



THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
P.O. BOX 6614 • ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16512
www.spiritofmedjugorje.org

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - FREE WILL OFFERING - PLEASE SEE PAGE 8

If this is the first time you have received this newsletter, and you would like a "Beginner's Guide," please contact us for one.



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MONTHLY MESSAGE OF MARCH 25, 2019

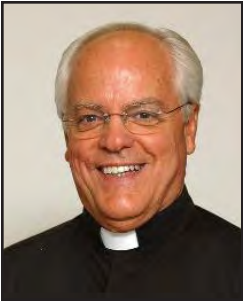
ON THE 25TH DAY OF EACH MONTH, THE BLESSED VIRGIN GIVES A MESSAGE TO THE VISIONARY, MARIJA, THAT IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE WORLD.



"Dear children! This is a time of grace. As nature renews itself for a new life, you also are called to conversion. Decide for God. Little children, you are empty and do not have joy, because you do not have God. Therefore pray until prayer becomes your life. In nature seek God who created you, because nature speaks and fights for life and not for death. Wars are reigning in hearts and nations, because you do not have peace and you do not see, little children, a brother in your neighbor. Therefore return to God and to prayer. Thank you for having responded to my call."

April 29 is Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus told St. Faustina, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion [on the first Sunday after Easter] shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (See page 2 with a commonly asked question about Divine Mercy Sunday.) This picture of Jesus as the Divine Mercy is part of a mural in Immaculate Conception Church in Tihaljina, not far from Medjugorje. The arm to the left of Jesus is the arm of St. John Paul II, who established Divine Mercy Sunday as a feast day for the entire Church on April 30, 2000. On that day, he declared, "This is the happiest day of my life."

His Cross and Resurrection



Fr. Bill Kiel

Our spiritual advisor, Fr. Bill Kiel, has been unable to write for us, because he has cancer. I know some of you have voiced that you miss Fr. Bill's words of wisdom, so we are "resurrecting" his article from our April 2014 issue.

The month of April this year takes us through the end of Lent, the Triduum, and into the Easter season. Spiritually, these are enriching experiences for us. We travel through Lent remembering the days of Jesus' ministry; during the Triduum, we focus on His institution of the Holy Eucharist, His Passion, and Death; and on Easter, we celebrate with great joy, His Resurrection. As we continue our spiritual growth, hopefully, the Cross of Jesus and His Resurrection will triumph in our hearts.

During the Lenten season, our endeavor was to put God at the center of our life; and with the help of prayers, fasting and works of mercy, we have deepened our relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Some of us may have meditated on the suffering and death of Jesus through the eyes and heart of the Blessed Mother; doing so gave us a realistic way to understand His suffering in a way that the suffering had to be.

Through Our Lady's intercession, we have hopefully renounced all that has distanced us from Her Son and made our life empty; and through our ongoing conversion, we live a more Christ-like life, as She has taught us that we can.

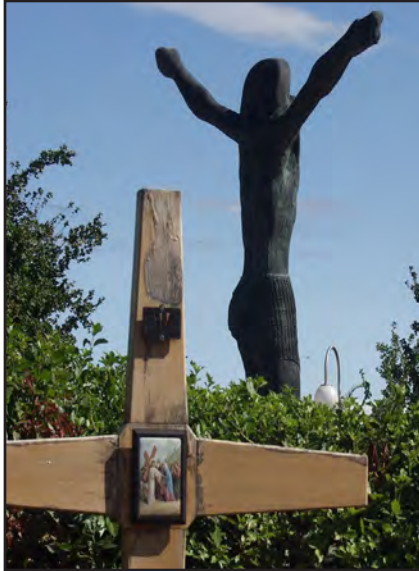
Each day:

...witness, love, forgive and bring joy of the Risen One into this world where Jesus died and where people do not feel a need to seek Him and discover Him in their lives.

...be joyful carriers of the Risen Jesus in the peace-less world.

...love each other with God's love. At every moment, in joy and in sorrow, may love prevail and, in this way, Love will begin to reign in your hearts. The Risen Jesus will be with you and you will be His witnesses.

