

**THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE**  
P.O. BOX 6614 • ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16512  
[www.spiritofmedjugorje.org](http://www.spiritofmedjugorje.org)

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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.*



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

EDITOR EMERITUS: JOAN WIESZCZYK  
SPIRITUAL ADVISOR  
FR. RAY DONOHUE

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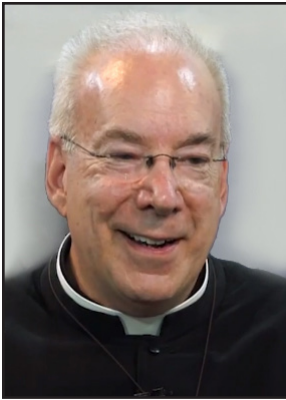
## MONTHLY MESSAGE OF DECEMBER 25, 2019

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.



*January 1 is the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. She is our Mother as well and desires the salvation of our souls. As you make your resolutions for the New Year, we hope you will make Our Lady's Peace Plan a priority. May this issue and all of our issues be an inspiration for you to do so. The picture above was taken in Medjugorje. Have a very blessed and holy New Year!*

"Dear children! I am carrying my Son Jesus to you, for Him to bless you and reveal to you His love, which comes from Heaven. Your heart yearns for peace, of which there is less and less on earth. That is why people are far from God and souls are sick and heading towards spiritual death. I am with you, little children, to lead you on this way of salvation to which God calls you. Thank you for having responded to my call."



# The Heart that Loves

By Fr. Ray Donohue

First, I hope you all had a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. How wonderful to celebrate the birthday of our Savior, Jesus. But how grace-filled we are every single day!

I was so inspired by our Mother's message from December 2<sup>nd</sup> [see page 7]. I have held that message in my heart and reflected on it every single day since. Our

Mother has said so much in that about Herself, and about the Lord God we pray to and Who holds us close to Himself.

Just to be called Her "Dear children", what does that say to us? It tells us Our Lady is our Mother. She looks upon us the way She looks upon Jesus! Do you feel that love? Do you know that connection? She is telling us we are ALL ONE family, we, who as Mary looks upon us "who love my Son". Our Mother's "heart is being filled with tenderness"! The tender love of our Mother in Heaven!

Notice, it is not filled, but "being filled". This love is ongoing. Do you feel that love from our Mother in Heaven? We should feel it when we open ourselves up to prayer, at Holy Mass, in the confessional, and in our own families and relationships. Are our own hearts, too, being filled with tenderness? Softened with our faith in God and Our Lady and our Holy Church? Have we made room this past Christmas that Jesus can find room in the INN of our hearts, and have we warmed Him with our tenderness and love at what He Loves? If we let Him, Jesus will be re-born in us every single day and never leave us.

We have the gift of the "motherly blessings" of our Mother in Heaven, who, by the way, is never distant from us, but always close to us, as any mother would be. Mary is teaching us right from wrong, how to behave, what to embrace and what to avoid, as any good mother would do for her beloved children.

It is so humbling to me that our Mother, my Mother, is praying for me and all Her priests and Her shepherds, who are called to guide the Church, the living stones with hearts of love, with Jesus as our solid foundation. Together, we are the Church, one family, under God, with our Mother Mary teaching us in, as Father Slavko once told me, Mary's "life-school" for "protecting and fighting against evil and sin", as a way to live and to be holy!

Mary tells us to pray for our shepherds who "speak the Word of God". Please, always pray for your priests, that they are holy, devoted, reverent, kind, and always in the state of Holy Grace. They, we, need your prayers to be good shepherds and holy men who "come in the name of the Lord" and through the holy Sacraments, bring us all closer to God as God comes closer to us.

We are called "Apostles of our Mother's Love". What a holy title our Mother gives to you and to me. To "live and work for others" and to love others "through my Son", Jesus. What a gift our Mother is giving to us!

