

THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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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.



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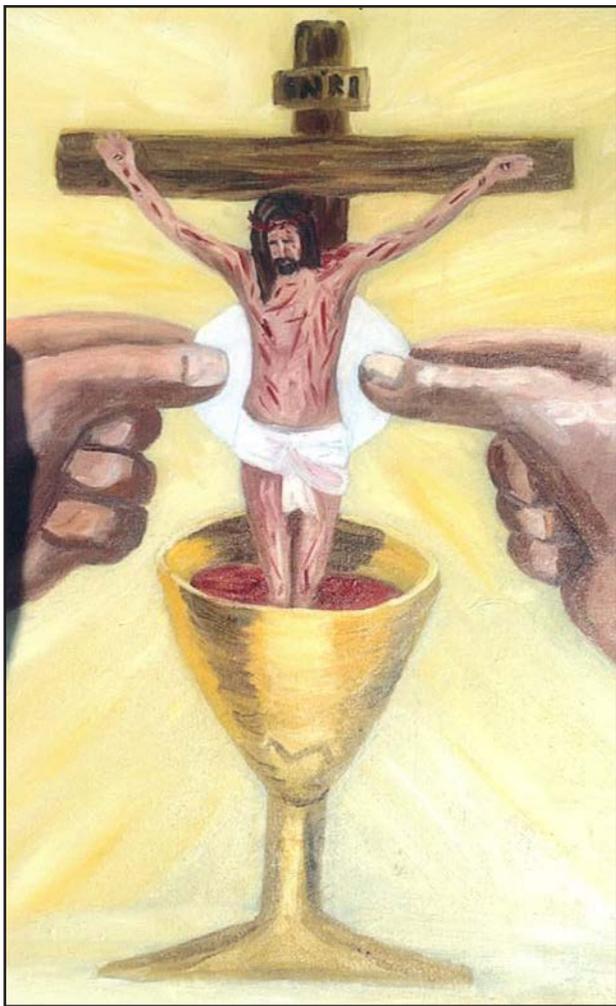
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CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF FEBRUARY 25, 2018

ON THE 25TH DAY OF EACH MONTH, THE BLESSED VIRGIN GIVES A MESSAGE TO THE VISIONARY, MARIJA, THAT IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE WORLD.

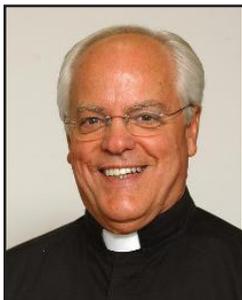


*The painting above, titled "Corpus Domini", is the work of Croatian artist, Petar Šibenik, who graciously gave us permission to use it. St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "The Eucharist is connected with the Passion. If Jesus had not established the Eucharist, we would have forgotten the Crucifixion... To make sure that we do not forget, Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a memorial of His love... When you look at the Crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you then; when you look at the Sacred Host, you understand how much Jesus loves you now." This quote can be found in Susan Tassone's book, *St. Faustina Prayer Book for Adoration* (See p. 5).*

"Dear children! In this time of grace I am calling all of you to open yourselves and to live the commandments which God has given you, that they may lead you through the Sacraments on the way of conversion. The world and worldly temptations are testing you, but you, little children, look at God's creatures which He has given to you in beauty and humility and, little children, love God above everything and He will lead you on the way of salvation. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Living Our Love for God with Mary's Help

By Fr. Bill Kiel



Fr. Bill Kiel

Saint Faustina wrote in her *Diary* (#279): "God made known to me what true love consists in and gave light to me about how, in practice, to give proof of it to Him. True love of God consists in carrying out God's will. To show God our love in what we do, all our actions, even the least, must spring from our love of God."

Many messages of Our Lady give us words to reflect on in our daily lives.

'Love' is one such word, given many times. Let us pause to consider our own understanding of 'love' in each of our lives. Where does love originate? How or when does love enter? What do we do with the love we feel in our hearts?

"Those who are holy are those who immeasurably love the Heavenly Father, those who love Him above all." (12/2/17) We are not able to separate the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; all are One in the Holy Trinity. When we are reminded in messages to love the Son, we do well to reflect on our love for the Father. Have we been open to receive the love of our Father? If we answer "yes", how do we show it? Do we try to live the will of the Father?

