



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



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CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 25, 2016

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



"Dear children! Today I am calling you: pray for peace. Leave selfishness and live the messages which I am giving you. Without them, you cannot change your life. By living prayer, you will have peace. By living in peace, you will feel the need to witness, because you will discover God whom you now feel to be far away. Therefore, little children, pray, pray, pray and permit God to enter into your hearts. Return to fasting and confession so as to overcome the evil in you and around you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

This picture of Divine Mercy was taken in Medjugorje. On Thanksgiving Day as we note what we are thankful for, may one of them be for God's awesome Mercy. Although this Year of Mercy will come to a close on November 20th, God's Mercy is always available for the asking.



Fr. Bill Kiel

May Prayer be Life to You

By Fr. Bill Kiel

Often we hear people talk about their prayer life. What is meant by "prayer life?" Usually we think of *how much* we pray, *when* we pray, or *what kind* of prayers we pray. Do we try not to say a lot of words

without thinking about what we are saying and to whom we are praying? Do we give serious thought as to *why* we say all those prayers? Do we follow the examples of a saint in the manner of our prayers? Are we praying from the heart?

Remember the words, "...I am calling you to prayer. May prayer be life to you. Only in this way will your heart be filled with peace and joy." (9/25/16) And also, "...my Son asks for love and prayer in Him. As a mother I will teach you: to love and to pray in Him means to pray in the silence of your soul and not only reciting with your lips..." (9/2/16)

Looking at our lives as they are today, are they what we want — filled with peace and joy, Christ-centered? Are we living the Will of God? In many hearts, there is no joy because there is no God or prayer. We are to be guided by the words, "return to prayer with the heart so as to find hope and the meaning of your existence, in prayer." (2/25/16) Also, "prayer and faith will fill your heart with love and joy and you will be a sign for those who are far from God. ...encourage each other to prayer with the heart, so that prayer may fill your life." (9/25/15)

Each of us should think, "What is missing in my life? Do I think I know for what I am searching? Am I just seeking



Pilgrims praying on Apparition Hill

good health, more comforts in the home, a nicer vehicle, better friends, greater financial security, newer clothes, better family relationships? Do I need to search deeper — have God as the center of my life, to guide me in living His will?"

Much of what we seek in our lives is thought to makes us happy and joyful; but does it? Our happiness seems to be so short-lived, and joy escapes us quickly. "...I am looking at you and I see you lost; and you do not have prayer or joy in your heart. Return to prayer... and put God in the first place and not man. May this time...every day, be a greater seeking of God in the silence of your heart; and

pray, pray, pray until prayer becomes a joy for you." (7/25/16)

Each day of our lives we should attempt to open our hearts to the love of God and pass His love on to others, using the life of Jesus as our model of living. To live more like Christ, we can follow the example of the Blessed Mother and the saints who valiantly tried to live the Will of God. Life can be difficult if we live it without prayer and sacrifice, but we do have great examples from the past and those living Christ-like lives today, to encourage us.

Prayer is life for us. "You cannot live without prayer, because prayer is a chain which brings you closer to God. You are free to in freedom decide for God or against Him." (1/25/16)

What have I decided? Do I have God as the focus of my life? Do I pray, pray, pray from my heart?

Mary Queen of Peace, pray for us.

October 2, 2016 message to Mirjana

"Dear children, the Holy Spirit, according to the Heavenly Father, made me the mother — the mother of Jesus — and by this alone, also your mother. That is why I am coming to hear you, that I may open my motherly arms to you; to give you my heart and to call you to remain with me, because from the top of the cross my Son entrusted you to me. Unfortunately, many of my children have not come to know the love of my Son; many of them do not want to come to know Him. Oh, my children, how much bad is done by those who must see or interpret in order to come to believe. That is why, you, my children, my apostles, in the silence of your heart, listen to the voice of my Son, so that your heart may be His home, that it may not be dark and sad, but that it may be illuminated with the light of my Son. Seek hope with faith, because faith is the life of the soul. Anew I am calling you: pray, pray to live faith in humility, in spiritual peace, and illuminated by the light. My children, do not strive to comprehend everything immediately, because I also did not comprehend everything immediately; but I loved, and I believed in the divine words which my Son spoke — He who was the first light and the beginning of redemption. Apostles of my love — you who pray, sacrifice yourselves, love and do not judge — you go and spread the truth, the words of my Son, the Gospel, because you are the living Gospel; you are the rays of the light of my Son. My Son and I will be with you to encourage you and to test you. My children, always implore the blessing of those, and only of those whose hands have been blessed by my Son, of your shepherds. Thank you."

