



The **PILGRIM**

Vol. 15, No. 8-9

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

August-September 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



Dearest Mother Mary, ever pure and ever virgin, you are the Mother of Love, the foundation of all devotion. You bring us, your children, to a place of listening, and being used in the anointing walk of the Holy Spirit, your Spouse. You direct our souls to stay on the path to holiness, and to Heaven. Teach us more, Mary of the Divine Flame of Love of the Holy Spirit. Show us the way to intimate love within the heart of your Son, Jesus.

Mary, lead us to the pure love that directs the purification of our souls through practice daily of the great virtues. Lead us in the same path of purity through purification. Intercede for us to know, accept, understand tolerate and imitate the movements of truth. Fight with us against the devil and all his schemes. Teach us the gifts of strong and powerful spiritual warfare. Teach us, Mary, to pray with our Hearts. In love for you, Mary, may we find joy in the Cross of your Son, Jesus. AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

FRIDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2004, DAY of RETREAT with FATHER BILL HALBING

On Friday, 17 September, 2004, from 10 AM until Suppertime, **Father Bill Halbing** will conduct a **Day of Retreat** with Holy Mass followed by a **Healing Service** with anointing in the **Upper Room** of the **Epiphany House** at the **PFMC 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ**.

A map with directions is available on the enclosed goldenrod information sheet and from the **PFMC** by calling (856) 768-9228.

The **July** and **August** MESSAGES, from **GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace**, to an alleged visionary from **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina**, is presented beginning on page 14 (centerfold page) with the 7/26/04 and 8/26/04 REFLECTIONS and PRESS BULLETINs.

PILGRIMAGE to LOURDES with FATHER GIOVANNI TINO was a TREMENDOUS BLESSING

All 25 pilgrims who visited Lourdes with the **PFMC** coordinated group expressed their pleasure with the spiritual activities. Our Lady was crying with several days of rain showers and the heavenly forces were doing battle with thunder and lightning but it seemed like things quieted down and dried out for all the important activities. The pilgrims have been sharing pictures. We have a set of pictures at the **PFMC** along with some commercial videos if you would like to stop by and relive the pilgrimage.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for YOUR GENEROSITY to SUPPORT the FAMILY for the AUGUST LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

The donations for a family of 5 who wanted to visit **Lourdes** with the **August** pilgrimage are most appreciated. Based on those donations the father and oldest son were able to make the pilgrimage.

Thank you for answering Mary's call.

DISCIPLESHIP

For anyone who wishes to embrace the reality of Christian discipleship, he or she must accept the person of Jesus Christ within his or her heart. This is definitely a serious challenge. To become like Jesus demands that a person be prayerful, loving, merciful, kind, humble, self-sacrificing, and the willingness to offer oneself to Jesus. We must remember that a process of conversion is most necessary in this endeavor. We cannot be satisfied with who we are.

"The PILGRIM" for August - September 2004 is dedicated to "MARY, TERROR of EVIL SPIRITS."
See page 3 for an **"IN THIS ISSUE . . ."** listing.

When we become complacent, thinking we are better than we are, we fall into the trap that prohibits us from seeing our own sins. A reality of sin has enveloped so many. Sinful and immoral actions are accepted as normal whereby people let their personal indifferent attitudes overwhelm themselves. People are led into sin and become occasions of sin to each other. For some, "anything and everything goes." Unfortunately, even those who are focusing on being faithful to God can become caught up in this malaise.

(Kathleen)

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2004 CALENDAR 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.

September 2004

September 17, 2004, Friday: from 10 AM until Supper time, **Father Bill Halbing** will conduct a **Day of Retreat** with **Holy Mass** followed by a **Healing Service** with anointing for anyone desiring to volunteer to help with the February 4-9, 2005, Retreat Conference. This **Day of Retreat** is for those who might want to help in the office or at the conference itself. Contact Colleen or Nancy or Kathleen if you wish to attend this **Day of Retreat**. Bring a bag lunch. This **Day of Retreat** will be held in the **Upper Room** of the **Epiphany House** at the *PFMC* 61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. See enclosed gold color information sheet. Free will donation.

October 2004

3- 11 October 2004, Sunday through Monday: 12th **Annual International Week of Prayer and Fasting** For the Conversion of Nations, the End to Abortion, and for World Peace. **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.** *PFMC* is part of the **International Coalition for the Triumph**. Information sheet enclosed.

The *PFMC* Pilgrimage to **Medjugorje (PPM)** via **Rome** for **Doctor Bob** and **Anita Rice** of "*In His Omnipotent Presence (IHOP) Ministries*" has been cancelled due to lack of pilgrim registrations.

(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.

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.

PILGRIMAGES for 2005

We will be planning at least one pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** for 2005. Please let us know the times of the year you might want to go on pilgrimage and interim stopover points. We can go direct via a number of airports but have always preferred to spend at least a day visiting holy places around the airport.

We failed to get sufficient response on going through **Prague, Czech Republic**, and now have had to cancel a pilgrimage with extensive time in **Rome, Italy**. What would you like to do with regard to visiting **Medjugorje**? Please tell us.

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.

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.

CENACLES of the MARIAN MOVEMENT of PRIESTS (MMP)

Cenacle is a word for the upper room where Jesus' Capostles gathered together in prayer with his mother Mary, and the Holy Spirit powerfully descended upon them. It was during this original Pentecost that the Catholic Church was born.

Two thousand years later, Our Lady renews the call to gather together with her in cenacle of prayer in anticipation of the Holy Spirit.

The format for a Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests consists basically of the following:

- Invocation to the Holy Spirit
- Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- Prayers for our Holy Father, the Pope.
- Readings and meditation of a message from Our Lady's book [of messages via Father Gobbi].
- The Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

*NOTE: Father Tom Kiely is interested in starting new cenacles of prayer at the **PFMC**. If you are interested in joining a prayer group, please call him at (856) 627-2222. He is just beginning to work on a list of applications.*

www.mmp-usa.net/cenacle.htm

THE SHRINE of OUR LADY of GRACE (MADONNA DELLE GRAZIE) in ITALY

While on pilgrimage in Italy we were taken to the very beautiful shrine and church of Our Lady of Grace (Madonna delle Grazie) in Torre di Ruggiero, Catanzaro (CZ), Italy. The shrine is very beautiful, and is in a state of restoration to accommodate many pilgrims for retreats and day visits. We publish this little story about the happenings there.

Welcome, pilgrim, in this shrine of Our Lady of Grace in Torre di Ruggiero, (CZ).

It was April 17, 1677, where in this place, two young girls, Isabella Cristello and Antonina De Luca raised their prayers to God and to the Virgin Mary, in the ancient small church dedicated to her.

A prodigious event involves Isabella. She sees the Blessed Mother who tells her "Go into town, tell them what has happened and express my desire to the priests to be revered by the people near and far".

That same day the people and some devoted priests saw the Blessed Mother with the Divine Baby Jesus

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who was smiling at them and looking at them with a profound sweetness.

With the earthquake of February 5, 1783, the small church was destroyed, but the faith of the people towards the Blessed Mother did not diminish. Some women, among them, Luna Pascale, dreamt the Blessed Mother was asking for the reconstruction of the church. This was completed on September 8, 1858. On April 10, the Saturday before Sunday in Albis (Saturday before Mercy Sunday) that same year, a farmer by the name of Francesco Arone, called Maccaferro, was working in the fields close to the ruins of the collapsed church. Feeling very thirsty, he thought of the spring that in ancient times

was gushing out in that place and sinking the hoe in the ground felt that he had hit something hard. They were the ruins of the church. All of a sudden a gush of water came out under his astonished eyes. He quenched his thirst, got his feet wet (his inferior limbs for a long time suffering with rheumatism) and got healed instantly from pain.

Today as in the past, from this place the Blessed Mother continues to spread her graces and with a maternal gesture points to all **her Son Jesus**.

The story was translated from a flyer distributed at the Shrine. Many of the miracles there are now being documented for approval by a very favorable local bishop. The spring there, which is still flowing today, is being likened to the healing spring of Lourdes which opened during the apparitions to Bernadette Soubirous in the same year - 1858.

(Kathleen)

ARCHANGELS - SEPTEMBER 29

The chief angels of the high order are Michael, Gabriel and Raphael.

Michael is viewed as a guide to heaven, protector of God's chosen people, foe of Satan and guardian of the Church, Gabriel, reveler of the Incarnation, announced the births of John the Baptist and Christ. Tradition honors Raphael, an angel of healing, as head of guardian angels, those who hear prayers and bring them to God. In artwork these messengers of God are depicted as winged beings, a possible reference to the appearance of Gabriel "in rapid flight" to the prophet Daniel.

