

THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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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 JANUARY 25, 2020

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! Today I am calling you to pray even more, until you feel the holiness of forgiveness in your heart. There must be holiness in the families, little children, because there is no future for the world without love and holiness – because in holiness and joy, you give yourselves to God the Creator who loves you with immeasurable love. This is why He sends me to you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

February is usually a quiet time in Medjugorje. Although it rarely snows there, when it does, it is breathtaking. We thank Mike Conti from Wales for his beautiful artwork.



Heaven's Special Gifts to the Holy Church

By Fr. Ray Donohue

On New Year's Day, at the parish where I assist, a wonderful and spirit-filled parish, I noticed as I was in the back of the Church ready for the procession to the Holy Altar, a few people came in at the last minute (they were not late) and I watched as they put their finger or fingers into the Holy Water and made some kind of a gesture around their face and

body quickly as water was splashing in all directions, and then went to their seat with a kind-of "loop de loop" motion I am guessing was a genuflection. I am not judging anything, but I am reminding all of us of what these beautiful symbols of the Church are in respect to you and me and to God.

People have often asked me when Holy Mass begins. Is it at the Entrance Hymn? Is it when we come into the Church? Is it at the Sign of the Cross that the people and priest make together? Well, I firmly believe that Holy Mass actually begins when we are at home preparing to leave for Holy Mass. Our frame of mind and heart is very important. Are we screaming up the stairs to the children, "Get your fannies down here or we'll be late again?" or to our spouses: "Hurry up, you're always so slow, what's the matter with you?" Or maybe we have plans after Mass and all our thoughts are on the dinner or preparation for the afternoon when we get home, or going out for breakfast right after Mass.

Holy Mass begins with us at home, preparing to meet Jesus in the Holy Mass, in all the wonderful and holy prayers, the Holy Scriptures where God speaks to us, the hymns, the homily that helps us understand and gives us explanations and direction, bringing the gifts up to the Holy Altar, which includes the very Gift of ourselves to God and placing our love for God and everyone else on the Holy Altar of Sacrifice. It is kneeling at the Holy Consecration and adoring Jesus present to us in that tiny little Host! It is coming forward to receive Jesus with a pure heart and mind and soul, focusing on the Lord, welcoming Him into us – Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. It is coming back to our seats thanking God (the very word "Eucharist" means "Thanksgiving"), knowing that we are now living and breathing Tabernacles of the Lord and that we now bring Jesus to everyone we meet and everywhere we go! The Holy Mass is timeless. We enter a bit of Eternity in every Holy Mass.

There is no need whatsoever to bring a watch to Mass and look at it. There is no need to have a cell phone in the Church with us, none whatsoever. One hour with God, with no distractions. Such beauty! Such peace! United in Holy Prayer with all our sisters and brothers in the Lord, with the priest in Persona Christi. We adore, we are One with God in so special a way.

Sacraments are where God touches us one on one, and we touch God. **Sacramentals** are special gifts God gives to us to

assist us, protect us, heal us and help us to adore God. They open a very wonderful door for us!

That Holy Water we splash around when we come in – that is a Sacramental. Do you know that Holy Water remits venial sins and the remission of temporal punishment? It protects us from evil spirits that roam the earth searching to destroy us. When I bless myself with Holy Water (and I keep it in the house with me always and bless myself often throughout the day), I say a little prayer taught to me when I was a child: "By this Holy Water, and by Thy most Precious Blood, please wash away all my sins, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen". Do it slowly and reverently. This is a Sacramental from the Church, a true gift!

The action of Genuflection and/or bowing, is a sign of reverence to God and the Holy Eucharist in the Tabernacle. It shouldn't be a "swooshing motion", like diving into a swimming pool, or like our knee suddenly went out from under us, but slowly and deliberately, as an act of love and adoration and reverence. This, too, is a Sacramental.

According to the Church's teaching, "Sacramentals are holy things or actions, of which the Church makes use to obtain for us from God, through her intercession, spiritual or temporal favors". Say that again slowly and think about that for a moment! The chief benefits from using the Sacramentals

are Actual Grace, the forgiveness of venial sins, the remission of temporal punishments, health of body and material blessings, and protection from evil spirits that roam the earth. We are drawn closer to God! That is awesome!