Following the words of Our Blessed Mother will bring us

to a greater love of Her Son, Jesus, which in turn brings us closer to accepting the love of the Father. "I am gathering you around myself and I desire to lead you on the way of love and faith, on the way which leads to the light of the world. I am here for the sake of love, for the sake of faith... I desire to give you hope and strength on your way, because the way which leads to my Son is not easy." (2/2/18)

Our Blessed Mother is encouraging each of us to grow closer to Her Son, to love Jesus. Growing close to Jesus will bring us closer to the Father. Do we know enough about Jesus to use His life as our model? How can we be real Christians – living as Jesus Christ would live today on earth? "... pray for those who do not know how to love, for those who do not love you, for those who have done evil to you, for those who have not come to know the love of my Son." (12/2/17)

Sometimes we try to separate areas of our spiritual life, but the love of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is at the center of each of us, integrated in all aspects of life. Think of our Blessed Mother as the beautiful example of carrying out God's will; She is our great model of loving and trusting the Holy Trinity. Let us continue to pray to be open and accepting of God's love; then we can, with our Blessed Mother's intercession, be living proof of loving God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Mary Queen of Peace, pray for us.

"Special Help and Protection" from St. Joseph

In her *Diary*, St. Faustina wrote (in entry #1203) that St. Joseph urged her to have a constant devotion to him. "He himself told me to recite three prayers [the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be] and the *Memorare* once every day. He looked at me with great kindness and gave me to know how much he is supporting this work [of mercy]. He has promised me this special help and protection. I recite the requested prayers every day and feel his special protection."

Here is the *Memorare* to St. Joseph:

Remember, O most pure spouse of Mary, and my dearly beloved guardian, St. Joseph, that never was it known that anyone who invoked your care and requested your help was left without consolation.

Inspired with this confidence, I come to you, and with all the ardor of my spirit I commend myself to you. Do not reject my prayer, O Foster Father of the Savior, but graciously receive and answer it. Amen.

St. Teresa of Avila said: "The Lord wants us to understand that just as He was subject to St. Joseph on earth – for since bearing the title of father, being the Lord's tutor, Joseph could give the child commands – so in Heaven, God does whatever Joseph commands... To the other saints, God gives the grace to help us in certain particular needs, but to St. Joseph, He gives power to help us in all our needs."

St. Joseph's feast day is March 19. This may be a good time to start a devotion to him if you don't already have one.



Statue of St. Joseph at Sr. Emmanuel's in Medjugorje

Our thanks to Mary Jo Jaglowski, Sue Taccone, Joanne Warren, Diane Niebauer, Cassandra Dragone, Chris Falk, Elaine Brady, Cindy Bielamin, Joan Peterson, Peggy Chludzinski, Vickie DeCoursey, Barb Sirianni, Estrella Igras, Louise Lotze, Georgia Chludzinski, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the February mailing. We thank Mike Golovich, Louise Lotze, and Josip Elez for their photos. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

As of February 25, 2018, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 23,302.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for March

Formation in Spiritual Discernment: That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.



To Jesus through Mary

By Sr. Emmanuel

Janet, an Irish pilgrim full of joy, told me her story:

"I was a cradle Catholic. I went to Mass every Sunday, but only out of habit. My husband was not a Catholic – in fact he was a Hindu, but we both decided that we wanted to bring our three children up as Catholics – that is, I always took them to Mass on Sundays and sent them to Catholic schools, etc. I thought that this was all I was obliged to do. I never prayed with them or taught them about God! The reality was that I was practicing my faith superficially, not living it with my heart. In addition to this, a Christian man told me that Jesus



Church in Siroki-Brijeg

is not present in the host, and that to believe in the Real Presence was ridiculous, so I ended up doubting. During Mass I was thinking of everything but God and was looking forward to the end because I was bored.

"I have a very good friend who had often been to Medjugorje. She kept pleading with me, 'Come with me to Medjugorje!' Finally, despite great protest in my heart, I said yes. We were a group of six friends. As far as I was concerned, I was going for a girly week in the sun, to enjoy nature and lots of chatting amongst friends. I didn't think prayer would be on my agenda. It was May 1997.