Our thanks to Pat Weller, Sue Kirby, Kathy Wayman, Diane Niebauer, Chris Falk, Barb Cesare, Peggy Chludzinski, Mary Tirak, Kathy Luschini, Vickie DeCoursey, Cindy Bielanin, Joanne Warren, Diana Englund, Stephanie Koshinskie, Georgia Chludzinski, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the October mailing. We thank Chris Falk and Susannah Klins for their photos. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, and our webmaster, Jason Klins.

As of October 25, 2016, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 16,766.

Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis for November:

Countries Receiving Refugees: That the countries which take in a great number of displaced persons and refugees may find support for their efforts which show solidarity.

Collaboration of Priests and Laity: That within parishes, priests and lay people may collaborate in service to the community without giving in to the temptation of discouragement.



What Have I Done to Help Them?

The following is an excerpt from The Hidden Child of Medjugorje by Sr. Emmanuel.

After her wedding, Vicka kept her promise to remain at her “post” speaking to pilgrims. She set for herself a schedule of alternate days to speak to them at the “blue house,” her old family home. She has been delivering the messages from there since 1981, with the same enthusiasm and the same love as she did the first day!

In between pilgrim groups, while speaking at the “blue house,” I asked her about the wave of law suits against American bishops. Vicka stated that, “Each one of us has a conscience, to be straight with God and with people. If I hear that a bishop has been accused of this or that, who am I to judge his conscience? No, I’m not going to judge him, but I am going to examine my own conscience and ask myself: ‘For years the Gospa has been calling us to pray for priests, bishops, and the Holy Father. What have I done to help them? Have I prayed for them with all my heart?’ That’s the question! God sees the rest. For my part, I have to help the best I can without wasting any time making comments about my priests. There are already too many words spoken and not enough prayer!”

Then I asked, “What about you, Vicka, how do you pray with the heart? What can you say to those who say, ‘I can’t



Vicka speaking at the orphanage in 2015

pray from the heart; I just can’t manage to open up my heart?”

Vicka: “Each one of us has to try! You see, my experience is my own. I pray in my own way, as the Lord taught me. Praying is joyful for me because it is my answer to God. I have decided to answer to God. I have made my decision to answer! People who say they can’t, it’s because they don’t want to, for fear of having to change internally. But, in fact, the Lord is waiting for them. He is waiting for that moment when they say simply, ‘Lord, do with me what You will!’ **But first of all, we must believe that God loves us** [editor emphasis]. I know that

God loves me, so I am giving myself entirely to Him. Then, when I open my heart up to Him, He moves me along. You know, all prayers are said in different ways. I pray a certain way; you pray a different way. That’s true for every one of us. All that matters is that we pray from the heart, that we desire to pray from the heart. Whenever we have this desire, God is always there, ready to give!”

Editor’s note: This book was written in 2007. Vicka no longer sees pilgrims at the “blue house.” When she is well, she sees pilgrims at the Orphanage of Sr. Kornelia at Vionica, because it can accommodate more pilgrims.

Prayer for the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (November 21)

The following prayer was taken from The Glories of Mary by St. Alphonsus Liguori.

O beloved Mother of God, most amiable child Mary, O that, as though didst present thyself in the temple, and with promptitude, and without reserve, didst consecrate thyself to the glory and love of God, I could offer to thee, this day, the first years of my life, to devote myself, without reserve, to thy service, my holy and most sweet Lady! But it is now too late to do this; for, unfortunate creature that I am, I have lost so many years in service of the world and my own caprices, and have lived in almost entire forgetfulness of thee and of God. *Woe to that time in which I did not love thee!* But it is better to begin late than not at all. Behold, O Mary, I this day present myself to thee, and I offer myself, without reserve, to thy service, for the long or short time that I still have to live in this world; and in union with thee, I renounce all creatures, and devote myself entirely to the love of my Creator. I consecrate my mind to thee, O Queen, that it may always think of the love that thou deservest, my tongue to praise thee, my heart to love thee. Do thou accept,

O most holy Virgin, the offering which this miserable sinner now makes thee; accept it, I beseech thee, by the consolation that thy heart experienced when thou gavest thyself to God in the temple. But since I enter thy service late, it is reasonable that I should redouble my acts of homage and love, thereby to compensate for lost time. Do thou help my weakness, with thy powerful intercession, O Mother of Mercy, by obtaining me perseverance from thy Jesus and strength to be always faithful to thee until death; that thus always serving thee in life, I may praise thee in Paradise for all eternity. Amen.

