and abbreviations used, the five Chapters and a Conclusion.

The Introduction notes that “barely a year after the conclusion of the Year of the Rosary, there is a new initiative of the Holy Father: The Year of the Eucharist from October 2004 to October 2005. There is continuity between these two initiatives and they are, in fact, within the framework of pastoral indications that the Pope gave to the Church with the Apostolic Letter ‘Novo millennio ineunte’, placing the face of Christ at the center of ecclesial commitments in the wake of Vatican Council II and the Great Jubilee.”

“Now,” continues the Introduction, “the Year of the Eucharist ... offers us an important pastoral occasion for the entire Christian community to be further sensitized to make this wonderful Sacrifice and Sacrament the heart of its life.

“The Holy Father left it up to the particular Churches to prepare initiatives for this Year. He did, however, ask the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of Sacraments to offer ‘suggestions and proposals’ that could be useful for everyone, pastors and pastoral workers at every level, who is called to make a contribution.

“Thus the nature of this handbook. It does not pretend to be exhaustive, but rather limits itself to give, with a simple style, some working suggestions.”

The congregation indicates a series of suggestions on the parochial and diocesan level in order to begin the Year of the Eucharist. For example, it encourages the preparation of documents - especially where the dioceses cannot do so - that emphasize the Year of the Eucharist and promote reflection by priests and

faithful on the doctrinal and pastoral problems in their respective countries (lack of priests, low Sunday Mass attendance, abandoning Eucharistic adoration); they also suggest promoting national Eucharistic congresses and inviting universities, faculties and seminaries to explore this theme.

As to dioceses, the document encourages knowledge of the saints who have a special relationship with the diocese and who have been distinguished by love for the Eucharist. Increasing perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in churches and chapels, especially at a time when it is convenient for parishioners, is emphasized. In addition, the congregation suggests organizing Eucharistic adoration for young people around Palm Sunday. It also proposes dedicating space to the theme of the Eucharist in diocesan magazines, internet sites, as well as on local radio and television stations.

The text recalls the Pope’s invitation to make every effort to make sure that Sunday Mass occupies the central place in the parish. In addition, it highlights the importance of teaching the faithful the proper behavior when entering a church, helping them to prepare themselves interiorly during mass, especially in the most important moments and educating them on exterior participation as well. Parishes, continues the text, must promote Eucharistic worship and personal and community prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, namely visiting the Blessed Sacrament, adoration and Eucharistic benediction and spiritual assistance for those who are in irregular situations, and who cannot receive communion although they participate in Mass.

It is suggested that monasteries, religious communities and institutes organize meditation on the quality of Eucharistic celebration in community, fidelity to liturgical norms and personal Eucharistic devotion, as well as provide for the possibility of increasing adoration hours before the Blessed Sacrament.

Lastly, the document emphasizes that in seminaries and houses of formation a certain familiarity with Latin and Gregorian chant is necessary in order to pray and sing in Latin. Also, it asks that the tabernacle be conveniently located in a place conducive to private prayer.

In the Conclusion, the text affirms that “the success of this Year undoubtedly depends on the depth of our prayer. We are invited to celebrate the Eucharist, to receive it and to adore it with the faith of the saints. ... This special year must help us to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist and to live by Him.”

(CCD/EUCHARIST/... VIS 041014 (890) Thursday,  
October 14, 2004)

## JOHN PAUL II INAUGURATES the YEAR of the EUCHARIST

VATICAN CITY, OCT 17, 2004 (VIS) - With a solemn Mass celebrated in Saint Peter's Basilica, John Paul II early this evening opened the Year of the Eucharist, which will end in October 2005. The inauguration took place concomitantly with the closing of the 48th International Eucharistic Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Following Mass, which was presided over by Cardinal Secretary of State Angelo Sodano and several other members of the College of Cardinals, there was the exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Via television linkup with Guadalajara, the Pope sent a Message to the closing ceremony of the Eucharistic congress. He said that "the theme of the congress, 'The Eucharist; Light and Life of the New Millennium', invites us to consider the Eucharistic mystery not only in itself but also in relationship to the problems of our times."

"The human heart needs light, as it is weighed down by sin, often disoriented and tired, tried by sufferings of every type. The world needs light in the difficult search for a peace that seems so distant, at the beginning of a millennium upset and humiliated by violence, by terrorism and by war."

John Paul II underscored that life is the greatest human aspiration, adding that "threatening shadows weigh on this universal longing, the shadows of a culture that denies respect for life in every stage; the shadow of an indifference that send countless people to destinies of hunger and underdevelopment: the shadow of scientific research that often aims to serve the egoism of the strongest."

"We must all feel called," he affirmed, "by the needs of so many of our brothers and sisters," without forgetting that nourishing ourselves with the Body of Christ "means welcoming life itself from God, opening ourselves to the logic of love and sharing."

The Holy Father invites the faithful to ask, as did the disciples of Emmaus, "the divine Wayfarer, Who knows our hearts, not to leave us as prisoners of evening shadows. Sustain us in our fatigue, pardons our sins, orient our steps to the path of good. ... Bless all of mankind!"

"In the Eucharist You made yourself 'the remedy for immortality': give us delight in a full life that makes us walk on this earth as trusting and joyous pilgrims, always looking to the goal, the end of the life that has no end. Stay with us, Lord. Stay with us!"

The Pope concluded by announcing that the next International Eucharistic Congress will be held in Quebec, Canada in 2008.

(HML/OPENING YEAR EUCHARIST/... VIS 041018  
(430) Monday, October 18, 2004)

## ANNA KATHARINA EMMERICK, WHO LIVED HER OWN PASSION

### Pope Raises German Nun and Mystic to the Altar

Anna Katharina Emmerick, the newly beatified Augustinian nun, endured long physical sufferings. Her reputation, too, suffered for years after her death.

Emmerick, whose writings inspired Mel Gibson in the making of "The Passion of the Christ," had nine siblings.

She was baptized on Sept. 8, 1774, the day of her birth in a modest farm in the village of Flamske, in Coesfeld, in the Diocese of Muenster, in what is now northwestern Germany.

By the time she was 4 years old, she had frequent visions of the history of salvation. In 1802, after many difficulties due to the family's poverty and opposition to her choice of the religious life, she joined the Canonesses Regular of Saint Augustine, in the Agnetenberg convent in Duermen.

She made her religious vows the following year. She participated in community life with great earnestness, although "the cloistered life was quite hard" because the other "canonesses did not fail to point out her low social status," according to the postulator of her cause of beatification, Andrea Ambrosi.

Moreover, the religious' health "began to decline rapidly," he told Vatican Radio.

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“Ever since she was little she suffered from rickets which became so accentuated once she was in the convent, that she spent years in bed,” Ambrosi said. In fact, the biography issued by the Holy See emphasizes the great pains Emmerick suffered.

