



# THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE

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**SUBSCRIPTION RATE - FREE WILL OFFERING - PLEASE SEE PAGE 8**

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

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## CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF MAY 25, 2014

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.

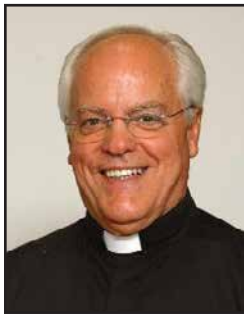


*The statue pictured above is displayed on the outside altar of St. James Church in Medjugorje. This statue is promoted by the parish as the official depiction of Our Lady Queen of Peace. On June 25, we will celebrate the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions. How do we begin to thank Our Lady for this grace?*

**"Dear children! Pray and be aware that without God you are dust. Therefore, turn your thoughts and heart to God and to prayer. Trust in His love. In God's spirit, little children, you are all called to be witnesses. You are precious and I call you, little children, to holiness, to eternal life. Therefore, be aware that this life is passing. I love you and call you to a new life of conversion. Thank you for having responded to my call."**

# The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

By Fr. Bill Kiel



Fr. Bill Kiel

The celebration of these two special days in the liturgical calendar are June 27 and 28, respectively, this year. The devotion to these days brings us

to an awareness of the significance of the hearts of Jesus and Mary. Usually the heart of Jesus is depicted with a crown of thorns around it,

and the heart of Mary is surrounded with seven wounds or swords, or seven roses or another kind of flower. The name Immaculate Heart refers to the interior life of our Blessed Mother, Her joys, sorrows, virtues, Her love for God the Father, Her love for Her Son and Her love for all people. We are asked to *offer all of our joys and sorrows to Her Immaculate Heart so She may lead us to Her beloved Son in whom we may find joy in His Heart.*

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is guided in Jesus' overflowing love for all people; the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the love of Her heart for Jesus and God the Father. If we unite ourselves to Mary's heart and imitate Her love for the Father and Son, many people will find a stronger love for Them. Father Slavko stated in one of his talks, *"It is normal that we respond to those who give us their trust and who love us. We also will only become ready to convert when we believe in the love of God. For whoever has fear of God cannot convert, because conversion really means going forward and then meeting with God."* He also said, *"The conditions for our conversion and renewal will become our love for the Heart of Jesus."* Trust in our Blessed Mother may be slightly easier

to attain since we "trust" mothers in our everyday living. Building a prayer life and trust in Our Lady, hopefully, will build a trust in Her Son, and our ongoing conversion will deepen.



Sacred Heart statue at the "castle" (retreat house) in Medjugorje

Our Blessed Mother reminds us *She has great love for us and calls us closer to Her Immaculate Heart so She can draw us closer to Her Son Jesus, and that can give us peace and love which nourishes each of us. Our love towards Her Immaculate Heart should grow more fervent, and we will be led through Her Heart to the Heart of Jesus, which still suffers for us and calls us to conversion and renewal.*

We should consider what is asked in consecrating ourselves to the Immaculate Heart, and thus all belong to God through Her Heart. Also, remember the Blessed Mother does not want anything for Herself, rather for the salvation of our souls.

As I look at the pictures of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, these same pictures hung in "the boys' bedroom" when we were guided in our faith life by our earthly mother, I understand more deeply why those pictures were important to my parents and what my mother was trying to convey to us through the Hearts of our Mother and her Son. Thank you, Lord, for the gift of Faith.

## Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis for June

**Unemployed:** That the unemployed may receive support and find the work they need to live in dignity.

**Faith in Europe:** That Europe may rediscover its Christian roots through the witness of believers.



## Message through Mirjana on May 2, 2014

*According to Rosie of Marytv.tv, there were 30,000-40,000 people present for Mirjana's apparition. People were even on the rooftops and in the trees!*

Dear children! I, your mother, am with you for the sake of your well-being, for the sake of your needs and for the sake of your personal cognition. The Heavenly Father gave you the freedom to decide on your own and to become cognizant on your own. I desire to help you. I desire to be a mother to you, a teacher of the truth - so that in the simplicity of an open heart, you may become cognizant of the immeasurable purity and of the light which comes from it and shatters darkness, the light which brings hope. I, my children, understand your pain and suffering. Who could understand you better than a mother? And you, my children? Small is the number of those who understand and follow me. Great is the number of those who are lost - of those who have not yet become cognizant of the truth in my Son. Therefore, my apostles, pray and act. Bring the light and do not lose hope. I am with you. In a special way I am with your shepherds. With a motherly heart I love and protect them, because they lead you to Heaven that was promised to you by my Son. Thank you.