We talked about reverence and God's special gifts to His Holy Church. I now want to show the chief kinds of Sacramentals that help and assist us in our daily life, and for the Graces we need to assist us into Eternal life.

First are Blessings, given by priests, deacons and bishops. I bless people all the time; if I see them in Wal-Mart or Tops or the dollar

store and they come to me to say hello, before we part, I bless them. When I am in Medjugorje, I am surrounded by many people from all over the world begging for a priestly blessing! It is so humbling, and just coming down from the Blue Cross after the Apparition on the 2nd of the month, it takes me over an hour or more as the hands are reaching out to this lowly priest for prayers and blessings, and I will never refuse them! My mother used to trace the Sign of the Cross on my forehead as a little child, before I left for school, and asked God and our Blessed Mother to watch over me. Do parents still do this? Even to their adult children when they come to visit, asking God to bless them? If not, they should! And their grandchildren too! Doesn't it show the love we have for God and each other in our Holy Faith? Yes! It does, and very powerfully, too! We can also be a Sacramental



Fr. Ray celebrating Mass in Tihaljina

if we let Jesus use us! Let the Lord use you! Don't ever be selfish with your Faith but share it generously; use it and be a means of Grace!

Next are Exorcisms against evil spirits, then Blessed Objects of devotion and prayer, such as, but not limited to, Holy Water, Blessed Salt, Candles. (We celebrated Candlemas Day on February 2. I always gave Blessed Candles to all my parishioners, to use in time of storms, or when a priest comes for a sick call, or when the person just wants to pray and light a Blessed Candle in their home.) Ashes are a Sacramental, coming on this February 26th on Ash Wednesday. Don't wash them right off, but let people see you as a sign for the world to repent and believe! Additional Sacramentals are Palms from Palm Sunday (I put one in each room, or a piece of one, including in my garage and my reindeer barn, and my car and basement), Crucifixes, Holy pictures of the Lord, the Blessed Mother and Saints, Holy Blessed Medals and Crosses to carry or wear, the Holy Rosary, Scapulars, statues of saints or the Lord, and so much more.

When I perform an Exorcism, I always bring with me Holy Water, relics of saints, Rosaries (I always carry my Rosary with me, with Blessed Medals), Blessed Salt, a Crucifix, and I give to each person there a Blessed Rosary from Medjugorje, a medal of Saint Michael, the prayer of Saint Michael, and a Crucifix for their home. These are my gifts to them, and they are Sacramentals to protect them from evil. I make them promise me they will use them and pray them every day! What good is a car if you never drive it, or food if you won't eat it? What good are prayers and holy things if we don't pray them or use them? It is a waste, such a terrible waste!

Now, please note this very important fact: we use Sacramentals with Faith and devotion; they are NOT "good luck charms" or anything worldly like that. To use a Sacramental in such a way would be a very severe sin, such as a pagan idol or superstition. The Holy Catholic Church does NOT have "graven images" that we adore or worship; we never have and we never will! They are never any sort of "lucky charm" and to do so and to think like this would be paganism. We adore only the One True God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In the very early days of the Church, Blessed Salt was used in many ways – for one, at the Anointing of the Sick (some of you who have sick-calls in your home will see there is a place for a Blessed Candle, Holy Water and Blessed Salt). For another, when Churches and priests were far away and people couldn't get there regularly, then the priest would bless the salt for the home, and they would sprinkle a bit in their cooking, or mainly, put some in water to make Holy Water from the salt that was blessed by the priest. If you are out of Holy Water and cannot get to Church, such as in the case of a shut-in, Blessed Salt can be used to add to water for Holy Water, providing always that the salt was blessed by a priest or bishop.

Remember, these are holy and blessed objects. I remember

in the Seminary a priest telling us not to think that if you carry a Saint Christopher medal with you that you can drive down the street in reverse at 100 mph and expect Saint Christopher to keep you safe! Or that you can sin all you want and have a Rosary to protect you.

Remember, Satan tempted Jesus to "jump off the parapet of the Temple", and the devil even quoted Holy Scripture, reminding Jesus that the Scripture said, "The Angels would protect You lest You dash Your foot against a stone." So even the devil can quote Scripture, and Jesus responded, "Do NOT put the Lord your God to the test!" Use your Faith and use your head! There are no such things as magic charms, but there is such a thing as Faith and Grace!