Editor’s note: I felt it important to note the Presentation of Mary this month, so I included this prayer in my first draft. But then I took it out because it seemed so archaic. A few days later, I noticed that a car in front of me had a hand-written paper attached to its license plate that read, “Nov. 21, 2016.” As odd as it was, the date reminded me of this prayer, and I took it as a prompt to put it back in.

Ivan’s Message

On September 27, 2016, visionary Ivan Dragicevic was a guest at an Evening of Prayer at St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Vienna, Austria. During his apparition, Our Lady gave Ivan a message. Ivan’s messages are not considered public messages for the world, but are generally meant for those who are present at the apparition. However, this one was different, because the apparition was broadcast on the internet through www.marytv.tv, and therefore, anyone in the world who was willing and able to be present, could be. So the message could be “unofficially” for everyone. Our Lady said in this message: “Dear children! Today I want to invite you in a special way to pray for all people who are suffering, for all who walk on the way of the cross and carry pain. I invite you – I call you – to pray, so they accept their cross and find love through that cross. Thank you for having responded to my call today!”

Unfortunately, we did not have the information about the Evening of Prayer in time to print it in the newsletter, but we did post it on our Facebook page. We encourage people to join our Facebook group to receive information like this. When the Medjugorje secrets will be announced to the world, this news will probably be spread quickly through social media like Facebook. You ask, “What if I don’t have internet access?” If you are **on our mailing list** and don’t have internet access, you can send us a 3x5 index card with your name and phone number, and we will call you when the secrets are announced. And no, we do not have “inside information” as to when this will be, but visionary Mirjana says on the last page of her recently-released autobiography, “I do see indications that the events are already in motion.”

God is Love – Always!

By Cathy Nolan

“For the sake of that love I am imploring my Son that none of you, my children, will return home the same as he came; that you may take with you all the more hope, mercy and love; that you may be my apostles of love who will witness with their lives that the Heavenly Father is the source of life and not of death...”
(August 2, 2016)

Our Lady wants us to change... She wants us to understand that God loves us so very much that He will not stop trying to heal us, change us, and renew us. He will never tire of forgiving us! That is because He is “The source of life and not death!” He gives life!

Fr. Leon Periera, O.P., has been sharing what we call “Sanctuary Snippets” before each English Mass in Medjugorje. We are taping them, and archiving them on our home page at www.marytv.tv so that his amazing catechesis will not be lost. Today [9/1/16] I want to share the “Snippet” for August 30, 2016, because it helps us understand what Our Lady is telling us in this excerpt from Her August 2, 2016 message:

“I want to talk to you today about forgiveness. You know we constantly say, ‘God loves you.’ And I don’t think people really believe us, or maybe we ourselves don’t really believe it very much. Because with us first of all, with our parents: when we are good, they reward us; and when we are bad, they punish us. Then we have this idea that God is somehow similar. We think we have to be neat and tidy enough before God would love us. But God is love – always!

“This means that when you are at your most debauched, depraved – pushing grannies into the street and torturing kittens to death – when you are in that phase of your life, God loves you passionately – because He does not change. Only *we* change with respect to Him.

“So we can talk in the Bible about God’s anger and God’s justice, yes, but that is still His love. He doesn’t change. If we are not repentant, then out of love, He gives us what we love...we choose hell – life without Him. But He doesn’t change. He always loves us passionately.

“Imagine when you were a child, when you were newly baptized, and you think you were this innocent or this holy. And then you grew up and you discovered all kinds

of sins. Or you think you have fallen down in some way here. What happens when you go to Confession? Do you think you then climb up to about here [motioning]? And God thinks, “OK, I will tolerate you. I won’t destroy you yet. But I don’t really like you very much.” Is that what God does? No!! (Everyone is nodding.)

