

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.



EDITOR: JUNE KLINS
PHONE: (814) 898-2143
E-MAIL: jklines1981@verizon.net

EDITOR EMERITUS: JOAN WIESZCZYK
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR
FR. RAY DONOHUE

VOL. 32, NO. 12

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

DECEMBER 2019

MONTHLY MESSAGE OF NOVEMBER 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.



The painting shown above was in the art museum in Humac near Medjugorje in 2009. To see this beautiful work of art in color, you can visit our website, www.spiritofmedjugorje.org, and click on the current issue. We wish all of our readers a most blessed Christmas Season and a happy New Year.

"Dear children! May this time be a time of prayer for you. Without God you do not have peace. Therefore, little children, pray for peace in your hearts and families, so that Jesus can be born in you and give you His love and blessing. The world is at war because hearts are full of hatred and jealousy. In the eyes, little children, peacelessness is seen because you have not permitted Jesus to be born in your lives. Seek Him, pray, and He will give Himself to you in the Child who is joy and peace. I am with you and I pray for you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Our New Spiritual Advisor

There is no doubt in my mind that our late spiritual advisor, Fr. Bill Kiel, was praying and interceding for his successor throughout this past year as he endured many rounds of chemotherapy for the cancer that eventually took his life. And in my mind, I imagine Fr. Bill's meeting in Heaven with our late spiritual advisor whom he succeeded, Msgr. James Peterson, together with Our Lady, praying about who should be our next spiritual guide.

As they were praying in Heaven, we were also praying. It did not take long for us to come to agreement that Fr. Ray Donohue of the Diocese of Buffalo would be the perfect candidate. (Msgr. Peterson may have put a bug in Our Lady's ear since he was an acquaintance of Fr. Ray.) I wrote to Fr. Ray in October, and he responded, "I have been praying all day and night about it. Those are big shoes [Fr. Bill's] to fill, but I am honored to accept and will do my very best."

I first became acquainted with Fr. Ray when we used his powerful testimony in the March 2019 issue. I contacted him for permission to use his story and have been in communication with him ever since. Every month, Fr. Ray would write an affirming note about the newsletter, saying he always reads it cover to cover and sometimes would mention certain articles that helped him in his priesthood. He began praying for us as each mailing day approached that all would go well. In July, he became our first "guest priest" to write for us in Fr. Bill's absence.

This past summer, Fr. Ray invited several members of our staff to Mass and the Rosary in his beautiful private chapel.

We were with him for hours afterwards as he shared stories of his many Medjugorje pilgrimages. He even showed us the rosary that Fr. Slavko had with him when he died on Cross Mountain, given to Fr. Ray by Fr. Slavko's sister.

Fr. Ray's joy is infectious, even though he is in constant pain from his rheumatoid arthritis. We found ourselves smiling all the way home. One friend remarked it was hard to believe that as an exorcist he could be so filled with joy.

Fr. Ray has been a priest for 35 years, but has been retired from active ministry (as per doctor's orders) since he was 45 years old, because of his rheumatoid arthritis. He says he is busier than ever, though. Now 61 years old, Fr. Ray has climbed the mountains on all of his 30 pilgrimages to Medjugorje, even though he was told that he would be in a wheelchair by age 50!

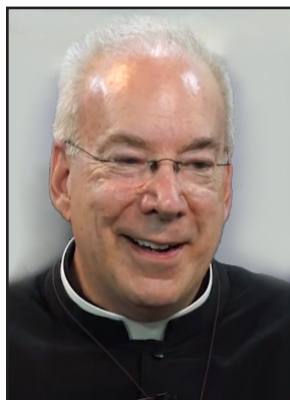
On a personal note, Fr. Ray and his dog, Dublin, live in a cabin in the woods, which he calls "Our Lady of the Woods". The Stations of the Cross and many little shrines grace his peaceful property. Fr. Ray loves animals and Christmas, which explains why he has a reindeer barn on his property with two reindeer, named Sleigh Belle and Tinsel!