When in 1811 the authorities suppressed the convent of Agnetenburg -- it had been influenced by secularism -- the future blessed was forced to leave the area.

Father Lambert, a French refugee priest living in Duermen, took her in as a housekeeper. From 1813 onward, sickness immobilized her, so her younger sister Gertrude took her place as housekeeper.

“By the end of 1812, when supernatural gifts were already manifested in her, she had the added phenomenon” of “the appearance of the stigmata,” postulator Ambrosi noted.

“At the beginning she did everything she could to hide them, but then her case became known and everyone wanted to see her, not only because of the stigmata, but because of her goodness and her gift to penetrate the souls that suffered most, those that were most lacerated, leading them to peace,” Ambrosi said.

Last July, Cardinal José Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, publicly read the decree of recognition of a miracle attributed to Emmerick’s intercession.

“She bore the stigmata of the Lord’s passion and received extraordinary charisms that she used to console numerous visitors,” the cardinal said in the presence of John Paul II. “She carried out her great, fruitful apostolate from her bed.”

From 1812 onward, Emmerick’s only nourishment was the Eucharist. She had to endure three exhaustive investigations by the diocese, Napoleon Bonaparte’s police, and the authorities.

During the last years of her life, she lived every day the preaching and passion of Jesus. She died on Feb. 9, 1824, consumed by her illnesses and penances.

Emmerick “lived perfectly attuned to the mystery of the life, passion and death of Jesus. Her stigmata is a very clear testimony of her existential union with Jesus,” Ambrosi said on Vatican Radio. “Her willingness to suffer had no other motive than her love for the crucifix and concern for her neighbor.”

Emmerick, who was forced from the cloister because of the Napoleonic invasion, was a stigmatized invalid. She tried to write in her Low German dialect the daily visions of the supernatural which she herself thought were indescribable.

On learning this, Clemens Brentano, a notable German writer, met the ex-nun, was converted, and remained at the foot of her sickbed writing down the visionary’s accounts from 1818 to 1824.

The result of his work is “The Bitter Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” Brentano died before finishing the visions of the “Life of Mary.” Subsequently, various specialists edited the “Diaries” and compiled, each in his own way, Emmerick’s purported visions on the Church, the Old Testament, Jesus’ public life and the nascent Church.

Shortly after the German mystic’s death “her fame for sanctity was so alive among all the population and also the clergy” of the Muenster Diocese, that there was an intense “desire to promote her cause of beatification,” postulator Ambrosi explained.

However, obstacles arose because of the difficult historical and religious times Germany was going through. There was also a lack of clarity in the nun’s writings, some texts “bordering on the limit of ‘orthodox’ Catholicism,” Ambrosi said.

The Holy Office intervened several times to block the cause and asked for further opinions from theologians, the postulator added. After “manipulations” of Emmerick’s revelations by Brentano were identified, “the cause took on a faster pace,” he said.

At the end of the 19th century, Emmerick was declared venerable. Her process of beatification was resumed in 1972. The heroic degree of her virtues was declared in 2001.

Her life was characterized by profound union with Christ, and an ardent devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy See says in its biography.

Ambrosi added that the new blessed can serve as a model for the faithful today in her commitment to “the work of salvation through faith and love.”

[Note: The *PFMC* has books on the Life of Catherine (Katharina) Emmerick. Call us.]

(VATICAN CITY, OCT. 3, 2004 [Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org) ZE04100303 [www.zenit.org/english/send\\_friend/index.phtml?sid=59806](http://www.zenit.org/english/send_friend/index.phtml?sid=59806))

## **PARTICIPATION in POLITICAL LIFE IS PROPER to the LAITY**

VATICAN CITY, OCT 8, 2004 (VIS) - Yesterday afternoon, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, president of the Italian Episcopal Conference, read the Pope’s message to participants in the 44th Social Week of Italian Catholics which is taking place from October 7 to 10 in Bologna. More than one thousand delegates

from all over Italy who represent dioceses, associations and movements, are participating in the gathering.

Referring to the meeting's theme, "Democracy: New Scenarios, New Powers," the Holy Father highlights the "risks and threats, for authentic democracy, that come from certain philosophical currents, anthropological visions or political ideas with ideological prejudices. For example, the tendency to think that relativism is a way of thinking that responds better to democratic political forms still exists, as if knowing the truth and adhering to it were an impediment. In reality," he continued, "often people are afraid of the truth because they do not know it. The truth as Christ revealed it is a guarantee of genuine and complete liberty for the person."

John Paul II writes that "if political action is not addressed with a higher ethical understanding, illuminated by an integral vision of man and society, it will end up being subject to inadequate ends, if not illicit ones. The truth, however, is the best antidote against ideological fanaticism in the scientific, political and even religious context."

"As experts in social disciplines and as Christians, you are called ... to indicate new paths and new solutions in order to address the urgent problems of the modern world in the best way. Reflection on the democratic system cannot be limited to only considering political structures and institutions, it must also consider the problems posed by developments in science and technology, in the economy and in finance, as well as new laws for governing international organizations, the questions that come from progressive and rapid development in communications, in order to create a model of complete and authentic democracy."

The Pope emphasized the need for Catholics to commit themselves "to making civil society lively and dynamic by promoting the family, associations, volunteer work, etc, and by opposing improper limits and conditions imposed by the economic or political order; also they must consider once again the importance of dedication to public and institutional roles, in environments where significant collective decisions are made, and in politics, in the highest sense of the word, as desired by so many today."

"We cannot forget," he concludes, "that knowing and putting into practice the social doctrine of the Church are characteristics of the vocation of lay people, and therefore, also their participation in the political life of the country, according to the methods and instruments of democratic systems. Some are also called to develop a special service to the civil

community, directly assuming institutional role in politics."

(MESS/WEEK ITALIAN CATHOLICS/RUINI VIS  
041008 (480) Vatican Information Service  
[visform@pressva-vis.va](mailto:visform@pressva-vis.va) Friday, October 8, 2004)

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## **PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS**



Kathleen and Keith are available to participate in parish or prayer group meetings with witness, and/or videotape or slide presentations, followed by a question and answer session. The experiences and continuation of the **PFMC** ministries for Our Lady and her Son in this time of manifestation of Our Lord's mercy and graces are shared at no cost.

Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value posted on each article on display.

Displays may be set up without a presentation.

We are willing and have offered to set up displays in parishes for all the weekend Holy Masses. We'll come on Saturday afternoon in time (about 2 hours) to set up before the first vigil Holy Mass and stay through Sunday afternoon or evening until after the last Sunday Holy Mass.

Displays in parishes are particularly beneficial when good Catholic religious goods or book stores are not convenient to the parishioners. With Christmas and other Holy Days coming up along with school events as well as First Communion, Confirmation, etc., consider religious gift shopping.