Carry, use, and have Sacramentals, but do not abuse them or misuse them. Understand these are gifts from God to His Church to assist us in keeping in the state of Grace and protect us from evil, but we need to do our part, too. The prayers of the Church are very powerful. The Church (and you and I ARE the Church) is the living Mystical Body of Christ on earth, and her prayers then must become the very prayers of Jesus Himself, for the Lord Jesus is Head of the Church.

In every Mass and in all the official prayers of Holy Mother Church, every Catholic is remembered! Think about this – Holy Mass being offered throughout the whole world, every day, every second – Holy Mass is being celebrated, and you and I are being remembered to God in Holy Prayer! And when you and I, with reverence and piety, use a Sacramental, at that very moment, the entire Church is now praying especially for us – for You, to God!

Sacramentals obtain favors from God through the prayers of the Holy Catholic Church offered for those who make use of these gifts from God to His Church through the devotion they inspire! I light a Blessed Candle every time I enter my

little Chapel. I pray for all who have asked me to pray for them, for peace and God's Holy Will to be done. I genuflect with awe, knowing Jesus is present in the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. I love praying the Holy Rosary, and do it slowly and with love, meditating on both the Hail Mary and the Mystery I am praying, and if my mind wanders, I bring it back and begin again. Prayer takes practice. Pray, as our Mother begs us, to pray with and from the heart – from our heart to Jesus and Mary, and from Their Hearts to ours, being made ONE in God through His Church and all the many gifts He gives to us through His Church.

May our dear Blessed Mother, who visits the world daily in Medjugorje for our sake and out of Love for us, bless you as we prepare for this upcoming Lenten journey, and may the Sacramentals, which Holy Mother Church provides for us, guide us and our devotions, protect us from the evil one, and bring us close to each other and to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary by the Love of God the Father and the Holy Spirit! Amen.

With my deepest love,
~Father Ray



Fr. Ray speaking about Blessed Salt at our mailing

As of January 25, 2020, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 28,669. Thank you!

She Pronounced My Name

By Sr. Emmanuel

In February 1991, I was blessed to bring Vicka to Paris for a short mission in France. I was supposed to pick her up at her home on a particular morning, and I said to her the day before: "Tomorrow I will come by at 4 in the morning with the taxi; be ready!" At 4:00 a.m., I find Vicka and we get in the cab. During the journey, I ask her how we could organize a place in Paris where she would be able to receive the daily apparition. But she replied: "No need, the Gospa already appeared to me this morning! You know, when I travel, it happens often, She appears to me before I leave. So yesterday She said to me: 'Since Sister Emmanuel will pick you up tomorrow at 4 a.m., I will appear to you shortly

before her arrival...' I was taken aback, and said to Vicka: "What? The Blessed Mother said my name!?" "Yes," replied Vicka in a perfectly natural tone. "It's normal, She always does that!" But for me it was an unforgettable grace. It made my day! WOW! The Mother of God arranged Her schedule according to my decision, and She pronounced my name! We are too oblivious to the extreme closeness of the Lord and His Mother to the smallest details of our daily lives!

*www.childrenofmedjugorje.com, Children of Medjugorje
September 2018 report.*

Medjugorje Moments

By Chris Falk

I would like to share two experiences that I had on my recent trip to Medjugorje. First, let me explain that I went with a group led by Cindy Lane, and then decided to stay another week, so I joined a second group, led by Judith Weible.

One of the things I wanted to do during this extended stay in Medjugorje was to meet Sr. Emmanuel. On my other pilgrimages, I had never met or heard Sr. Emmanuel talk and I really wanted to. I was so excited because she was actually on the schedule the first week! Then at the last minute, the morning when we were going to be seeing Sister, Cindy said, "Don't shoot the messenger, but I have some bad news. Sr. Emmanuel canceled." There was a group of French pilgrims there and since she is French, she felt like she needed to participate with them in something that had been planned. I thought, "Oh no! It was the one thing I had never done and wanted to do."