(The Monitor, September 25, 2003)

CONSECRATION

Consecration, in general, is an act by which a thing is separated from a common and profane to a sacred use, or by which a person or thing is dedicated to the service and worship of [God](#) by prayers, rites, and ceremonies. The custom of consecrating persons to the Divine service and things to serve in the worship of [God](#) may be traced to the remotest times. We find rites of consecration mentioned in the early cult of the Egyptians and other pagan nations. Among the Semitic tribes it consisted in the threefold act of separating, sanctifying, or purifying, and devoting or offering to the Deity. In the Hebrew Law we find it applied to the entire people whom Moses, by a solemn act of consecration, designates as the People of [God](#). As described in the Book of Exodus (xxiv), the rite used on this occasion consisted of the erection of an altar and twelve memorial stones (to represent

the twelve tribes); of the selection of twelve youths to perform the burnt-offering of the holocaust; Moses read the covenant, and the people made their profession of obedience; Moses sprinkled upon the people the blood reserved from the holocaust.

Later on we read of the consecration of the priests -- Aaron and his sons (Exod., xxix) -- who had been previously elected (Exod., xxviii). Here we have the act of consecration consisting of purifying, investing, and anointing (Lev., viii) as a preparation for their offering public sacrifice. The placing of the meat in their hands (Exod., xxix) was considered an essential part of the ceremony of consecration, whence the expression *filling the hand* has been considered identical with *consecrating*. As to the oil used in this consecration, we find the particulars in Exodus (xxx, 23, 24; xxxvii, 29).

Distinct from the priestly consecration is that of the Levites (Num., iii, 6) who represent the first-born of all the tribes. The rite of their consecration is described in Numbers, viii. Another kind of personal consecration among the Hebrews was that of the Nazarites (Num., vi). It implied the voluntary separation from certain things, dedication to [God](#), and a vow of special sanctity. Similarly, the rites of consecration of objects -- such as temples, altars, firstfruits, spoils of war, etc. -- are minutely described in the Old Testament. Among the Romans whatever was devoted to the worship of their gods (fields, animals, etc.) was said to be *consecrated*, and the objects which pertained intimately to their worship (temples, altars, etc.) were said to be *dedicated*. These words were, however, often used indiscriminately, and in both cases it was understood that the object once consecrated or dedicated remained sacred *in perpetuum*.

The Church distinguishes consecration from blessing, both in regard to persons and to things. Hence the Roman Pontifical treats of the consecration of a bishop and of the blessing of an abbot, of the blessing of a corner-stone and the consecration of a church or altar. In both, the persons or things pass from a common, or profane, order to a new state, and become the subjects or the instruments of Divine protection. At a consecration the ceremonies are more solemn and elaborate than at a blessing. The ordinary minister of a consecration is a bishop, whilst the ordinary minister of a blessing is a priest. At every consecration the holy oils are used; at a blessing customarily on [holy water](#). The new state to which consecration elevates persons or things is permanent, and the rite can never be repeated, which is not the case at a blessing; the graces attached to consecration are more numerous and efficacious than those

attached to a blessing; the profanation of a consecrated person or thing carries with it a new species of sin, namely sacrilege, which the profanation of a blessed person or thing does not always do.

Of consecration proper the Roman Pontifical contains one of *persons*, that is of a bishop, and four of *things*, that is, of a fixed altar, of an altar-stone, of a church, and of a chalice and paten. The consecration of a church is also called its *dedication* (q.v.) in accordance with the distinction between consecration and dedication among the ancient Romans pointed out above. To these might be probably added confirmation and Holy orders, for which, however, the Roman Pontifical, because they are distinct sacraments, has retained their proper names. If we except the consecration of a bishop, which is a sacrament -- although there is a question among theologians, whether the sacrament and the character imprinted by it are distinct from the sacrament and character of the priesthood, or only a certain extension of the sacerdotal sacrament and character -- all the other consecrations are Sacramentals. These are inanimate things which are not susceptible of Divine grace, but are a medium of its communication, since by their consecration they acquire a certain spiritual power by which they are rendered *in perpetuum* fit and suitable for Divine worship. (Saint Thomas Aquinas, [Summa theol., III:83:3, ad 3 and 4.](#))

In the Eastern Churches the prayers at the consecration of altars and sacred vessels are of the same import as those used in the Latin Church, and they are accompanied by the [sign of the cross](#) and the anointing with holy oils (Renaudot, "Liturgiary Orient. Collectio", I, Ad benedictiones). At the consecration of a bishop, the Orientals hold, with the Latins, that the essence consists in the laying-on of hands, and they entirely omit the anointing with holy oils (Morinus, De sacris Ecclesiae ordinationibus, Pars III, Appendis).

When we speak of *consecration* without any special qualification, we ordinarily understand it as the act by which, in the celebration of Holy Mass, the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Christ. It is called *transubstantiation*, for in the Sacrament of the Eucharist the substance of bread and wine do not remain, but the entire substance of bread is changed into the body of Christ, and the entire substance of wine is changed into His blood, the species or outward semblance of bread and wine along remaining. This change is produced in virtue of the words: *This is my body* and *This is my blood*, or *This is the chalice of my blood*, pronounced by the priest assuming the person of Christ and using the same

ceremonies that Christ used at the Last Supper. That this is the essential form has been the constant belief and teaching of both the Eastern and Western Churches

(from the Catholic Encyclopedia - Renaudot, "Liturgiary Orientalium Collection", I, i, www.newadvent.org/cathen/04276A.htm)

TRISAGIO to OUR BLESSED MOTHER

Fernando Rielo, founder of the Idente Missionaries, affirms that the "Idente Rosary" has the form of a Trisagium. The invocations of this trisagio refer to three fundamental truths regarding Mary: Daughter of the Father, Mother of the Word, Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

The word "trisagio" means "three times holy" and signifies a hymn dedicated to the Blessed Trinity, God Who is "three times holy". As we recite, three consecutive times, the Our Father with three Hail Mary's and Glory Be, we confess three fundamental truths:

With the first Our Father followed by three Hail Mary's and one Glory Be, we glorify in Mary, favored Daughter of the Father, the holiness of the Father.

With the second Our Father, followed by three Hail Mary's and one Glory Be, we glorify in Mary, Mother of Christ, the holiness of the Son.

The PILGRIM is normally a Monthly Publication of the **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)**
A Religious Association, Inc.

Non-Profit and **IRS** Code 501 (c)(3) Tax-Exempt
61 Cooper Road, Voorhees, NJ. 08043-4963
(856) 768-9228 FAX: (856) 768-9428

DISTRIBUTION: To more than 2400 addresses in most of the 50 United States (U.S.), U.S. territories and many foreign countries.

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

With the third Our Father, followed by three Hail Mary's and one Glory Be, we glorify in Mary, Mystical Spouse of the Holy Spirit, the holiness of the Holy Spirit.

The Trisagio is therefore a hymn of praise raised to the Blessed Trinity through the supplicant omnipotence of our heavenly Mother. It is a mystical hymn that makes us exclaim, with eternal words, the holiness of the Father, the holiness of the Son, and the holiness of the Holy Spirit.

The Trisagio is prayed in this manner:

Our Father
Three Hail Mary's
Glory Be

The above is repeated three times with three intentions:

1. We ask Mary's intercession with the Father for the sanctity of all humanity.
2. We ask Mary's intercession with Christ for the sanctity of the Church.
3. We ask Mary's intercession with the Holy Spirit for our own sanctity.

**(With ecclesiastical approval, Archdiocese of New York
March 25, 2003, Idente Missionaries of Christ
Crucified, Province of New York.)**

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

"Dear children! I call you anew: be open to my messages." Again, in this message of July 25, 2004, we are called by Our Lady to *"be open to my messages."* Being open to Her messages and living out Her messages has been a reoccurring theme during this year. It has been most apparent that Our Lady continues to challenge us to believe in Jesus and to be with Jesus in the fullest sense. The importance of this reality should continue to come to us with a prominent sense of urgency.

In Her message of July 25, 2004, Our Lady continues to be a compassionate mother calling all of Her children to come to Jesus, and we have been shown the way. Let us reflect upon the second sentence of this message of July 25, 2004. *"I desire, little children, to draw you all closer to my Son Jesus; therefore, you pray and fast."* Praying and fasting is always a good starting point to embark upon a journey of coming closer to Jesus. May we continue to pray the rosary and all devotions with the heart? Constantly, let us meditate upon the mysteries

of the rosary remembering that God continues to interact within the lives of His children as He has throughout Salvation History. May the special events of Jesus' life inspire us to be grateful for our dear Lord's love for us? We must never fall back, continuing to challenge ourselves to be open to the reality of conversion needed by each one of us.

As we open our hearts to prayer, may we find the strength to fast each Wednesday and Friday on bread and water? For most, the reality of fasting is very difficult. However, we should exert much effort to accomplish this reality of fasting. By offering up food and drink that we truly want on Wednesdays and Fridays, we can begin to appreciate the importance of nourishing our souls before our bodies on these particular days. The process of fasting challenges us to become one with the passion and death of Jesus realizing that Jesus sacrificed His body and shed His blood for the salvation of humanity.