To do this demands sacrifice. The 12 Apostles sacrificed daily, and we are our Mother's "Apostles of Love", so we are called to do this. Our Lady tells us in the message of December 2<sup>nd</sup> that through prayer, God is in our hearts making our life "joyful and bright". When we love, words are not necessary. Where Love reigns, Our Lady tells us, "WE ARE WITH YOU"!

Mary reminds us that Jesus knows us and loves us. Through love, we encounter each other. Love means to forgive those who have hurt us. We need to ask God and our Mother for many graces to do this. What a great way to start the new year, to let past hurts go and give them all to God! To start over, in our prayer life! To attend Holy Mass not as spectators, but as participants as Her apostles of love as at the Last Supper, recognizing Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and showing reverence and love.

Lastly, our Mother tells us to "illuminate with love and faith" wherever we go. Don't get drawn into gossip. Don't speak ill of others, especially your parish priests, who need prayers more than criticism. They need to know you love them, just as Jesus asked Peter three times: "Do you love me?" We are called to love, not judge. If a priest or someone has hurt you by their words, or were insensitive to you in any way, pray for them. God and our Mother will work on them and soften their hearts and remind them why God chose them and ordained them in the first place!

To illuminate is to bring light where there is darkness, and we all know the world is filled with much darkness right now, and our Mother is calling us to be Her little lights. Even one candle will illuminate a dark place. Wouldn't it be wonderful to bring light into the darkness of a soul of another, and allow them to do the same for us?



Candles from the candle area next to St. James in Medjugorje

I always tell people: "Don't walk in anyone else's darkness, let them walk in your light." This is one of my ways to live, and it takes love, practice, prayer and perseverance. We need to not just *know* this, but to *do* it and *practice* it.

Our Lady's message on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December was powerful, loving, and from Her heart to our hearts. Mary is our Mother, Who loves us so dearly, and I know you love Her so dearly. Bring that love into the world, the world of your home and family, neighbors, church, nation and everywhere you are. The devil will NOT win. Evil will be extinguished if we practice this simple message of our Mother. Our Lady will do anything for us, and IS doing so much for us through Medjugorje. Mary, the very person Who carried Jesus in Her womb and gave Him human life. She comes to us daily.

Now, in 2020 AD, what are we doing, and going to do to make Her visits to us complete Her plans and Her prayers?

Have a wonderful New Year and may it be filled with many blessings, joy, peace, and graces. Together, may we put our Mother's intentions first on our list, and bring light into wherever there is any darkness! God bless you always, ~Father Ray ☺

# Patron Saint for 2020

By June Klins

For many years, we have been randomly choosing the name of a saint to be our “holy protector” for the year. St. Faustina’s community used to do this every year on New Year’s Day. This can be a fun and educational thing to do with your family, friends, prayer group, or parish. Almost always, there is a connection between the saint and the person or group who randomly picked it. What is especially heartening is the fact that the saint does not leave you at the end of the year. So, if you do this every year, you will eventually have a whole army of holy helpers protecting you!

Although any list of saints can be used, there is a good one on the website, [www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv). You can also use the saint generator on <http://jenniferfulwiler.com/saints/>. However you choose, it is important to pray to the Holy Spirit first! The tradition goes that it is the saint who chooses you, not the other way around. The saint wishes to help you. As you pray with the saint every day, that saint will pray for you and help you.

On August 25, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI recommended choosing a special saint as a model. The Pope encouraged everyone to have a devotion to a particular saint, so that the saint can intercede but also be a model to imitate. On October 25, 2017, Our Lady said, “*May saints be models to you and an encouragement for holiness.*”



*Elenore holds our saint name while her cousins Oliver, Lily, Molly, and Thomas look on*

This year, my youngest granddaughter, Elenore (age 2 ½), picked the saint for *The Spirit of Medjugorje*. She picked St. Rose of Lima. I knew a little about her, since a friend’s birthday is St. Rose’s feast day, August 23. I also knew she was the first canonized saint of the Americas. And I remember reading that she was very beautiful, but rubbed her face with pepper to disfigure her face so as not to be a temptation to anyone.