This first group ended with a trip to Zadar. Even though I was not going home with this group, I was able to go on the trip. The man who runs the hotel would bring me back to Medjugorje for my second leg of the trip with the other group. There was another lady who came with us who was not with our group, but she had been living in Medjugorje for a few months. She wanted to go to Zadar, and so she joined us. On the way home, it was just the two of us as passengers in the car. I found out that she was in Medjugorje working for – of all people – Sr. Emmanuel!!! She said, "I'll keep you informed if Sister is going to give a talk." Within a couple of days, I got a text message from her saying that Sister would be giving a talk and I could come! It was early into my second group and they were just doing a general orientation after the 10 o'clock Mass, so I skipped it. The woman who was working for Sr. Emmanuel met me after Mass and we walked over to Sr. Emmanuel's. I got to meet her and listen to her talk! I thought, "Wow! Isn't this just great? I wanted to meet Sr. Emmanuel and it all just worked out so beautifully!"

Now back to the trip to Zadar – while we were there, we were supposed to go to the church where St. Simeon's relic is kept. (It's actually his whole incorrupt body.) When we arrived, Cindy had to tell us again that we just got some bad news. They were going to be doing a dress rehearsal



St. Simeon relic

for a concert in that church, so we could not go. That was one of the highlights we were looking forward to, so we were disappointed. But within an hour, it all turned around. The man from our hotel talked to the custodian and got permission for our group to go in and venerate the relic of St. Simeon.

Unfortunately, we did not get to view the body because they only open the sarcophagus on Sundays, but we could still venerate the relic. As we were leaving, they handed us a little souvenir from a basket. On it were words in Croatian: "Sveti Sime, moli za nas!" It means, "St. Simeon, pray for us!" Nobody really knew exactly what these things were, just souvenirs. When I joined the second group, I met a tour guide named Ivan. Something made me take the souvenir out of my pocket and ask him, "Do you know what this is?" He replied, "You asked the right person. I lived in Zadar for five years. I was a tour guide there. This is a second class relic of St. Simeon." He explained that what they do is stuff a cloth into the mouth of St. Simeon, and whenever they change the cloth, they take the threads from the cloth and wrap it in this little paper to distribute to pilgrims. I later learned that the word "pamuk" on the souvenir means "cotton".

How the Blessed Mother works it all out! She sure does!

Editor's note: Chris lives in Erie, PA and is a faithful member of our mailing staff. I had my own "Medjugorje Moment" when Chris told me they accidentally gave her two of the relics and she gifted me with the extra one. I was in awe, especially because (unbeknownst to her) The Presentation is my "dedicated decade" from the Living Rosary Association!

The following article, which relates to the story above, is excerpted from an article in our December 2015 issue.

The Man Who Held Baby Jesus

By June Klins

Last month I came upon a very interesting short video on the website, betweenthefoldsofhermantle.com. In the video, Medjugorje guide. Miki Musa, was with a group on Apparition Hill and they were at the Fourth Joyful Mystery Station, "The Presentation in the Temple." Miki began his reflection by noting that Simeon was a man of strong faith. He pointed out that just the day before, when the group heard visionary Vicka speak, she had said that Our Lady wants us to pray for "strong faith." Then Miki told them that when they look at the plaque, they will see old man Simeon holding Baby Jesus.

Motioning as if to hold Jesus, he asked, "Isn't this what our priests do every single day?" At this point, he reminded the group to pray for priests, as Our Lady asks. Miki said, "It's easy to complain about them, to criticize and judge, etc., but we are supposed to pray for that intention. In that way, we will have more holy priests for sure." He said that it is up to the faithful how holy the priests will be. He also reminded the group (and us) to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

Miki then shared an experience he and other Medjugorje guides had two years prior. He said that every winter the Medjugorje guides go on a one-day pilgrimage with their spiritual director. That year they went to Zadar, a city about three hours away from Medjugorje. They went to the church of St. Simeon, where the parish priest met with them and shared the story of why St. Simeon is one of the four patron saints of Zadar.

The priest said that when the Crusades started, a nobleman from Venice went to Jerusalem with the intention to save as many relics as possible, to bring them to Western Europe, so they would not be destroyed or lost. The nobleman found the tomb of the old man Simeon. When the tomb was opened, St. Simeon's body was found to be incorrupt!

As the nobleman was sailing along the Croatian coastline with this special relic, he became sick and they had to stop. He realized it was going to take a while to get better, so he thought he'd better find a way to take care of the special treasure in his care. He told a priest that his brother had been killed in the Crusades and that he was taking the body back to Venice for burial. He asked the priest if he could bury "his brother" temporarily in the graveyard and he would pay all the expenses incurred. The priest consented. When the nobleman's health grew worse, and he realized he might be dying, he confessed to the priest that he had lied. He told

the priest that when they open the casket, they would see.