"Especially I call you to pray for my intentions, so that I can present you to my Son Jesus; for Him to transform and open your hearts to love." This third sentence of Our Lady's message of July 25, 2004 speaks to Her wonderful and beautiful motherly love for all Her children. Let us contemplate within our beings, Our Lady's love for us. Her love strengthens us to be what we have been called to be: God's faithful servants. May we realize that as we pray for Her intentions that She begins that process of preparing us for Jesus? She knows everything about us, and most importantly understands that we must continue to be molded by the love of Jesus Christ. Are we willing to become one with the love of Jesus by finding a place within His dear Sacred Heart? This is a significant question that in its meaning calls us to give all of ourselves to Jesus. The essence of little Jesus, the healing and preaching Jesus, the suffering Jesus, the crucified Jesus, the resurrected Jesus, and the heavenly Jesus must be the reality of what we are striving for as we live each day. Are we ready to make the necessary changes within ourselves to be transformed by Jesus? Again, may we reflect upon this third sentence of Our Lady's message of July 25, 2004 to accomplish this task? *"Especially I call you to pray for my intentions, so that I can present you to my Son Jesus; for Him to transform and open your hearts to love."*

In the fourth sentence of this message of July 25, 2004, Our Lady relates to us those realities that can result from embracing the love of Jesus. *"When you will have love in the heart, peace will rule in you."* These beautiful words of Our dear Blessed Mother should ring in our ears and inspire us

to be Her devoted prayer warriors. We must offer our prayers for Our Lady's intentions including Her special requests to offer our Masses, Communion, and devotions for the conversion of sinners and salvation of souls.

At times, we are called by Jesus to carry His cross; and may we offer our personal suffering to our dear Lord and Savior with a profound willingness of heart. Pray to the Holy Spirit for this grace, and for His wonderful gift of discernment. In time as we become more devoted to the love of the Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, that beautiful peace of our Triune God *"will rule in you"* as Our Lady said in Her current message of July 25, 2004.

I hope you are well. Give my best to all of your families. Know that you find a special place in my prayers. May we be filled with Our Lady's humility, gentleness, joy, hope, faith, unconditional love, and total trust in and abandonment to the will of God? In that way, we will be able to serve our loving God with all of our strength. 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 Tuesday, July 27, 2004

A REFLECTION from FATHER ED CHALMERS on OUR LADY'S MESSAGE OF AUGUST 25, 2004

"Dear children! I call you all to conversion of heart. Decide, as in the first days of my coming here, for a complete change of your life." With these first two sentences of Her message of August 25, 2004, Our Lady places before us two significant challenges. After reading these words is there anyway that we can be satisfied with whom we are? We must reject any feelings of complacency that may have come into our hearts. Will we finally realize that we have to embrace a continual process of conversion? In that way, we can begin to, *"decide for a complete change of your life,"* to use Our Lady's words in this message of August 25, 2004.

It seems that if we want to embark upon a *"conversion of heart"* we must start with those five requests of Our Lady that form such a prominent part of the message of Our Lady through Her apparitions to the visionaries of Medjugorje. We must pray with the heart, remembering the power of the rosary while being willing to pray as many rosaries as possible during the day. Secondly, we

have a serious need to be devoted to the Eucharist. The power of this sacrament is much more profound than we will ever realize. If possible, we should be willing to attend Mass each day, not just when we are obligated to do so. With the influence of evil in our lives, it is apparent that Sunday Mass is not enough. Unfortunately, many Catholics do not even attend Mass once a week. Is it a surprise that lives of sin are overwhelming so many? People must be willing to spend more time praying to and worshipping God. For those of us who have made pilgrimages to Medjugorje, we have a serious responsibility to Our Lady regarding our prayer and worship. It seems that in these first two sentences of Her Message of August 25, 2004, that She is speaking directly to those who have been to Medjugorje.

The third original request of Our Lady that is found in the back of the Medjugorje prayer card is to read and reflect upon the Holy Bible. This task is most important for anyone who wishes to accept a *"conversion of heart."* It is also important to listen carefully to the words of Sacred Scripture proclaimed at Mass. By being more aware of God's interaction with His people throughout Salvation History, we can become one with our loving God. Know and understand the qualities of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit revealed to us through Sacred Scripture. The presence of God made a difference in the lives of so many personalities found in the Old Testament. Also, their positive response to God's presence helped them in their quest to be faithful to God.

In the Gospels, we can perceive the beautiful love and mercy of Jesus Christ. In these days of 2004, an

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Please re-read the canary information sheet enclosed in the July issue of *"The PILGRIM"* and consider responding to what it says.

important question can be asked: are we willing to embrace the preaching, teaching, and suffering of Jesus? Are we open to becoming one with little Jesus, the crucified Jesus, the resurrected Jesus, and the heavenly Jesus? These quests become possible for the one who prays and worships on a very regular basis while also finding significant time to read and reflect upon Sacred Scripture.

The last two original requests by Our Lady to the visionaries of Medjugorje are fasting and monthly confession. Fasting on bread and water each Wednesday and Friday is more than difficult. To attain this request of Our Lady involves all of one's strength. However, fasting is truly a beautiful spiritual experience with our Triune God. Through this process, one can begin to understand that we are more than what we eat and drink. We are children of God; and we have been created to know God, to love God, and to serve God in this world, and to share in eternal life with Him in heaven. Are we willing to make a sacrifice for the Eternal Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit by fasting twice a week? Finally, will we realize the necessity that we have to serve God while forgetting about always serving ourselves?

The reality of receiving the Sacrament of Penance on a monthly basis is most important for all believers. As Roman Catholics, we have the opportunity to accept this beautiful gift. Unfortunately, many reject this sacrament, but we must not focus upon this fact. May we remember that the Sacrament of Penance is a spiritual encounter with the love and mercy of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Through this sacrament, people come to God in various states of sin to confess their sins. The opportunity to pray the sign of the cross, to acknowledge one's sinfulness, to confess one's sins, to declare one's sorrow, and to be absolved of those sins is most helpful for one attempting to improve the spiritual state of his or her soul. The process that penitents use in the Sacrament of Penance is most important; but the opportunity to encounter the love and mercy of our dear Triune God through grace can help us to change and become one with God in our lives.

May we listen to the words of absolution prayed by the priest to the penitent as he assumes the role of confessor in this sacrament? "God the Father of mercies through the death and resurrection of His Son has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins. Through the ministry of the Church, may God grant you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from all your sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen."

In the Sacrament of Penance, as one opens his or her heart to God's love, mercy and forgiveness, he or she can be truly overwhelmed by the beautiful grace of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Thus, this sacrament is a gift that we all need. May we pray that we, along with all Roman Catholics, will be open to receiving the Sacrament of Penance once a month?

Through a continued process of conversion, we can truly decide to change our lives becoming fully focused on God's presence within our personal existence. This reality is most profound, and when we change to become one with God, Our Lady's third sentence of this message of August 25, 2004 can come alive for us. *"In this way, little children, you will have the strength to kneel and to open your hearts before God."* To be able, "to open your hearts before God," is important for us. In this process, may we develop a very personal relationship with the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? As we pray to each person of the Trinity, they will touch our hearts with their love and grace. We will know as Our Lady said in this current message of August 25, 2004 that, *"God will hear your prayers and answer them."*

"Before God, I intercede for each of you." As we reflect upon these beautiful words of Our Lady, may we be filled with hope? Our dear Blessed Mother's love for us is so profound. Again, respond to Her love in a very positive way. Be Her little child, and let Her be your "Mom." In this way, through the power of the Holy Spirit She will bring us to Jesus, who will prepare our souls for the Eternal Father.

I hope you are well. My prayers and thoughts are always with you. Enjoy each day as a gift from Our Eternal Father and give Him the praise, honor, glory, thanksgiving and love that He so richly deserves. May Almighty God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit bless you and remain with you forever, and ever, Amen.

God's love and prayers always, Father Ed

P.S. I will be celebrating my 25th Anniversary Mass here at Saint Bernard's on Sunday, October 31, 2004, at 2:00 p.m. I hope you can come.

HEdwardChalmers@aol.com Tuesday, August 31, 2004

WHERE IS THE LOVE?

What's wrong with the world, mama?
People the whole world addicted to the drama
Only attracted to things that'll bring you trauma

Overseas, yeah, we try to stop terrorism
 But we still got terrorists here livin
 In the USA, the big CIA
 The Bloods and The Crips and the KKK
 But if you only have love for your own race
 Then you only leave space to discriminate
 And to discriminate only generates hate
 And when you hate then you're bound to irate, yeah
 Badness is what you demonstrate
 And that's exactly how an *****works and operates
 N**, you gotta have love just to set it straight
 Take control of your mind and meditate
 Let your soul gravitate to the love, y'all, y'all
 (Refrain) People killin, people dyin
 Children hurt and you hear them cryin
 Can you practice what you preach
 And would you turn the other cheek?
 Father, Father, Father help us
 Send us some guidance from above
 'Cause people got me, got me questionin
 Where is the love (Love)?
 It just ain't the same, always unchanged.
 New days are strange, is the world insane?
 If love and peace is so strong
 Why are there pieces of love that don't belong
 Nations droppin' bombs
 Chemical grasses fillin' lungs of little ones
 With the on goin' sufferin' as the youth die young?
 So ask yourself is the lovin' really gone.
 So I could ask myself really what is goin wrong.
 In this world that we livin in people keep on givin in
 Makin wrong decisions,
 only visions of them dividends
 Not respectin each other deny thy brother
 A war is goin on, but the reason's undercover
 The truth is kept secret, it's swept under the rug
 If you never know truth then you never know love...
 (Refrain)
 I feel the weight of the world on my shoulder
 As I'm getting older, y'all, people gets older
 Most of us only care about money- makin
 Selfishness got us followin our own direction
 Wrong information always shown by the media
 Negative images is the main criteria

Infecting the young minds faster than bacteria
 Kids act like what they see in the cinema
 Yo, whatever happened to the values of humanity
 Whatever happened to the fairness in equality?
 Instead in spreading love were spreading animosity
 Lack of understanding, leading lives away from unity.
 That's the reason why sometimes I'm feelin under
 That's the reason why sometimes I'm feelin down
 There's no wonder why sometimes I'm feelin under
 Gotta keep my faith alive to lovers bound

(sung by **Black Eyed Peas, The Catholic Standard and Times, Vol. 109, No. 8, September 18, 2003**)

HOW TO FORGIVE

One day a while back, a man, his heart heavy with grief, was walking in the woods. As he thought about his life this day, he knew many things were not right. He thought about those who had lied about him back when he had a job. His thoughts turned to those who had stolen his things and cheated him. He remembered family that had passed on. His mind turned to the illness he had that no one could cure.