"The first days went as planned. I enjoyed the food, fresh air, sunshine and even going to daily Mass. I thought, 'This is good!' On the third day, we went off with John, our Irish guide, in an old ratty van to a Mass being celebrated by Fr. Jozo at Siroki-Brijeg, where 30 Franciscan priests were martyred during World War II. It was a huge church that filled up quickly as I remained outside in the sunshine, chatting with friends. Mass was about to begin and the church was packed. All the benches were full and the aisles so crowded that it was impossible to move. It was then that the most surprising thing happened!

"A man, whom I had never met before, took my hand very gently and walked me through the crowds. I didn't feel as though we were pushing; it was as if the space opened up and we walked gently through. He took me to the altar steps

and placed me right in front of the priest who was about to start the Mass. Then he suddenly disappeared. I had the best spot there! I had a most surreal but calm feeling, as though it was all normal.

"I remember nothing of the Mass until the priest elevated the Host at the Consecration. The Host became huge to my eyes and Christ, Our Lord, appeared alive in the Host. He was looking up. From

that moment on, my whole life changed. I probably never stopped crying for the time I remained in Medjugorje.

"When I returned home, I got into the habit of going to daily Mass. I drew all my strength and my joy from there. Jesus became my essential food. My Hindu husband listened respectfully to my testimony, and in spite of the great change which had taken place in me, he did not seem shaken. Moreover, I have never tried to convince him to share my faith, and equally, he has allowed me to practice my faith freely. I prayed a lot for him. Several years later, as I was getting ready to go to Mass one day, he simply said to me, 'I am coming with you!' To make a long story short, he is now a baptized Catholic and we are united in the same faith.

"I wish so often that I could start my life again, so that I could spend all my younger years with Jesus! How I regret losing time, and how ashamed I am that I didn't always believe! But now, I do not let a single day go by without thanking God for revealing Himself to me. I pray daily for lukewarm Catholics that Mary, our Mother, may touch many, many souls and bring them to the living Jesus!"

Let me add that seeing the joy that radiates from Janet told me more about Jesus than her conversion story!

Children of Medjugorje, www.childrenofmedjugorje.com, October 2012 report.

Our Lady's Message to Mirjana Soldo on February 2, 2018

Dear children, you whom my Son loves, you whom I love with an immeasurable motherly love, do not permit for selfishness, for self-love, to rule the world. Do not permit for love and goodness to be hidden. You who are loved, who have come to know the love of my Son, remember that to be loved means to love. My children, have faith. When you have faith you are happy and are spreading peace; your soul trembles with joy. My Son is in such a soul. When you are giving yourself for the faith, when you are giving yourself for love, when you are doing good to your neighbor, my Son smiles in your soul. Apostles of my love, I am turning to you as a mother. I am gathering you around myself and I desire to lead you on the way of love and faith, on the way which leads to the light of the world. I am here for the sake of love, for the sake of faith, because with my motherly blessing I desire to give you hope and strength on your way – because the way which leads to my Son is not easy. It is full of renunciation, giving, sacrifice, forgiveness and much, much love. But this way leads to peace and happiness. My children, do not believe lying voices which speak to you about false things, false glitter. You, my children, return to the Scripture. I am looking at you with immeasurable love, and through God's grace am making myself evident to you. My children, set out with me. May your soul tremble with joy. Thank you.

Vicka and Her Suffering

The following was excerpted with permission from the book, *Vicka ...Her Story*, by Finbar O'Leary.

Finbar: Our Blessed Mother invited us "to join the crosses in our lives to the Cross of Jesus, Her Son, with great love and great joy." You are certainly a good example to all of us in doing that. In 1984 during an Apparition, you were surprised when Our Lady asked you to accept suffering for Her intentions. She gave you a month to pray about Her request. During that month, Our Lady did not appear to you.

Vicka: I was not just surprised; I was actually astonished that Our Lady was asking me to do something for Her. I did not think I could do anything for Her. It was She that was doing so much for me. Not seeing Our Lady that month was in itself a great sacrifice for me. Clearly this was a time for me to think, pray and accept it as a grace. I was thinking to myself, "God, what is it I can do for Our Lady?" I knew I did not need the month to think about it. I was willing to accept straight away whatever Our Lady's plan was to be. I was looking forward to the end of that month, so I could tell Our Lady I would joyfully accept all that She wanted me to do. It was such a great thing for me, that my little self was able to do something for Our Lady. It made me feel so important that Our Lady would ask me to do something for Her. At the next Apparition, I did say to Our Lady, "Dear Our Lady, you know how much I am able to do. I am willing to do anything for you. You do the best you can with me." That is how everything started.