Ask your pastor if he would allow the **PFMC** to set up a display in the basement, school cafeteria, or gymnasium, or wherever we could have about 20 large tables with display material on them.

(Keith and Kathleen Werner)

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## **LOVING SOUL**

Sweet Jesus, since Thy will ordains  
These daily cares of mine

And since I may not break the chains  
That keep me from Thy shrine,  
Oh, grant that this may be my part:

A torch of charity  
To kindle in each selfish heart,  
A tender love for Thee.

(IMPRIMATUR: William Turner, Bishop of Buffalo)

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## **MESSAGE of 10/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti**

*Dear Children! This is a time of grace for the family and, therefore, I call you to renew prayer. May Jesus be in the heart of your family. In prayer, learn to love everything that is holy. Imitate the lives of saints so that they may be an incentive and teachers on the way of holiness. May every family become a witness of love in this world without prayer and peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.*

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

## **REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 10/25/2004**

### **May Jesus be in the heart of your family**

In this message, our Heavenly Mother is addressing the families. Nobody else has such an experience and such virtues of the family life. Mary was a girl, promised in marriage and married to Joseph, virgin and mother, Mother of the Son of God and widow after the death of Joseph. She knew and experienced all the joys and all the sorrows of family life, exaltations and anguishes, fears and death, until the most painful tragedy of her crucified Son. She experienced the glory of Easter with her risen Son and finally the heavenly crown. She began as a humble servant and she finished as Queen of Heaven.

For her, this celestial glory is not a title of honour: she is coming, she is appearing, she is taking care of us, her children, who are still on the way towards the final goal and the glorification. She is speaking to us, she is inviting us, she is advising us and teaching us. The words of Mary are clear and simple and they relate to our everyday life, our relations in the family, where human life is generated and educated. Mary, our Mother, is concerned about families, parents and children. No one is closer to their children than the parents. Their love of the children urges them to accomplish their first and most important duty: the education of the children. This duty takes precedence over all the professional and official occupations, over any career and social advancement. Saint Paul says: *“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”* (Tim 5,8) Mary is our model of education and of the family life. In her heart, she is carrying the treasure, which she wants to transmit to us. The Gospel says to us: *“But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.”* (Lk 2,19) The same Gospel repeats that she *“kept all these sayings in her heart.”* (Lk 2,51) In Mary, we find the splendid treasure of the wisdom of God which wants to be given to us and to our

families. Seen from outside, the human education that Mary gave was so ordinary that nobody in Nazareth could expect that her Son was the Messiah, that he was God. From outside, Mary was as ordinary as her messages, which contain the divine life that is offered to us. Seen from inside, the education that Mary gave was extraordinary in what is ordinary, perfect in every way and behaviour, because she was aware of the fact that she was humanly educating the Most Holy One. For such an education, it was necessary to have a perfect heart and a harmonious soul, which did not lack to the Immaculate full of grace.

Mary calls us to holiness. Holiness is what is extraordinary in the ordinary human life. It is well known that it is not so much the specialized teaching and knowledge, but the exemplary behaviour of the parents that educate the children. We find specialists in pedagogy who failed to educate their own offspring, as well as illiterate mothers who offered a splendid education to their children. A mother educates more through her being and her goodness than through her specialized knowledge.

Mary invites us to renew the prayer; the prayer will renew our hearts and our families. Jesus is standing at the door and he wishes to enter and eat with us. The family, which prays, will be able to hear when he is knocking. Let us not allow to anything else but Jesus to be at the centre of our families.

**Father Ljubo Kurtovic, Medjugorje 26.10.2004**  
<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>

## **A REFLECTION from FATHER ED CHALMERS on OUR LADY'S MESSAGE of OCTOBER 25, 2004**

*“Dear children! This is a time of grace for the family and, therefore, I call you to renew prayer.”* Again, Our Lady begins Her monthly message with a very simple, but most profound statement that should touch our hearts in a serious way. During these days, when folks have many questions regarding the

meaning of their personal lives that are often overburdened by their immoral actions and the activities of others, the people of God (which includes all men and women) have been given a profound gift from the Eternal Father: ***“a time of grace for the family.”*** I wonder how do we react to these beautiful words of our dear Blessed Mother? Are we ready to move beyond the selfishness, greed, revenge, and lust that our society promotes? In this message of October 25, 2004, Our Lady is again calling us to conversion. We have been called to pray, to bring Jesus into our lives, and to become holy. For most, these requests are more than a significant challenge that involve a radical change in the way in which we live.

Again, may we reflect upon this first sentence of Our Lady’s message of October 25, 2004? ***“This is a time of grace for the family and, therefore, I call you to renew prayer.”*** Month after month, Our Lady continues to challenge Her, ***“little children,”*** to pray and become people of prayer. Are we ready to embrace prayer with the heart? We must remember that it is only through prayer that we become those devoted servants of God that we have been called to be. Prayer is a beautiful starting point that can lead to the Sacraments where we can be one with Jesus. If any believer can develop a serious devotion to the Eucharist and to the Sacrament of Penance, he or she will begin to become one with the person of Jesus. Now, let us listen to the words of Our Lady in the second sentence of Her message of October 25, 2004. ***“May Jesus be in the heart of your families.”*** I wonder if Jesus is in the heart of most of our families?

As we experience the reality of daily living, may we embrace the love, mercy, and compassion of Jesus. We can begin this task by contemplating and meditating upon the Sacred Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. Read the passages from the Gospels that describe the important events of Jesus’ life on this earth. In this way, we can become one with little Jesus, the teaching and preaching Jesus, the suffering Jesus, the dying Jesus, and the resurrected Jesus. Very carefully, listen to the Gospel readings proclaimed at Mass. Also spend time on your own reading and studying the words of Jesus found in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. As one comes to a better understanding of the message of Jesus, the opportunity to bring, ***“Jesus in the heart of your family,”*** will become attainable.

***“In prayer, learn to love everything that is holy. Imitate the lives of saints so that they may be an incentive and teachers on the way of holiness.”*** These next two sentences of Our Lady’s message of October 25, 2004 speak to the serious need that all

Christian believers have to love holiness while becoming holy themselves. For the person of faith, being holy is very important. It is only when we become holy that we can fully embrace the person of Jesus Christ. Again, as one continues his or her journey to the Lord, he or she must acquire the inner strength to embrace holiness.

To accomplish the serious challenge of being holy that comes before each human being, one must seek out the inspiration and discernment of the Holy Spirit. May we remember that the Holy Spirit is the personification of the love that God the Father and Jesus have for each other. During these days, as one attempts to reject sin in his or her life, he or she needs that special grace that can come to us from the Holy Spirit; as we pray to Him to come to us with His gifts, and the virtues that come from these gifts. Also, may we accept Our Lady’s call to, ***“Imitate the lives of saints.”*** Read about the saints and pray to them. Know that they will pray for us in a profound way before the throne of God, when we ask through prayer for their intercession. Most importantly, may we be willing to be faithful to God in a most serious way as the saints were when they lived in the world.