*We thank Sue Taccone, Dianne Yochim, Marge Spase, Annette Ratajczak, Vickie DeCoursey, Lore Blair, Jean Heid, Cindy Bielanin, Celeste Migneault, and Diane Niebauer for their help with the April mailing. We thank Wendy Ripple for the use of her photos. And as always, we thank Pat Berrier, our proofreader, and Jason Klins, our webmaster.*



# Pray the Rosary

By Cathy Nolan

Twenty five years ago, Marija asked Our Lady this question, "Our Lady, what do you wish to recommend to priests?" The answer: "Pray the Rosary. Dedicate time to the Rosary!!!"

This same Marija spoke to us on November 15, 2012 [at Notre Dame University], and shared about the early days of the apparitions, and how Our Lady taught the visionaries to pray the Rosary. Here are her words (I tried to carefully transcribe Marija's remarkable English!):

"In the first days, our program became every day more big, more large, more prayer. Every day we celebrated Holy Mass like Christmas Day, with long sermons, with long prayers, with joyful songs, because we were so happy that Our Lady is with us. And when She asked something of us, we answered immediately. Our joy became the joy like when a baby is happy. Day by day, we became more in love with Our Lady and She became more in love with us.

"And She said She was coming in Medjugorje with the name of Queen of Peace, because man is not happy without peace in the heart. And Our Lady said there are many people who do not have peace in the heart, peace in the family, peace in work. So Our Lady asked us to pray for God's peace, in the heart, in our family, in our nation, in the whole world, because through prayer, peace comes over every one of us.

"This is the way we began to pray. And our prayer in the beginning was so little. We knew little prayers. But with big joy and our whole heart we prayed. And Our Lady began to give us messages. She said, 'Pray with the heart. Pray, and when you pray, prayer will become a joy for you.' And we, especially we visionaries – Mirjana, Jakov, Ivan, Vicka, Ivanka – we tried every day to say thank you to God for the presence of Our Lady among us. And every day we prayed more – more Our Fathers....more Hail Marys....more Glory Bes, because these prayers we knew.

"The Rosary we didn't know. But Our Lady said one day, 'The most beautiful prayer to pray is the Rosary. When you pray the Rosary, your heart is opened. And in response, I will pray to my Son Jesus for you. And I will give you grace.' So we began to learn the Rosary, the mysteries – in the beginning, the Joyful mysteries and after, the Sorrowful and after, the Glorious.

"Pope John Paul II, who is Totus Tuus, who was the Holy Father (who was our Holy Father when we were young at the beginning of the apparitions of Our Lady), sent his Rosary to us, and he sent a message through the priests and bishop, saying, 'I am with you on this day, and you pray for me when you are with Our Lady.' And we know that the Holy Father, John Paul II is so strong! And many times when we would hear Our Lady speak, the Holy Father would be speaking the same thing!"

How beautiful! Marija admits that she didn't know the Rosary when Our Lady first appeared. But, little by little, Our Lady led them to begin to pray. First they prayed "little" prayers – Our Fathers, Hail Marys

and Glory Bes. But then She moved them into the Rosary. And not only did She encourage them to pray the Rosary, but Blessed [now St.] John Paul II also asked them to pray the Rosary, by sending them his own rosary! What a confirmation – the Pope and Our Lady both requesting the prayer of the Rosary from the visionaries!

I am amazed that Blessed [St.] John Paul would send them his Rosary and ask them to pray for him to Our Lady when She came to them. That is incredible! Truly incredible!

And it is amazing that the very things Our Lady would speak to the visionaries about would be the things that Blessed [St.] John Paul II would speak about to the Church. The Holy Spirit was speaking through these two clear and pure channels to us, speaking words of healing, of truth, of hope and of love. Incredible!!!