Finbar: This was when you received the tremendous suffering of a tumor in your head, which continued for [almost] four years.

Vicka: Yes, it was at this time that the problems with my head started. As the severity of the pain grew, I would more often lapse into a coma. My family was terribly concerned because I was not willing to go to [a] hospital. Then one evening during his Apparition, Jakov (the visionary) asked Our Lady what should be done. Our Lady said that I should go to [a] hospital. At the hospital in Zagreb, they did all the tests, including a brain scan. They discovered there was a tumor in the back part of my brain. But they were unable to do anything about it.

Finbar: I remember when I first came to Medjugorje in 1986. You were in the midst of your great suffering with the tumor. It was quite extraordinary how the crowds would gather outside your house from early morning till night, praying the Rosary. You would possibly wake from the coma and come out to greet us with a most beautiful smile. You were just a young girl at this stage. You would pray and share some of your experiences with Our Lady, then return to your bed. You were healed of the tumor in September 1987. Regretfully, few people realize, that to this day, you continue to experience great physical suffering in many forms.

Vicka: It may seem to you that I suffer a lot and have problems. I simply say, "I have no problems at all." Even when I have something wrong, I accept it with such love. I never pay attention to it. I am just overjoyed that God gave me this grace. I never say to God, "Why? I cannot take anymore. This is enough. Please stop this suffering." Even if the illness is long lasting and something else comes, I always say, "Thank you, God, for that." It is a great joy for me to suffer for Our Lord and Our Lady.



Vicka in the early days

Finbar: Apart from your usual evening Apparition, Our Lady may appear to you at other times of the day, wherever you happen to be.

Vicka: That is correct. Once when I had a problem with my appendix, I was rushed to [a] hospital in Mostar. From there I was rushed to [a] hospital in Zagreb for an operation. Later, the doctors and nurses told me that during surgery I sat up on the operating table. They saw my lips moving as though I was talking to someone. But they could not hear anything. It was the moment of an Apparition. The doctors and nurses were totally amazed.

Finbar: Is all your physical suffering directly connected to the suffering which Our Lady gave you a month to pray about back in 1984? It seems there is a deeper spiritual or mystical dimension to what Our Lady asked of you at the time.

Vicka: These are two separate things. I do not want to talk too much about it, as it is Our Lady's intention that I not make such a big thing of what She requested. Our Lady asked me to do something, and I accepted it with love. Perhaps at some point in the future, if Our Lady desires, or if it is necessary to speak about it, I will.

"Dear children! For these days while you are joyfully celebrating the Cross, I desire that your cross also would be a joy for you. Especially, dear children, pray that you may be able to accept sickness and suffering with love the way Jesus accepted them. Only in that way shall I be able with joy to give out to you the graces and healings which Jesus is permitting me. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Our Lady, 9/11/86)

Face of God

By Bridget Perez

Do you ever wonder what God is thinking when He is asking you to go through the various trials that pop up throughout your life? Have you ever thought that maybe God is glad when you have to carry your cross because you will be suffering with Him and that you will know how He feels? Or perhaps that God wants to teach you a lesson and so he gladly sends you these sufferings to help you learn a virtue or be detached from something? St. Thérèse wondered the same thing.

These are the words of St. Thérèse, "How can the good God, who loves us so much, be happy when we suffer?" St. Thérèse must have spent some time herself contemplating this idea before God inspired with His true answer. She continues by saying, "Never does our suffering make Him happy, but it is necessary for us; and so He sends it to us while, as it were, turning away His face...I assure you that it costs Him dearly to fill us with bitterness."

What a beautiful image this is of God's tender mercy for us – that knowing He must give us this difficult cross of suffering to carry – He actually turns His face away, so as

not to watch, because it hurts Him so dearly to see us in pain.

What a radically different approach to this answer! How precious we must be in the eyes of God that He would feel so much pain each time we have to suffer. But, as we all know, a true friend does not leave when the road gets tough, and how much more so that this is true for God. Even while He must send us these gifts of suffering in His mercy for our own good, He remains with us and suffers in us – so we are never alone!

How awesome is our God that He wishes to suffer still, so that we may not suffer alone.

Looking at our trials in this light, is it easier now to accept these precious gifts from our Beloved?