***“May every family become a witness of love in this world without prayer and peace.”*** In this sentence of Her message of October 25, 2004, Our Lady has requested each family to become witnesses of love. Are we ready to work for God and Our Lady? It cannot happen on our own. It will never be possible through pride, ego, anger and revenge. However, by being a witness of God’s love, we can begin to bring people to God. At times, this process may be slow, but we must be filled with zeal never being overwhelmed by our own lack of faith or a lack in faith in others. Again, this task is never about you or me. It is about God’s way to purify our souls and the souls of others. This process must include Our Lady’s humility, gentleness, joy, hope, faith, unconditional love, and total trust in and abandonment to the will of God. The time is now is become one with the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Our Lady. Please, reject the excuses that prohibit us from being God’s devoted servants. Do not be concerned with what others think. On the other hand, be most aware of God’s call to you to help in His work of converting sinners and saving souls.

I hope you are all well. Give my best to all of your families. As we pray for each other, may we be filled with joy while contemplating and reflecting about God’s love for us. Our triune God is so good, and Our Lady’s motherly love comes into our hearts as a most precious gift. We are so blessed. May we be

forever grateful to God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, our Triune God for everything that we have, most especially their unconditional love. May Almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you, forever and ever. Amen.

God's love and prayers always,

Father Ed

[HEdwardChalmers@aol.com](mailto:HEdwardChalmers@aol.com) Thursday, October 28, 2004

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## **PRESS BULLETIN 203, 10/26/2004**

### **FAITH ACCORDING to the MODEL of SWEDISH TABLE**

When someone expresses an opinion or wants to say something very important, it sometimes happens to him to add: "But are you taking me seriously?" It is quite legitimate; especially as we are all more and more invaded by information, exhortations and directives that are not always put into practice. In the inflation of words, the importance of the contents seems to decrease. In the superabundance of proposals, we take for ourselves the right to select what appears important and useful for our personal life. We choose what we like. In other words, it is a life according to the rule of offer, demand, and free choice. It is the logic of the market.

This same mentality introduced itself into the life of faith. The faithful seem to choose the elements and the contents, which appear reachable and acceptable to them, while forgetting the fundamental significance of the faith as a gift, the faith that implies the need for believing in an integral way and the need of putting into practice of all that we believe. This approach of faith could be called "a life according to the model of the Swedish table". What does it mean? In all that is proposed of the mystery of Salvation and of the sacraments, the believer chooses only what he likes, which leads to all kinds of paradoxes: a believer who calls himself a Catholic will perhaps go every Sunday for Mass, but will not take his marriage seriously; he will speak in favour of life, but will proceed to the abortions; he will ask for the protection of God, but will mistreat his family or his subordinates, etc.

To be a Catholic means to belong to somebody completely. To be a Catholic implies the obligation to believe completely and wholly all the truths that Jesus Christ gives us through the Church, which he founded and which he makes alive. Our first obligation is thus to believe and to give testimony of what we believe, but completely. The Scriptures tell us that we should not omit or modify even one iota. Faith is a serious

thing. It requires of us to live all that Jesus lived, and all that has been transmitted to the apostles. To be a Catholic does not only mean to belong to a group or to an organization. To be a Catholic means to be written in the palms of the hands of Jesus Christ, and to put Jesus Christ at the first place in our life.

On this way, Our Lady is our best teacher. She believed completely. She did not choose what should come and how that should happen. She listened and she served. She is the expression of the first true Christian relation to God.

.....  
**Father Mario Knezovic**

### **COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS**

During the month of September, 165,000 received Holy Communion and 3806 priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

### **"THE WALL of LOVE" VISITS MEDJUGORJE**

About 60 members of the humanitarian association "Bedem ljubavi" ("The wall of love") from Varazdin, Croatia came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje on October 6, at the occasion of the 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its foundation. The theme of this one-day long pilgrimage was "On the paths of friendship, of peace and of love." They climbed the Apparition Hill and visited other prayer places. In the Adoration chapel, they had a thanksgiving mass presided by Father Mario Knezovic.

### **1900 KILOMETRES on BICYCLE for AN ORPHANAGE in UGANDA**

In order to help the construction of the orphanage "Kumi" in the diocese Soroti in Uganda, Alois Gerding from Senden (Germany) drove 1900 kilometres from Munster to Medjugorje.

Together with friends, especially the Eink family, Alois and his wife Elisabeth are materially supporting several African priests and their social and humanitarian work. The orphanage "Kumi", which is led by Father Charles Osire, will take care of 200 orphans.

### **THE 10<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL MEETING for PRIESTS**

The 10<sup>th</sup> International meeting for priests will take place in Medjugorje from July 4 to 9, 2005. The theme of the meeting is "The Eucharist and Mary – Do whatever He tells you!" (Jn 2,5)

**[Note: The program is available on the Internet and in print from the PFMC.]**

You may make reservations by e-mail: [seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr](mailto:seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr), or by fax: +387-36-651-999 (for Marija Dugandzic).

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

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

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

Many priests who do not have access to Internet may not have been informed about the existence of this international meeting in Medjugorje. Therefore, we kindly ask all Organizers of pilgrimages, Prayer Groups and Centers for Peace to publish this information as widely as possible by all means at their disposal, so that as many priests as possible may participate. In as much as it is possible, we also kindly ask you to financially assist the priests who would like to come but do not have the necessary funds for such a journey. We thank you in advance and pray for God's blessing and the blessing of the Queen of Peace upon you and your work.

**The lecturer of this seminar is Doctor Father Zvezdan Linić, OFM**, born in 1941 in Svilno near the Shrine of Our Lady of Graces of Trsat (Croatia). He became a Franciscan in 1958 and was ordained a priest in 1967. He studied in Samobor, Zagreb, Paris and Innsbruck where he obtained a doctorate in liturgical theology in 1970.

His did his pastoral service among the Croatian workers in foreign countries (in Innsbruck and in Paris) as well as in Croatia (Trsat, Karlovac, Novi Sad, Osijek, then in Zagreb), between 1981 and 1997. Since 1997, he is a director of the House of the Encounters called "Tabor", near the Franciscan monastery in Samobor, where he organizes and leads retreats and recollections.

Most of the priestly and pastoral life of Father Zvezdan is dedicated to young people and the Franciscan secular Order. Through the sacraments of Christian initiation, he helped a great number of young people to know Christ the Saviour and to enter into the Church. On several occasions, he taught

theology. He is giving retreats for priests, religious and laity. He is particularly known as organizer of seminars of Christian initiation and seminars for healing and liberation.