...In this time of spring, when everything is awakening from the winter sleep, awaken our souls with prayer so that they may be ready to receive the light of the Risen Jesus.



The Fourth Station of the Cross and the Risen Jesus statue in Medjugorje

If we believe Jesus died for our sins, conquered death and resurrected, what keeps us from trusting in Him to help us live each day trying to discern and live His Father's will?

As we near Easter and celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, let us continue to offer, through the intercession of Our Lady, our sorrows and pain to Jesus, so that He may transform our sorrows into the joy of His Resurrection. May you receive the joy of the Risen One, that He may lead you and embrace you with His love and tenderness.

Just a reminder the Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday!

If you would like to send him a card or note, you can send it to Fr. Bill c/o The Spirit of Medjugorje, P.O. Box 6346, Erie, PA 16512, and we will forward it to him.

Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday?

Q. Some people in our parish insist that we must go to Confession on Mercy Sunday because that's what St. Faustina wrote in her Diary. They want to do what she said, not some interpretation of it. Do I need to attend Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday?

A. Cardinal Macharski, the Archbishop of St. Faustina's own archdiocese of Krakow, Poland, wrote a pastoral letter to all his priests on January 30, 1985, on how to prepare for and celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. In it he said that all of Lent should be a preparation to celebrate Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday worthily. The Sacrament of Reconciliation should be received sometime in Lent, not put off until the last minute (Holy Week). We go to Confession with the intention of repentance and to amend our lives, and we should live in such a way as to be worthy to receive Holy Eucharist. If we have any venial sins, a good Act of Contrition will take away those sins. St. Faustina did not go to Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday. For example, we find in *Diary* entry 1072 that she went on the day before in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. It was not the custom at that time to make Confessions on Sundays. Our Lord would not have asked her, or any of us, to do what is impossible. It would be impossible for everyone to go to Confession on Mercy Sunday.

www.thedivinemercy.org/library/faq/

As of March 25, 2019, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 27,349. Thank you!

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for April

Workers in War Zones: For doctors and their humanitarian collaborators in war zones, who risk their lives to save the lives of others.



Our thanks to Barb Cesare, Louise Lotze, Peggy Chludzinski, Georgia Chludzinski, Marge Burchard, Sue Taccone, Julie Hansen, Joan Peterson, Chris Opron, Peggy Smith, Darleen Wilkinson, Cindy Bielani, Marge Spase, Elaine Brady, Laura DiBacco, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the March mailing. We thank Susannah Klins, Johannes Dittrich, and Robin Guarisco for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

Divine Mercy for His Soul

By June Klins

One Thursday morning, many years ago, I woke up and felt a very strong drive to fast that day. It was very odd. I had been fasting for years on bread and water on Wednesdays and Fridays, as Our Lady of Medjugorje has requested, but never on a Thursday. I did not think I would be able to fast like that for three days in a row, but that day I could not ignore the prompting. I also went to Mass twice that day, although I had not intended to do that. I had gone into the church to make a visit after work, but ended up staying for Mass.

Later that evening, a friend of mine called me, very shaken up. She asked me to pray for a man who had been in a horrible accident. He had been intoxicated and walking in the middle of the road in the rain, in the dark, and two vehicles did not see him. (I'll spare the gruesome details.) My friend said she just happened to be driving by and heard a voice in her heart tell her to stop and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for this man. As she was fumbling, trying to find her rosary, the voice in her heart said not to worry about the rosary, and to just use her fingers. She told me that the policeman was looking at her cynically as she prayed the Chaplet out loud, but she did not care. Just as she finished praying, the vehicle was lifted off this man's body, and my friend thought he was dead. It was confirmed later that night on the news.

My friend and I were in awe as to how God's grace worked in this incident. Jesus told St. Faustina: *"At the hour of their death, I defend as My own glory every soul that will say this chaplet; or when others say it for a dying person, the indulgence is the same. When this chaplet is said by the bedside of a dying person, God's anger is placated, unfathomable mercy envelops the soul, and the very depths of My tender mercy are moved for the sake of the sorrowful Passion of My Son"* (Diary, 811).