His very soul was filled with anger, resentment and frustration. Standing there this day, searching for answers he could not find. Knowing all else had failed him; he knelt at the base of an old oak tree to seek the one he knew would always be there. And with tears in his eyes, he prayed:

“Lord- You have done wonderful things for me in this life. You have told me to do many things for you, and I happily obeyed. Today, you have told me to forgive. I am sad, Lord, because I cannot. I don't know how. It is not fair Lord. I didn't deserve these wrongs that were done against me and I shouldn't have to forgive. As perfect as your way is Lord, this one thing I cannot do, for I don't know how to forgive. My anger is so deep Lord, I fear I may not hear you, but I pray that you teach me to do this one thing I cannot do - Teach me To Forgive.”

As he knelt there in the quiet shade of that old oak tree, he felt something fall onto his shoulder. He opened his eyes. Out of the corner of one eye, he saw something red on his shirt. He could not turn to see what it was because where the oak tree had been was a large square piece of wood in the ground. He raised his head and saw two feet held to the wood with a large spike through them. He raised his head more, and tears came to his eyes as he saw Jesus hanging on a cross. He saw spikes in His hands, a gash in His side, a torn and battered body, deep thorns sunk into

His head. Finally he saw the suffering and pain on His precious face. As their eyes met, the man's tears turned to sobbing, and Jesus began to speak.

"Have you ever told a lie?" He asked? The man answered - "yes, Lord." "Have you ever been given too much change and kept it?" The man answered - "Yes, Lord." And the man sobbed more and more. Jesus asked "Have you ever taken something from work that wasn't yours?" ? And the man answered - "Yes, Lord." "Have you ever sworn, using my Father's name in vain? "The man, crying now, answered - "Yes, Lord."

As Jesus asked many more times, "Have you ever"? The man's crying became uncontrollable, for he could only answer - "Yes, Lord."

Then Jesus turned His head from one side to the other, and the man felt something fall on his other shoulder. He looked and saw that it was the blood of Jesus. When he looked back up, his eyes met those of Jesus, and there was a look of love the man had never seen or known before. Jesus said, "I didn't deserve this either, but I forgive you."

It may be hard to see how you're going to get through something, but when you look back in life, you realize how true this statement is.

Read the following first line slowly and let it sink in.

If god brings you to it - he will bring you through it.

Lord I love You and I need You, come into my heart, today. For without You, I can do nothing.

(Dotty Lyons)

THE MAYONNAISE JAR and COFFEE

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the coffee.

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar, and proceeded to fill it with golf balls.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. So the professor then picked up a box of tiny pebbles and poured them into the jar. He then asked if the jar was full, and they responded that it was. The he took out two cups of sand and poured them into the jar. He then asked if the jar was full, and they responded that it was. The professor finally

produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively saturating the sand.

The students laughed. "Now," said the professor, as the laughter subsided, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things – your God, family, your children, your health, your friends, and your favorite passions – things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house, and your car. The sand is everything else – the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your golf partner or spouse out to dinner. Play another 18 holes of golf. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first, the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just pebbles and sand."

One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented.

The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a couple of cups of coffee with a friend."

(Assumption Parish, Atco, NJ, Bulletin, July 11, 2004)

THE BEAUTY of MARITAL LOVE

Forty years ago it was widely regarded as morally wrong, and socially ruinous, for a man to walk out on his wife and children. In 1961, for example, Nelson Rockefeller, who was then governor of New York, decided to divorce his wife of more than 20 years for a younger woman (who then proceeded to divorce her husband, leaving him custody of their four children). The result? Despite every prediction that Rockefeller would easily become the Republican Party's nominee for president in 1964, the scandal of divorce wrecked his chances at the convention. In addition to political suicide, Rockefeller's defiance of society's mores earned him the criticism of most Americans.

It was also true in that quaint and faraway time that aberrations like abortion, pornography, and

homosexual activity were, if not entirely unknown, nevertheless pretty nearly condemned by everyone. Had anyone suggested, back then, the permissibility of, say, partial-birth abortion or same-sex marriage, not only would people find that person's ideas incomprehensible, but his or her morals reprehensible. How far we have come in 40 years!

But this is not an argument for going back to the world before history hit us with a freight train (besides, there was much that was already rotten in that seemingly golden age). Still, it is not necessary to have specialized in social pathology to predict the demise of a civilization. And certainly the one we are living in now is showing signs of galloping senility. Can the disease be arrested, I wonder, or must the patient die? Only God knows, and I don't presume to be His prophet.

AT HOME in a FAMILY

But I will venture this that if our civilization is about to go under, there is one very good and undeniable reason for it, and that is the crisis of marriage and family life which threatens to destroy the one institution chiefly responsible for shaping men and women for civilization. For the way of the world's happiness finally and decisively depends on the maintenance of the family unit. And the thing that most precisely distinguishes the family is that here is a safe and reassuring place in the midst of a harsh and pitiless world: a place where a person is loved, not for anything they might do, but simply for being who they are. Without that protective shell of warmth and welcoming love, one is left alone and bereft in a world trembling in the cold.

"A man is an uncivilized barbarian, in the degree in which he does not take others into account. Barbarism is the tendency to disassociation." So pronounced the philosopher Ortega y Gasset more than 70 years ago in his great work, *The Revolt of the Masses*, a book which, in the light of all that has happened since, looks positively prophetic. For here is a text that seems uncannily accurate in putting its finger on what really goes on between two people and the life that, with the grace of God, springs from the loins of their love. What else does it mean to marry and have babies that to take others into account? Indeed, to live so entirely for another that the two become one flesh?

SACRED BOND

"GOD WAS IN LOVE," Archbishop Sheen used to say, "but He could not keep the secret. The telling of it became creation." So, how does God go about telling us how much He loves us? The answer is simple: by instituting the Sacrament of Marriage. It

is the way God chose to enable the world to experience the wonder and majesty of His love. This is true, of course, right from the beginning when, as the first chapter of Genesis makes clear, God created Adam and Eve (not Adam and Steve), whom He thereupon enjoined to be fruitful and multiply. What could be more foundational? It is a revelational event, no less, in the history of the world. Here was God's way of telling us exactly how He intended children to come into being through the mysterious coupling of two people, the very bond of whose union (in Christ: the unseen member of every marriage) is so sacred not even governments can sever it.

And the fruit of so blessed and intimate a union? Lasting membership in a family. Was it Robert Frost who said, "Home is the place where, when you go there, they have to take you in"? Well, he was right but perhaps also in a way in which he may not have been aware. Since home is also the place where, when you do get there, it suddenly becomes what it was always meant to be, that is, a family. It was you see your very birth that made it so. And all of us begin our lives in one kind of family or another. Does it surprise us then that God, who is Himself a family (It is not well," warns Chesterton, "for God to be alone."), should take an interest in our own families? Are these not replications of His own, i.e., little domestic churches? After all, when He fashioned for Himself a body with which to redeem us, He chose a family to be the place where it would all begin. Joseph, and Mary and Jesus. It is the family after whose perfection we are to model our own efforts to become saints.

That the world will be saved by beauty is something I long to believe is true. But only as a manifestation of that beauty which, in Cardinal Danielou's lovely and expressive phrase, "cascades down from the Trinity." Only in the revelation of the love of Jesus Christ, who is the incarnate beauty of God, will the world find salvation. And marriage, what is this but a participation in that love between two very different people, strangely brought together in a common enterprise, in order that they might monstrate before the world something of the face of God Himself. "Who speaks the things that love Him shows," writes Coventry Patmore, "shall say things deeper than He knows."

When a man and a woman fall in love, a terrible beauty is born. But more beautiful still is the beauty illumined by the grace of God, which we marvel to watch in its surprising yet rhythmic descent, cascading all the way down to include the smiles and the laughter of little children.