When I asked Fr. Ray what I should say about him in an introduction, he wrote, "My main focus is the Holy Mass, and everything comes from this, and Our Lady is the strong and yet gentle hand that brings us to Jesus...I am very happy to be a spiritual guide to such an awesome newsletter that touches so many hearts and souls, and I will do my best."

Thank you, Fr. Ray, for having responded to the call!



Statue in Fr. Ray's chapel



Hail Mary! Full of Grace! The Lord is With You!

By Fr. Ray Donohue

With these words, the Angel Gabriel, sent from God the Father, comes to our Blessed Mother to ask Her a favor. Will Our Lady be the Mother of the Son of God, Who is God Himself, the Incarnate Word of God!? Our Mother replies: "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to Thy Word." Humility. Faith. Love. Trust. Full of Grace!

This is my favorite time of the year. I love everything about Advent and Christmas. I love the music, the inner peace I feel, the giving of oneself to acts of charity, the spiritual preparation and all the anticipation! I remember each day what my father used to tell us as children during this special time of the year: "It's not the things we do at Christmas time, but the Christmas things we do all year through." I have a record of Bing Crosby singing these exact words. I take them to heart.

Our Blessed Mother took these words to heart. Our Lady IS Advent – awaiting the birth of the Savior of the world, the very Miracle of Christmas. Christ is with us, Emmanuel! Advent is such a holy time of our year, yet many times we

almost skip over it to get to Christmas Day! Then so often I see, the day after Christmas, all the "After-Christmas sales" and the swimsuits and Valentines in the stores! I see, only one day after Christmas, that people have taken down their Christmas trees and put them at the curb as garbage to be picked up. I hear from so many people: "I can't wait until Christmas is over." People complain because the radio stations play Christmas music too early.

To get to know me a little better, I want to tell you something: I play Christmas music all year long, and I never tire of it. I also play Easter music, St. Patrick's Day music, and anything else I like throughout the year. I play it on my CD player and I also play the piano, and it is nothing for me in April or June or August to be heard playing "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman", "Silent Night", or "Jingle-Bell Rock" on the piano, and singing along as I play these hymns and songs.

Advent and Christmas is a state of mind and heart and soul and being, a holy and happy time to reflect on God's Love for all of us. We do not have a seasonal God! The WORD was made flesh and dwells among us every day! Not just during Advent and Christmas or Easter, but every second of every day, and in every situation life throws at us. The question is, "Do we dwell with God and our Mother in Heaven and our

Guardian Angel and all the Saints every day and moment?"

Emmanuel! God is with us! God humbled Himself and became a man, a human being like you or me, but without sin. Our Blessed Mother was humbled to be asked to be the Mother of God from a plan God had from Eternity, and Her answer was a humble, sincere "YES! If this is Your Will, my dear, dear God, I live to do Your Will, so let it be done to me as YOU want it."

And, of course, it was a bed of roses for Mary, correct?? Um... No! It was far from it. And it is like that with us, too, at times. That very day when the Angel Gabriel asked Mary, the Angel also told Her that Elizabeth was also going to have a baby – part of the plan – a miracle, because Elizabeth was much older and barren; yet, as we were reminded: "Nothing... NOTHING is impossible with God." So what did our Blessed Mother do at the moment of Jesus' conception? She left in haste into the hill country to go to Elizabeth! A dangerous thing to do, with thieves and robbers on the roads, yet Mary trusted God would be with Her on the roads. She traveled and watch over Her. God is with us on the roads we travel. God inspires us to travel these roads with trust in Him. Mary went to stay with Elizabeth and take care of her, and acted as the mid-wife to deliver Jesus' cousin, St. John the Baptist! Mary always thought of others, thinking what good She might be able to do for someone else. Mary had just conceived Jesus, Elizabeth was in her sixth month, and Holy Scripture tells us that Mary stayed with Elizabeth and Zechariah for about three months and then returned home. That made it nine months for Elizabeth, showing clearly that Mary delivered as a mid-wife St. John; and when Mary knew Elizabeth was going to be OK, only then did She return home.