[www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv)



Rosaries beads for sale in Medjugorje

## Advice from Pope Francis

By June Klins

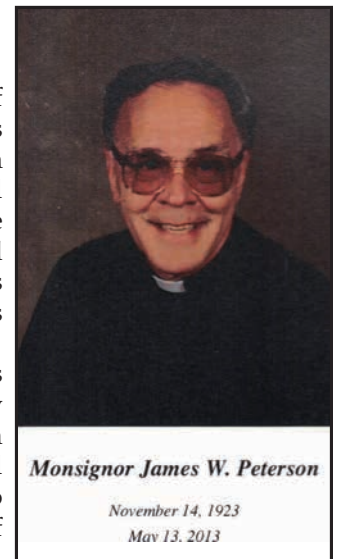
Last month, for the first time ever, I had a writer's/editor's block. I may have also been a little saddened after reading the message of May 2, when Our Lady said, "*Great is the number of those who are lost.*" Usually after I go to Confession, the newsletter all comes together, but that did not happen this time.

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, I went to a Memorial Mass for our late spiritual advisor, Msgr. James Peterson. (It's hard to believe it had already been a year since his entry into Eternal Life.) I prayed for his help, and after the Mass, one of our subscribers who was at the Mass prayed over me. That evening it began to finally come together.

Two days later, I read that Pope Francis said, "At times we are tempted by idleness or we are discouraged, especially when faced with the burdens and trials of life. In these cases, we must not lose heart, but must instead invoke the

Holy Spirit, so that the gift of fortitude might lift our hearts and transmit new strength and enthusiasm to our life and to our following of Jesus." He also quoted the apostle Paul who said, "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

As we celebrate Pentecost this month and the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Medjugorje, may we ALL heed the advice of Pope Francis to spread Our Lady's messages of hope.



**Monsignor James W. Peterson**

November 14, 1923

May 13, 2013

# Kiera's Miracle

By Cathy Chirdon

My family and I were devastated four years ago when our nine year-old granddaughter, Kiera, was diagnosed with stage-4 Epithelioid sarcoma – a very rare cancer causing tumors with finger-like extensions. She had a tumor in her sacrum (bottom) area, the size of a man's fist that had finger-like extensions to other areas. A surgeon in Pittsburgh could not remove the entire tumor because of where the extensions were. Pittsburgh had never seen this type of cancer, so we went to Philadelphia. We were told that there was nothing that could be done – radiation and chemotherapy would not work. The only cure was to remove the entire tumor. Because of where Kiera's tumor was, it would be a very radical surgery, having to remove her buttocks and maybe more. It would be too painful and most likely that area would not heal. We didn't want to just give up, so the oncologist said she would do another scan in a few months.

Meanwhile, everyone was praying. Kiera's name spread like wild fire. We received so many holy items and Masses. Kiera's picture was taken to the Holy Land, Medjugorje, and Rome.

My friend, Joann, told me about Fr. Bill Kiel. Her mother had been to his Healing Mass in Indiana, PA, and was healed from kidney cancer. Fr. Kiel met with us privately and blessed us all, and we went to his Healing Mass several times. After my first Healing Mass and resting in the Spirit for the first time, I had felt peace for the first time since Kiera was diagnosed. Kiera also rested in the spirit.

When Kiera had her scan, the surgeon said that surgery would be doable, but would have to have a plastic surgeon available. However, they found a nodule on Kiera's lung, and she had to have a biopsy. After her biopsy, the first thing Kiera said was, "Nana, I just felt the Blessed Mother kiss me on my forehead." The biopsy was negative – a miracle! The oncologist was sure that the cancer had spread to her lungs. If it had, no surgery would have been performed.

We kept going to Fr. Kiel's Healing Masses and to a local church, St. Francis Night of Worship, where the Franciscan's brothers prayed for her. Fr. Kiel had gone to Medjugorje where he said Mass for Kiera and brought her back 100 rosaries and medals. Kiera enjoyed giving these to everyone.

Kiera had to have a colostomy before her major surgery, then in a few weeks she would have the surgery. A week before her surgery, we got a call that her surgeon had to have back surgery. We had the choice of having another surgeon or to wait until Kiera's surgeon returned. We thought God must have a reason for this. We would wait because he was the best surgeon. Because her surgery was delayed by another six weeks, she had to have another scan. The surgeon was surprised to see that the tumor and its extensions were much, much less, and a plastic

surgeon would not be needed. The surgeon said he did not understand how it could be better. I told him it was God, and he wouldn't believe how many people were praying for her. She had her surgery while everyone was praying for her, and the surgeon got clean borders – a miracle! Kiera healed miraculously well with no problems at all. She was back in school a week after her surgery. If her surgeon wouldn't have had surgery himself, Kiera's surgery would have been much more radical.