**[NOTE: The PFMC can make air and land arrangements for attendance at Medjugorje events. It is best to travel in groups of at least 3 or 4 due to cost of transport from either Split or Dubrovnik, Croatia. Call (856) 768-9228.]**

**(<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>)**

## VICKA – A SECOND CHILD

Vicka had a baby boy via C-section on **Monday, October 18, 2004**. They have named him **Antonio**.

I just received the news from Ainja Simovic a tour guide and friend of mine in Medjugorje.

May God bless them all,

**(Carolyn Morris, Louisville, Kentucky USA,  
[CarolynBMorris37@aol.com](mailto:CarolynBMorris37@aol.com) Monday, October 18, 2004)**

## 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 houses the Camden Diocese Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

**Director of Vocation Promotion, Father Chris Bakey,**  
[cbakev@camdendiocese.org](mailto:cbakev@camdendiocese.org), visit: [www.beapriest.org](http://www.beapriest.org),  
or Nazareth House, 300 Cuthbert Boulevard, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 (856) 910-4930 or FAX: (856) 662-8917

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## **PRAYER to the ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST**

**O** JESUS, eternal Priest, keep Your priests within the shelter of Your Most Sacred Heart, where none can touch them. Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Your Sacred Body. Keep unsullied their lips daily tinged with Your precious Blood. Keep pure and unworldly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood. Let Your Holy Love surround and protect them from the worlds contagion. Bless their labors with abundant fruit, and may the souls to whom they minister be their joy and consolation here, and their everlasting crown in the hereafter. Amen

(Saint Therese of the Child Jesus –  
Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall 2004)

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## **TO INVITE: SAINTS and SEEKERS**

**T**his is the fifth and final reflection by Sister Diana Rawlings, ASC on the five Pastoral Priorities (to pray, to evangelize, to experience, to mentor and to invite) that emerged from the Continental Congress on Vocations in North America.

A friend of mine and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently. My friend told me that the anniversary was approaching and that their children intended to host a party for them. When I hadn't received an invitation I wasn't too surprised because I figured they were only inviting members of their rather large family and the oldest of friends. Much to my surprise, a week before the celebration my friend called to ask if I would be able to attend. He apologized for the late invitation. Two factors led to his waiting to attend to me. One, the room where the reception would be held is rather small and he needed to know if there would be space. Secondly, he knows me as part of a group of friends. There wouldn't be room for all of us so he had to discern whom to invite. I suppose I could have been offended to be on the "second tier" of invitees but I was not. I knew that the invitation was heartfelt and sincere. The timing of the invitation didn't affect that. I gladly attended the event and had a great time.

This experience is a reminder that sending an invitation can be a complicated matter. Receiving an invitation requires grace as well. My Congregation, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, was active in the Third Continental Congress on Vocations to Ordained Ministry and Consecrated Life in North America in 2002. The final priority for action of the Congress was "to invite" persons to pursue their Christian vocation. Helping someone to receive God's invitation to pursue their true vocation involves several dimensions that I would like to reflect on.

The first is "sowing." None of us lives in a vacuum. Some of us may have a longstanding and strong inner concept of who we are and what we are called to do in our lives, but virtually all of us discover our life calling through "seeds" sown by someone who knows and loves us. Each of us has a responsibility to be an instrument of God by helping our brothers and sisters to contemplate how they might serve God with their lives. This isn't a matter of pressuring someone into a particular vocation. This is about sowing some ideas that will germinate as God intends.

Secondly, we all need someone to accompany or guide us as we seek God's will for their lives. The role of the guide isn't to provide answers it is to provide the seeker with support and encouragement. This demands that the guide be open and trustworthy. God fully respects the freedom of the person discerning a vocation and the guide must do so as well.

A third dimension is education. I do not mean filling a person with information. I mean the more profound sense of education as drawing out the person's deepest truth and helping them externalize it. This self-knowledge then must be placed in the context of God's mysterious plan for us all. To perceive God's plan, the seeker must have a vibrant relationship with Jesus that allows him or her to encounter Jesus in a real way.

Allied to education is formation. Very often the process of realizing God's call crystallizes through one or two "peak experience" moments when the presence of the Lord is particularly strong and God's will seems clear. These experiences form a vocation. They often call a person to go beyond previous limits and to contemplate a new way of being. The hallmark of a divine invitation is this calling of an individual beyond the known and expected.

The final dimension of pursuing an invitation from God is discernment or choosing. God's vocational invitation is not a passing matter. It is a life long and life changing commitment. It is not a calling to the individual in isolation. God's call to each person is in service to the whole of our Church. The acceptance of

God's invitation is not made in an instant; it is a process that takes time and is best done with the assistance of others.

We celebrate All Saints day this week. Each saint was a person like you or me who at some point in their life became aware of God's call to them. Like us they struggled to understand the nature and meaning of God's call to them; some attempted to run away from God's call. All, eventually, committed their lives wholly to God's will for them.

God is calling the next generation of saints. As in ages past, God makes use of us the members of the Church to be God's voice and to be guides for those being called. In a sense, each of us is an invitation from God to those whom God is calling. Some of us with titles like "vocation director" or "formation director" are perceived to be "formal inviters". Others of us are "informal". In either case, a heartfelt invitation is not likely to be refused.

The Adorers of the Blood of Christ is an international congregation founded in Italy by Saint Maria De Mattias. Some 1,850 Sisters now minister in 27 nations on all the continents in the areas of education, health care, spiritual development and social justice.

Adorers came to the United States in 1870, settling first in Illinois, then expanding to Kansas and Pennsylvania. Nearly 425 ASC sisters minister in 17 of the United States and in Korea, Bolivia, Guatemala and Rome, making it the largest of the international congregation's nine provinces. U.S. Province headquarters are in Saint Louis, Mo.

**(Reflection by Sister Diana Rawlings, ASC)**

## FOR HOLY CHURCH and PRIESTS

O my JESUS, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church; grant it love and the light of Your SPIRIT and give power to Saint Faustina the words of priests, so that hardened hearts might be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord.

Lord, give us holy priests; You Yourself maintain them in holiness. O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests. May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things. I ask You, JESUS, for a special blessing and for light for the priests before whom I will make my confessions throughout my lifetime. Amen

**(Saint Faustina -  
Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall 2004)**

## FOR OPENNESS to GOD'S CALL

Lord JESUS, once You called the first disciples in order to make them fishers of men. Continue to let resound today Your sweet invitation: "Come and Follow Me."

Grant to young men and women the grace of responding promptly to Your voice. Sustain our bishops, priests and consecrated souls in their apostolic work. Give perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are fulfilling the ideal of a life of total consecration to Your service.