(by Doctor Regis Martin, LayWitness, May/June 2004)

MESSAGE of 7/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! I call you anew: be open to my messages. I desire, little children, to draw you all closer to my Son Jesus; therefore, you pray and fast. Especially I call you to pray for my intentions, so that I can present you to my Son Jesus; for Him to transform and open your hearts to love. When you will have love in the heart, peace will rule in you. Thank you for having responded to my call.

MESSAGE of 8/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! I call you all to conversion of heart. Decide, as in the first days of my coming here, for a complete change of your life. In this way, little children, you will have the strength to kneel and to open your hearts before God. God will hear your prayers and answer them. Before God, I intercede for each of you. 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 7/25/2004

I DESIRE, LITTLE CHILDREN, TO DRAW YOU ALL CLOSER TO MY SON JESUS

Behind the simple words of this message, there is Mary, our Mother, who loves her children. The heart of Mary feels our suffering and suffers when we suffer. She has compassion with us and she regrets when we are locked up and when we do not make any case of what she wants to say to us. Mary suffers with her children as a mother suffers with hers. The purer the heart is, and the more the love is great, the greater is sorrow because of evil, sin and all that destroys life.

Mary, our Mother, invites us to prepare the space in which Jesus will be able to come. Without our preparation, without our opening, Jesus remains powerless in his action. In the Gospels, we see that Jesus knew failures, that he could not help those who did not want to listen to him, to believe in him and to draw out the treasure of his life. Only the simple ones and the humble ones discover the force of the simplicity of Mary and of God. The words of the message of Our Lady are so simple. Seen from outside, they are ordinary, human words, just as Jesus, our God was wrapped in simplicity, smallness and humanity. We see Jesus each day on our altars, in Holy Masses, wrapped in ordinary simplicity of the bread, and it can happen that we do not recognize him and do not even meet him! It can happen to us to receive Holy Communion, the consecrated host, without meeting the living risen Christ, who - in the simplicity of the bread - gave to us the force of his resurrection and of his love. All that we need: love,

peace, meaning of life, joy, Jesus gave to us in Holy Mass.

In a certain manner, the presence of Mary, our Mother, is hidden in simple, ordinary, human words in which - through faith and abandonment - we discover the force which attracts us and which leads us to Jesus and the encounter with him. Just like Jesus, who became man in a simple way and who thus approached us, Mary speaks to us in a comprehensible and simple way. Let us recognize with faith and the heart that, behind this simplicity, is to be found the Holy One and the Pure One, for whom our hearts are longing. We are children of Mary, and each child needs a Mother, cannot live without her.

The desire of Mary is to bring us closer Jesus. She wishes that the desire to know and to meet Jesus might be born in our heart also. Without this desire, she cannot help us. It is necessary that our heart come into movement in order to encounter and to know Jesus. Mary knows her Son better than anyone else, but she knows also the way to reach him. We are in sure hands if we go to her to receive council and assistance.

To pray for Mary's intentions means to pray that her maternal desires are carried out, and not our own desires. She knows what is for our good; she knows it better than us, because she loves us more than we are able to love ourselves. Her desire is to present us, to offer us to Jesus. As she presented Jesus in the Temple to the Heavenly Father, she wants to present us to her Son Jesus. He is the source of love and of peace. We need him, so that peace reigns in our families and in our human relations - not the peace of this world, but the peace that comes from his Heart pierced on the cross.

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

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 8/25/2004

I CALL YOU ALL TO CONVERSION OF HEART

Mary, our Mother, invites her children to the conversion of heart. Each one of us is important for her; each one of us is her child. As our Mother, she cares for us and for our heart. She is calling to conversion, just like John the Baptist did it at his time. Matthew the Evangelist is writing: "In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"." (Mt 3,1-2) It is not accidental that Mary came here, to us, precisely on the feast day of St John the Baptist, on June 24, 1981. Like him, she is calling and preparing the ways of the Lord in human hearts, at our time, during all these years. It is the voice of from Heaven that, through Mary, is resounding today through our world. It is the voice of the Mother who calls her children. This voice is resounding and renewing the lives of all those who are far from God, living in the desert and in the desolation of this world. This voice does not want to intimidate us. This is a voice that does not threaten, but says to us what God wants of us today.

The messages of Mary are neither comfortable nor light, but demanding. This voice can appear hard to the ears of this world. Mary, our Mother, is perseverant and patient with us. Her love is pressing her on to speak to us and to return us from evil and from sin. Our Mother wants to give us a new freshness, a new fervor and the breath of Heaven.

To convert one's heart to God means to turn to Him Who alone can satisfy our hunger and quench our thirst for what is more necessary to us than bread and things of this world, which can neither fill nor set free. To convert one's heart means to believe in God and to decide for Him. God made himself helpless in front of our freedom. Without our decision, He is almost unable to do anything in our heart, this heart that He Himself has created. This shows us at which point He loves us, without ever forcing us to love Him in return.

Our heavenly Mother knows well the enthusiasm of the first days of her apparitions, the enthusiasm that lived in the hearts because of her presence. The Virgin Mary and her maternal heart have not changed since the first days of the apparitions. It is not she who needs to change; we need it. We are filled with enthusiasm very easily, but this enthusiasm can also very easily be lost. We always need food to live. We

also always need the contact with God in the prayer of the heart, in trust.

The Virgin Mary calls us to a life of integrity, to a radical change of our life. God does not want from us shallow words of our prayers, or a bit of our time. God asks us all, because He has given to us everything; He has given Himself to us, and He wants that we give Him all. We need a radical decision, which will make us fall on our knees. On our knees in front of God, we will know the heart of God. Then, God won't be any more a foreigner for us, but a friend. He will become somebody for whom languish our heart and our soul, because in Him alone our heart can find peace, this peace that nobody and nothing can give us. Only on our knees, our heart can open to the Creator our lives. In front of Him, we are just creatures, but creatures that He loves. I believe that we are not conscious of this gift of Heaven which is offered to us today through Mary, our Mother, who is speaking to us and opening to us her maternal heart full of love, a heart that wants us to consecrate ourselves to Her. It reveals to us the immensity of the love of God and His perseverance, in spite of our blindness and our deafness. Only on our knees and in prayer, we will be able to know the heart of the Mother, this heart full of love for each one of us, but also the pain that lives in it because of each heart that is blind and deaf.

Mary, our Mother, we thank you for your intercession, for the prayer that you are addressing to God for each one of us. Thank you, because you are not abandoning me, you are not abandoning us.

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

PRESS BULLETIN 200, 7/26/2004

200 TIMES WITH YOU

Ten years ago, November 23, 1994, those who served in Medjugorje at the time launched a Press Bulletin. We arrived now at number 200, which is a significant jubilee for the editor and for the readers. In Number 0, the editor wrote: " These are times in which the words love and reconciliation, justice and love of truth are easily pronounced and heard with joy, but rarely practiced and lived. Many people live like a river that flows without an aim, not knowing always where it is going or why." The desire of the editor was undoubtedly to connect the friends of Our Lady from the country and from the whole world, while transmitting Our Lady's message and all other important information related to Medjugorje. During 10 years and through the 200 numbers, the Bulletin was not a river which flows without a goal. Its goal

was always clear: to bring the truth. We hope to have succeeded...

In the leading article of February 2001, Father Ivan Landeka wrote: "It is enough to be naïve to choose any direction. The one who wants to keep the chosen direction needs a compass". (K. Steinbach) The direction and the goal are important if we want to arrive at the goal. The Bulletin of Medjugorje always went on the paths where Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, always listening to the echo of the messages of Our Lady. This is why we thank all those who filled out the pages of the Bulletin, thus connecting many hearts in only one family. Those who wrote these leading articles are often surprised with which attention you are reading each line. Thus, you are influencing our effort to bring closer to you all that occurs at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace.

In Medjugorje, all that happens and all that is done - including this Bulletin - pronounce its "thank you" to God through Marie. Thank you thus to God, to Our Lady and to all people of goodwill who are at their service, for all that has been done for your information.

Father Mario Knezovic

COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of June, 140,000 received Holy Communion and 3100 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

MONSIGNOR BRUNO TOMMASI, RETIRED BISHOP of the DIOCESE LUCCA in ITALY, on PILGRIMAGE

Monsignor Bruno Tommasi, retired bishop of the diocese Lucca in Italy, came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje in June 2004. On June 19, he presided the pilgrims' Mass for Italian speaking pilgrims.

CANADIAN INDIANS on PILGRIMAGE

A group of Indians from the north of Canada came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje for the 23rd anniversary of the apparitions. Father Chatland, a missionary among the Indians in the diocese McKenzie, as well as Mrs. Becket, were among them. Monsignor Denis Croteau, their bishop, is supporting Medjugorje and these pilgrimages. In 2001, he came on pilgrimage twice.

Father Chatland has noticed positive spiritual fruits in those who came back from Medjugorje, and had the desire to come and see for himself. Mrs. Beckett underlined how much good the messages from Medjugorje are bringing to her fellow Indians, who are thorn apart between their traditional Indian culture

linked to ancient customs, and the new way of life to which they are trying to become accustomed.

