

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

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

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

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## **CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF MAY 25, 2015**

**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.**

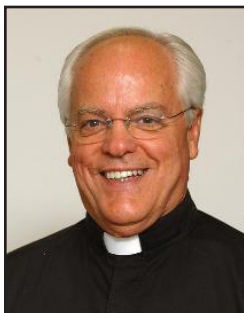


*The statue pictured above stands on Apparition Hill. It was a gift in 2001 from a Korean family whose son was healed in Medjugorje. In March of this year, the statue was damaged when the little finger of the extended hand was broken off, but was repaired the first week of May. On June 25, we will celebrate the 34th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions in Medjugorje. We thank Our Lady for being so patient with us. What can we do for Her in return? Hopefully, this issue will give you some ideas.*

**"Dear children! Also today I am with you and with joy I call all of you: pray and believe in the power of prayer. Open your hearts, little children, so that God may fill you with His love and you will be a joy to others. Your witness will be powerful and everything you do will be interwoven with God's tenderness. I am with you and I pray for you and your conversion until you put God in the first place. Thank you for having responded to my call."**

# Fruits for all Seasons

By Fr. Bill Kiel



Fr. Bill Kiel

*See children, how nature is opening herself and giving life and fruits. In the same way I invite you to live with God and surrender completely to Him.... I desire that everyone may discover the joy and love which can be found only in God and which only God can give. God doesn't want anything from you only your surrender. Pray to be able to discover the greatness and joy of life which God gives you (5/25/89).*

During the seasons from late spring into fall, we anticipate and enjoy many fruits and vegetables produced in the gardens and orchards. Especially appreciated are "home grown" fruits and vegetables – the joys of a gardener. The plants producing the fruits are usually given the care of time, fertilizers or nutrients, and water, and God provides the sunshine, soil, carbon dioxide and the growth.

*The more you open yourselves, the more you receive the fruits. I wish to call you again to prayer (3/6/86).*

Our individual lives should be centered on God and God's awesome graces bestowed upon us. We need to open ourselves to receive them. Just as God provides for plants all that is needed to grow and produce fruits, He also provides for us. Faith has been given to us as a gift from God. What have we done to nurture faith and have it produce fruits in our life? The waters of Baptism gave us some of the initial graces to grow. Through a developing prayer life, and preparing and receiving the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist, and Confirmation, we have a continually growing faith. In our spiritual life, growth increases as we surrender our life to God. Through our surrender, we open ourselves to receive God's graces and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and as a result, growth in love of God intensifies.

What are the fruits of our surrender and openness to God? A greater love for God, joy of life, and desire to share with others the love and greatness



A fruit and vegetable garden in Medjugorje

of God are some of the fruits. As we grow in faith and love for God, all else flows into and out of our life.

*Through your prayer you open your heart to God and He works miracles in your life. By looking at the fruits, your heart fills with joy and gratitude to God for everything He does in your life and, through you, also to others (10/25/02).*

This month of June may seem like a slow time in the liturgical calendar, but it can be a very rewarding time of growth in our spiritual life! Summer, being a time of many get-togethers, provides opportunities to spread the fruits of God's love.

*May your day be filled with prayer and thanksgiving for everything that God gives you (10/25/02).*

## Message to Mirjana on May 2, 2015

Dear children, open your hearts and try to feel how much I love you and how much I desire for you to love my Son. I desire for you to come to know Him all the better, because it is impossible to know Him and not to love Him – because He is love. I, my children, know you. I know your pain and suffering because I lived through them. I laugh with you in your joy and I cry with you in your pain. I will never leave you. I will always speak to you with motherly tenderness. And I, as a mother, need your open hearts to spread the love of my Son with wisdom and simplicity. I need you to be open and sensitive to the good and mercy. I need you to be united with my Son, because I desire for you to be happy and to help me to bring happiness to all of my children. My apostles, I need you to show everyone the truth of God, so that my heart, which suffered and today suffers so much pain, can win in love. Pray for the holiness of your shepherds, so that in the name of my Son they could work miracles, because holiness works miracles. Thank you.

### Prayer intentions of Pope Francis for June

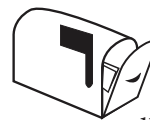
**Immigrants and refugees:** That immigrants and refugees may find welcome and respect in the countries to which they come.