Enkindle in our communities a missionary zeal. Send, Lord, workers into Your fields and do not let mankind be lost because of a lack of pastors, missionaries, and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel.

Mary, Mother of the Church, Model of Vocations, helps us say "Yes" to the Lord Who calls us to collaborate in the divine design of salvation. Amen

**(Pope John Paul II -  
Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall 2004)**

## CELIBACY

The practice of perfect continence by priests and bishops meant to foster single-minded devotion to God and service in the ministry. According to the long-standing discipline of the Latin Church, the rule of celibacy forbids marriage by priests and bishops, and it normally excludes married persons from ordination. Married men may be ordained to the permanent diaconate, but they may not contact a second marriage after the death of their spouses; unmarried men may not marry after ordination to the diaconate. Under a recent pastoral provision for former Anglican clergy who have been approved for ordination in the Roman Catholic Church, those who are married prior to reception into the Church and ordination are permitted to remain married.

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

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

The practice and discipline are held to be warranted by Christ Himself (Mt 19:11-12) and encouraged by Saint Paul (1Cor 7:32). The earliest formulation of this discipline occurred at the Council of Elvira (A.D. 306), although evidence has recently been offered that suggest that the discipline may be of apostolic authority. Subsequent conciliar and papal enactments reinforced the discipline in the Western Church. The Eastern Church permits deacons and priests who are married before ordination to remain so; celibacy is required of bishops, and of unmarried deacons and priests after ordination.

*(From the Catholic Encyclopedia –  
Apostles of the Holy Spirit Bulletin, Fall 2004)*

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## MARY, MOTHER of VOCATIONS

When Mary told the angel at the Annunciation, “Behold, I am the Handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word,” she became the patroness of every priest and religious until the end of time. Her acceptance of God’s invitation to become His Mother made her the Mother of all vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

When she conceived Jesus Christ, she brought into the world the one from whom every vocation is derived. Except for Him, no one would be called, and except for His call, no one could respond. Mary is, therefore, Mother of Vocations because she is the Mother of the Great High Priest who calls others to share in His priesthood, and she is Mother of the First Religious who invites others to follow in His footsteps.

Mary is Mother of Vocations also by her example. It is by imitating her practice of faith, hope and charity that men and women are inspired to give themselves to her Son in the priesthood or the lifetime practice of the counsels. Only believers have a vocation; only those who trust implicitly in God’s promises respond to God’s call; and above all only those who love God in others deeply are preserved in priestly or religious commitment. In all of these, Mary is their model, and the more devoted they are to her, the more secure is their consecration.

Finally, Mary is the Mother of Vocations by her heavenly intercession at the Throne of God. It is through her maternal prayers that Christ gives certain people the grace to give themselves entirely to His Service. She obtains from Him the grace for them to be called; but she also tells them, as she told the servants at Cana, to be sure to do whatever He tells you.

There is no more effective way of fostering vocations than asking the Mother of Jesus to ask her Son to extend the invitation. And there is no more effective way of remaining firm in the priesthood and the religious state than to beg the same Mother for the grace of perseverance.

“Mary, Mother of Vocations, pray for us,” should be our daily invocation.

(Rev. John A. Hardon, S.J.)

[http://www.religiouslife.com/a\\_maryvoc.phtml](http://www.religiouslife.com/a_maryvoc.phtml)

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## MARIAN COMMUNITY “OASIS of PEACE”

### A BRIEF PRESENTATION

We are a contemplative community of celibate brothers and sisters and of Priests living together in communities, each called “Oasis of Peace”, to which consecrated secular members are aggregated as well: both lay persons and priests living outside the Community but consecrated with vows. Married couples who live our spirit and charism in the marital state are also aggregated to us.

We share together a consecrated life of simplicity, of prayer, of work, and of study. We are consecrated to the Lord through Mary with vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and our primary vow “to be peace” and to intercede for peace in the Church and in the world, peculiar to our community.

Our history as an Ecclesial Family of Consecrated Life began in 1985 when the original members, having encountered Our Lady Queen of Peace, in Medjugorje, with the gift of conversion and prayer felt a deep desire to answer the call of Our Lady to be instruments and witnesses of peace in the world. They committed themselves together to a consecrated life with vows, with the aim of cooperating with Mary to extend and to share in humility the path of peace with those who are earnestly in search of peace.

Juridically the Community was constituted on March 25, 1987 and the first house was opened at Priabona (Vicenza) on May 18 of the same year. The first ecclesial recognition was on December 25, 1990 in the Diocese of Sabina-Poggio Mirteto and since December 25, 1995, juridically, we are a “public association of the faithful” in view of being erected as an Institute of Consecrated Life of diocesan right within a short period of time. The process has already begun by the competent ministry of the Holy See.

At present (2002) there are approximately 120 internal members - Brothers and Sisters. The Lord has

already granted us the gift of our first 12 priestly ordinations within our Community, while other Brothers are preparing for the priesthood studying and being formed in one of the Pontifical Roman Universities. Various Sisters also attend the faculties of Theology, Philosophy, and other Sciences at the University, so as to be able to cooperate in the formation of the members of our Ecclesial Family.

Our Ecclesial Family also includes married couples from Italy, Germany, and Brasil who are aggregated to but not living in the Community, and who also live our charism. Many other families are also asking to be part of our Community with the goal of sanctifying marriage and family life. Already they have committed themselves to the necessary formation.

Likewise the number of Consecrated Secular members is also increasing. In the light of the charism of "being peace" they strive to be a sanctifying presence in the secular world.

The Community is Catholic, and from the beginning has been international. Most of the members of the Community are Italians but there are also members from: Germany, Belgium, France, Austria, Slovenia, Switzerland, Spain, Ireland, USA, Canada, Panama, New Zealand, Mauritius, Korea, Brazil, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Camerouns, The Czechoslovakian Republic and Romania, Argentina and Poland. The official languages of the Community are Italian and English.

At present we have houses in ten different countries around the world.

## HOW WE LIVE

The celibate internal Brothers and Sisters share the experience of community life, while the Consecrated Secular members live our spirituality while remaining in their daily environment of life and work. Similarly, the married couples live our spirituality in their families with a rhythm of life adapted to the marital state.

The rhythm of our daily life is cadenced by community prayer - the Holy Mass, the chanting of the Divine Office, the Holy Rosary in its entirety, spontaneous prayer of praise, adoration of the Cross - and personal prayer, in adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament continuously exposed, both day and night, in our houses.

In our Communities, it is important to conserve the climate of silence and of recollection in order to favor the spirit of continual prayer, and also as an act of perpetual adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Indeed, we consider our Oasis of Peace to be an expanded Eucharistic Tabernacle. Every day there are

also periods of time for community recreation and relaxation.