Mary had to tell Joseph that She conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and in six months was going to have a baby. Joseph loved Mary and it had to be hard to understand this. Think how hard that was for Joseph, who loved Mary and was going to "divorce Her quietly" (the men of those days could simply back out of the planned marriage "quietly"), and it would be fine, but to do it accusing Her of anything, Mary would have been stoned to death. But God spoke to Joseph in a dream and Joseph believed! Full of Grace! If we listen, God speaks to us in our hearts, our thoughts, prayers, and in so many other ways.

Then the census, traveling to Bethlehem, no room in the Inn, so they stayed in a manger.

Let me tell you something else about me: I love animals. I have my dog, Dublin, and I have raised reindeer for many years. I have two older reindeer, named Sleigh Belle and Tinsel. They are awesome, but every day at least 2-3 times a day, I clean out the barn (the manger they live in) and their yards. I enjoy this very much, but I can assure you, it is not sweet perfume you smell. When people told me once, "You smell like a reindeer"... I always thought that was a compliment! Guess again. (Believe me, I do shower all the time; it is when they catch me here, off guard, that I was told this.)

All the animals in the manger – the cold, smelly barn – and Mary in labor in this manger, with Jesus being born and laid in the straw of a manger, and yet, Mary and Joseph didn't complain. They were filled with love, filled with Grace, and filled knowing that this was all part of God's plan for them.



Fr. Ray's reindeer barn

Imagine holding Jesus in your arms. You forget about all the rest, and focus on Jesus.

This Advent, this Christmas, remember all of this. Put yourself in that manger, that barn where Jesus was born and Mary nursed him, and Joseph supported them and protected them and loved them.

People today want the "Perfect Christmas". THAT, my dear friends, WAS the perfect Christmas. Nothing went the way they expected, but they had the Grace and love of God and that is all that

was needed.

This Advent and Christmas, the Grace of God is all around you; it is a free Gift God gives us every day, every moment. Be "Full of Grace!" Get to Confession, for sure, and maybe, if you can, attend daily Mass all throughout Advent. Let things happen. Don't worry. Pray an extra Rosary for those who are cold and lonely. Count our Blessings that God is with us!

Don't fret about the Christmas cookies being ready, the lights going up and working, or trying to "make the perfect Christmas". That was already done for us! Make it a Holy Advent, a Holy Christmas! Let it be done to us as the Lord wants it. He gives us the Grace for the taking. Be Full of Grace by the very Grace of God. We can donate food to the food pantries, wrap gifts for the "giving trees" in local parishes (like gloves, scarves and warm socks) for those in need. Go to a shelter and help those who are homeless or need assistance. Forgive those who have hurt you deeply and let it go with the Grace of God. Know that our beloved loved ones who God has called home are rejoicing with God and Our Lady in Heaven and are always in our hearts. Remember the good things and happy memories and we will see them again, and think about "what is" and not dwell on the past. Pray for peace, in our hearts, in our homes, and in our world. Call a shut-in or get a group together and go caroling in area nursing homes. (I do that with a group of friends from the parish and again with young people, who just love it, and so do the senior residents and the staff.) Sometimes I even bring my dog and they love him! We even do that at the local shopping plaza... and they sing right along with us! You'd be amazed!

Remember, God has filled us with Grace. Let God show us the way and follow Him, not the other way around.

It's not the things we do at Christmas time, but the Christmas things we do all year through. "Emmanuel. God is with us." A Most Blessed and Holy Advent to you all, and a happy and "giving-of-yourself Christmas" from God's Heart to your heart, and from your heart to God's Heart. "Come, Lord Jesus!" Make room for Him in the Inn of your heart and home and world.

Lots of love and prayers...