“When God forgives us, He has to reach with His grace to lift us up. He lifts us up to something higher than we were before – more than when we were newly baptized infants. We become something greater than a newly baptized infant, because a newly baptized infant has received the Holy Spirit. But when God forgives us, he raises us up higher because we become something greater. We are a forgiven liar, a forgiven cheat, a forgiven murderer, a forgiven adulterer, and that is something greater, because God’s love has had to reach down and lift us up!

“So when we say that God loves you, this is what we mean: that He loves us *passionately* – that we should not be afraid of Him.

“Mercy, of course, only applies to those who want it. If you don’t want it, it doesn’t come to you. It is no use to you. You can’t receive it if you are not repentant. That is not mercy; that is just a joke. If you don’t repent, and you say God is mercy, the year of mercy...that is not mercy. That is a lie. Mercy needs repentance in order to be able to receive it. If we are unwilling to change our hearts, we can’t receive mercy. So it is a horror to come to Medjugorje and say: ‘I want to carry on hating. I want to carry on being a (witch). I want to carry on being a horrible person.’ No, this is a great opportunity. Open your hearts, open them to Our Lady, and let Her change us!!”

www.marytv.tv



*Mosaic of the Prodigal Son
at Mother's Village*

Praying for Grandma's Soul

By June Klins

Fr. Chris Alar, M.I.C., gave an excellent talk in August at a conference in Buffalo, New York, about Divine Mercy, and at one point, his talk brought me to tears. Father talked about a discussion he had as a young man (we will call him “Chris” because he was not a priest at that time) in 2003 with a priest regarding his grandmother’s suicide in 1993. Chris told this priest that he was worried about his grandmother’s soul, especially because in her last year of life she had stopped receiving the Sacraments and had turned her back on God and the Church. The priest told him to go home and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the salvation of his grandmother’s soul.

Chris, whose profession at that time was engineering, questioned the priest, “Father, I don’t understand. My grandmother has been judged. There is nothing I can do to

change that.” The priest repeated his instructions to pray the Chaplet for her soul. Chris told the priest he did not want to be difficult, but he just did not understand. The priest said, “God knew back in 1993 that you would be here in 2003, and you would pray this Chaplet for your grandmother, and those graces will be allowed through the mercy of God to be taken back and showered upon the soul of your grandmother at the moment of her judgment to help her. This is why we need to pray for our loved ones and our families and our friends.”

Chris lamented that his grandmother had fallen away from the Church before she died, so Father pointed out that paragraph 1486 of St. Faustina’s *Diary* says that Jesus comes to every soul three times at the moment of death. If the soul rejects Him after the first time, He goes away. But He comes back a second time. If the soul rejects Him again, He’ll go,

but He'll come back a third time. If the soul rejects Him a third time, the soul is lost forever.

Chris was elated to hear this, since he felt his grandmother would never have rejected Jesus, because she was a good person. But then Father seemed to throw a monkey wrench at him, asserting, "We die in the state that we live." He explained that if we turn our backs on God, we will not recognize Him when He comes. Chris was crestfallen at that thought, since his grandmother had, in fact, turned her back on God. But the priest continued, "Without your prayers, She may not recognize Him, but *with* your prayers upon her soul at the moment of her judgment – because God is outside of time (there is no past or future for God, just one eternal now), He can take those graces from your prayers and shower them down on your grandmother, so maybe, just maybe, it's enough grace for her to turn around and say, 'Yes' to God."

Father said that this is why St. John Paul II and others call us "mini co-redeemers." We are the Body of Christ and it is very important for us to pray for one another. Prayers can

make a difference. A demon once told St. John Vianney that 80,000 souls avoided hell due to his prayers and sufferings. This is why we should offer up our prayers and suffering.

Father continued, referencing paragraph 1698 of the *Diary* – which says that God's mercy sometimes touches souls at the last moment. Chris began to cry at the thought of such a merciful God. He decided right then and there to spend the rest of his life spreading this message of hope. And that he does. Chris joined the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, was ordained a few years ago, and is now the director of the Association of Marian Helpers.

Editor's note: If you would like to hear Father's entire talk, you can order the CD called "Divine Mercy 101" by calling 1-800-462-7426, or visit the website marian.org. The reason Father's talk brought me to tears is because I started a website in 2011 to pray for souls who have committed suicide (<https://sites.google.com/site/divinemercyforlostsouls>). A friend and I were talking about this right before Father's talk, so it was a confirmation.