**Vocations:** That the personal encounter with Jesus may arouse in many young people the desire to offer their own lives in priesthood or consecrated life.



## Bits and "Peaces"

A big thank you to all who have renewed their subscriptions so far this year. In 28 years of publishing, we have never charged a subscription rate, but your generosity has allowed *The Spirit of Medjugorje* to be mailed monthly to every state, several territories, and 40 foreign countries! Thank you for having responded to the call!



You may have noticed that you are receiving your newsletter a little later (and in some unusual cases, a little earlier) than you used to receive it. This is due to changes in the post office here in Erie (and probably elsewhere) since we lost our mailing processing facility. Please pray for our mailing staff because this has almost doubled the number of mailing trays we send. Thank you in advance for your prayers and your patience.



*Our thanks to Vickie DeCoursey, Joanne Warren, Cindy Bielanin, Dianne Yochim, Barb Sirianni, Irene and Dan Zuba, Marge Spase, Kathy Luschni, Janet Arment, Mary Tirak, Sue Kirby, Louise Lotze, Celeste Migneault, and the people who want to remain anonymous for help with the May mailing. We thank Louise Lotze, Wendy Ripple, Anita Cugini, and Fr. Raymond Thomas for their photos in this issue. And as always, we thank Pat Berrier, our proofreader, and Jason Klins, our webmaster.*



# Words of Wisdom from Vicka

The following excerpts are from *The Hidden Child of Medjugorje* by Sr. Emmanuel.

One day, I asked Vicka what to say to people who still hesitate to fast, who find it too hard. "You know," she answered, "everything we do without putting our heart into it is hard! It's even better not to do it. If I say, 'Well, today it's just too hard for me, I'm confused in my head, I'm hungry,' then it is better not to fast, because God doesn't force us. It is up to you to feel in your heart how and when you have to respond to Our Lady's request, and then answer it with all of your heart!"



Vicka

Some pilgrims have not hesitated to ask these questions to Vicka:

Q: *How do you acquire such peace and joy? Is it because you see the Virgin Mary?*

V: It's not as important to see Our Lady as it is to feel Her inner presence. What is even more important is to put what She tells us in Her messages into action. God has given me a great gift of peace. I don't have the words to express my gratitude. It's a grace that comes with Our Lady's mission as Queen of Peace. Peace has increased in me day after day because I wanted it, and because I still want it; and I pray for it every day.

Q: *What is the secret of your permanent smile and your joy?*

"Our Lady desires that we respond from the heart... If you say, 'I have a headache, I feel dizzy,' those are excuses, you see, excuses so that you don't have to respond. Our Lady wants us to purify our hearts by fasting. That's the most important kind of fast. She asks you to fast with bread and water on Wednesdays and Fridays. The only way to have a good fast is to have a firm intention to fast. With a strong will, we can do anything. It's the same thing with avoiding sin. Fasting is going to purify me from my sin and from everything that troubles me. That's what pleases Mary the most. If today I fast on bread and water, and right away I have all kinds of bad thoughts, hurt someone, or behave badly, then it would have been better not to fast. I have to first uproot my naughtiness before I can take a new step forward."

V: My smile and my joy? There is nothing I desire more than to realize Our Lady's desires. I am Her servant. I gave Her my life and I'm ready to do anything She asks me to do. This is a source of joy for me. I wish so much that everyone can feel that way and could receive the grace of transmitting the love Our Lady has for each one of us. I know that the Virgin Mary's desire is that we pass Her presence on to others, showing that She is among us. Every day, I know that I'm going to meet pilgrims from all corners of the world, who are suffering in all kinds of ways and who are far from God. To be able to comfort them is such a grace. I can't be sad! Every morning, as soon as I wake up, I pray this way: "Here I am, Gospa, do with me whatever You wish!"

## Tears of Gratitude

By June Klins

When I was in Medjugorje in 2006, our guide, who is Vicka's cousin, told us that the liquid weeping from the Risen Jesus statue was tested in a lab in Germany and found to be human tears. I later learned that a lab in the U.S. also tested the liquid and had the same result. Those who have tasted the liquid, including a doctor who was on my last pilgrimage, say it tastes salty, like tears. People have asked whose tears they are. Some people say they are the tears of Jesus. Others say they are the tears of Our Lady, since they come from the knees and Our Lady's head may have reached the knees of Jesus on the Cross. We really do not know.