As Mary asks us, and as practiced by the first Christians, we too have a special love for fasting on bread and water on Wednesdays and Fridays of every week, except on particular feast days.

We do not carry out paid work activities external to the Community, but, rather living according to the Gospel in total faith and trust in Divine Providence. We have a special love for work in our Community, both material and intellectual, seeing it as an extension of prayer of the climate of contemplation.

In addition to the ordinary work of the household, of agriculture, and of artistry (music, iconography, etc.), the principal task asked of us by the charism of our vocation is that of Hospitality; accompanying in a walk of peace and of healing all those who come to us afflicted by spiritual poverty of various kinds.

## WHAT WE PROPOSE

As at the beginning of the Church, the Apostles and other disciples gathered together in prayer with Mary in the Cenacle and with Her awaited the gift of the Holy Spirit. Similarly we desire to serve the Ecclesial Community reliving the experience of the Cenacle guided by Mary, awaiting a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit for a renewed Pentecost.

We desire to collaborate with Mary in the battle against the evil one and with Her to implore the gift of Peace from the Lord. That is the spiritual renewal of the Church for the conversion and reconciliation with God of many hearts which are without peace. Indeed, peace is a gift from God which is to be implored, suffered, and humbly shared.

Therefore the ministries of our Community are:

Intercession: the continual supplicating of God through prayer and through the offering of one's own life to beseech from Him the gift of peace.

Expiation: we have a responsibility towards the world to be saved. We wish to carry one another's burdens, taking upon ourselves the load of sins and illnesses, both our own and those of others. We associate ourselves with Jesus and His Mother, through a life of simplicity, penitence and offering.

Hospitality: Mary invites us to take the path of peace, and we desire to share this path with those who sincerely seek to live the Gospel of peace. And to those who suffer due to being far from God.

Our Community is not cloistered but open to accept guests to share fully our family life.

We are open to accepting invitations outside the community to share our personal testimonies, and also organizing moments of evangelization through popular missions in parishes. Our Ecclesial Family also feels called to an ever-increasing involvement in the ecumenical movement; in prayer and in action. Our ecumenical outlook is directed especially towards the venerable Churches of the Orient.

Indeed, we desire to participate not only in the spiritual renewal of the Church, but also in the cultural renewal of society itself. We offer environments of personal and community life in which the Divine may lead to a recovery of the natural rhythms and values. We desire a society in which faith becomes life and becomes culture (social relationships, work, and sexuality). We propose a healthier modality and style of life, in which the global dimension of a person can be recuperated according to his true origin, restoring his harmony and peace with God, with mankind, and with all creation.

A list of the houses of the Marian Community “Oasis of Peace” is available from the *PFMC*.

One of them, Comunita Mariana “Oasi della Pace” Casa Generalizia Casella Postale 25 02036 Passo Corese (R1) Italia Tel. 0765-488993 Fax 0765-488992 email: [oasispacis.pc@uni.net](mailto:oasispacis.pc@uni.net) does try to keep up with communications in English.

(excerpted from an “Oasis of Peace” information sheet)

## THE PRO-CHOICE MOVEMENT IS LITERALLY KILLING ITSELF VIA ABORTION

**W**e’ve all seen the fabulously popular and ubiquitous Frank Capra flick, “It’s a Wonderful Life.” We know the bitter-sweet post-war tale of how the lives of the people of Bedford Falls were touched by George Bailey, and how different things would have been if he had never existed.

It’s a great lesson in the principle that absences have consequences. Thirty-one years after *Roe v. Wade* it’s impossible to imagine what life would be like if those 40 million people were among us today. But odds are they would have been very much like us -- going to school, getting jobs, raising families. And voting.

Their missing votes is what Wall Street Journal reporter James Taranto calls the “Roe effect.”

The Roe Effect theorizes that “pro-choice” women are more likely to have abortions than pro-life women, and that children tend to espouse the views of

their parents. Thus, there are fewer and fewer children growing up to become “pro-choice” adults -- and this, according to the theory, has political ramifications.

Larry Eastland, discussing the Roe Effect recently in *The American Spectator*, said the children who were aborted instead of born in any given year can be considered “Missing Voters” 18 years later, the year they would have reached voting age. He calculated that abortions from 1973 to 1982 resulted in approximately 13 million Missing Voters in the 2000 election.

Even taking into account the fact that not all possible voters become actual voters in any given election, the closeness of the last election can leave no doubt about the significance of millions of missing votes.

Now skip ahead four years. A whole new group of young people has reached voting age since the last election, but missing among them are those who were aborted from 1982 to 1986. Thus, the total number of Missing Voters in the upcoming election will be 19 million.

“Like an avalanche that picks up speed, mass, and power as it thunders down a mountain,” Eastland wrote, “the number of Missing Voters from abortion changes the landscape of politics.”

But can we know how they would have voted? No, of course not. Still, as a general proposition, children tend to absorb the values of their parents, including their political views, and tend to develop the same lifestyle as their family. So if pro-lifers beget pro-lifers, then pro-choicers beget pro-choicers -- unless they abort them instead.

A recent Wirthlin Worldwide survey found that, of the Americans who call themselves politically “conservative,” 25% are having abortions. In contrast, 40% of self-described political “liberals” are having abortions. As Eastland wrote, “Liberals have been remarkably blind to the fact that every day the abortions they advocate dramatically decrease their power to do so.”

It’s the classic Pyrrhic victory.

Catholics have sometimes been accused of promoting large families as a means of gaining social or political control -- a claim which is absurd on its face. But if the Roe Effect is true, then it’s not a stretch to say that the “pro-choice” movement is quite literally killing itself.

**(by Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq., September 30, 2004, <http://www.lifenews.com/nat837.html>. Note: Cathy Cleaver Ruse, Esq. is the Director of Planning and Information for the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.)**

## EXPLANATION of BELIEF in GOD

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because He hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in His ears, unless He has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind, like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God.

Don't skip church or do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But ... you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases.

And ... that's why I believe in God.

**(written by an 8 year old, Danny Dutton, of Chula Vista, CA, for his third grade homework assignment)**

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## A LITTLE BOY WANTED to MEET GOD

He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so He packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman.

She was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons.

The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase.

He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old lady looked hungry, so he offered her some chips.

She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him.

Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Again, she smiled at him.

The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word.

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug.

She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face.

She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God."

But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant with joy, returned to her home.

Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that

made you so happy?" She replied, "I ate potato chips in the park with God."

However, before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Have lunch with God ..... bring the chips and root beer.

[Have supper with God – participate at Holy Mass.]

(A friend at [Terzmaster2@aol.com](mailto:Terzmaster2@aol.com))

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## TRIUMPH of the IMMACULATE HEART of MARY MEDAL

Behold the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, whose Heart shall touch the hearts of mankind, and through the love and grace of her Most Immaculate Heart shall bring the hearts of mankind to the Most Sacred Heart of her Son.