Sure enough, when they opened the casket, they were shocked to see the man who held Baby Jesus in his arms. There was a great celebration in the town. They took the body to St. John the Baptist Church. The Croatian-Hungarian queen at the time, Elizabeth, was a very devoted person and she donated 500 pounds of gold for the new coffin to be made. She also donated money for a new church to be built for the coffin.

Miki said the priest in Zadar was talking to them in front of the altar, and above the altar was the gold coffin containing the incorrupt body of St. Simeon. Since there were no tourists, the priest opened the coffin for them. Miki said he got goose-bumps as he viewed through the glass the old man Simeon, the man who held Baby Jesus in his arms. Miki expressed, "You don't know what to say, what to do, what to think – just completely overwhelmed!"

The priest added that what is even more amazing is that the coffin is not hermetically sealed. Air flows through it. All the laws of nature say that the body should decay, but it does not. Every thirty years, they open the tomb and take the body out to see if the body is in the same condition as it was 30 years before. The most recent examination had been three years before Miki's visit there, and the priest had been present for it. The priest then added one final incredible detail. He asked, "What happens with your skin in the summer time when you're sweating? The pores open for the body to breathe, right? But when it's cold, the pores are closing. Two thousand years after, his skin still reacts to heat and cold, the same way as our skin." Awestruck by this extraordinary miracle, Miki declared, "Words are useless!"

Like Miki, I was in awe of this story, and wished that I could have also seen the man who held Baby Jesus. But then I realized, as Miki mentioned at the beginning, I do see a man who holds Jesus every day when I attend Mass. In fact, I AM – we are all, each of us – the man (or woman) who holds Jesus (on our tongues or in our hands and then in our bodies) every time we receive Him in Holy Communion! He is just as present physically to us as he was to Simeon two thousand years ago. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever..." (John 6:51).

St. Simeon only got to hold Jesus once, but we can hold Him every week, or even every day! How blessed we are!

"Do not leave the church without an appropriate act of thanksgiving." (Our Lady, October 1984)



St. Simeon Church in Zadar

January 2, 2020 Message Through Mirjana

"Dear children, I know that I am present in your lives and in your hearts. I feel your love, I hear your prayers and direct them to my Son. But, my children, according to motherly love, I desire to be in the lives of all of my children. I desire to gather all of my children around me, beneath my motherly mantle. This is why I am inviting you and calling you, apostles of my love, to help me. My children, my Son pronounced the words of the 'Our Father' – Our Father, [You] who are everywhere and in our hearts – because He desires to teach you to pray with words and feelings. He desires for you to always be better, to live merciful love which is prayer and limitless sacrifice for others. My children, give to my Son love for your neighbors, give words of consolation, compassion and acts of justice to your neighbors. Everything that you give to others, apostles of my love, my Son accepts as a gift. I am also with you, because my Son desires for my love, as a ray of light, to bring your souls to life; for me to help you in the search for peace and eternal happiness. Therefore, my children, love one another, be united through my Son, be children of God who all together, with full, open and pure heart, pronounce the 'Our Father'. And do not be afraid! Thank you."

“The Gospa Told Me”

By June Klins

Last month, as I prayed about our February issue, Our Lady led me to the incredible testimony of Sabine Morson, which was aired on July 28, 2014 on Mary TV, Fruit of Medjugorje, Program #125 (marytv.tv/fruit-of-medjugorje/). Sabine, who is originally from Germany, now lives in Virginia. She has been to Medjugorje about 30 times and made a promise to Our Lady in 1990 that she would spread Her messages to as many people as she could.

Sabine’s first trip to Medjugorje was in 1989. A priest invited her to go with her youth group. She really did not believe, but was hoping to “get a tan”, since she heard the weather was hot. At the time, she was attending Mass, although half-heartedly, but she did not know how to say the Rosary and had not been to Confession since her First Confession.

When they arrived in Medjugorje, Sabine recounted, “As soon as my feet hit the ground, I instantly believed.” Another group arrived at the same time, and by mistake she followed them to the rectory. A woman pushed her up the stairs and she found herself with a handful of priests and nuns in the apparition room. “It was the most amazing experience! Our Lady was appearing!” Although there were no flowers there, the smell of roses filled the air. She left the apparition and ran right to Confession.