There is even the question of why tears would be coming from the Risen Jesus, since the Resurrection is a joyful, not a sorrowful, occasion. That question is valid if we only think tears are shed during times of sadness. Of course that is not the case.

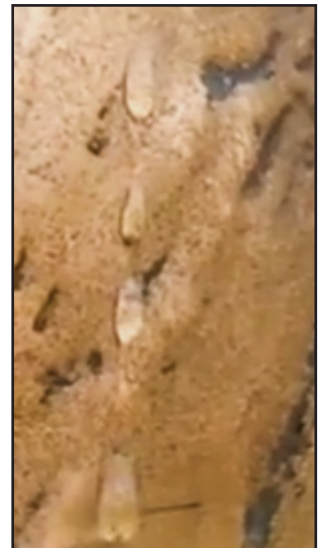
Fr. Michael Gaitley wrote in his book, *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*, about St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, regarding tears. He said that St. Ignatius had such a developed attitude of gratitude, and was so sensitive to the countless blessings God constantly poured out on him, that he was always on the verge of tears. Father said St. Ignatius was "no wimp." Prior to his conversion, he had been a strong soldier with a will of iron. The tears got so bad that when St. Ignatius was in public, he would sometimes have to distract himself

from seeing the blessings to prevent the tears from coming!

Our Lady told the visionaries, "If you knew how much I love you, you'd cry of joy." St. Ignatius knew how much God (and Our Lady) loved him. It is all about an attitude of gratitude.

Of course we do not know why the Risen Jesus statue is weeping. Our Lady has never mentioned it in Her messages, and the parish has nothing to say about it. But this is something to ponder. Is it possible that the tears are tears of thanksgiving for all the pilgrims who have come to Medjugorje and those who are trying to live the messages? This came to me after watching the May 28, 2014 episode of "Tea with Rosie" on [www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv). The priest who was being interviewed talked about the "gold dust" that people sometimes see in Medjugorje. Father asked, "Did you ever get a thank you note? All these things [gold dust, rosaries turning gold, miracle of the sun, etc.] are thank you notes." Could the tears be a thank you note?

Won't it be a glorious thing to find out all the answers to these questions when we get to Heaven?



Close up of "tears" from the Risen Jesus statue

# "I am Here..."

By Cathy Nolan

On "Tea with Rosie – Episode 113" (which can be seen in the archives, [www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv)) Franjo Zubac shares an amazing moment in the early days of the apparitions. It is a moment when Our Lady really showed Her presence to the people of the village and even to the police who were trying to stop the phenomenon. It was as if She was saying to them, "I am here!"

Franjo Zubac shares his witness about the first year of the Apparitions:

"Hello everybody! I would like to share my experience from 33 years ago. It happened actually on February 2, 1982. Before I begin the testimony about my experience 33 years ago, I would like to tell you about the circumstances in the village at that time. As you know, the apparitions

began here on June 24, 1981, and at that time...many people started to come. And later on, the parish priest started to believe in what was going on, and he became a witness, and then, as you know, the strong Communist regime at that time didn't like what was taking place here. So they decided to knock it down – to extinguish whatever was happening here. That is why Fr. Jozo ended up in jail for three and a half years, and many of the people here were punished (whoever supported Medjugorje). At one time, two boys were taken from Medjugorje for three months in jail, just for saying that they saw Her.

"Now about what happened on February 2, 1982.... My family had decided to go to Medjugorje every evening to attend the Mass. On that evening, my father told me, 'Let's go.' One of my cousins was with me, at our family home, and she decided to come with my father and me in the car. We lived five miles from Medjugorje, in Gradnici, which was the mother parish of Medjugorje. Making our way down to the village of Medjugorje, and entering the crossroads about one kilometer [.6 mi.] from Medjugorje, I saw something very unusual.

"It was dark, and a star started to spark. The star was at the center of the Cross on Cross Mountain. The star actually started to spark, and to light up the Cross. I noticed it, my father noticed it, my cousin noticed it. We slowed down the car, and we realized that there were four cars in front of us, and the fourth car was a police car. They had stopped in the middle of the road and were watching it.