She is the Mother of All Peoples. The lambs entrusted to her Heart are guided to the sanctuary of the one True Shepherd's Heart. Abba, the Father of All Mankind, gave to mankind the Heart of His most precious Son, through the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary. The Divine Heart of the Holy Spirit and the human Heart of the Virgin Mary were joined by the love of Abba's Heart to give to the world the most precious Gift—the Heart of the Savior, both human and divine.

The Heart of Divinity brought the Heart of all humanity to the Heart of Abba Father through the greatest act of love. From the Heart of Abba Father and the Heart of Christ the Savior comes the Heart of the Sanctifier, who with the love of the Father and the Son enflames the hearts of all mankind with the fire of His love. Now comes the Immaculate Heart of Mary, given to mankind by her most precious Son as Mother of All Peoples, Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix of All Graces, and Advocate, and sent by Abba, Father of All Mankind to lead the hearts of all her children to the Sacred Heart of her Son, that His Heart may reign in the hearts of all mankind.

(Vox Populi Mariae Mediatrici Distribution Center,  
P.O. Box 42028, Santa Barbara, CA 93140)

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## PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

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

Our Lord and Savior, as the Only Begotten Son of God the Father, Creator of the Universe.

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

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

The **PFMC** has items from inventory on display at **Epiphany House**. 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**

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## **BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS**

**W**ould 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 them to publish any portion of the notices to support **PFMC** events for which you have an interest.

We send "**The PILGRIM**" to many parishes and ask them 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.

Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Ask your pastor to allow information materials 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.

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

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### **1 and 2 DECEMBER 2004 - FATHER DONALD CALLOWAY MIC VISITS NEW JERSEY and PENNSYLVANIA**

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) is participating in the sponsorship of Father Donald Calloway, MIC, for his visit to New Jersey and Pennsylvania on Wednesday and Thursday, 1 and 2 December 2004. He will celebrate Holy Mass at 7

PM on these two nights and give a talk on his conversion, vocation, and Divine Mercy.

On 12/1/04 he will be at Saint James the Less Church, 36 Lincoln Avenue, Jamesburg, Middlesex County, NJ with Rosary at 6:30 PM. Coordinators for this evening are Mrs. Karen Falkowski, (732) 904-3151, and Mr. Rafael Villongco, (732) 441-0567 or (732) 441-1513.

On 12/2/04 he will be at Saint Thomas More Church, 1040 Flexer Avenue, Allentown, Lehigh County, PA with no Holy Mass and Rosary at 7 PM. Coordinators for this evening are Gospa's Missionaries of Peace, Ray Mooney, (610) 966-6571.

During the day of 2 December 2004 he will be with Doctor Rosalie Turton and Rafael Villongco for a NOON Holy Mass at the Fatima House of the 101 Foundation, (908) 689-8792 or (908) 835-0669.

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## **2005 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC), 3-DAY EXTENSION (3DX), and YOUTH TRACK (YT)**

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host its annual Marian RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) for 2005 at the Hilton Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ. The RC and it Youth Track (YT) will run from Friday, 4 February 2005 through Sunday, 6 February 2005. The 3-Day Extension (3DX) will run from Monday, 7 February 2005 through Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005. This will be an excellent chance to prepare for Lent 2005.

The speakers include: Father Bill Halbing, Father John McFadden, Father Michael Semana, Father John Tino, Keith and Kathleen Werner, and Linda Schubert, author of "Miracle Hour." Information packets with reservation forms are available at: [www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf).

For more information call (856) 768-9228.

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Thanks for anything you can do to post these notices in parish bulletins or even with local prayer groups.

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

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## **CONFERENCE CORNER**

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

Please FAX any printed notices to **(856) 768-9428** or mail them to the address on page 24.

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## CALENDARS:

In *November*, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of **CHRIST the KING (21)**, Feast of *Saint Andrew the Apostle (30)*, Memorials of *Saints Leo the Great (10)*, *Martin of Tours (11)*, *Josaphat (12)*, *Frances Xavier Cabrini (13)*, *Elizabeth of Hungary (17)*, *Cecilia (22)*, *Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions (24)* and the *Presentation of Mary (21)*, and Optional Memorials of *Saints Albert the Great (15)*, *Margaret of Scotland (16)*, *Gertrude (16)*, *Rose Philippine Duchesne (18)*, *Pope Clement I (23)*, *Columban (23)*, as well as *Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro (23)*, and the *Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome (18)* and *Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (27)*. Church calendars show *Veterans Day (11)* and *Thanksgiving Day (25)*.

In *December*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (8)** and **CHRISTMAS (25)**, Feasts of *Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph (26)*, *Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist (27)*, and *Holy Innocents (28)*, Memorials of *Saints Francis Xavier (3)*, *Ambrose (7)*, *Lucy (13)*, *John of the Cross (14)* and Optional Memorials of *Saints John of Damascus (4)*, *Nicholas (6)*, *Juan Diego (9)*, *Pope Damasus I (11)*, *Jane Frances de Chantal (12)*, *Peter Canisius (21)*, *John of Kanty (23)*, *Thomas Becket (29)* and *Pope Sylvester I (31)*.

## AROUND the PFMC AREA

Please review the announcements on page 2, the enclosed blue colored information sheet for the **Friday, 19 November Day of Recollection** with **Father Bill Halbing** and the orchid four page information sheet with reservation forms for the **2005 RC, 3DX, YT** from **Friday, 4 February 2005 through Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005**.

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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 11 – November 2004**

**PRIORITY DATED  
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,  
Wednesday, 11/10/2004**

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

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 official and authorized representative.

## ALL SAINTS' DAY MESSAGE

VATICAN CITY, NOV. 1, 2004 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- Here is a translation of the All Saints' Day address John Paul II delivered before he prayed the midday Angelus with pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square.

"Let us all rejoice in the Lord and keep a festival in honor of all the saints." The Eucharistic celebration today in honor for all the saints begins with this invitation to be jubilant. The pilgrim Church on earth lifts its gaze to heaven and triumphantly unites with the choirs comprised of those whom God has brought together in his glory. This is the communion of saints! In the very light of this stupendous mystery, tomorrow we celebrate the annual commemoration of all the faithful who have passed away. The liturgy invites us to open our hearts to pray for all, especially for those souls most in need of God's divine mercy. I offer a special prayer to God for all the victims of terrorism. I feel spiritually close to all their families and while I ask the Lord to relieve their sorrow, I ask him to grant peace to the world. I pray that Mary, the Queen of all saints, helps us to faithfully follow Christ in order to reach the glory of heaven.

[www.zenit.org/english](http://www.zenit.org/english) ZE04110101, 2004-11-01)

## 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!**"