Now it all made sense why I was supposed to fast and go to Mass twice that day. I think many extra graces were needed for what would transpire that night. Fasting is powerful and the value of a Mass is incomprehensible. Much grace was needed so that my friend could be at the scene of that accident to help save this man's soul. I have heard a priest say, "Grace is not cheap." It also made sense as to why that

very morning a priest had given me a book whose cover had an image of the Divine Mercy on it. God is so good!

When the man was laid out at the funeral home, my friend wanted me to go with her so we could tell the family about praying the Chaplet and the promise given to St. Faustina. That morning, I was inspired to compose a letter for the family so they would have it in writing. I took St. Faustina's Diary with me to a chapel and wrote the letter in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. I asked the Holy Spirit to write it for me. After Mass, I let a couple of people read the letter before we went to the funeral home. One lady remarked that it was so beautiful and said she wished that someone had written a letter like that to her when a relative died. I don't even remember what I wrote, but I know most of it was from St. Faustina's Diary. I believe the Holy Spirit wrote it for me as I had requested.

When we got to the funeral home, we were not prepared for what we encountered. The funeral director told us, when we inquired about a service, that the family was adamant about not having a clergy person, even though the funeral home offered to provide one. We decided right then to just give the letter to the funeral director to give to the family later.

As we walked into the viewing room, we were shocked to see a half-open casket with beer cans on either side of the deceased, and a liquor bottle in his hand. Of course, there was no kneeler, so my friend and I stood at the casket to pray for him. Everyone else there was as far away from the casket as they could possibly be. There was a feeling of total emptiness in the room neither of us had ever experienced before. I had never felt such an absence of God's love. As Medjugorje is described as "the edge of Heaven," this felt like "the edge of hell". I was shaking and crying so much I did not think I would be able to drive home. It was a dreadful feeling I will never forget.

As our former spiritual advisor, Msgr. Peterson, would diplomatically put it, it seemed that the man who had died "was not quite ready to be canonized," yet through the promise of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, it appears that his soul was saved. My friend and I continued to pray for this man's soul, and I carried his obituary with me in my purse for a time as a reminder to keep him in prayer. The Lord later gave me a sign that seemed to indicate that he was indeed saved. What a wonderful, merciful God we have!

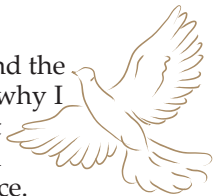


Medjugorje bread

Message to Mirjana on March 2, 2019

"Dear children, I call you 'apostles of my love'. I am showing you my Son who is the true peace and the true love. As a mother, through the mercy of God, I desire to lead you to Him. My children, this is why I am calling you to reflect on yourselves, starting out from my Son, that you look to Him with the heart and that you may see with the heart where you are and where your life is going. My children, I am calling you to comprehend that it is, thanks to my Son, that you live – through His love and sacrifice.

You are asking of my Son to be merciful to you and I am calling you to mercy. You are asking of Him to be good to you and to forgive you, and for how long am I imploring you, my children, to forgive and to love all the people whom you meet? When you comprehend my words with the heart, you will comprehend and come to know the true love and you will be able to be apostles of that love, my apostles, my dear children. Thank you."



The Miracle of Mercy

By Tara Rohatgi

"So, what's your Medjugorje miracle?" This is a question people often hear after returning from Medjugorje, a place where Our Lady has been appearing to visionaries since 1981. There have been many miracles associated with Medjugorje, and pilgrims often go there in search of healing, so the question makes sense. But God's ways are not our ways, and sometimes we receive graces we don't expect.

In April 2014, while five months pregnant with our fourth child, my husband and I and our three children, made our first pilgrimage to Medjugorje. After returning home, we began attending daily Mass as a family and experienced a growing peace in our home and a deepening love for Jesus in the Eucharist. We consider daily Mass one of the greatest graces we received from our pilgrimage, and never expected there was more grace to come.