DOCTOR FATHER LJUDEVIT RUPCIC'S FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Doctor Father Ljudevit Rupcic's first death anniversary has been commemorated in Medjugorje on Saturday, June 26, 2004. Father Rupcic, a very appreciated Franciscan from Herzegovina, has written numerous essays and books in theology and was a renowned expert in biblical sciences. Holy Mass at the outside altar of Saint James' parish church in Medjugorje was presided by Father Mario Knezovic, director of the Information Center "Mir" Medjugorje, and concelebrated by 90 priests.

"Father Ljudevit was a great fighter. His fight and his struggle took place in the area of the Church and of the Fatherland. Since his early days as a Franciscan, he was imprisoned in communist jails", said Father Mario in his homily. "but his 'blade' never lost its sharpness, on the contrary: he prepared himself for tasks that had to come within the Church and the society in general. As a professor of biblical sciences, he translated the New Testament and Psalms from the original into Croatian language. As a member of the Theological Commission of the Bishops' Conference, he gave an orientation to the theological reflection within the Church." As for the events of Medjugorje and Our Lady's apparitions, "Father Ljudevit gave the last 22 years of his life to Our Lady and to Medjugorje. He did not ask anything in return, except the Truth, for which he was burning during his whole life. He always sought the right way of venerating Our Lady of the living the messages; he always required clarity and transparency in liturgical celebrations and the evangelization at the Shrine in Medjugorje. Concerning Medjugorje, he knew no compromising; nothing was difficult or unacceptable for him. During the last years of his life, the love for the pilgrims was his vocation. He was almost running to meet them, in order to transmit to them the message. We can say that Father Ljudevit was a herald of Medjugorje. His voice was listened to in the Church, his words were read and respected, whatever others may have said or written."

THE NINTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING of PRIESTS

The 9th International Meeting for Priests took place from July 5 to 10, 2004. This seminar gathered 361 priests from 36 countries (speaking a total of 16 languages), from all of the continents. Professor

Doctor Tomislav Ivancic spoke to them on the theme: "Identity of the priest".

During these days, priests were sharing, praying, and celebrating the Eucharist in communion with the people of God. Feeling here at the school of Mary, they went to pray at the places that Our Lady had especially chosen for prayer: the Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain. The last day, they went to pray at the tomb of Father Slavko Barbaric, who initiated these Priests Meetings in 1996.

From year to year, the number of priests who choose to make their annual retreat in Medjugorje, under the protection of Our Blessed Mother - the Queen of Peace, is growing. The abundance of fruits of this meeting can be seen in the large number of participants and in their moving testimonies at the end of the retreat.

We entrust them into your prayers.

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

PRESS BULLETIN 201, 8/26/2004

WE DESIRE TO SEE JESUS... ABOUT THE 15TH YOUTH FESTIVAL

We have just lived another magnificent gathering of young people, enthusiastic, enchanted, full of faith and optimism. We shall not speak here about numbers and statistics, although they are not insignificant. General impression: a true Pentecostal atmosphere. A new Pentecost in Medjugorje. No trace of fear, of anxiety, of pessimism, which – as an epidemic - are spreading in the Church of the northern hemisphere. While observing this meeting during six days and while reflecting on it, we can imagine and almost see with our own eyes the biblical images around Jesus: people speak about Jesus, crowds hasten from everywhere; He is attracting, teaching, healing every disease and weakness in the people. The Eucharistic celebrations made us think of Jesus on the Mount of the Beatitudes.

While internal problems of all kinds accumulate in the institutional Church in Europe and in America, these young people represent a guarantee and a testimony against resignation and fear. Twenty years ago, the Holy Father understood this in a prophetic way: in the young people, he saw the force of the Church to come, and this is why, through them, he is trying to inject to the Church a vaccine against asthenia, despair, pessimism, depression and lassitude that are spreading within. The Church of young people is the Church of the future, the budding Church, the Church that believes in tomorrow, the

Church that is neither bending its knees nor abandoning itself to gloomy thoughts; it is the Church that seeks and finds strength and consolation in Jesus Christ, in prayer, in the Eucharist, in the Adoration, in the sacrament of the reconciliation.

Everything is so simple; nobody is disturbing or hindering anyone. There is no need of hundreds of police officers or of security forces, as it is happening in the stages; everything is filled with an atmosphere of interiority, of opening, of prayer and of singing. Without publicity, without big posters, without advertisement. Medjugorje is not counting on that. Medjugorje speaks for itself; Medjugorje is in itself a magnet, which is attracting and focusing catholic forces from the four corners of the world. If we look at the expenses that are made for certain projects to be announced, at which point certain things are advertised, and how much time and money are spent to carry out certain gatherings, we can say for this Festival in Medjugorje that it is a perfect spectacle arranged by Heaven.

We wish to see Jesus? This is possible only through us, through you and me. Are we ready to dare? Mary says that she desires to draw us towards her Son, so that each one of us may find one's place in this triangle between her and Jesus. Medjugorje is a permanent mission of Heaven.

.....
Doctor Father Tomislav Pervan

COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of July, 9100 received Holy Communion and 4145 priests from this country and abroad concelebrated Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

FEAST of SAINT JAMES, PATRON SAINT of the PARISH

On July 25, feast of Saint James the Apostle, the parish of Medjugorje celebrated its patron saint. In the morning, according to the custom, the Eucharistic celebration began and ended by the singing the litany of All the Saints and a procession with the statue of the Patron Saint, which was carried by the residents of Miletina. Holy Mass was celebrated in the little park near the church. It was presided by Father Branimir Musa, and concelebrated by the Herzegovinian provincial Father Slavko Soldo, the pastor of Medjugorje Father Branko Rados, and other priests.

The evening Mass, which gathered together several thousands of faithful and numerous foreign priests, was presided by Father Tomislav Pervan.

15th INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PRAYER FESTIVAL

The International Youth Prayer Meeting in Medjugorje took place this year from August 1 to 6. About 25,000 young people from all over the world gathered together. There were also about 400 priests, who accompanied their young parishioners to this meeting. The theme of the meeting was, "We desire to see Jesus". During the evening prayer program, numerous other pilgrims joined young people, and about 30,000 faithful participated in the program each evening.

Lecturers and witnesses invited young people to come to know Jesus Christ who is a brother for each one of us and the Saviour of humanity, and whom young people need so much today.

This meeting was another exceptional spiritual experience for all young people who participated. This is why we invite them to come next year again to Medjugorje and to renew their fidelity to God, to the Holy Father and to the Church.

The meeting was simultaneously translated into seventeen languages.

SOLEMNITY of the ASSUMPTION

Several thousands of local and foreign pilgrims came to Medjugorje for the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the morning, Masses were celebrated in about ten languages. The solemn evening Mass was presided by Father Dario Dodig, and concelebrated by 54 priests. Also this year, numerous Croatian pilgrims came on bare feet. They were arriving already during the night, after having walked many kilometers.

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for MARRIED COUPLES

The 5th International Meeting for Married Couples will take place in Medjugorje in the New Hall from November 3 to 6, 2004. The theme of the seminar is "[How to heal the marriage and the family?](#)" It is recommended to bring with you: a small FM radio with headphones (for simultaneous translation) and a Bible.

Participation per couple: 30 Euro. You may make reservations by e-mail: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr or by fax +387-36-651-999. The number of participants is limited because of the available space in the Hall, so we ask you to send your registration as soon as possible, latest by the end of September. All the participants are invited to individually provide their accommodation in Medjugorje.

*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>

CONDUCT UNBECOMING A CATHOLIC

Dear Editor, In the past year or so several U.S. Catholic bishops have informed certain Catholic politicians in their dioceses that they may no longer present themselves for Holy Communion. Why? Because their adamant pro-abortion stance scandalizes the Church. Only the public retraction of their anti-life view will lift the sanction. One bishop directed their pastors to refuse to give them Holy Communion if they present themselves for it.

Are these bishops trying to control the way these politicians vote? No. No one questions the right of the military to discipline those guilty of "conduct unbecoming an officer." These bishops, in effect discipline these high-profile parishioners for "conduct unbecoming a Catholic."

Paragraph 2272 of the Catechism states: "Formal cooperation in an abortion constitutes a grave offense." Canon law provides: "Those who obstinately persist in manifest grave sin are not to be admitted to Holy Communion."

The guilt of these politicians lies in the fact that their anti-life votes facilitate the grave offense of "formal cooperation." How? By making it legal, with the mother's consent, to kill her unborn son or daughter. Without those anti-life votes (or judicial rulings), virtually all such children would live.

Catechism no. 2272 further states: "A person who procures a completed abortion incurs excommunication *Latae sententiae*, by the very commission of the offense, and subject to the conditions provided by canon law." Excommunicated Catholics are encouraged to continue to attend Mass and repent of their sin. Until they repent and are reinstated in the Church, however, they cannot receive the Holy Eucharist. Clearly, it is the sacred duty of every Catholic bishop to publicly condemn induced abortion and confront high-profile parishioners who scandalize the Church.

But what about typical Catholics like me who are not in politics and know that induced abortion is gravely sinful? Suppose a candidate well-known for his pro-abortion views comes to town and offers each of us

\$100 for our vote. We take the cash and he is elected. In the eyes of Our Lord, we would surely bear our share of responsibility for the killing that followed.