"The star sparked there, and then it started to move towards Apparition Hill. The size of the star was between the size of the moon and an ordinary star. It was bigger than a star. And that star started to move toward Apparition Hill. The star was over the fields, but in the sky, and the star was moving. That really struck me. At that time I was a university student, technically minded. It was easy for me to realize it was not a rocket or something man-made. It was a supernatural thing, moving up and down, like it was dancing as it moved down toward Apparition Hill.

"When it reached the apparition site, it was sparkling up above. Then a fire appeared on the apparition site, just a



Franjo

little bit above the ground. The fire was about the size of a big bush, but there was no bush burning. It was a huge fire, and like a fire, it was oscillating a little bit above the ground. Then, in one minute, that fire turned into three fires of the same size. There were three fires there, and they were oscillating in the same way that the one fire had been. The star was still sparkling above. Then the three fires turned into one fire, and stood there above the ground. It would transform into three, then into one, then into three, then into one. It was amazing!

"Then we noticed the cars ahead of us moved. We also went on our way and arrived at the church. At that time

there was not pavement in front of the church, and so we parked right in front of the church. My father was so excited as he got out of the car, and he noticed a priest standing in the bushes on the left side of church (where the confessionals are now). He had a camera and was trying to take a picture of Apparition Hill. My father was so excited and he said, 'I am going to go ask the priest if he saw the fire up on Apparition Hill.' I tried to tell my father, 'Please don't do that, because for one word you could go to jail. There are policemen all around the church and everywhere in the village. People end up in jail. Please don't do that.' But no one could stop my father.

"Actually it was Fr. Darinko, the fellow priest of Fr. Jozo. (Fr. Jozo was in jail.) This priest saw something and he wanted to film it. But my father was running and shouting, 'Father, Father, did you see the star and the fire up on the hill?' Father turned around and shouted, 'Go into the church and pray!!' My father was shocked by the reaction of the priest. I said, 'You see, you shouldn't say anything.' Then later I realized why Father Darinko shouted at him. He really saved him from the spies. If he had said, 'Yes, I saw it,' both of them could have ended up in jail. By pushing him into the church, both of them were saved. In church, we prayed.

"During the time I watched the star, I stood by my car and I watched the three fires going into one and back into three, and I felt fear. I realized I had to change my life; I had to go to be more friendly with God. Now I read the Bible every day, and I noticed in a footnote at the bottom of a page that in the Bible fire represents *the presence of God*. Fire signifies the presence of God. And it is becoming clear to me that the three fires were the Trinity, three in one. Now where that fire occurred, that place is consecrated.

"At that time, no one could climb Apparition Hill, because the police were stationed at the foot of Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain. No one could go up those mountains. Since then, everything has

changed. Millions of people have climbed Apparition Hill and prayed the Rosary. So many millions of Rosaries have been said. So many people have prayed and changed their lives and had great experiences on Apparition Hill, and that is the place that Our Lady said God was going to put the permanent sign, revealing the third secret. Thank you very much for listening!"

Thank you, Franjo, for that eye witness testimony of a

beautiful manifestation of Our Lady's presence (in the sparkling star), and of the manifestation of the Holy Trinity (in the fire) as well. May we all decide, like you, to become more friendly with God!! The time is now!

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

*Editor's note: Cathy and her husband, Denis, will be leading a pilgrimage to Medjugorje November 6-16, 2015. For more information, visit their website or call 574-335-9952.*

## Vatican Book Highlights Medjugorje Conversion

By Bernard Gallager

The Holy See's Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization has issued a document that focuses on the Sacrament of Confession, entitled: *God is Tenderness and Mercy*. The French-language booklet features the testimonies of three people: Edith Stein (St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), the French writer André Frossard, and John Pridmore, a Catholic evangelist and ex-London gangster.

John Pridmore still gives testimony around the world to his conversion, and is actively involved in youth and parish missionary work with the Irish-based St. Patrick's Community. John's turnaround back to faith came about when he attended a talk by the famous Medjugorje Franciscan priest, Fr. Slavko Barbaric, who was visiting the UK and giving testimony on the Medjugorje phenomenon.