Conversation with Visionary Ivan Dragicevic

*The following was excerpted with permission from the book, **A Conversation with the Visionaries**, by Kresimir Sego.*

A lot was written about the apparitions, and the visionaries testified to them often. Nevertheless, in conversations with people, I'm always surprised when I find out that many people know little about this. There are people who ask questions such as whether you have daily apparitions. I'm not even sure that all of our parishioners know how many of the visionaries have daily apparitions. Please tell us something about how you prepare for an apparition. Describe the apparition itself and how long it lasts.

Medjugorje has outgrown itself as a parish. Many have come here to open a business and not for spiritual renewal. Little of them or none at all know anything about the apparitions. Therefore, I would like to tell them as well as the parishioners who might have forgotten, because of the material pressure they feel, that we have apparitions every day. We start to prepare ourselves for an apparition at 6 P.M., and there is always a certain number of people present. We prepare by praying the Rosary together. As time passes, and the moment of the apparition approaches, which is at 6:40 P.M., I feel Gospa's presence more and more. The moment I kneel and stop praying is the moment when Gospa arrives. It is when I see a sign which Gospa comes with, it is a sign of light. Gospa doesn't appear at once. She comes gradually, in a beam of light. This light cannot be compared to any other light I know. It is the light of Heaven. I sometimes see Heaven behind this light. I see people walking, praying, and singing. Faint music can also be heard. When Gospa appears, I am no longer aware of my surroundings; I have no feeling for time or space. When She appears, She greets us in Her usual fashion with, "Praised be Jesus, my dear children." She sometimes addresses us by saying, "My little children." Gospa then prays over those who are present, over the ill, and over the priests. When She finishes praying, Gospa and I talk. Sometimes the conversation is initiated by me and sometimes by Her. After we have talked, She blesses all those who are present with Her motherly love and then She blesses all objects brought to the apparition site. Then I recommend all those who are present at the apparition; I recommend their needs, wishes and illnesses. I also recommend those that have especially recommended



Ivan

themselves. Gospa intercedes for them before Her Son. She especially intercedes for the sick. Sometimes I ask Gospa questions which others have told me to ask. These questions usually come from the ill. When this is done, I have a private conversation with Gospa. The duration of our private conversations differ from apparition to apparition. When the apparition is over, Gospa leaves with the sign of a light and greets us by saying, "Go in peace, my dear children."

The light that you mention, is it visible throughout the whole apparition?

Yes, and Gospa never stands with Her feet on the ground. She always floats on a cloud.

What does She look like? Can you describe Her dress?

Her dress is gray and Her veil is white. She has blue eyes, rosy cheeks, and black hair. She floats on a cloud and has a crown of stars above Her head. She dresses differently only for Christmas, Easter, the anniversary of the apparitions, and on Her birthday. Instead of wearing Her gray dress, She wears a golden-colored one.

For how long do the apparitions last?

The longest apparition lasted for forty-five minutes, in 1983. The apparitions now last from five to fifteen minutes.

Does Gospa come alone?

Sometimes She is accompanied by angels. On Christmas, She comes with Baby Jesus and St. Joseph. She comes like this during Midnight Mass.

Does St. Joseph ever talk?

No, he stands next to Her and joyfully gazes upon Her.

Does She hold Baby Jesus in Her arms?

Yes. As I am always in a kneeling position, I only see one side of His face.

Are Baby Jesus' eyes open?

Yes, His eyes are open and He smiles. Two years ago, my wife and children were with me at Midnight Mass. I took my children's hands and laid them on Baby Jesus. The looks in my children's eyes were special.

A Medjugorje Moment

By Pat Berrier

Years ago, my husband and I went to hear one of the visionaries, Ivan, when he visited Ohio. We ended up sitting in the front row, next to Ivan's interpreter. Ivan was on the other side of him. Everyone prayed the Rosary, which got interrupted with Ivan having his daily apparition of the Blessed Mother.