Sabine’s experience so inspired her that she wanted her friends to experience it, so the following July, she and four friends decided to go to Medjugorje before they were to meet with a priest from Scotland about pro-life work. They were able to rent a car in Luxemburg, although none of them was old enough to rent a car. When they got about 5 ½ hours from Medjugorje, they could not find a place to camp or to stay, so they decided to just drive through the night until they got there. At that point, Sabine took over the driving. All of a sudden, they saw what looked like a telephone pole in the middle of the road, and thought it was very odd. As Sabine turned the wheel to avoid it, the car began spinning as if on ice. The car overturned two or three times and landed upside down in a ravine. One of the girls had not even put her seatbelt on yet, so she was flipping up and down in the car. Villagers came running out of their houses in their night clothes when they heard the crash. They turned the car back over and smashed the windows to remove the girls from the car. They started pouring brandy and other alcohol on their wounds because that is all they had. By the time the police arrived, they all smelled like alcohol. The police (Communist at the time) asked who had been driving the car and Sabine said she was. They confiscated her passport and told her she was under arrest for drunk driving.

They knew they needed a hospital for the girl who was not wearing a seatbelt, since she could not feel her legs and

could not move. When the ambulance came, Sabine and one other girl went in the ambulance with the girl who was hurt, and the other two were ordered to get back into the car, which was crushed and leaking gas and oil.

When they got to the hospital, the head doctor asked who was driving the car. Sabine said that she was, to which the doctor said, “I just wanted you to know that you killed your friend.” Sabine began to cry and asked to see her body. She was taken to a room where she saw that her friend was still alive, so she asked the doctor why he had said that. He replied, “Because she’ll never walk again, so she might as well be dead, and you did this to her.”

They tested Sabine for alcohol, and when the test was negative, they did not know what to do, so they sent the girls back to the police station. Sabine was put into a cell there for about 8-10 hours, and given only a cup of water. She asked if she could call the American Consulate in Zagreb, but they kept putting her off. Finally, the girls were escorted to a building next to the police station and the judge pronounced Sabine “guilty”, but she did not know what the charges were.

They gave back their passports. They took all their money, but they did allow them to make a call to the

car rental agency to get another car.

The girls drove back to the hospital to visit their friend and were told by the doctors that she had severed her spine and would probably never walk again. She would need at least 10 days before the swelling would go down, so they could put her in a body cast. In order to go back to the U.S., she would have to be accompanied by a nurse and a doctor and it would cost a minimum of \$35,000! They had no idea what to do, but felt they should go to Medjugorje. The girl who was hurt told them to go because maybe they could find people to help them. They did not want to leave her, but felt this was what they needed to do. For some unknown reason, they left the journal they had been keeping with their friend, even though she was not able to even pick it up.

They arrived in Medjugorje around 11:00 PM and were kneeling around the statue of Our Lady in front of the church. (At that time the statue was closer to the church than it is now.) They were crying and begging Our Lady for a miracle for their friend. Fr. Svet was locking up the church and heard them crying, so he asked them what was going on. They told him their story and he asked them to come to the rectory the next day and he would take them to another priest.

The following day, after the English-speaking Mass, Fr. Svet took them to the rectory and introduced them to Fr. Slavko. After they related the story to Fr. Slavko, he said, “I have an assignment for you. I want you to stay here for

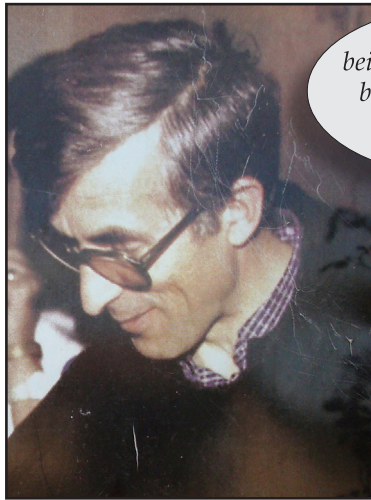


Sabine in Medjugorje

three days, just like Jesus stayed in the tomb for three days. You will live the life of Jesus, but first you will live His death. Here's what I want you to do every day while you're here. Every day you will climb Mt. Krizevac. Every day you should go to Mt. Podbrdo. Every day you should go to Mass, and every evening you should go to the Rosary and Mass again, and Adoration as well. After three days, you come back to see me." They thought this sounded overwhelming, but they did it all "with the grace of God and the help of Our Lady". Fr. Slavko had also told them that after the English-speaking Masses a collection would be taken to bring their friend back to the U.S.