It was at one of the talks on the theme, "Give me your wounded heart," that Pridmore's heart was opened. He said of the experience: "As I listened to that priest, who said how every sin we commit is like a wound in our heart, I looked at the crucifix and I knew for the first time why Jesus died on that cross – because of the darkest and most terrible sins I had ever committed in my life. I felt an incredible sadness

for all that I had done. But in addition to this sadness, there was an incredible joy. I felt that Jesus told me – 'John, I love you so much that I would do all this just for you.' I started to cry. I cried for the first time since the age of 10 years, because I could not believe that someone could love me enough to die for me in this agony. I walked out of the conference and I said a prayer to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. I simply said: 'What is it your Son wants me to do?' And I felt as if a voice whispered in my heart: 'Go to confession.' ... I was 27 and I was scared. But Mary gave me courage.

While confessing all these most terrible sins, the priest (Fr. Slavko) was crying because he was Jesus for me. He showed me the mercy of God. When I received absolution, I knew that it was Jesus who forgave me and freed me."

Fr. Slavko died while praying the Way of the Cross on Mt. Krizevac at Medjugorje on November 24, 2000. His book *Give Me Your Wounded Heart* is available from most booksellers.

More details about John Pridmore and his ministry can be found at his blog: "From Gangland to Promised Land."

[www.crownofstarsblogspot.co.uk](http://www.crownofstarsblogspot.co.uk)

## Conversion

*The following is an excerpt from a talk by Fr. Slavko Barbaric on December 8, 1985.*

Conversion, in the messages of Medjugorje, means to change one's way of life – to forsake sin, selfishness, arrogance, pride – and to open ourselves to humility, love, and never to give up. Conversion has two elements – one, whereby we are called to forsake sin; and another, whereby we are called to open ourselves to love. None of us will be able to say he loves enough, that he cannot love more. This is conversion – to try and love more, to try and get to be fully aware of sin, to pray for the spirit of love, and to go forward.



Fr. Slavko

I am saying this for the benefit of all those who have started with enthusiasm after hearing of the apparitions and have realized that change is not easy; it requires some hard work. Do not allow yourselves to tire. Conversion lasts the whole of one's life. Our Lord understands this. Our Lady understands this – that is why She has invited all to confess every month. If She is inviting us to Confession, one can say She knows we are sinners. She knows we will remain as such, but that does not matter. What matters is to look, once again, for reconciliation and the strength which is given to us by the Lord. This is hope and strength for us.

## Fasting Tips

Fasting is hard and will remain hard. But what fasting does become is joyful – joyful to surrender, joyful to be in solidarity with the poor, and joyful to accomplish something you didn't think was possible. One fast day at a time, embrace the difficulty of fasting and let the joy pour forth!

Three Fasting Tips:

1. Heat up your water [if you miss your coffee] to have with your bread!
2. Write down your prayer intentions at the beginning of the day and reread them when you're finding it difficult to fast.
3. Read about one life of a saint and ask the saint to teach you how they loved God.

[www.Livethefast.org](http://www.Livethefast.org)



# The Rosary Will Defeat the Claws of Terrorism

By Louise Lotze

In April 2015, EWTN news aired an interview with Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Nigeria. Bishop Dashe testified that he had seen Christ in a vision in late 2014. The Bishop was in his chapel before the Blessed Sacrament. "I was praying the Rosary, and then suddenly the Lord appeared and I saw Him...with a sword in His own hand, and I started trembling. I said, 'Lord, what is this?' He didn't say anything. He just reached out His hands with the sword in His hands towards me, and then I also stretched my hands and received the sword. As soon as I received this sword, it turned into a rosary! Then the Lord now spoke: 'Boko Haram is gone. Boko Haram is gone. Boko Haram is gone.' He said that and then He disappeared."

At first the Bishop didn't want to tell anyone, but later felt that the Holy Spirit was pushing him to do so. He started with the priests in his diocese, and then, in April he told participants at a congress in Madrid, Spain. Bishop Dashe stated in his testimony, "I didn't need any prophet to give me the explanation. It was clear that with the Rosary we would be able to expel Boko Haram."