"Love that does not know of suffering is not worthy of the name." ~St. Clare of Assisi

Editor's note: Bridget lives in Hudson, OH. Her Medjugorje story was in our November 2017 issue. You can read more of Bridget's writings at www.songofmercy.blogspot.com.

St. Faustina Prayer Book for Adoration

By June Klins

When I heard that author, Susan Tassone, was writing a book called *St. Faustina Prayer Book for Adoration*, I knew I had to have this book. I have been an "Adoration addict" since the Bread of Life Perpetual Adoration Chapel opened at my parish over 14 years ago. "...spend all the more time in prayer and Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, for Him to change you and to put into your hearts a living faith and a desire for eternal life." (Our Lady, 3/25/08)

St. Faustina just happens to be one of my favorite saints, so this book did not disappoint!

Susan said that she wrote this book to help and encourage us to pray and adore with St. Faustina. Susan wrote, "...she [St. Faustina] wept in front of Our Lord in the Eucharist, she interceded for others, she shared her joys with Him, and acknowledged her weaknesses. She obtained self-knowledge, asked for healing, adored, loved, listened, thanked and rested in Him." In other words, St. Faustina experienced all the human emotions and brought them with her to Adoration. We can all identify. Susan described St. Faustina as a "mystic, theologian, and a poet."

Being that this is a prayer book, and not a novel, one does not need to read this book in order. When I first began to read it, I was home resting from a procedure I had done, so I began with the chapter on "Spiritual Adoration at Home". What a great chapter for those who are homebound or do not have access to Adoration! And of course, while praying at home, one could use the other chapters as well, such as the chapter on "Adoration in Times of Suffering" or "Adoration

for the Dying," which I used when my sister-in-law was on her deathbed.

Although I enjoyed the entire book, there were certain sections that really stood out for me, my favorite being "St. Faustina's Prayers for Adoration". There were a number of short prayers that one could easily memorize to use in Adoration, answering Our Lady's request "to fill your day with short and ardent prayers." (7/25/05) One particular litany that I liked was called "O Blessed Host". I also really liked the Adoration Stations of the Cross and the lesser-known Stations of St. John Paul II. Susan even included an "Adoration Litany of Silence."

Although the prayer book is primarily composed of prayers of St. Faustina, Susan has included prayers of other saints, including St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, St. Gertrude, and many others. And of course no book by Susan Tassone (dubbed "the Purgatory Lady") would be complete without prayers for the Holy Souls!

I even enjoyed reading the Appendix, where Susan has outlined seven insights on Adoration, seven tips for Adoration, and seven obstacles to Adoration and how to deal with them – very practical.

If you don't already have a weekly hour of Adoration (either at home or in a chapel), this time of Lent might be a good time to start. And St. Faustina can be a great prayer partner. Thank you, Susan, for compiling this book.

Editor's note: Susan's books can be ordered from any bookstore or you can visit her website at www.susantassone.com.

As another aid for Adoration at home, or just for your listening pleasure, CDs and digital downloads of Michael Nolan's, *O Jesus, We Adore You*, and Roland Patzleiner's, *Songs of Medjugorje* (music written for Adoration in Medjugorje), are now available at medjmusic.com. (Until now, the CD, *Songs of Medjugorje*, was only available in Medjugorje.) I have both CDs and highly recommend them! You'll feel like you are in Medjugorje at Adoration!

God of the Present

By June Klins

If God ever granted me one day I could erase from my life, February 9, 2018 would be my choice. It had been a rough week, after the death of my husband's beloved sister, Sharon. So my husband and I were really looking forward to babysitting our newest granddaughter, Ellie, who is such a joy. Our five grandchildren always bring smiles to our faces.

But then it happened in a fraction of a second while we were playing with Ellie. There was an accident. She looked to be seriously hurt as she screamed in pain. Although it was hard to pray, I prayed some Hail Marys. Her father (our son), came within minutes, as he was on his way to have lunch with Ellie. Not wanting to go to the emergency room because of all the germs abounding in this flu season, my son headed to their pediatrician. We followed, and as we could hardly talk, I silently prayed the "Mother Teresa Emergency Novena" (nine *Memorares* in petition and one more in thanksgiving in advance). As we sat in the waiting room, stomach in knots, I kept praying.