When we returned from that trip in 2014, I offered a silent prayer to the Lord asking that I might please be able to return to Medjugorje sometime before I die. I thought it would be a long time, maybe decades, before we would have another opportunity to take such a big trip. So, when I found myself planning and packing for another family trip to Medjugorje only two years later, I was overwhelmed with gratitude and joy. Our desire to return to Medjugorje had continued to grow since our return, although we didn't know why we should go back again so soon. It seemed completely irrational for our family of six, but we truly felt called to go back. So we took a leap of faith and booked the trip.

As the months went by, I kept getting the feeling that we were meant to bring someone with us to Medjugorje, although I didn't know who or why. I even called the travel agent to ask if someone could be added at the last minute, just in case. But as the trip approached, I still didn't have an answer. It wasn't until a few weeks before the trip that the answer finally came.

It was a Sunday afternoon, and my dad had just come back from a conference with my husband. Dad asked if he and I could talk alone, so we went out to eat and he gently explained to me that he had been diagnosed with Lewy Body dementia, a degenerative disease with symptoms similar to Alzheimer's and an average of five to eight years to live from the time of diagnosis. Suffering from a disease that slowly takes your mind and memory was one of my dad's worst fears. He was only 65 years old. After the initial shock, tears, questions and answers, it wasn't long before I blurted out, "Would you ever consider coming to Medjugorje with us?" To which my dad replied, "I had never considered it up until a few hours ago when your husband asked me the same question." I smiled, filled with love and gratitude for my husband and his kind, compassionate heart, which is so often in harmony with my own.

With just about a week left before the trip, we quickly got to work making arrangements for my dad to join us. We were upset to learn from our agent that our flight was completely full! We explained the situation, and although he said it was very unlikely that we could get a seat for my dad, he promised to see what he could do. We prayed to Our Lady to intercede for us and waited. The next day, the agent called us back saying, "I can't believe it! I never thought this would happen, but one seat opened up and your dad can go!" We were thrilled! In a few short days, we were off to Medjugorje again, hearts full of hope.

Returning to Medjugorje felt like coming home. All our children agreed! The trip was absolutely beautiful, so full of grace and blessings. Although we hadn't planned it, we were overjoyed to discover that we would be present for Mirjana's monthly apparition.

We also found ourselves in Medjugorje for the First Friday devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the First Saturday devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. But the greatest blessing of all was to be in Medjugorje for the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday, during which the Lord pours forth a whole ocean of graces upon souls who approach the Fount of His Mercy! (Diary of

St. Faustina, 699) We were in awe at all the graces being showered upon us and felt the Lord was blessing our whole trip, which of course He was!

On Saturday, we all went to Confession as a family, and my dad, not having been to Confession in many years, came along. Although we hadn't talked about it, I had been praying that he would receive the sacrament of Confession and be fully reconciled with Jesus and His Church. I wanted with all my heart for him to experience the joy of being immersed in God's Mercy and Love through this great sacrament. As we were waiting in line, my oldest daughter approached her grandpa and without words, simply handed him a pamphlet on how to prepare for and make a confession. My dad read the pamphlet and rose to join us in the line. My heart leapt for joy, and I thanked God for answering my prayer and for bringing my father home to Him and His Merciful Love.

One of my favorite memories of my father during our time in Medjugorje was when we were on our way down from a climb up Apparition Hill, my dad walking ahead of us. As we neared the bottom, we came to a steep cobblestone road and my dad spontaneously began skipping down the hill, his arms swinging at his sides! I was moved to tears at the sight of my father skipping like a carefree child, his spirit so full of joy. It is a memory I will treasure forever.



Tara, her father and her children in Medjugorje

"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Seeing my father's peace and joy, I knew why we had been called back to Medjugorje, but I didn't know that the Lord was also preparing us for what was to come. Only weeks after returning from our trip, my dad called to tell me he had just been diagnosed with esophageal cancer. After the call, I wept in my husband's arms and we prayed together. In some ways, despite what he would have to suffer, my father considered the cancer a blessing, as a shorter life expectancy meant he might not suffer the symptoms of progressing dementia.

Over the next two years, my dad endured extensive surgery, chemo treatments which left him weak and nauseous, and having to receive nutrition through a feeding tube. Through it all, he never stopped thinking of everyone else. As always, he was more concerned with how we were all doing than with himself. No matter what he was going through, he never complained and was always good for smile, a joke and a laugh. His good humor through all he suffered was truly inspiring.