Upon reading more about St. Rose (whose birth name was Isabel), it became obvious that she lived the messages of Medjugorje way back in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. She lived a life of prayer, fasting and penance. Even as a child, she fasted on only bread and water three days a week. And we think it’s hard to do two days! If you are having trouble fasting, St. Rose might be the “go-to saint” who can intercede and help you to fast. Our Lady is in need of people who will step up to the plate to fast and do penance so that Her peace plan can be realized. Maybe that is why St. Rose picked us this year!

According to Butler’s *Lives of the Saints*, St. Rose died in 1617 at the age of 31 after having been stricken by a long and painful illness. Her prayer during that time was, “Lord, increase my sufferings, and with them, increase Thy love in my heart.”

St. Rose of Lima, please pray for us!

## Conversation with Visionary Jakov Colo

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

**Many people who are ill and have different problems have asked Our Lady for help and their recovery. How does the Gospa answer such prayers?**

The Gospa has always answered every request with: “Pray and have strong faith.” This is true for all pilgrims who come to Medjugorje, and we know that many of them are ill. I always say: “First of all, let us pray for the healing of our hearts.” Today it is our hearts that are most ill. In order to accept our illness and not think of it as a punishment from God, but rather as God’s plan, we first need to heal in our hearts. We need to pray and have strong faith.

**Every visionary has a special gift, a special intention. What is yours?**

Vicka and I pray especially for the sick, especially for the healing of hearts. I always tell pilgrims that it is not wrong to pray for physical health, for healing, but we always need to add: “God, may Your will be done.” Most of the time, we think of God and reach out for Him only when we are in trouble and need, when we are ill and overwhelmed with problems. But God should always be in our heart, at every moment, because God is our strength and He is the answer to everything we are looking for in life.

**From all your meetings with the Gospa, did you understand why apparitions are necessary, since we have the Bible, the Sacraments, and Holy Mass?**

During all these years, I have realized that the Gospa is a mother who loves Her children, and that, like any mother on earth, She is concerned about Her children. The Gospa came here to wake us up so that we may start living. To live means to live with God. The rest – life without God – is not a life.



## Jakov’s Annual Message on December 25, 2019

At his last daily apparition on September 12th, 1998, Our Lady told Jakov Colo that he would have one apparition a year on Christmas Day. This year, the apparition began at 2:25 p.m. and lasted 9 minutes. Our Lady came with little Jesus in Her arms and gave the following message:

*“Dear children, today, on this day of grace, in a special way I am calling you to open your hearts and to implore Jesus to strengthen your faith. Children, through prayer with the heart, faith and works you will come to know what it means to live a sincere Christian life. Often times, children, darkness, pain and crosses overwhelm your hearts. Do not waver in faith and ask ‘why’ because you think that you are alone and abandoned. Instead, open your hearts, pray and believe firmly and then your heart will feel God’s nearness and that God never abandons you – that He is beside you at every moment. Through prayer and faith, God will answer your every ‘why’ and transform your every pain, darkness and cross into light. Thank you.”*

# The Testimony of Linda Leasure

By June Klins

*"I am with you and I am rejoicing because of your conversion." (Our Lady, 4/25/88)*

Linda Leasure, a tour guide with Totally Yours pilgrimages, gave her conversion testimony last year while in Medjugorje, and it was aired on Mary TV's "Fruit of Medjugorje". Her heartfelt testimony is very powerful. To get the full effect, I recommend viewing program #387 at <https://marytv.tv/fruit-of-medjugorje/>.

Linda began her story by saying as a child in Catholic school she wanted to become a nun. But when she switched to a public school after 8<sup>th</sup> grade, she made new friends that were not interested in God. Around that time, her parents got divorced, and then she was sexually abused by her oldest brother. All of these things pulled her away from the Church.