The Bishop believes he was asked by Jesus to spread devotion to the Rosary in order to aid the communities in his diocese of Maiduguri to bring about forgiveness and continued faith. He told EWTN news that "Prayer, particularly the prayer of the Rosary, is (what) will deliver us from the claws of this demon, the demon of terrorism. And of course, it is working." Bishop Dashe said that he has a strong devotion to Christ's Mother, and that "I never joke with Mamma Mary. I know She is here with us." He truly believes that one day his diocese will completely recover and grow, thanks to Her intercession.

Bishop Dashe is known to my parish, Our Lady of Peace, in Ashtabula, Ohio. He visited our pastor, Fr. Raymond Thomas, over Labor Day weekend in 2014, and celebrated Mass with us. He also went to visit our bishop to talk with him concerning matters in his diocese with the Islamist terrorist group, Boko Haram, and the plight of his people there. How very blessed we were to have Bishop Dashe here with us!

Fr. Thomas has hosted priests from Africa for several years. When he took a sabbatical last year, he journeyed to Africa to visit those priests and to experience their culture firsthand. While in Nigeria, he spent two days and nights with Bishop Dashe at his house. He celebrated Mass with him, and each



Bishop Dashe (left) with Fr. David Bridling (one of our sponsored subscribers from Nigeria)

evening they did a Rosary walk around his compound with the domestic help who live there with their children.

On April 29, I received a reflection from Cathy Nolan, of Mary TV, which included a video of Bishop Dashe's testimony. I forwarded it to Fr. Thomas and, before morning Mass the next day, I approached him to ask if he had watched the video. Fr. Thomas smiled and said, "Yes." We discussed how that day just happened to be the minor feast for Pope St. Pius V (and his connection with the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary).

In his homily at Mass, Father had spoken of how Pope St. Pius V, in 1571, was instrumental in assembling a fleet of ships — primarily from Spain, Venice, and Genoa — to battle the Turks [Muslims]. The Pope had churches in Rome and the Italian peninsula filled with the faithful praying the Rosary. On the eve of the great battle, on the decks of their galley, men were on their knees praying the Rosary. On October 7, due to a 180° wind shift in favor of this Holy League, a great victory over the mighty Turkish fleet was won in a gulf off Western Greece near Lepanto. It was this decisive victory that defeated the Ottoman Empire, thus preserving Christian Europe! Meanwhile, far away, Pope Pius V had been consulting with his Cardinals, when he paused to look out the window and saw a vision of the victory — a favor granted by the Blessed Virgin. News of the actual victory didn't arrive until a week later, but it did confirm that the Pope's vision had been authentic. The Pope then declared October 7 as the feast day of **Our Lady of VICTORY** [editor emphasis], which later became the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary.

Our pastor, Fr. Thomas, encouraged all present at morning Mass to offer our Rosaries for the defeat of terrorism.

*"Dear children! Today I call you especially now to advance against Satan by means of prayer. Satan wants to work still more now that you know he is at work. Dear children, put on the armor for battle, and with the Rosary in your hand defeat him! Thank you for having responded to my call" (Our Lady, 8/8/85).*

*Editor's note: Isn't it interesting that the name of Bishop Dashe's diocese, Maiduguri, is so similar to the word Medjugorje, and that Bishop Dashe has been spreading devotion to the Rosary and forgiveness, just as Our Lady has been doing, for 34 years? To view the video of Bishop Dashe, go to daily reflections on marytv.tv and click on the reflection for April 30, 2015.*

## Private Revelation

*The following is an excerpt from, Our Lady Says: Monthly Confession – Remedy for the West, by Fr. Albert J.M. Shamon.*

It is sad to see how many shrug off private revelation, simply because it is private. Private revelation is never new revelation, but only a reaffirmation of some truth or truths of public revelation either forgotten or neglected, but of critical importance for the age in which it is revealed. ...

Apparitions are needed by the Church, just as they were

in the gospels. The annunciations of Zechariah and to Mary were apparitions; the forty days appearances of the Risen Jesus to His mother and the apostles were apparitions. *Apparitions are homilies from Heaven* [editor emphasis]. The Holy Spirit picks out of the smorgasbord of public revelation those truths that are needed for the nourishment of the Church in some particular moment of history.