Silence enveloped the room. Although I couldn't see Her, my heart was pounding with excitement at just the thought of being so close to Our Lady. I intently looked at the spot where Ivan's eyes were focused. I wanted some sign that She was there, but all I saw were three very tall shadows on the backdrop of curtains. There was nothing visible to

be creating them. I figured my eyes were playing tricks on me because I wanted so much to see Her. The shadows remained throughout the apparition but then faded. I forgot about them as we finished the Rosary and then had Mass. Afterwards, Ivan finally shared details about the apparition and Our Lady's message. I almost fell off my chair when he said that She had been accompanied by three very large angels! I hadn't been to Medjugorje (yet), but I sure felt like heaven had come close to me for a moment.

Editor's note: Pat lives in Erie, PA. She is our proofreader and a member of our mailing staff.

Fr. Bill's Final Requests

By June Klins

According to "Catholic Answers", when asked what the four cardinal virtues were, St. Bernard of Clairvaux replied, "Humility, humility, humility, and humility." Interestingly enough, our late spiritual advisor, Fr. Bill Kiel, a priest who exemplified great humility, was buried in the cemetery at the parish of St. Bernard of Clairvaux in Indiana, PA, the last parish he was assigned to before his retirement.

At this time of the year, we contemplate a God who humbled Himself to be born not in a magnificent palace, but in a simple cave where animals were kept. Through His humble life, He set an example for us to follow, and Fr. Bill certainly did follow Him.

In his remarks at Fr. Bill's Memorial Mass on October 22, 2019, Bishop Edward Malesic spoke about Fr. Bill's specific wishes upon his death. Fr. Bill wanted to be buried very simply, to be laid in the coffin with just a sheet covering his body. He felt that because we enter the world with nothing, we should leave the same way. He did not want his body to be preserved in any artificial way, and wanted to be buried as soon as possible after his death, preferably the day after. All of these wishes were granted, and the current pastor of St. Bernard parish, Fr. Tom Federline, had the honor of giving him a Christian burial on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, with a few friends and family members present.

Fr. Bill had also requested that a Memorial Mass be said for his soul. A good friend of his shared with me that way back in 2009, he chose the music and readings for this Mass and even the celebrant, a friend from his seminary days. The Bishop, who lightheartedly referred to Fr. Bill as "a man of many requests", said that Fr. Bill did not want a eulogy that would praise him, that he did not want a celebration of his life. Rather, he wanted a celebration of God's life. He wanted God to be praised for all that God had done through him. This was so typical of Fr. Bill, who would always tell people when they thanked him for a healing, to thank God, not him. Father said he just prayed and God did the healing. He always proclaimed that he was just an instrument.

The Bishop spoke about a visit he made to Fr. Bill about

two months before his death. At this point, Fr. Bill was unable to form longer sentences because the illness had affected his speech. The Bishop asked Fr. Bill, "How are you doing, Bill?" to which Fr. Bill replied, clearly and repeatedly, "Bishop, God is so good to me. God is so good. God is good. God is so good."

One of our subscribers and a parishioner of St. Bernard's, Patty Ackerson, recently wrote, "I feel he [Fr. Bill] was in Hospice for so long because he was offering up his suffering for those in need. At one of the last retreats he was able to do at St. Emma's, one of our topics was suffering. Fr. Bill talked

about how he would ask people to pray for him and he said people would just laugh and say, 'Oh, Fr. Bill, you don't need prayers.' He said, 'Yes, I do. I'm human just like you – I sin. In fact, in my will I have set aside \$1,000 for Masses just in case.' Of course, everyone kind of chuckled, but that was so Fr. Bill – so humble and holy."



A very holy priest, Fr. Tony, who had been the spiritual director of our Medjugorje prayer group, once told us never to assume anyone goes straight to Heaven, even a priest. Fr. Tony requested that Gregorian Masses (a series of Masses said on 30 consecutive days) be said for him upon his death, and that is what we did after he died in December of 2000. According to St. Thomas Aquinas, if prayers and Masses are said for someone already in Heaven, they receive what is called "accidental glory" – a closer intimacy with God and an increase in his (or her) own intercessory power. It is a win-win situation! So the day we got word of Fr. Bill's passing, we at *The Spirit of Medjugorje*, scheduled Gregorian Masses for Fr. Bill, not even aware at that time that he had requested in his will to have Masses said!