Linda said the "god" in her life at that time became swimming. She was very good at it and spent six hours a day swimming, training to make the Olympic team. She thought, "If I can make the Olympic team, everything will be all right."

Linda did make the team as an alternate for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, but that year the United States boycotted the Olympics, so Linda's dream went unfulfilled.

After that, Linda said, "I had to find another 'god,'" so she turned to drugs. She became a "Deadhead" as she followed the Grateful Dead. During this time, she was also confused about her sexual orientation and was very promiscuous with both genders. "I thought that I could somehow heal this wound." When she got pregnant, she thought this would be her answer. She quit the drugs, married the baby's father, and had a beautiful baby girl. She thought, "Everything's going to be all right." But when her marriage did not work out, she needed another escape, and this time it became standardbred harness racing. Her new "god" became her goal to be the top woman driver and trainer in the country. She admitted that the horse racing industry is rough and that through it, she was introduced to cocaine. Addiction took over her life. She said this drug, nicknamed "the devil's dandruff," gave her a false high. She could not sleep at night, so she had to take downers to sleep.

During this time, Linda lived with her father. She felt that she was gay and stopped going to Mass. She began searching and exploring other religions, including Buddhism. In the meantime, the drug addiction became so bad, that's all she would live for. The cocaine eventually burned the inside of her nose, so she learned to freebase. At one point, she weighed less than 90 pounds. Throughout all of this, **her mother never stopped praying for her.**

When Linda got pregnant again, she said, "I can't have this baby," so "I killed my baby through an abortion, and I broke what I considered the gravest Commandment." After this, Linda did not want to live anymore, and started doing drugs even heavier. One day when she thought she was alone, she loaded a revolver with one bullet and took the gun to her head, spun it and clicked on the trigger two different times, but nothing happened. On the third try, her friend, who was not supposed to be there, rushed in and grabbed the gun from her. "What are you doing?" Linda replied, "I don't want to live."



*Linda with her mother and sister in Medjugorje in 1988*

Not long after that, Linda's mother invited her to go on a trip to Yugoslavia with her. Sensing there was a catch to this, Linda asked her mother if it was a religious trip. Her mother said, "Yes, it's to a place called Medjugorje." Linda responded, "Medja-what?" Linda told her mother she was not going to go, since she was not Catholic anymore. Her mother replied, "You don't have to go to church."

Linda decided to go, since she had never been out of the country, and she thought, as a photographer, it would also be a good chance to use her VHS camera.

So Linda traveled to Medjugorje with her mother and sister in 1988. They stayed in a house about a mile from St. James. The first thing they did, after checking in, was to go to St. James. Linda stood outside the church wondering if she should go in. It was very crowded, but she decided to go in with her camera. Within seconds, the inside of the church began to shake to the point that the statue of St. James almost fell over. The people inside the church panicked, including Linda and her mother and sister. They came running out of the church. Outside the church, however, everything was calm. Linda remarked, "I always say, to this day, it's because I went into the church...I don't understand how an earthquake can happen inside the church and not outside." That was her first experience in Medjugorje.

Back in those days, there was no TSA, so Linda was able to bring her cocaine to Medjugorje. "I couldn't come without it." But there was something telling her not to use it. That night, in the middle of the night, Linda woke up and she saw her life flash before her. "I saw my life going to hell. There were demons...grabbing me, clawing at me." Her screaming woke up her mother and her sister. They wanted to know what was wrong. Linda snapped, "Just let me be," and grabbed the stash of drugs from her suitcase, ran to the bathroom and threw all of it in the toilet.