As my father persevered through his illness, the Lord continued to shower us all with abundant graces. We had many visits with dad, listening to his stories and praying the Rosary together. We often brought dad Holy Communion when he was no longer able to attend Mass. We prayed with him as he received the Anointing of the Sick on several occasions during his illness. As the end of his earthly life drew near, dad

had a chance to visit with all of his family and was also given the final Anointing, receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the last time. During my last visit, I had the great consolation of praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at his bedside at 3 pm, the Hour of Mercy. My father died peacefully at home in his sleep just two days later on Saturday, July 28th, memorial of the Blessed Virgin. Although we had prayed for physical healing for my dad in Medjugorje, God had an even greater miracle in mind. My dad once told me that when we returned from our pilgrimage someone had asked him the common question, "So, what's your Medjugorje miracle?" Turning to me with tears in his bright blue eyes and a smile he said, "Going to Confession was my miracle."



Confessionals in Medjugorje

The Lord's Mercy poured out through the sacrament of Confession is one of the greatest miracles found in Medjugorje. Millions of pilgrims come from all over the world each year because of the Blessed Mother's apparitions, and She gently leads them to Her Son and the healing of this great sacrament. When we approach our Heavenly Father through the sacrament of Mercy, we discover that we are truly known and truly loved just as we are, with all our weaknesses and brokenness. As we surrender our wounded hearts to the one who created us, all of our failures are washed away. We begin to see ourselves as we are – beloved sons and daughters of God, and our hearts are filled with joy. The Lord aches for us to return to Him. May He grant us the grace to run to His loving arms and accept the Mercy He longs to give to each one of us through this great sacrament of healing.

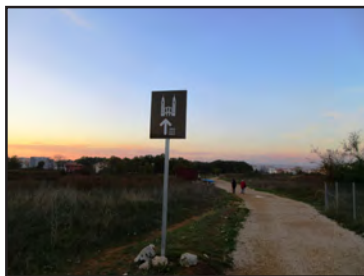
Editor's note: Tara lives in Waltham, MA.

A Medjugorje Moment

By Dot Galloway Ryan

In the last issue [March 2019] of *The Spirit of Medjugorje*, an article titled "Dogs and Demons" reminded me of one of my pilgrimages to Medjugorje. We stayed at a house up the road from Apparition Hill, which offered a beautiful walk through the vineyard to St. James. The family dog always accompanied us part way and then he turned back. One morning he accompanied us, but walked a little further to a cross road, stopped and looked one way and started growling. He stayed close to us, but his fur was standing up on his back. The growling was getting louder and he started walking toward whatever he was seeing. Next thing, he stopped, and all was calm. He looked up at us, turned around, and went home. When we got back to the house, we told the owner what happened. She said he was protecting us, that sometimes he sees demons. "Once they left, he was telling you, you are safe to continue on your way."

Editor's note: Dot lives in Oak Island, NC.



The path from Apparition Hill

Seven-Church Pilgrimage

By June Klins

Every year, people from my parish make a pilgrimage to seven churches on Holy Thursday night, following the Mass of the Lord's Supper, just like they do in Rome. It was explained that this pilgrimage is supposed to be reminiscent of how Jesus was sent from place to place and person to person: Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus bound and taken before Annas, Jesus taken before the High Priest, Caiaphas, Jesus taken before Pilate, Jesus taken before Herod, Jesus taken before Pilate again, and Jesus given the crown of thorns and led to His crucifixion.

One year I decided to join the pilgrimage instead of staying at our chapel to pray. On the way to the first church, we noticed that we were behind a car almost the whole way whose license plate said "EVL." We lost that car when we arrived at the church, which is named "Our Lady of Peace." Then after we left the second church, "Blessed Sacrament," we were behind a car whose license plate said "URGOOD." (This car belonged to our pastor.) To me, this is an even more compelling reminder of that first Holy Thursday when Jesus was besieged by a spiritual battle that night. I found it interesting that the "evil" left us as we came to "Our Lady of Peace" and that we followed the "good" at "Blessed Sacrament."