A year later, Kiera had her colostomy reversed. During all of this, we were blessed to meet so many amazing people. And of course, God had already blessed us with our wonderful family and friends, and co-workers. We had so many God-winks.

Then, in October, 2011, Kiera felt a tiny lump in her chest that started to grow. A biopsy showed it was the same cancer. Her oncologist said surgery was not possible due to the tumor's finger-like extensions down around her ribs. Of course, we confirmed it with a second opinion. No surgery or chemo could be done. I thought, "Why did God take

away His miracle?" That is when our wonderful friend, Debbie, said we should go to Medjugorje.

In January of 2012, we went to Medjugorje. The visionary Vicka had been too ill to be speaking in public, but she began speaking the week before Kiera arrived. Vicka held Kiera in her arms and prayed for her. She told her that there is nothing to fear. Kiera said that she knows that, and that she is in a win-win situation. She wins if she goes to Heaven and she wins if she stays here. Vicka said our Blessed Mother took her to Heaven, and Heaven is the most joyful place we could ever imagine.

While climbing Cross Mountain, we first saw the Miracle of the Sun. At another location, Kiera captured this miracle on her phone, which the rest of us could not capture. You can see her video on YouTube (Video of Pulsating Sun from Medjugorje). My husband, Bob, saw a hand above the Cross as he was praying. At the Risen Christ statue, tears drip out of the leg; but every time Kiera touched it, they flowed (not drip). Fr. Kevin Devine said Mass for her and treated her like an angel. We met so many amazing people and friends for life. We all had such a peace that is hard to explain. We didn't want to leave and cried as we drove away.

Kiera's care was transferred back to Pittsburgh, so she would be closer for palliative care. She was in a clinical trial in the summer of 2012, which failed, and the tumor grew. She also developed tumor lesions and fistulas in her original tumor site on her bottom. She was in extreme pain.

Our friends, Anita and Nancy, who we met at Fr. Kiel's, were going to Medjugorje in November, 2012, with Fr. Kiel. They felt that Kiera HAD to go back to Medjugorje. They

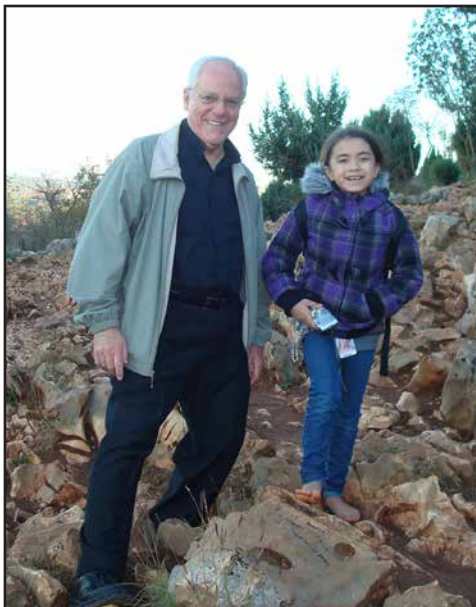


*Kiera with visionary Vicka*



were leaving in three weeks, and I said we just couldn't afford to go again so soon. They said not to worry about the money. Special anonymous Earth angels donated money to pay for Kiera and her father, Dan (my son), to go. There just happened to be room on the plane and in the hotel. Also, I found out later that they were short \$500, and a man from Massachusetts we never even met, who couldn't make his trip with the same travel company that we were with, wanted to use his refund toward a child going to Medjugorje. He knew nothing about Kiera, but the agent at the travel company did. Just so happens that he has a granddaughter whose name is Kiera - spelled the same. So, November 6, 2012, we were so blessed to go back to Medjugorje, which was Kiera's wish. Kiera climbed Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain in her bare feet all the way to the top and back. Fr. Kiel blessed Kiera from a puddle of water between the statue of Our Blessed Mother and the Crucifix, making a Sign of the Cross over her tumor in her chest. Kiera said that she felt Jesus and Mary were with her, and that evening she said she thought the tumor was shrinking. So many more God-winks, blessings, and peace in Medjugorje!