By the time you read this, Fr. Bill's Masses will have been completed since they were scheduled to be said November 1 through November 30. We did this as a gift to Fr. Bill, but we will all benefit from his more powerful intercession!

Fr. Bill, please pray for us!

*"The
Mighty One
has done great
things for me, and
holy is his name"
(Lk 1:49).*

Our patron saint this year, St. Philip Neri, had a great devotion to the souls in Purgatory. According to Susan Tassone, author of many books about Purgatory: "He [St. Philip Neri] prayed constantly for them, and bestowed on them the merits of his good works. He was particularly anxious to help those souls who during life had been under his spiritual care. He considered he owed more to them because, as a priest, he had labored for the salvation of their souls. He was often made aware of their release. Many dead appeared to him, because they hoped to be delivered from Purgatory by his prayers, and indeed he never failed to pray for them. His biographer assures us that the results of his prayers were enormous. The saint was all the more anxious to pray for the dead, as they often obtained great graces for him."

As we approach Christmas, we remember that Our Lady of Medjugorje said that more souls are released from Purgatory on Christmas Day than any other day. Have a Mass said for your loved ones who have died. There could be no greater Christmas gift and they will be forever grateful to you!

Christmas Eve

By Sr. Emmanuel

A great disciple of Christ, Father Kevin Scallon, left to join the Father on June 25th, during the 37th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions. Throughout his life as a priest, he tirelessly travelled the world to draw souls to God, especially to His Eucharistic presence. Endowed with inspired words and often the gift of healing, he frequently accompanied Sr. Briege McKenna in her missions, thus saving a large number of priests, releasing them from all kinds of torments that the enemy can inflict upon "God's Chosen ones".

Father Kevin would stay with us for a few days almost every year in Medjugorje with Sr. Briege, counseling us and telling us stories. We loved him very much. To us he was a real father, radiating the face and the tender love of the Heavenly Father. One of our sisters said, "If I were to imagine the love of the Heavenly Father, I would compare him to Father Kevin's heart."

Here is one of the most beautiful stories from his life, which describes so well his special closeness to God:

While Father Kevin was driving to his nephew's house to celebrate Christmas, his car broke down at 9 P.M. The car just would not start again, but he was still an hour away from his nephew. It was Christmas Eve, and since he had left Dublin, he had not seen a single car or a living soul. In the glow of the moon, he saw a small house right in front of the place where the car was stuck. A light shone at the window. He decided to ask to use the phone to call his nephew. He opened the little white wooden fence, followed the path and knocked at the door, as there was no doorbell. A man looking rather young opened the door and greeted him

warmly. Looking inside the house, he saw a young woman with a baby in her arms. She was holding the baby's head against her cheek. She smiled at Father Kevin who asked her husband if he could make a call. The young man replied, "We do not have a telephone, but if you walk back to the city, there is a bicycle salesman to the right of the supermarket. He will let you use the phone." "May I leave the car in front of your house?" asked Father Kevin. "Of course, I will keep an eye on it," replied the man. He thanked the couple and wished them a merry Christmas.

So, on this beautiful night, in the moonlight, Father Kevin walked all the way to the city to the bicycle shop. On the way, he kept thinking about his meeting with the couple and their baby, especially with that strange smell in the house. It did not smell like Ireland. Why did it remind him of his recent trip to the Holy Land? And why was the house only lit by candles?

From the bicycle shop, Father Kevin was able to call his nephew who came to pick him up. The next day, they fixed the car with a local mechanic. When the work was done, Father Kevin wanted to say hello to the young family living opposite, and walked to the little white wooden fence, but he couldn't find it. There was only a hedge, and farther on, just a field, and no house as far as the eye could see. On the return trip, his nephew kept talking. Father Kevin, meanwhile, remained silent. It was the feast of the Holy Family... Hadn't he seen it with his own eyes?!