In what seemed like hours, but was probably 10 minutes, our son came out smiling. He said that the doctor said Ellie would be fine and that *he* was in worse shape than she was! Although this was good news, it was almost as if my husband and I did not believe it. We both felt such intense guilt (even though it was just an accident) that we did not even want to talk. And when we did talk, the conversation went to "If only we had done this" or "If only we had done that," and "What if this happens later... what if that happens?"

When I went to my Adoration hour that night, after shedding many tears, I planned to ask God why this happened since we had prayed, as we always do before babysitting, that God would keep Ellie safe. When I posed the question, I got an immediate answer – words from Our Lady's message on January 2, 2017: "*My children, do not waste time posing questions to which you never receive an answer. At the end of your journey on earth, the Heavenly Father will give them to you. Always know that God knows everything; God sees, God loves.*" That smacked me in the head like a two-by-four! After all, I had cards made last year with that message and was distributing them. How could I have forgotten that?



Sorrowful Mother card

Before I went to Adoration again the next day, I got a text from my son saying Ellie was fine. He attached pictures of Ellie playing contentedly to prove it. So I offered the hour in thanksgiving.

After that hour, the Lord asked me (in my heart) to write about this in order to help someone. I did not even want to talk about this, let alone write about it. But I agreed, and He guided me to some notes I had taken a few years ago while listening in my car to "Women of Grace" with Johnette Benkovic. The show had been so good that I actually pulled into a parking space to take notes. Johnette said that a priest once told her when she kept bringing up things that happened in the past, that God lives in the **present** time, but demons do not want us to believe that. She said the demons are called, "*Would Have*", "*Should Have*", "*Could Have*" and "*If Only*". And she said that when they get tired of us, they

throw us to the demon of the future, who is called "*What If*". She said they toss us around like a football, and to get rid of them, you should praise God. Johnette said that demons hate when we praise God and they hate Mary. An example of a prayer they hate would be "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you." Johnette added that when we live in the past or the future, we are blocking the graces God wants to give us in the present moment. Wow! What a great message!

I believe, that through the graces of Adoration, I was led to those notes from two years ago. I am in awe of how much better I feel now. What a wise and loving God we have. I pray this helps others as well.

"Free yourself of everything from the past which burdens you, that gives you a sense of guilt, that which previously led you astray in error and darkness. Accept the light." (Our Lady, 6/2/10) "Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself" (Mt 6:34).

Editor's note: After I wrote this, I was prompted to add a "disclaimer": If something that haunts you from the past was sinful, you need to go to Confession IF you have not already confessed it. On another note, we still have some of the Sorrowful Mother cards left with the excerpt from the January 2, 2017 message. To receive one or more (limit five), send a self-addressed stamped envelope to us at P.O. Box 6346, Erie, PA 16512.

"Do Not Believe Lying Voices...False Glitter"

By June Klins

Franny Dumont, a member of our Spirit of Medjugorje Facebook group, recently posted that Medjugorje changed her life. I wrote back and asked her if she would like to share her story and she did.

Franny said her story started when her eighth grade nun said that some day, in our time, messages will circulate the globe and be received instantaneously. Fast forward years ahead. Franny watched as her son, Chris, did a math problem for his friend in UCLA and his friend wrote back in an instant, "Thanks, Chris." Franny wrote, "I could have died! I asked him what that was called and he told me, 'The World Wide Web.'" Later she remembered what the Sister

had said and asked her son to show her the people who made that happen. Chris showed her Bill Gates and Steve Case from AOL. She bought one thousand shares of AOL and it split three times a year. "I became a day trader and a very successful one. I quickly became a millionaire. It was surreal – me, a kid from Philly without wealthy parents."

Franny continued, "I was amazed, but it took over my life. I would be on my son's computer all day buying and trading stock. If I didn't beat the street every day, I would get annoyed with myself. I wouldn't answer the phone after the opening bell until the closing bell. It was a game for me that I always seemed to win."

When Franny's choir director and choir members planned a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Franny decided to join them. She said that so many things happened on that pilgrimage that led her to see more clearly how God listens to our prayers.

Franny said when they first got there everyone wanted to see "Cross Hill." She said, "That's no hill; it's a mountain." She had both knees replaced at age 54, and did not feel she could make it up herself, so she prayed for God to send her five angels to get her up the mountain. She wrote, "Exactly five men helped me get up Cross Hill. That was an answer to my prayers."