In December, Kiera went for her check-up, and her bottom area was as the doctor said, "Amazingly better." She no longer had pain in this area, and she had put on 10 pounds. Her tumor in her chest was still there, but not giving her as much pain as before. Her oncologist decided it wouldn't hurt to try radiation on her chest; although, it had been proven that radiation does not work on this type of tumor. Over Christmas, she had radiation and then again the end of January. When we went for Kiera's checkup in August, 2013, no tumor could be felt. Her oncologist said it is unexplainable and is miraculous! He said she is his third miracle since he became a doctor. He said there was no way that radiation



*Kiera with Fr. Bill Kiel*

would have shrunk it. Also, when Kiera had an echocardiogram, I had the technician place the ultrasound over the tumor site, and he could not detect any tumor. Miracle! Kiera just had her six-month checkup on Good Friday, April 18th [2014], and her oncologist still says it's a miracle!

If it hadn't been for Kiera's illness, we would not have become closer to God, met so many amazing people, and been blessed with so many new friends. Kiera has made so many people more faithful. Kiera told me when the cancer had come back to not be sad; she couldn't wait to meet God, and that we would be together soon because our time here on Earth is like a blink of God's eye. We never gave up hope and praying, but also accepted God's will and peace. Most important of all is for us to be in Heaven with Our Lord! Maybe Kiera's

illness has saved some souls.

Before Kiera's illness, I always thanked God, but didn't really praise Him. I always went to church, but hadn't made God the center of my life. I knew of the Holy Spirit, but didn't KNOW the Holy Spirit like I do now. I now know the power of the Rosary and fasting, and read God's Word, the Bible. So I have to thank God for Kiera's illness because it brought me and others closer to God. Kiera is God's gift to us – she is God's. I know there is a God because how else can we have a heart that can love others so much. Thank you, my wonderful Blessed Mother, all my angels, saints, loved ones in Heaven and on Earth for your prayers. Thank you, God The Father! Thank you, Jesus! Thank you, Holy Spirit! If you are reading this, please give thanks for me.

Remember to always give thanks and praise to God; prayer is very powerful. Nothing is impossible with God. Jesus, I trust in You!

*Editor's note: Cathy is from Dysart, PA.*

## A Contradiction?

*The following is an excerpt from a talk by Fr. Slavko Barbaric on September 6, 1983.*

A theologian who was here [in Medjugorje] ... said, "In the text [could be any number of texts] Our Lady reprimands us, then She says, 'I thank you for responding to my call.' It is impossible, Father, this is a contradiction." I replied, "Be careful, in the words of a mother, you can always find contradictions. The moment She reproaches, She also invites and gives at the same time." ... She wants to educate us. And this, it seems to me, is a very important thing. Our Lady is showing Herself to be a Mother, a friend of the visionaries. They meet, they talk, they touch Her, they see Her in three dimensions. She leads them, and through them, She also

leads us. She is close. One loses one's fears. She is here and we have become used to it.

This is the structure of the messages where Our Lady shows Herself as Mother, as Teacher, as someone who knows how to talk, and by talking, how to educate. In these messages, She thanks people for all their prayers. It is nice to hear that. I do not know who has been praying – anyway Our Lady sees, hears and thanks...

But look how the Mother says, "Thank you" and, at the same time, "Pray even more." Just like a mother saying to her son, "You have been very good today," and at the same time she says, "I hope, however, that tomorrow you will be better still." Our Lady does the same.

Our patron saint this year, St. Jerome, has more of a connection to Medjugorje than previously thought. He was born Eusebius Sophronius Hieronymus around the year 340 in Stridonius in what is now **BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA!** We ask St. Jerome's intercession for the flood victims there (which have not affected Medjugorje).

# Healed of Depression

By Sr. Emmanuel

A French nun shared a grace she received last June (a little time was needed before we could publish it). Sr. David, 48, belongs to a teaching Order. She fell into a severe depression due to overworking. While convalescing in her sister's house, and in spite of proper medical treatment, she suffered from cruel torments and felt inwardly that she wasn't worthy of the religious life. She thought she had made a mess of her life and was no longer good for anything. However, she wouldn't quit praying, and called upon Jesus and Mary more than ever to help her. On June 20, Aline, a relative, visited her before going to Medjugorje. Seeing her suffering, she shared with her about the graces that Heaven was pouring forth there, and suggested that she write the Gospa a letter which she would take there. That same evening, the letter was written. Sr. David expressed her torments to Mary, the sorrows and all the "whys" that were torturing her. "I emptied my heart to Her..." she confided to us, "and I had an immense confidence that through Her motherly love, Our Lady would help me."