The next morning, although she hadn't slept the rest of the night, Linda planned to climb Apparition Hill with the group. She lagged behind the group at the base of the hill, and as she turned around, she saw a hooded demon. At this, she darted into the nearest store and purchased a rosary. (She grasped this rosary during her entire testimony and held it up at this point.) She caught up with the group and tried to stay in the middle to hide as they prayed the Mysteries going up the hill. When they got to the place of the first apparition, where there was a cross at the time (now there is a statue of Our Lady), Linda broke down. "I cried. I prayed. I begged the Blessed Mother to take this addiction away from me." Linda stayed there after the group went down. She stated, "If you have any knowledge of someone being on cocaine to this point of such an addiction, there is just no way you can recover and not have withdrawal, but

that day and from then on, I never touched a drug, nor did I have any withdrawals. Praise God!"

Linda said her next step was to go to Confession. She did not know when her last Confession was and was reluctant. "I'd broken just about every Commandment." She did not think she could do it, but she did! She went to an Irish priest who was very kind and nice to her. "I felt wonderful!... When I received the Eucharist that day, it was the best day of my life!" The last day of the pilgrimage, she was graced to see the Miracle of the Sun.

Linda went back home and tried to live Our Lady's messages. Her dad was watching her daughter and although she was still working with the horses, she did not have any temptation to do drugs. But slowly she began to backslide. She would skip a day praying the Rosary, and skip Mass. "Like climbing Cross Mountain, ... I hit that slippery slope and I started to go back into neutral and down the hill."

At this time, Linda had the opportunity to be on a television show called "Roller Jam". She made the skating team and became a celebrity. She got busy with skating, filming and autographs, and had no time for church at all. So by the year 2000, although she had no desire for drugs anymore, she was into athletics again and this became her "god". Then during one of the tapings, she got injured and was not able to skate anymore.

**Linda's mother continued to pray for her** as she watched her slip away from the Church. One day her mother gave her a copy of *Medjugorje Magazine*, and in it was an ad for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Totally Yours pilgrimages.

Linda still believed and still loved to travel, so she signed up with a person with whom she was in an inappropriate relationship. "I was still confused sexually." Linda said, "We have a saying that a tourist goes to see a place and new things, but a pilgrim goes to experience a place, become someone new." She continued, "and in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, when I took this rosary (holding it up) and I touched the spot where Jesus was crucified, He bopped me in the head again with a beam of light. I came back home from the pilgrimage to the Holy Land strong in my faith."

There was one last thing, though, that Linda said she could not do, and that was to forgive her brother for sexually abusing her as a child. "I just couldn't forgive him. And you know, God takes care of everything for us, if we just let Him."

Linda's brother, who lived in Arizona, was hit by a drunk driver and was left for dead. Although Linda had not spoken to her brother in years, she was the first family member to go there to be with him. "When I walked into the ICU and I saw him laying there, tubes in his head, God gave me the grace that day, in tears, to forgive him!"

The doctors said Linda's brother was medically brain-dead and would be a vegetable the rest of his life. When Linda's younger brother went to visit, he brought a bottle of Lourdes water given to him by a fellow parishioner. He found a priest to bless his older brother with the Lourdes water, and 10 minutes later, he opened his eyes! He began

the slow journey to recovery as he learned to walk and talk again. Linda helped him with his recovery.

Linda gathered all the documentation from her brother's healing to present it at Lourdes. She saw that in *Medjugorje Magazine*, Totally Yours had a pilgrimage there and she wanted to go in thanksgiving. So Linda and her mother and her aunt traveled to Lourdes to thank the Blessed Mother for the healing of her brother and the grace to forgive him. On this pilgrimage, she met the owner of Totally Yours, Guy Murphy. She told Guy her story and that she wanted to give her life to God. "My entire life was spent on me and false 'gods'. Now I wanted to give it to the Lord totally."

She shared with Guy that she had sold her business and worked briefly in a Guatemala orphanage with abused girls, but still had the "travel bug". Guy told Linda to pray about it, and at the end of the pilgrimage, he offered Linda a chance to help out with their next pilgrimage to Rome and Medjugorje. Since then, she has been working with Totally Yours, leading pilgrimages.