Children of Medjugorje, www.childrenofmedjugorje.com, July 2018 report

Blessed by Baby Jesus – A Medjugorje Miracle

The following is excerpted from a testimony given by Fr. Dermot Roche of the SMA Fathers. You can listen to the entire testimony at betweenthefoldsofhermantle.com.

I had the great pleasure of meeting Jim Browne some years ago, and in our meeting in Medjugorje, Jim had given me a packet of gold crucifixes which were blessed during the Christmas apparition by Our Lady and by Our Lord at Vicka's house. Jim filled me in on the wonderful miracles that had been taking place, and I had the opportunity then, upon his request, to give the Benedictine exorcism and blessing to these particular crosses.

So I wish to tell you an interesting story that took place in the beginning of November 2014. A year and a half ago, I had given a crucifix to a dear friend of mine named Ann. ...Her four-year-old grandson by the name of Joey knows his faith very well. And Ann has particularly fallen in love with this cross that I gave her, and she gives it to Joey, and he's very familiar with it.

So in the beginning of November, little Joey took a tumble and he got a hairline fracture just below his collarbone. When the doctors took the x-ray, they discovered a tumor that had developed in the lymph, just under the elbow just up to the shoulder. The doctors were deeply concerned and they told Joey's parents that surgery was immediately needed because if they waited too long, this tumor would



grow roots into the marrow of the arm.

They prepped Joey. Joey is a docile child... So Joey more or less had a good mindset going into the surgery. But the day before, he was in his grandmother's house and he said to Ann, "Nana, can you give me Jesus?" And Ann was kind of confused. She didn't know what particular image or crucifix he was looking for, but he himself pointed to the gold crucifix and he said, "Nana, I want that. I want Jesus." So she gave it to him. She said to her daughter Rosanna, "Rosanna, please make sure that this crucifix is taped onto the sole of his foot during the surgery." ... The following day, they taped the crucifix to the sole of his foot, and just before they went into the procedure, they took the final scan in the hospital, only to find out that the solid tumor had turned into a liquid! It was almost as if it was a blister on top of the bone. Much to the doctors' surprise, they had no answer for this – none at all. So they decided instead of opening up the arm, they would leave one small incision in which they took a syringe and slowly extracted the liquid, which has gone since to pathology. They have no answer why this took place, how it took place, but they have agreed that something strange has happened. But we know

it's not strange. We know it was an act of God. We know that this was truly a miracle.

When Joey was recovering at home, his grandmother said to him, "Joey, how are you feeling?" He said, "I'm good,

Nana." "How is your arm?" He said, "It's pain, but it's good." And she said, "Did you remember that Jesus was with you?" to which Joey responded, "Yes, Nana. He was tickling my foot the whole time!"

Sixth Station – Jesus and Veronica

When climbing Mt. Krizevac on my November 2018 pilgrimage, we prayed the Stations of the Cross written by the late Fr. Tomislav Ivancic. The introduction says, "Each of us frequently finds himself fleeing from the cross of everyday life." Each Station in this booklet names a different cross that we could encounter in our lives. I felt prompted to share the reflection from the Sixth Station during this month because so often we receive gifts and favors at this time of the year that we cannot repay.

Accepting a favor without being able to repay it

They took everything from me. And they all left me. I was alone, without possessions, on my way to death. Then Veronica came up to me and wiped my face with a napkin. Do you know how one feels in such a situation? I was deeply moved and full of gratitude, but I had nothing to reward her with. I had nothing but my suffering and my pain. So I gave her the impression of my bloody face.

It is a cross to allow people to do you a favor without being able to reward them. Have courage and do what you have seen me do. Do not hesitate to be indebted to others. You need not pay for everything. Give yourself in return. Learn to receive without immediately thinking of a reward. This is a door to me: suffering the shame if you cannot give in return.

So you will meet me, and you will recognize the Father because you cannot reward Him for what He gives you. He is like a spring exuding water generously. If you are like that, you are my Father's child. Also accept the cross that you cannot repay God for all His love. Be like a child that enjoys his father's and his mother's love.