After the three days, Fr. Slavko met with them and gave them a satchel filled with money. He said, "I haven't counted it all, but I think it is enough to get your friend back." He gave them a blessing and then asked them to do him a favor. "What I want you to do is when you get back and you find out that you do not need this money, then I want you to give it to a pro-life cause that helps further the cause of life." They were confused as to why they wouldn't need the money. Father replied, "Gospa [Our Lady] will let you know." Then he pointed at Sabine and said, "I will see you very soon."

When they got back to the hospital, they got the surprise of their lives – their friend, who was in a different room now, jumped up! She had been completely healed!!! Her healing had taken place at the *exact time* they were praying at the statue in Medjugorje. She had written it all down in the journal they had left with her. She had been lying in her bed crying and asking God why He had allowed this to happen. But then she stopped and prayed instead, "Use me whatever way you can, even if I can never walk again." In that instant, she felt something like hands sliding under her back, and felt heat going up and down her body. Then she felt these hands urging her to sit up. A nurse who saw her do this asked what she was doing. Then she felt an embrace from behind, but there was no one there. The nurse suggested she get all the way up and try to walk with her help. She did,



Fr. Slavko

"For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible" (Mt 19:26)

and had not even a twinge of pain. The nurse took out a Miraculous Medal and a Medjugorje medal she was wearing under her uniform, and she said, "Gospa did this." They went to a little closet and prayed the Rosary in thanksgiving.

After their friend was discharged, the girls drove to Lourdes. The friend who was healed still had a lump on her back from the accident, but after she went into the baths at Lourdes, it disappeared! They went on to London where they met the priest from Scotland. After hearing their story, he took the girl who was healed to a doctor in London to be X-rayed. The doctor came to the waiting room looking for a person who should be a quadriplegic because the X-ray showed *no healing*. The priest said, "This is a miracle!" They wrote up the testimony and he took it to Rome, where he prayed he would run into someone who would take it to the Commission studying Medjugorje. By no coincidence, he ran into Cardinal Ratzinger (the future Pope Benedict XVI) and gave him all the documentation.

Prior to this, the girls gave the money in the satchel from Medjugorje to the priest who did pro-life work, because his printing press had broken. Sabine stayed a little longer in Scotland to do some pro-life work with him and she met a pregnant young mother who was going to have an abortion. The priest told Sabine she needed to help the woman, so he gave her two plane tickets to travel to Medjugorje. The young mother was not even a believer, but had a conversion in Medjugorje. Within six months, she became Catholic and had her baby baptized!

While in Medjugorje, Sabine went to see Fr. Slavko. She remembered that he had said he would see her very soon, but she did not think he would remember her because he would have met so many people in Medjugorje in the three months span since she had been there. She said, "I was here in July with my friends." He responded, "Yes, your friend who was healed." She asked, "What? How did you know that?" He replied, "The Gospa told me!"

Fasting on Birthdays

A lady recently asked me if she should fast on her birthday if her birthday falls on a Wednesday or Friday. I asked our spiritual advisor, Fr. Ray Donohue. Here is his reply: "The rule of thumb is to keep the fast. If a whole family is taking the person out and it can *only* be on her birthday, etc., she can fast another day, but Our Lady would like us to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays, as you know. If the fast day is a fast day from the Church (Ash Wednesday or Good Friday), even if it is a person's birthday that day, the fast *must* be observed in communion with the whole Church throughout the world." Thank you, Fr. Ray, for this clarification.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for February

Listen to the Migrants' Cries:

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.



Our thanks to Pat Berrier, Diane Niebauer, Marge Burchard, Sue Taccone, Joan Peterson, Chris Falk, Joanne and Tom McIntire, Chris Opron, Barb Sirianni, Rose Heintzel, Peggy Chludzinski, Cindy Bielamin, Louise Lotze, Barb Cesare, Marge Spase, Georgia Chludzinski, Dianne Yochim, Kathy Luschini, Kathy Wayman, Laura DiBacco and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the January mailing. We thank Carol Bleck and Louise Lotze for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

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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.



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