"And when I see what God did in my life, I feel so close with Mary Magdalene. You know, God can take the worst sinners, murderer that I thought that I was, and through prayers, my family never, never stopped praying. **Never stop praying for your children!** He can turn your life around. I've been blessed to be able to see the Blessed Mother work through a company and through Mr. Murphy's example – the Blessed Mother's little simple school of faith. And I see someone as an example, and I think, 'I can do it, too.' I can learn to fast. It's not easy."

"We are here in Medjugorje today and we're staying at Mirjana's, and one of the pilgrims asked her a question. She said, 'Does the Blessed Mother ever cry?' She said, 'If you could see the tears that our Blessed Mother has, you would fast. You would live the five messages. You would go to Confession. You would pray. You would go to Holy Mass. You would read the Bible. Fasting was hard for me, but I see the Blessed Mother. I see Her tears.'"

"You know, I went from drug addict, suicidal person to... really my life is leading pilgrimages now. I'm working with Totally Yours. And Totus Tuus – to Jesus through Mary! Thank you. Praise Jesus!"

"I want to add that this book (holding it up), *Preparation for Total Consecration*, by St. Louis de Monfort, changed my life. It's a total consecration to our Blessed Mother ... I encourage everybody to consecrate yourself to the Blessed Mother. Consecrate your children. Consecrate your life. Join Our Lady's simple school of faith by living Her five stones of spirituality. She really helps you get to Jesus. Thank you.

*Editor's note: As I began transcribing Linda's testimony, I noticed that the bells in Medjugorje were ringing to alert the villagers that someone had died there. I found it interesting that they continued to ring until the part when Linda talked about her confession experience! [Information for Totally Yours pilgrimages is at <https://totallyyourspilgrimages.com>.]*



Linda at the tomb of Lazarus in the Holy Land

# Our Lady Has a Plan

*Introductory remarks by Cathy Nolan: Yesterday's homily was so precious I could not hold back from sharing it today in written form! (Thanks to Stephanie for transcribing it so quickly and so well!!)*

*English Homily in Medjugorje Wednesday, October 30, 2019 by Fr. Philip Kemmy:*

The question is put to Jesus: Will only a few people be saved? And I think, we hear that question and we'd like Jesus to give a clear answer. Give us percentages so that we might know what our chances are. If he says, well, 90% will be saved; we'll say, "Oh well, I have a reasonably good chance." If he says, "10% will be saved," we're thinking, "Oh, I need to up my game here."

But Jesus doesn't give facts and figures and percentages. He gives no direct answer. But He does give some clear advice: "Strive to enter through the narrow gate." Elsewhere in the gospels, Jesus speaks of the narrow path or the narrow road. And this idea of the narrow gate, or the narrow road, in the other gospels, it goes against a trend with many in the Church these days who seem to think that the only thing one has to do to enter Heaven is to die – and maybe not be Hitler or Stalin. The only qualification for Heaven in the minds of many is, "I take my final breath". And that is not the case.

Salvation is not something automatic. It is indeed a free gift given to us by our Savior. It is His desire. But it is a gift that we have to reach out and take hold of. St. Augustine said something like: God made you without your cooperation, but he will not save you without your cooperation.

During the summer I was on retreat, and one night I had a very strange dream. And in the dream, I dreamt that I was a technician for NASA. I wasn't the astronaut. As you can see, I wouldn't really be qualified to be the astronaut. So in my dream, I was one of the technicians. And I was in the space shuttle. There were several astronauts there. And the main engineer was coming in with his checklist, his manifesto, making sure we were ready for take-off. And in the dream, he's looking around the inside of the space shuttle, and he realizes that the astronauts have brought bags of stuff with them... the food they like from home, things that remind them of home, some little comforts here and there, bags of stuff... over in one corner of the shuttle.