In Medjugorje, Aline, of course, prayed very hard and she took advantage of a meeting with Vicka to pass on the precious letter to her. This happened on the morning of June 26. For her part, the Sister followed the whole pilgrimage in spirit, without knowing anything about the places and the program. One morning, she felt that the torments were lessening and that life was returning little by little. She clearly experienced a turning point. The obsession of having failed in life left her. When Aline returned and told her about her pilgrimage, both of them realized that the improvement began precisely on the day when the letter was left for

Our Lady with Vicka, in spite of the gloomy medical prognosis. What a wonderful present for Sr. David!

Seven months later, she can witness: "I only retain from all that, the positive fruit of a much greater intimacy with Our Lady and Her Son and since then, the prayer of the Magnificat always sings in my heart and joy never ceases flowing. How amazing!!! Every evening, I join with the parish of Medjugorje in praying the Sevens" (7 times Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. This is an old Franciscan tradition used very much in Medjugorje).

We asked her, "What would you say to those who suffer the way you have suffered?" "Medical help is important," she replied, "but what saved me was complete trust in God and Mary's maternal help, and I never let up in my prayer!"

In sharing her testimony Sr. David does not pretend to give a "miraculous way to cure depression" since God has a special way to lead each person. But confidence in God's goodness is always a source of great graces. "We obtain from God as much as we hope from Him," said the Little Flower (of Lisieux).

*Children of Medjugorje, [www.childrenofmedjugorje.com](http://www.childrenofmedjugorje.com), February 1, 1999 report*

*Editor's note: I recently heard on Catholic radio that when one is constantly thinking negatively, it can burn a path in the brain (like a path through the woods) and there is a tendency to always follow it. The suggestion is to start a **new path in the brain**, and one way would be with an uplifting verse from Scripture (for example, "Let not your heart be troubled..."). Repeat that verse every time a negative thought comes up, so to burn a new path in the brain - a path that leads to peace, like the one on Apparition Hill!*

## Medjugorje Rosary of Peace

By June Klins

Last month, one of our subscribers questioned me about a little chaplet from Medjugorje that her granddaughter owned that had seven sets of three beads each and one extra bead. She wondered how to pray with this chaplet. On that same day, another subscriber from a different state called and asked me the same question after describing the same type of chaplet! I had mistakenly assumed everyone knew about this chaplet, because we have written about it several times. It seems it might be time for a refresher.

Known as the prayer of "7, 7, 7" or the "Sevens," this prayer was prayed by the people of Croatia and Herzegovina for a hundred years. The prayer was very simple. It just consisted of praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be seven times. On the third day of the apparitions, in June of 1981, the visionaries began to pray that prayer, and Our Lady asked them to add the Creed.

According to Draga Vidovic, a friend of the visionaries who wrote the book, *Salvation of Mankind*, when the prayer program in the church started, the visionaries and the

congregation used to say that prayer before the apparition and again after the Mass. After a couple of years, when they were no longer allowed to have the apparitions in the church, the priests continued to pray the Sevens after every Mass. Pilgrims began to call that prayer the "Medjugorje Rosary of Peace," or "The Medjugorje Peace Chaplet." The tradition continues today in Medjugorje.

In her talk on June 24, 2013, to Medjugorje pilgrims, visionary Marija said, "We all know that in the Church of St. James in Medjugorje, every evening after Mass, we pray the Creed, seven Our Fathers, seven Hail Marys and seven Glory Bes. Why do we do it? We do it in thanksgiving to the Queen of Peace. Today, in a special way, we can say with all our hearts, we can really say to Our Lady, 'Thank you!' And what we do every evening here after Holy Mass? All the people who know about this prayer, they stay and straight away they kneel down, and they gladly stay for a few extra minutes to say this prayer in order to give thanksgiving to Our Lady."