# Another Blessing through the Intercession of Msgr. Peterson

By June Klins

Last month, I attended a Memorial Mass for our former spiritual advisor, Msgr. James Peterson (who preferred to be called Fr. Peterson). He died on May 13, 2013. The celebrant, Fr. David Poulson, shared the story about the drug addict who heard Fr. Peterson's voice (see our May issue) as well as the testimony of a couple who received a financial blessing through the intercession of Fr. Peterson.

Father said that this couple needed to have their car repaired, but did not have the money to pay the bill. So they prayed for Fr. Peterson to intercede for them in this situation. When they

got their checking account statement, they noticed that a deposit was made for the EXACT amount – to the penny – that they needed to pay for the car repairs. Thinking this was a mistake, they contacted the bank. They were told this was NOT a mistake – that the deposit was made by the IRS, for an error that was found through an audit of their tax return from years before, and that this was money owed to them! Fr. Poulson said that Fr. Peterson is like St. Therese of Lisieux – busier in Heaven than when on earth!

*Editor's note: As mentioned in the May issue, there have been a number of blessings through the intercession of Fr. Peterson. We still have prayer cards which have been touched to his hair. If you would like one, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to us at P.O. Box 6346, Erie, PA 16512.*



Fr. Peterson

## Queen of Peace

By: Anne Morgan Cline

I walked into the dim lit church  
The candles flickered there.  
I knelt beside Our Lady dear  
To Her I brought my cares.

But that was half my life ago  
Remembering was dim,  
As dim as candles flickering  
With quietness within.

Somehow it always brought me peace  
When outside only some.  
I wished it always could be so  
But then I was but young.

And now Our Lady does appear  
To visionaries here.  
With them She spreads Her messages  
For them, for all to hear.

The rainbow soared across the sky  
A symbol sure for peace!  
Our Lady left Her message there  
In hopes all wars should cease.

The Queen of Peace they're calling Her  
Of Heaven and of Earth!  
She sends Her children all Her love  
A love beyond all worth!

*Dedicated to my sister, Jan,  
my inspiration ~ 2015*

## St. Rita's Love for Jesus in the Eucharist

By June Klins

As I mentioned in January, I found many connections between the life of St. Rita, our patron saint this year, and Our Lady's messages. One of Our Lady's requests in Medjugorje is to make the Eucharist the center of our lives. In my research, I found that St. Rita had a great devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and many times, while in the chapel meditating, she fell into ecstasy. *"Dear Children! Today I invite you to fall in love with the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Adore Him, little children, in your parishes, and in this way you will be united with the entire world. Jesus will become your friend, and you will not talk of Him like someone whom you barely know. Unity with Him will be a joy for you, and you will become witnesses to the love of Jesus that He has for every creature"* (9/25/95).

According to author Rev. Joseph Sicardo, "Whenever she [St. Rita] received Our Lord in Holy Communion, for hours afterwards, she experienced such consolation and joy, that she seemed no longer to be in the world, but to be living with Jesus." For the last four years of her life, St. Rita consumed almost nothing except for the Eucharist.

## Ivan's Message on May 11, 2015

By June Klins

For Mother's Day, my son gave me money to have Masses said for whatever intentions I wanted. What an awesome and thoughtful gift! I began praying to discern how to spend my "Mass money." So many possibilities (Our Lady's intentions, poor souls, individual family members, etc.)!

The following evening, when I read the message Our Lady gave to Ivan and his prayer group at the Blue Cross that night, I felt prompted to spend my "Mass money" to have Masses said for Our Lady's intentions. Here is what Our Lady said: *"Dear children! Also today I desire to call you that at this time you pray for my intentions, for my plans that I desire to realize here. Pray, dear children, and be persevering in prayer. The mother prays with you and intercedes for all of you before her Son. Thank you, dear children, for also tonight having responded to my call."*

According to Sr. Emmanuel, "That same day a few priests and pilgrims went to Ivan's daily apparition in his private chapel at 6:40 p.m., and there, Our Lady gave the same message. She even repeated it twice as Ivan underlined it: 'Pray for the realization of my plans!' In this world that is so badly troubled, it is good to remember that Our Lady *does* have a plan, that this plan will definitely be carried out. That **VICTORY** [editor emphasis] has been promised, and that we are invited to be its instruments, or better still, its apostles!"

As of May 25, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 12,413.

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## MARY IS CALLING YOU

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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