And the engineer looks at his page and he looks at all of this stuff, and he says, "What is this doing here?" And the astronauts said to him, "Well, we just, we want to take some stuff with us." He said, "You don't, you can't take these things with you. Don't you realize that I have measured everything perfectly? Every weight of this space shuttle is measured. And all of this stuff is going to put my measurements way off track. So, if we launch with all of this stuff – at best, we're not going to land where we intend. At worst, we're going to crash land. We need to get rid of this stuff."

So he instructs me. And he and I start taking these bags of things, open the shuttle door, and throw them out. And the astronauts are protesting. They're very, very annoyed. And he keeps saying to them, "But you can't fly with this. You

cannot take off with this."

And then I woke up. And I thought, "What a strange dream!" And because I was on retreat, before breakfast, off I went to do my holy hour. And in the holy hour, I'm thinking, I'm dreaming about being an astronaut. Well, not quite an astronaut but, for NASA; what was that? And as clear as day, the thought came to me: Meticulous planning of the minutest detail is needed to get to the moon. But, how few there are, who have any plan whatsoever for the journey to Heaven. We know that we have to plan for so many other things. And yet, we can be sometimes very haphazard about our ultimate destination.

And I think that seeing so many have, it seems, little or no plan, Our Lady has come to give Her plan, Her project. They're often called, Our Lady's Five Stones, or her Five-Point Plan: (1) Praying the Rosary with the heart, (2) Holy Mass, (3) The Bible, reading Scripture daily, (4) Monthly Confession, and (5) Fasting.

These five points will keep us on track. Prayer will keep our hearts' desires fixed on that narrow gate. The Holy Mass will keep our souls, as it were, loitering at that narrow gate, because at every Mass, whether you know it or not, you dip your toe into eternity. We are in Heaven right now. The daily Scripture will help our eyes focus on that gate. Fasting will stir up a hunger, a longing to enter that gate. And Confession will help keep us humble and small enough to eventually be able to enter that gate. That's Our Mother's plan, and it's a good one.

Will only a few be saved, Lord? We are not given the answer to that question in numbers and percentages. But the answer to that question becomes utterly irrelevant to me if I, myself, am not one of those who are saved. If I'm not saved, it will not matter whether 99% are saved, or whether 9% are saved. It won't matter. I'm not saved.

So what's our plan? Meticulous planning of the minutest detail is needed to get to the moon. How few there are who have any plan at all for the journey to Heaven. Our Lady has a plan. It's a good one. Let's start following it.

And then, we will be ready whenever the final call comes. Whether it be today. Whether it be in 10, 20 years' time from now. Whenever we are called to that narrow gate, we'll be ready. We'll have no excess baggage. And we'll joyfully enter into the salvation Christ Jesus won for us. It is important for us to get ahead in life. But it is more important that we enter eternal life with God forever. Let us always, daily, fix our attention on that. And we'll not go too far astray.

*www.marytv.tv*



*Fr. Kemmy*

## Thank You!

As of December 25, 2019, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 28,625. Thank you! What a wonderful New Year's resolution this would be to have a Mass said in 2020 for Our Lady's intentions.

# The “Interrupters”

By Sr. Emmanuel

A few pilgrims traveled to Tihaljina (30 minutes from Medjugorje) to pray before the famous miraculous statue of the Blessed Mother. For many people, this statue is the emblem of Medjugorje, however it was offered to this church before the apparitions took place in Medjugorje.

After prayer, a pilgrim asked my Spanish friend, Teresa, to take a picture in front of the statue to immortalize this blessed moment. Once the picture was taken, a man knelt before the statue and, with his head in his hands, began to pray with fervor. The pilgrim, seeing that the photo was beautiful, asked Teresa to take another one. But Teresa told her to wait so as not to interrupt the man praying. This prayer went on and on, for more than 20 minutes, so the pilgrim became impatient and said out loud: “Well, no point in waiting any longer for the photo, let’s go!” The man, hearing this remark apologized and got up to give her some room. A new picture was taken. But when Teresa saw this second picture, she was in for a surprise! The sweet face of Mary had changed. She expressed a silent reproach, clearly visible in her eyes and her mouth. The pilgrim understood the message: She should never have interrupted the man’s prayer for a photo!