6th Station, near the Risen Jesus statue in Medjugorje

Message to Mirjana on November 2, 2019

"Dear children, my beloved Son always prayed and glorified the Heavenly Father. He always said everything to Him and trusted in His will. This is what you, my children, should also do, because the Heavenly Father always listens to His children. One heart in one heart – love, light and life. The Heavenly Father gave Himself through a human face, and this face is the face of my Son. You, apostles of my love, you should always carry the face of my Son in your hearts and your thoughts. You should always think of His love and His sacrifice. You should pray to always feel His presence, because, apostles of my love, that is the way for you to help all those who do not know my Son, who have not come to know His love. My children, read the book of the Gospel. It is always something new, it is what binds you to my Son who was born to bring the words of life to all of my children and to sacrifice Himself for all. Apostles of my love, carried by the love for my Son, bring love and peace to all of your brothers. Judge no one. Love everyone according to the love for my Son. In this way, you will also be caring for your soul, and it [your soul] is that what is most precious, which truly belongs to you. Thank you."

As of November 25, 2019,
the number of Masses reported for
Our Lady's was 28,512.

Our condolences

to the family of Estrella Igras,
who passed away on
November 23, 2019.

Estrella was a
faithful member
of our mailing
staff for many years.
She will be greatly missed
at our mailings. Please pray for the
repose of her soul and for consolation
of her family and friends.



Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for December

The Future of the Very Young: That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.



Our thanks to Diane Niebauer, Sue Taccone, Marge Burchard, Joan Peterson, Julie Hansen, Laura Di Bacco, Kandace Lyons, Georgia Chludzinski, Chris Opron, Pat Berrier, Marge Spase, Kathy Luschni, Louise Lotze, Peggy Chludzinski, Cindy Bielamin, Barb Cesare, Peggy Smith, Estrella Igras, Darleen Wilkinson, Kathy Wayman, Irene and Dan Zuba, Tom and Joanne McIntire, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the November mailing. We thank Louise Lotze and Sue Taccone for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

The Spirit of Medjugorje
Information Center
P.O. Box 6614
Erie, PA 16512
U.S.A.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ERIE, PA
PERMIT NO. 685

RETURN
SERVICE
REQUESTED

DATED
MATERIAL

MARY IS CALLING YOU

On June 24, 1981 in Medjugorje, Our Lady began appearing to six children. She identified Herself as the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace. 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, the Blessed Mother still appears daily to three of the visionaries, and monthly or annually to the others. They are all now adults. 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. They declare to see the Blessed Virgin as they see other people — three dimensional. They pray and speak with Her.

The Blessed Mother granted to confide ten secrets to each visionary (some are chastisements for the world). Some of the visionaries have received all ten secrets. Our Lady promised to leave a visible sign at the original site of the apparitions in Medjugorje, for all humanity. In

the meantime, 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 five stones" of Our Lady (as in the story of Goliath). They are PRAYER with the heart, especially the Rosary; EUCHARIST; BIBLE; monthly CONFESSION; and FASTING.

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

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.



Permission is given to spread the text of any original works and may be used with the following conditions:

1) No words are changed; 2) "Spirit of Medjugorje" is cited. For articles by other sources, permission must be obtained from the original source.

If you want to receive "The Spirit of Medjugorje" monthly newsletter, please fill out the form below and return to: P.O. Box 6614, Erie, PA 16512. If you are able to send a donation to help spread Mary's messages, it would be greatly appreciated. We request that you renew your subscription annually to remain on our mailing list. May God bless you.

Please check one: ☐ New ☐ Renew

☐ Distribute Adoration Newsletters
Issue #1 or Issue #2 (please circle)
(# of newsletters) _____

☐ Sponsor a subscription
for someone in a foreign
country (suggested donation:
\$13 to cover postage)

☐ Distribute
"Beginner's Guides"
(# of guides) _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

(Please, no foreign checks or money
orders, except postal money orders.

U.S. FUNDS ONLY)

VOL. 32, NO 12