When I began doing research on St. Philip Neri, our patron saint this year, I was surprised to learn that he is the one credited for starting the seven-church pilgrimage in Rome in the 16th century! St. Philip Neri, please pray for us to have a blessed Holy Week and Easter season.

Questions and Answers with Mirjana

The following was taken from a question and answer session with Mirjana on November 11, 2018. These questions were chosen for this month because Holy Thursday is the day we celebrate the institution of the priesthood.

Q: [from a priest] Thank you for saying, “Yes” to Our Lord Jesus to be His messenger through Our Lady, who is His Mother and Our Mother. I know it’s difficult to be a messenger, especially with the history behind it. My question is, “Did Our Lady mention to you about a specific prayer for priests?”

M: First of all, thank you for beautiful words. But as you know, Our Lady teaches me one thing – that I am below everybody else, and when you thank me, I feel uncomfortable because it is going opposite direction to what She taught me... And *you* did everything. Who would I be speaking to if you guys [priests] had not said, “Yes”? That is why I think we all should thank the Heavenly Father for the love that He gives us. And I’m kindly asking from all of you to pray for me to be able to do everything the way Our Lady desires it, so that I may be Her messenger, but the way the messenger is supposed to be. And I’ve been praying for you since the moment when you came, so that you may comprehend why you are here and what it is that God wants from you.

And talking about priests – the prayer that Our Lady wants to use for them is prayer that we say with our heart. I must not say many things yet, but from the depths of my heart, I’m telling you – *pray for priests!* Do not judge them. Without our shepherds, we are nothing. We are lost scattered sheep. For me, it should be the way it is here in Medjugorje – that is how it’s supposed to be in the entire world. For example, here in Medjugorje (this entire region, in fact), when [a] priest enters into a family, we all stand up. No one starts to talk or sits down before the priest does that, because we know that through him, Jesus is entering our home. And it isn’t our task to judge whether he truly represents Jesus or not. Dear God will do that. We have to have respect, love, and prayer. It is easy to judge, but it is hard to love...

Let me give you an example. You, in the United States, in your parishes you see a priest who doesn’t do the way you

think he should do, but then you judge and you judge and you go around and you talk about it. What did you change? You just wounded yourself and those who were listening to you. But if you took the rosary instead and prayed for him, praying for Jesus to do something and to act – because Jesus changes the world... That is what I always desire to say to pilgrims: *love your priests*. Without them, you’re lost sheep. Even Our Lady puts priests above Herself. And do not ever forget that Our Lady says, “Only their hands give blessing of My Son.” For everything they do, they will respond to God for, same as we will respond to God for everything we have been doing. I will not respond for him [gesturing to priest next to her], but I will respond for myself.



Painting of Mirjana in her dining room

Q: You know in the United States there’s a lot of situations going on with priests... When you say, “Pray for priests and put them above,” but when you brought them into your home and loved them and then they have done wrong, how do you get over that?

M: I understand what you are talking about. It is a great pain, but do not forget one thing – the symbol of our faith, the sign of our faith, is [the] cross, so we should know how to carry the cross. And if Jesus puts a cross on you, if He leans on you, you have to say, “Thank you, Jesus, because you saw that I’m capable to [carry it], but do not leave me alone. Remain with me so that we can carry it together.” That is the way I look at things. I do suffer when I hear things like that. I have a stomach ache when I hear it, but I do not open my mouth, just for prayer. No, I do not make comments. I think that’s the way Our Lady desires. I think because if we start to make a comment, it will never end, and I will just do the opposite – as if, in a certain way I take in my hands what only dear God is supposed to do. That is why I pray, so that God may do. But I would also like to say one thing – media does such things as well. Through media, you only hear some bad things that are done by priests. You don’t hear anything good. And priests do wonderful, beautiful things daily throughout the world, in missions throughout the world, and media doesn’t write about it. But we should be those who will be speaking exactly about this – their voice.

Message to Mirjana on March 18, 2019

Mirjana Dragicevic-Soldo had daily apparitions from June 24, 1981 to December 25, 1982. During the last daily apparition, Our Lady gave her the 10th secret, and told her that She would appear to her every year on March 18. Although March 18 is Mirjana’s birthday, she maintains this is not the reason for her apparition that day.