When she was just 6 years old, St Catherine of Sienna was playing outside with her little brother. Suddenly the Lord Jesus appeared to her, seated on the chair of Peter and dressed in pontifical clothes. Fascinated by this apparition, little Catherine was absorbed by God who was speaking to her and was already preparing her for her great mission in the Church, close to the papacy. This conversation lasted for some minutes when the little boy, impatient to continue playing, drew her out of her contemplation. She turned around and scolded him, but when she returned to her prayer and looked again in the direction of the apparition, Jesus was gone! This plunged her into deep sadness. Jesus himself would undoubtedly have liked to continue His

dialogue with her... But the distraction had ended this moment of divine intimacy.

How often does the same scene occur in our churches! Too few people really pray with their heart. So should we not in fact rejoice to see others immersed in a relationship with God? Who knows what is going on between God and a soul? Who knows if God has not planned to give a specific grace to His child at that moment? Who are we to interrupt an intimate dialogue between God and a soul? This dialogue is sacred. Of course, in the event of an emergency, we have to interrupt them, but that does not happen at every Mass!

One day, I was praying after Holy Communion with my head in my hands. Someone patted me on the shoulder and asked me, “Are you Sister Emmanuel?” I must confess that I was not very kind, because I said, “It doesn’t matter who I am, but the one I’m trying to talk to is Jesus!” I quickly repented of my reaction because the person must surely have been hurt. So now, whenever this happens, I say: “Yes, we will speak to each other, but please let me first finish speaking with Jesus who is in my heart! Besides, He is also in your heart, why not give Him another 10 minutes of your time to talk to Him?” The fruits are excellent! One day, a group of eight pilgrims came to interrupt me; so I exhorted them to pray for a few more minutes in silence. All of them did so willingly, and they were so blessed that after 10 minutes, they no longer wanted to leave the church!

*[www.childrenofmedjugorje.com](http://www.childrenofmedjugorje.com), Children of Medjugorje, February 2019 report*



Statue in Tihaljina

## Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for January

### Promotion of World Peace:

We pray that Christians, followers of other religions, and all people of goodwill may promote peace and justice in the world.



## December 2, 2019 Message Through Mirjana

*“Dear children, as I am looking at you who love my Son, my heart is being filled with tenderness. I am blessing you with a motherly blessing. With a motherly blessing, I am also blessing your shepherds – you who speak the words of my Son, who bless with His hands and who love Him so much that you are ready to make every sacrifice for Him with joy. You are following Him, who was the first shepherd, the first missionary. My children, apostles of my love, to live and work for others, for all those whom you love through my Son, is the joy and comfort of earthly life. If through prayer, love and sacrifice the Kingdom of God is in your hearts, then your life is joyful and bright. Among those who love my Son and who love each other through Him, words are not necessary. A gaze is sufficient for the unspoken words and unexpressed feelings to be heard. There where love reigns, time no longer counts. We are with you. My Son knows you and loves you. Love is that which brings you to me and through that love I will come to you and speak to you of the works of salvation. I desire for all of my children to have faith and to feel my motherly love which leads them to Jesus. Therefore, you, my children, wherever you go, illuminate with love and faith as apostles of love. Thank you.”*

*Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Carol Bleck, Mary Spaeder, Pat Berrier, Diane Niebauer, Marge Burchard, Sue Taccone, Joan Peterson, Chris Falk, Barb Sirianni, Rose Heintzel, Peggy Chludzinski, Cindy Bielani, Peggy Smith, Darleen Wilkinson, Louise Lotze, Barb Cesare, Marge Spase, Georgia Chludzinski, Dianne Yochim, Irene and Dan Zuba, Kathy Luschini, Kathy Wayman, Laura DiBacco and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the December mailing. We thank Louise Lotze and Susannah Klins 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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