But, as Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life asks: "How can the Lord see us as less guilty if, instead of cash-in-hand, we take our payoff in the form of a better job, lower taxes, improved healthcare, etc.?"

Something to think about as we evaluate candidates in the upcoming elections.

(by Frank Germain, Dunmore, PA, "LayWitness" May - June 2004).

"GOD BLESS AMERICA – God's Vision Or Ours?"

As mentioned in the last issue, we strongly recommend the above titled book by **Father Bill McCarthy, M.Ss.A.**, co-founder of **My Father's House, Moodus, CT** for your reading. So many responded to this call that we sold out and had to replenish our supplies. We now have plenty more for those who have not yet read this wonderful book. If you have it, please read parts of it every night to your children. If not, please consider obtaining a copy so you can read it yourself and to them once you have a better understanding of how God has blessed America.

PREPARE NOW, EDUCATE YOURSELF on ALL the ISSUES, GET READY to VOTE on NOVEMBER 2, 2004

Everyone who is registered should make every effort to become properly educated and prepared to vote on **Tuesday, 2 November 2004**. This may be the most important Election Day in the 21st Century.

The stand for poor choices, voting record, recorded dishonesty, and morality in evidence for the presidential candidate of the Democratic Party, John Kerry, leaves little choice for the voters of America regardless of what they might think of the incumbent President George Bush. If there are any failures in these past four years, they were brought on by the continuing of the stalemate in Congress fostered by eight years of the Clinton Administration and members of Congress like John Kerry.

I was raised in a family that believed in the Democratic Party. For many reasons, I find it difficult to support any of the leading politicians in

the Democratic Party nor what the Democratic Party openly supports in its plank for the 2004 elections.

Keith Werner

NOVENA PRAYER COMPOSED by SAINT THERESE the LITTLE FLOWER - PRAY THIS NOVENA SEPTEMBER 23, through OCTOBER 1, 2004

Our Holy Father, John Paul II declared a special Year of the Eucharist from October 2004 to October 2005. Since the feast day of Saint Therese the Little Flower leads the month of October, let us ask her to intercede for religious freedom everywhere, that the celebration of the Eucharist may freely take place on every continent, in every nation, by every people.

May Saint Therese, in this Eucharistic year of many graces upon the Church be a Missionary of the Eucharist!. May we all be such missionaries. Through this novena to Saint Therese, may she prepare our hearts and minds to engage very deeply the mysteries of the Eucharist, that we, like her, not be hesitant to live our devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Let us take her words to heart, "one thing only is necessary here on earth, to love Jesus and to gain souls for Him, that they, too, may love Him."

"My God, I offer You all the actions which I am going to do today, for the intentions and for the glory of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I want to sanctify every beat of my heart, my thoughts and my most simple works by uniting them to His infinite merits, and I want to throw my faults into the furnace of His merciful love.

O my God, I ask You for myself and all those dear to me, the grace needed to accomplish perfectly Your Holy will, to accept for Your love all the joys and sufferings of this passing life so that we can one day be reunited in Heaven for all eternity. AMEN

Saint Therese, Missionary of the Eucharist, Pray for us!"

(Carmelite Nuns, 2901 S. Cecelia Street, Sioux City, Iowa 51106-3299)

THE SEVEN SORROWS of MARY (The Servite Rosary)

Meditation on the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady is a way of sharing in the major sorrows of her life.

As we pray (one) Our Father, (seven) Hail Mary's and (one) Glory Be for each sorrow, we ponder the pain Our Lady endured along with her Son. By joining our sorrows with Our Lady's sorrows, as she joined her sacrifices with her Son's, we participate in the work of our redemption.

An Act of Contrition

O Lord Jesus Christ, I am truly sorry for my sins. I humbly ask for Your forgiveness, and I promise with Your help to prove worthy of Your love by sharing in Your Passion and death through Our Blessed Mother's sorrows. Amen.

First Sorrow: The Prophecy of Simeon

How great was the shock to Mary's heart at hearing the sorrowful words in which Simeon foretold the bitter passion and death of her sweet Jesus. Dear Mary, obtain for me a true sorrow for my sins.

Second Sorrow: The Flight into Egypt

Consider the sharp sorrow which Mary felt when she and Joseph had to suddenly flee by night in order to preserve her beloved Child from the slaughter decreed by Herod. What anguish was hers; how great her privations in that long journey. What sufferings she bore in that land of exile.

Third Sorrow: The Loss of Jesus in the Temple

How dread was the grief of Mary when she realized that she has lost her beloved Son. Filled with worry and weariness, she and Joseph returned to Jerusalem, and for three long days sought Jesus, until finding Him in the temple.

Fourth Sorrow: Mary Meets Jesus on the way to Calvary

Come, O sinners, come and see if you can endure so sad a sight. This Mother, so tender and loving, meets her beloved Son amid those who drag Him to a cruel death. Consider, O dear people, the tremendous grief as their eyes met -- the sorrow of the Blessed Mother thus beholding her Son.

Fifth Sorrow: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Look upon the two sacrifices on Calvary -- one, the body of Jesus; the other, the heart of Mary. Sad is the sight of that dear Mother seeing her beloved Son so cruelly nailed to the tree of the cross. She stood at the foot of the cross and heard her Son promise heaven to a thief and forgave His enemies. His last words are

centered on His mother and are directed to us. "Behold Thy Mother!" Let us resolve always to look upon Mary as our Mother and remember that she never fails her children.

Sixth Sorrow: Mary Received the Body of Jesus in her Arms

Ponder the bitter sorrow which rent the heart of Mary when the body of her dear Jesus was lowered from the cross and placed in her arms. O mournful Mother, our hearts are softened with sorrow upon seeing such affliction.

Seventh Sorrow: Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

The most tragic day in history ends, and all that is left for the Mother is to accompany her Son's Body to the grave. What grief was hers as she gazed a last time on the lifeless body of her Son, and the great stone was rolled to seal the entrance to the tomb.

Let us Pray:

O Mother, obtain that all our love may rest with you and your Son, our Savior, Who shed His blood for our salvation. By all your sorrows, grant that the memory of them may be ever imprinted on our mind, that our hearts may burn with love for God, and for the Passion of Jesus; to Him be honor, glory and thanksgiving for ever and ever. Amen.

(e-mail to IIPG, for 9 Day Novena, 6-14 September)

THE SECRETS of LA SALETTE

THe tiny parish of La Salette looks today much like it did in 1846. Tucked into the rocky foothills of the French Alps and surrounded by mountains peaking at over 7200 feet, a scant population still makes its living off the land. Residents farm, or herd their animals on the sloping hillsides, rising at dawn and retiring at sunset, with most of the hours in between spent grinding out a living.

It was a much harder life in 1846, before the advent of modern technology a world utterly unlike our own except for a few rather striking similarities.

Fewer and fewer people were going to Sunday Mass. Observation of the Sabbath was all but extinct. People worked on Sunday just like any other day. Where there had once been a Christian worldview, now an attitude of self-indulgence and greed prevailed. The only time anyone mentioned the Lord's name was while cursing.

And just like today, no one in the La Salette of 1846 even thought about possible chastisements from a God who might be offended by this behavior. It never even occurred to them that their way of life would ever change.

Until the afternoon of September 19th.

A 14-year-old shepherdess named Melanie Calvat was grazing her cows in the high pastures when they wandered perilously close to a steep ravine. She hurried after them, stopping short at the edge of the cliff, where she saw a brilliant circle of light in the ravine below.

Nervously, she called for her companion, 11-year-old Maximin Giraud. A restless, rambunctious boy, he dashed to her side and watched in amazement as the circle of light peeled open. Inside was the figure of a seated woman. She had her face in her hands and appeared to be weeping.

They were just about to bolt for safety when the woman rose and, with an unearthly grace, crossed her arms on her breast and looked up at them.

‘She was unspeakably beautiful, the tears on her cheeks shimmering like stars. Her robes were long and dazzling white.. She wore a headdress composed of a garland of roses with tall cylinders of light spiking above it. A golden crucifix hung around her neck, a hammer on one side and a pair of pincers on the other. On her feet were slippers edged with roses.

‘Come to me, my children, ‘ she beckoned. ‘Don’t be afraid. I’m here to tell you something of the greatest importance.’

The children gingerly moved closer.

‘If my people will not obey, I shall be compelled to loose my Son’s arm. It is so heavy, so pressing that I can no longer restrain it. How long I have suffered for you.

No matter how well you pray in the future, no matter how well you act, you will never be able to make up to me what I have endured for your sake.’

They stared at her dumbly.

‘I have appointed you six days for working,’ she explained. ‘The seventh I have reserved for myself. And no one will give it to me. The cart drivers cannot swear with out bringing in my Son’s name. These are the two things which make my Son’s arm so burdensome.’

She went on to speak about the previous year’s anemic crop, a warning sent from God that had gone unheeded by the people. ‘If your harvest is spoiled, it’s your own fault, ‘ she reproved. ‘When you

discovered that the potatoes had rotted, you swore, you abused my Son’s name.’