My children! As a mother, as the Queen of Peace, I am calling you to accept my Son so that He can grant you peace of soul – that He can grant you that which is just, which is good for you. My children, my Son knows you. He lived the life of man, and at the same time of God: a wondrous life – human flesh, divine Spirit. Therefore, my children, while my Son is looking at you with His eyes of God, He penetrates into your hearts. His tender, warm eyes are looking for Himself in your heart. My children, can He find Himself [there]? Accept Him, and then the moments of pain and suffering will become moments of tenderness. Accept Him, and you will have peace in [your] soul – you will spread it to all those around you – and this is what you now need the most. Heed me, my children. Pray for the shepherds, for those whose hands my Son has blessed. Thank you.

My Penance in Medjugorje

By Dave Sheehan

The *Confession of Saint Patrick* begins with the words, "I, Patrick, a sinner, a most simple countryman, the least of all the faithful and most contemptible to many." Yet, God saw to use this sinner to convert a nation and transform Western Europe. Patrick, at heart, was a priest of the people.

A priest for the people – that is a term that we must keep in mind each day to support our priests. The cleansing that is going on now in the Catholic Church is necessary for the Church to complete its mission on earth: preparing us for the coming of Christ. Our priests are on the front line in this final battle. That is why they are under so much attack.

When I was in Medjugorje, I went to Confession to a young Irish priest. For my penance, he asked me to pray for the priests in Ireland. From the way that he said it, I knew that he was being publicly humiliated for wearing the collar and showing himself to be another Christ. Our good priests are on the Cross today, attacked by the world.

There is something we can do. Using Patrick's own breastplate, we can pray to Him Who bore our sins.

Christ, be with your priests. Christ, guard them from every danger. Christ, let our priests arise each day and give them the courage and strength they need through the invocation of the Trinity, through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation.

Editor's note: Dave lives in Crowley, TX.

Day by Day with St. Faustina

By June Klins

When author, Susan Tassone, gave me permission to share an excerpt from her new book, *Day by Day with St. Faustina*, I had quite a dilemma. I could not decide which one to share! This awesome book – which contains a quote from St. Faustina's Diary for each day of the year, followed by a brief reflection on how to apply it to daily life, and a short prayer – is such a treasure. I started jotting down my favorites, especially those that related to the messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje, and soon filled a whole page! There are quotes about peace, prayer, Eucharist, Confession, mercy, trust, patience, humility, silence, suffering, doing the will of God, praying for the dying and the souls in Purgatory, and more. But the word that seemed to be used the most was LOVE, a word used more than 1,000 times in Our Lady's messages.

Each quote in the book has a catchy title that will help recall the teaching for the day without having to memorize the whole quote. A few of my favorites include: "Divine Hide-And-Go-Seek", "No Small Potatoes", "Bells and Whistles", "A Nun Called 'Dump'", and "Chatterboxes". I love, love, love this book! I wish I was wealthy and could buy copies for everyone!

After much prayer, here is the excerpt I felt prompted to share:

Silent Jesus

"Silence is a sword in the spiritual struggle. A talkative soul will never attain sanctity. The sword of silence will cut off everything that would like to cling to the soul. We are sensitive to words and quickly want to answer back, without taking any regard as to whether it is God's will that we should speak. A silent soul is strong; no adversities will harm it if it perseveres in silence." (Diary, 477)

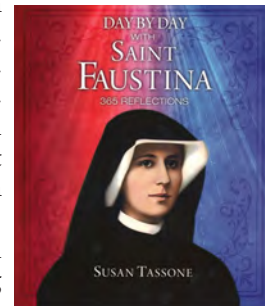
Reflection

Someone makes a smarmy remark about us or to us and we relish the clever, cutting come-back we have ready to fire back. To which St. Faustina says: Wait. Take a breath and consider Jesus' Passion, which included His torturers taking verbal shots at Him. To which He replied . . . nothing.