Then they went to see Fr. Jozo. She wrote, "I thought I was having an anxiety attack. I was slain in the Spirit. I never believed that could happen. No one touched me." Then they visited the home for drug addicts (Cenacolo), and she was amazed that there were no doctors or meds to take. The nun who started that home (Mother Elvira) "had us in the bleachers and gave us the story of why this method works. God and Our Lady are involved." After the talk, Franny was able to speak privately with Mother Elvira. Franny told her how happy she was that she came to Medjugorje and saw all those miraculous things. Mother told her that she never decided anything herself – that she was called there by Our Lady. This confused Franny, but Mother assured her that when she got home, she would understand.

When Franny returned, her husband told her that her "books from the street" arrived. She was too tired to look at them and went to bed. The next morning, she looked at



Picture of Mother Elvira at the Cenacolo in Medjugorje

her Bible on her night stand and thought nothing of it until she was in the kitchen. She looked at those books she could have memorized in a few days, and then while making the bed, she looked at her Bible again and realized she could not quote Scripture, but could digest those other books in a few days. "I went to Catholic school and should know this, but you forget if you don't keep reading Scripture." Then Franny had a revelation. "That is when I realized why I was called to Medjugorje. I belonged to Caesar, not God."

"My children, do not believe lying voices which speak to you about false things, false glitter. You, my children, return to the Scripture." (Our Lady, 2/2/18)

"I never bought or sold stock again. That is how much God loves me. He

and Our Lady saved me from myself," Franny wrote. "For the love of money is the root of all evils, and some people in their desire for it have strayed from the faith and have pierced themselves with many pains" (1 Tim 6:10). Franny continued, "I don't give advice or buy those books anymore." She said she now reads her Bible and helps "a lot of the needy, not the greedy – those in Africa, the Little Sisters of the Poor, and friends in need." She concluded, "That's my story and it did save me from myself. Amen and Hallelujah!"

Editor's note: We would like to clarify that there is nothing wrong with buying and selling stocks. When it gets to the point of being an obsession and becoming a "false god" like it did for Franny, then it is wrong.

Praying for Priests

By June Klins

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the institution of the priesthood. At my parish, at the Mass of the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, our pastor renews his commitment to the priesthood and to our parish by answering several questions posed by a leader in the parish laity. It is so wonderful to hear his re-commitment. At the same time though, my heart aches because of priests who are unhappy in their priesthood, or who have been removed from public ministry because of misconduct. We need to pray for our priests.

In her book, *St. Faustina Prayer Book for Adoration*, Susan Tassone quotes Fr. John Hardon in her chapter on "Prayers for Priests and Religious," which really hit the nail on the head: "...No words I can use would be too strong to state that the Catholic priesthood needs prayer and sacrifice as never before since Calvary. Priests experience pressures with a violence and a virulence such as no one else but a priest can understand. One saint after another has declared

that the devil's principle target on earth is the Catholic priest. Priests need special graces from God. We ask why pray for priests? We should pray for priests and bishops because this has been the practice of the Church since apostolic times. It's a matter of truth. It is a divine mandate." (Fr. John Hardon, *The Value of Prayer and Sacrifice for Priests*, The Real Presence Association)

Our Lady repeatedly requests that we pray for priests. "As a mother I implore you not to forget those whom my Son has called to lead you. Carry them in your heart and pray for them." (1/2/18) "Love your shepherds and pray for them." (11/2/17) "My children, do not ever forget to pray for your shepherds. Pray that they can accept all people as their children; that, according to my Son, they may be spiritual fathers to them." (10/2/17)

May we pray for our priests daily. **Remember: no priests – no Eucharist; no priests – no Confession.**

Prayer for Priests

O my Jesus, I beg You on behalf of the whole Church: Grant it love and the light of Your Spirit, and give power to the words of priests so hardened hearts may be brought to repentance and return to You, O Lord. Lord, give us holy priests; You Yourself maintain them in holiness. O Divine and Great High Priest, may the power of Your mercy accompany them everywhere and protect them from the devil's traps and snares which are continually being set for the souls of priests. May the power of Your mercy, O Lord, shatter and bring to naught all that might tarnish the sanctity of priests, for You can do all things.

St. Faustina (Diary #1052)

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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 \$.71 postage on it.

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