*Medjugorje peace chaplet*



# Nothing to Fear

By June Klins

A friend called me one day and was very upset because she got in an argument with a man who was telling her about a visionary (not from Medjugorje) who prophesies doom and gloom. He kept calling her back, telling her it was important to know this information. My friend said this greatly disturbed her peace. I told her that Our Lady of Medjugorje comes, as Ivan says, as "the Mother of Hope" and does not instill fear. I later shared some excerpts from our book, *The Best of "The Spirit of Medjugorje," Volume 1* to prove my point. Here are some of the excerpts I shared:

In a question and answer period with Mirjana on 3/12/97, Mirjana was asked the question: "Some people are storing food and water for the future. Should we?" Mirjana's response was: "No, of course not. Whoever believes in God should not be afraid. There is no fear. We have to trust in God's love with an open heart. We have to wait to see what the day will bring for us. Those who don't have peace in their own hearts, they are afraid. I cannot understand why we talk about the future when

*we don't know what can happen tonight to us. Is there anyone of us here that can say that they will live tomorrow? We have to be ready every moment to go to God, and not to have the cellars full of food and water."*

Ivanka was questioned on 6/6/96, "Has the Blessed Virgin said anything about chastisements or the Second Coming of Christ?" Ivanka replied, "Our Lady never said anything about chastisements in Medjugorje. These signs will lead you to pray. Pray for conversion, and by praying for conversion for others, we also purify ourselves. By purifying ourselves, we are preparing ourselves to meet Christ."

Ivan said in a talk in October of 1996, "Today people are talking about terrible things that will happen in the world, 'the three days of darkness.' I would like to have you understand one thing that I'm going to tell you. Our Lady did not come to us to bring us terror. She's not coming to bring us darkness. She's coming to us as a Mother of Light and the Mother of Hope. She's coming to bring us hope, to teach us."

## A Very Special Medal

By Alicia Italiani

Several months ago, I wrote a letter to Pope Francis asking his blessing and prayer for my family and for myself. I have a devotion to Our Lady of Medjugorje, and I understand that whether the alleged apparitions in Medjugorje are approved or not, that prayer and fasting and any devotion to the Blessed Mother is good and pleasing to God. But I still felt like I needed to know if it was OK to follow those particular messages (just because there's been so much confusion regarding the devotion within the Church).

On May 6, I received a response back – coincidentally the same day I had requested special Masses through Fr. Hampsch with the Claretian ministries for Healing of my Family Tree (Generational Healing). The response was from the Papal Nuncio to the United States from Pope Francis. Included in the envelope were a medal from Medjugorje, a medal of St. Michael the Archangel and two holy cards – one with a picture of Pope Francis and the other a picture of St. Francis with his prayer for peace (Make me a channel of Your Peace...). The note said that **the medals were blessed by Pope Francis!** I felt so comforted and I just wanted to share the story.

*Editor's note: Alicia is from Erie, PA. Please note that Alicia did not misspell Medjugorje. That is the way it is spelled in Medjugorje, and that is the spelling on her medal. Although we do not want to preclude any judgment by the Church regarding Medjugorje, we*



*did find this story interesting. What was also interesting is that the postmark on the envelope is May 2 – the day that Our Lady appears to Mirjana to pray for unbelievers. I felt prompted to look up the Mass readings for that day and was not surprised at all when I saw that the first reading was from Acts 5, which included the words, "For if this endeavor or this activity is of human origin, it will destroy itself. But if it comes from God, you will not be able to destroy them; you may even find yourselves fighting against God" (Acts 5:38-39).*

**A big thank you** to all our faithful subscribers who have renewed their subscriptions this year. We are in our 27th year of publishing this newsletter only because of you and the grace of God! We also thank all those who have had Masses said for Our Lady's intentions. 8,829 Masses have been reported as of May 25, 2014.

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## MARY IS CALLING YOU

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

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

The Blessed Mother is confiding ten secrets to each visionary (some are chastisements for the world) and promises to leave a visible sign at the place of the apparitions in Medjugorje for all

humanity. This time, this period of grace, is for CONVERSION and a DEEPENING OF FAITH. After the visible sign, those still living will have little time for conversion.

The Blessed Mother invites us to PRAYER and FASTING and PEACE. "You have forgotten that with prayer and fasting you can stop a war from happening. You can suspend natural laws."

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

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



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