Their crops would continue to rot, she warned, and an even greater famine was on its way. ‘The children under seven years of age will be seized with trembling and die in their parent’s arms,’ she said sadly. ‘The grownups will pay for their sins by hunger. The grapes will rot and the walnuts will turn bad.’

The woman then turned to each child individually, telling each one a secret that must not be revealed, and then asked the two if they said their prayers well.

‘No, ‘they murmured with shame. ‘We hardly say them at all.’

‘Ah, my children, it is very important to say them, at night and in the morning. When you don’t have time at least say an Our Father and a Hail Mary. And when you can say more.’

She returned to the subject of reproach, lamenting how few souls went to Mass, opting instead to work. Only in winter, when they had nothing else to do, did people venture out to Mass, but only to ‘poke fun at religion.’

If only they would repent, she sighed with longing. ‘If people are converted, the rocks will become piles of wheat and it will be found that the potatoes have sown themselves!’

But if people continued to choose the godless path of sin and vice, they would reap continued sorrow and suffering.

Finally, she looked at them both and charged them to ‘make this known to all my people.’ Ever so slowly, she turned away and began to glide along the ravine, pausing once to turn around and say again, ‘You will make this known to all my people.’ Her eyes lifted to heaven and her face became radiant with joy as she slowly rose and disappeared into the sky.

The message of La Salette had just been delivered to the world.

Just as Mary predicted, that very year was marked by crop shortages, and the great Irish potato famine took the lives of millions during that decade. Young children did indeed die trembling in their parents’ arms from recurring epidemics of typhus, dysentery and smallpox, which accompanied the food shortages.

Perhaps the greatest sign of the apparition’s authenticity came in the form of the renewed religious fervor that swept through France as a result of the pleading of Our Lady of La Salette.

Mass attendance increased, fewer people worked on Sundays, and the every day speech of the people

became more respectful. Pilgrims flocked into the alpine village, which sat at an elevation of 5900 feet. Although this was an arduous trip in the mid-19th Century, thousands made it.

Reports of numerous healing and conversions came to light over the next five years as the children's story underwent a rigorous investigation by the Church. Bishop Philiberte de Bruillard of Grenoble pronounced the apparition of Mary at La Salette worthy of belief on September 19, 1851.

Over the years, many rumors have circulated about the secrets that Our Lady confided to Melanie and Maximin. Although the private perusal of Pope Pius IX, neither secret has ever been revealed to the public. Later in her life, Melanie published a second rendition of the original secret, which may have been embellished with the apocalyptic prophecies to which she subscribed at the interpretation of the original message when he said, "So you want to know the secrets of La Salette? Repent or you will perish."

The message of Our Lady at La Salette is timeless. Religious indifference is never to be taken lightly. The simple practices of our faith, such as honoring the Sabbath, respecting the Lord's name and remaining steadfast in daily prayer, are what keep us close to God. Otherwise, we are building a world without God, a world doomed to war and famine, violence and neglect. Only fidelity to the Gospel of Jesus Christ can make this earth a more humane place.

(by Susan Brinkmann, *The Catholic Standard & Times*, Vol. 109 No. 8, September 18, 2003)

SAVE YOUR MIND

There is a war that rages
In every person's mind
A lasting personal conflict
Meeting at a dividing line.
Satan is on one hand
He's trying to gain control
And Jesus is on the other
And trying to save our soul.
We're in a world of conflict
Step up and toe the line
You have to make a choice
In order to save your mind.
Discern what is untrue

Separate the fact from a lie
Arm yourself with knowledge
And know the reasons why.
Faith is your protection
Never give in to sin
Know the Word is truth
And God's love will never end.
Teach the little children
It just takes a little time
Show them what is truth
And help them save their mind.

Joe Floyd, May 23, 2004

DESIRE for JUSTICE MANIFESTS DESIRE for SALVATION

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

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

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

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

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

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

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

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

NAZARETH HOUSE

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

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

It now houses the Camden Diocese Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Director of Vocation Recruitment for Priestly and Religious Vocations, Father Chris Bakey, Director of Nazareth House, cbakey@camdendiocese.org

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

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

THE EUCHARIST TRANSFORMS the LIFE of BELIEVERS

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

The Pope writes in the Message dated June 10, Solemnity of Corpus Christi, that “the Church of Mantova has put Christ, hidden behind the veil of the

species of the Eucharistic, at the center of the Jubilee celebrations.”

“Daily participation in the Eucharist,” he continues, “the nourishment of eternal life, is capable of transforming the life of believers. ... The Eucharist gives us the courage and joy to be saints. The Jubilee is, therefore, an appropriate occasion to take a closer look at the universal vocation to sanctity. The world needs people who are saints more than anything else.”

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

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

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

Please see the canary colored information letter enclosed in the July issue of “***The PILGRIM***” requesting donations and respond as best you can. As it explains, our needs for regular support are great.

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

The **PFMC** is not a church, store or travel agency but has aspects of all three. The **PFMC** operates as a

HOLY MASS TIMES

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

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

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

non-profit, with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, religious association and ministry whose volunteers are lay persons professing a belief in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, as the Only Begotten Son of God the Father, Creator of the Universe.

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

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

Books, pamphlets, and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and acquire for themselves based on donations. Our inventory is quite extensive. The inventory management volunteers, currently **Vince and Livia Nocella**, are always happy to find something for you.

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

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

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

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

Copies are available if you did not get yours or if you need extras. We need volunteers to help us get the entire inventory available for production of order forms. We eventually want to take pictures and load up a shopping cart program. If you have inventory or computer skills we would love to have your help.

If you wish to order, please determine your order request, make out a check or complete the information for use of a credit card, i.e. card type, number, expiration date, and name on card, sign, and

mail to **PFMC**. If you do not have an order form, call us at **(856) 768-9228** with a FAX number or mailing address and we will send you an order form. If you know what you want and we carry it, you can order over the telephone using your credit card.

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

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

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

Thank you and God bless you,

(Kathleen, Keith, and the PFMC Volunteer Staff

NEW BOOKS at the PFMC

"**When The Road Seems Too Steep** - a daily guide to positive change" by Ronald E. Minor - \$13.95.

"**Called To Intimacy** - Living in the Indwelling Presence" by George Maloney, S.J. - \$6.95.

Please add a \$3.95 donation for postage and handling.

BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out the following BULLETIN NOTICE and take it to your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator? Ask your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator to publish any portion of the notices in this article or in this issue of "**The PILGRIM**" to support **PFMC** events for which you have an interest.

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

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

information sheets to be put out in church. Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his representative. We are trying to network with other ministries in support of bringing people to Jesus either directly, through Mary, or through her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

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

2005 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC), 3-Day Extension (3DX), Youth Track (YT)

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host its annual 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 sheets with reservation forms are available at: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf.

For more information call (856) 768-9228.

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)

CONFERENCE CORNER

3-11 October 2004: 12th Annual International Week of Prayer and Fasting For the Conversion of Nations, the End to Abortion, and for World Peace. **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. (703) 327-2277.**

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

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

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

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

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

SIGN-UP NOW for PFMC EVENTS

The **PFMC** coordinates with other ministries who find that participants in events wait until the last minute to register their intent to participate. We often hear that people are planning to participate but do not have their registration on file.

PLEASE REGISTER for **PFMC** events in a timely fashion. **PFMC** events are listed on page 1 through 4 as well as in the Bulletin Notices on this page.

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)

CALENDARS:

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

In *October*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of **Saint Luke, Evangelist (18)** and **Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles (28)**, the Memorials of **Saints Thérèse of the Child Jesus (1)**, **Francis of Assisi (4)**, **Teresa of Jesus (15)**, **Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf and Companions (19)**, as well as **Our Lady of the Rosary (7)**, and the Optional Memorials of **Saints Bruno (6)**, **John Leonardi (9)**, **Denis and Companions (9)**, **Pope Callistus I (14)**, **Hedwig (16)**, **Margaret Mary Alacoque (16)**, **Paul of the Cross (20)**, **John of Capistrano (23)**, as well as **The Guardian Angels (2)**, and **Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (6)**. Church calendars show **Columbus Day (11)**.

information sheet for the *Friday, 17 September Day of Retreat* 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*.

Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Ask your pastor to post bulletin notices and allow information sheets to be put out in church. Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his representative. We are trying to network with other ministries in support of bringing people to Jesus either directly, through Mary, or through her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

POPE JOHN PAUL II'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for SEPTEMBER



VATICAN CITY, SEP 1, 2004 (VIS) - The Holy Father's general prayer intention is: **"That old people may be considered an asset for the spiritual and human growth of society."**

His mission intention is: **"That in Africa a true brotherly cooperation may develop among all those who work for the growth and development of ecclesial communities."**

(JP2-PRAYER INTENTIONS/SEPTEMBER 2004/...
VIS 040901 (60))

AROUND the **PFMC** AREA

Please review the announcements on pages 1 through 4, the enclosed goldenrod colored

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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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(856) 768-9228 FAX: (856) 768-9428

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,
Friday, 9/10/2004**

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

PLEASE DON'T THROW THIS AWAY!!

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

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