Prayer

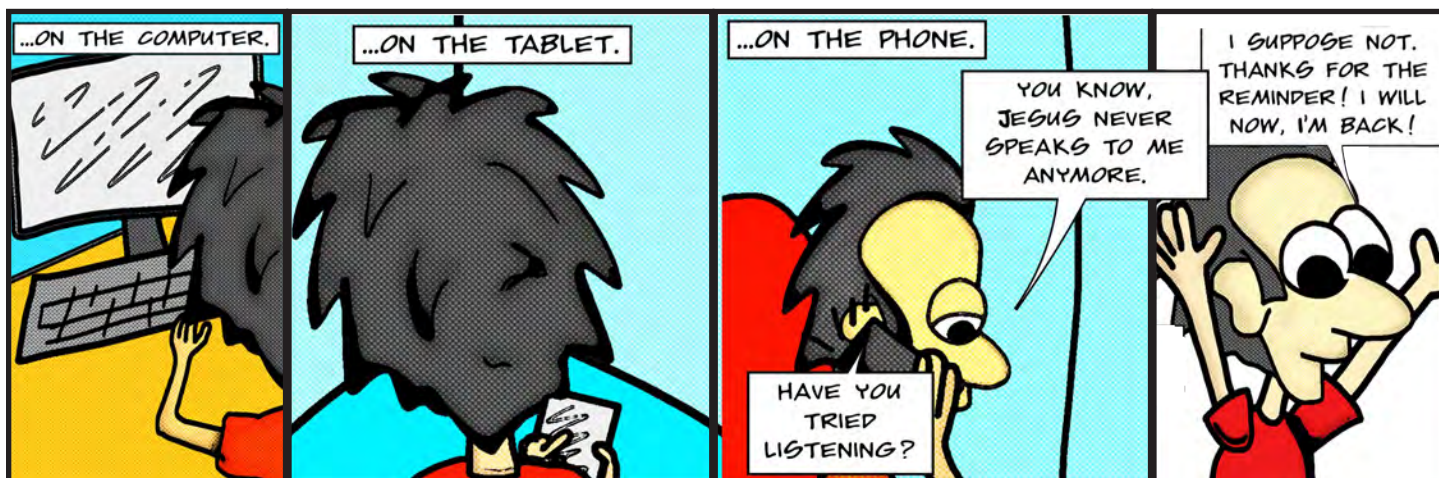
Dear Lord, sometimes I have a hard time biting my tongue. Forgive me for the times I've given someone a verbal smackdown. Jesus, I trust in You.

Editor's note: Susan's Medjugorje testimony is in our November 2009 issue. She is the author of other best-selling books about St. Faustina's Diary and about Purgatory.



SIMON MIR

by Brian T. Klins



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MARY IS CALLING YOU

On June 24, 1981 in Medjugorje, Our Lady appeared to six children. She identified Herself as the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace, and has continued to appear daily. Her message is PEACE, peace with God and man. Her words to the visionaries, "I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and obtain peace, you must return to God."

Today, all but three of the visionaries have daily apparitions of the Blessed Mother. During the apparitions, the visionaries do not react to light, don't hear any sound or react to being touched. They feel that they are outside of time and space. All the visionaries declare to see the Blessed Virgin as they see other people - in three dimension. They pray and speak with Her.

The Blessed Mother is confiding ten secrets to each visionary (some are chastisements for the world) and promises to leave a visible sign at the place of the apparitions in Medjugorje for all humanity. This time, this period of grace, is for CONVERSION

and a DEEPENING OF FAITH. After the visible sign, those still living will have little time for conversion.

Father Jozo Zovko, who was the pastor of St. James when the apparitions began, has spoken about what he calls "the weapons" or the "the five stones" of Our Lady. They are: prayer with the heart, especially the Rosary; Eucharist; Holy Bible; monthly Confession; and fasting.

The publisher recognizes and accepts that the final authority regarding the apparitions at Medjugorje rest with the Holy See in Rome.

To borrow an original prayer cloth from Medjugorje for a week, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address below. You must include your phone number. If you want a prayer cloth we made to keep, send a self-addressed stamped business size (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with \$.70 postage on it.



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