A Suggestion for Advent

After I finished writing the article about Father Chris Alar's talk (above), I got a very strong prompting to make a suggestion for Advent: to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet each day for one of our deceased relatives. Wouldn't that be a wonderful gift to give Baby Jesus on Christmas Day!!!! We all have members in our family tree that were "less than saintly." Even Jesus did! (A study of the people listed in Matthew 1:1-17 will reveal some "less than saintly" people.)

What also came to me is that maybe we could continue this act of mercy (it is a spiritual work of mercy "to pray for the living and the dead") in the new year, by choosing as often as possible someone from the obituaries who does not seem to have a religious affiliation (and there are far too many of them) to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for his/her salvation. Can you imagine how grateful these souls would be???

It was impossible to ignore this powerful prompting to make this suggestion. It came to me after Mass on October 15, the feast day of St. Teresa of Avila, who wrote: "Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are His body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." Our Lady of Medjugorje said in Her February 25, 1997 message, "*I invite you, little children, to see at this time who needs your spiritual or material help. By your example, little children, you will be the extended hands of God, which humanity is seeking.*"



Public posts of obituaries in Medjugorje

The Crowd on Cross Mountain

By June Klins

When I was in Medjugorje in June, our guide, Ana, told an interesting story about a certain lady who climbed Cross Mountain very early one morning, around 3:00 A.M, praying the Way of The Cross. To her surprise, she did not have the mountain to herself at that hour. She saw a huge crowd of people passing her by. They greeted her with, "Praised be Jesus and Mary," and she responded. When she arrived at the top of the mountain she expected to find them there, but no one was there. At the time, there was no other way down as there is today, so they should have passed her on the way down. So it seemed very strange to this woman. How could all those people disappear?

Ana said that at the beginning of the apparitions, people could ask questions to Our Lady through the visionaries, so this woman asked Vicka about the crowd on the mountain. Our Lady replied that those "people" were souls from

Purgatory who were delivered from Purgatory through the prayers of that woman on the mountain!

After Ana told this story, she recommended that people not talk and laugh on the way down the mountain. She said that most people think they are done with their prayers after reaching the top, but she suggested that we come down in silence, praying for the souls in Purgatory. Our Lady said that those who pray for the souls in Purgatory will receive great graces, since the souls cannot pray for themselves. Ana said, "They can pray for you and you can pray for them. They will not stop praying for you and your family before the throne of God. Imagine if you delivered one soul. Imagine other souls. So please include in your prayers the souls in Purgatory because they wait for our prayers. They suffer there."

Confessions of a Medjugorje Pilgrim

By Emily Aldridge

"Go to Confession. Unburden yourselves of all sin. In return, I will give you peace in your hearts." (Our Lady, 2/28/88) I have just returned from my fourth pilgrimage to Medjugorje, where I served for three months as a volunteer. It was during this time that I felt a very gentle and silent nudge within me that Our Lady wanted me to make a General Confession.

A *General Confession* calls us to stop and to really look deeply into ourselves and into our lives. It is a time for us to call on the power of the Holy Spirit to help us to prayerfully and carefully search as far back into our past as we can remember and to reflect on all the ways in which we have offended God, our neighbor, and ourselves, by sinning against the Ten Commandments, The Beatitudes, and The Precepts of the Catholic Church. It is a time for us to re-visit our own painful and often unwanted memories and to finally admit to any of our heavy and unconfessed sins and to verbalize, face them, and overcome them, within a very safe environment in the presence of a Catholic priest. It is therefore a liberating time of deep and inner healing from the Lord, and it calls us to truly forgive others and ourselves and to receive absolution from God the Father of Mercy. It is also an incredibly powerful weapon against satan, as it enables us to break absolutely everything within us that he is attached to, so that he then has nothing left to hold on to. Making a General Confession is a slow, unrushed and prayerful time which can take several hours. It is not a time of scrupulous self-condemnation or a time to re-confess already forgiven sins. My personal experience was actually life-changing, and I thus encourage all Catholic Christians to unburden themselves to the Lord in this way.

My own personal desire to make a General Confession came at a time in my life when I was seriously discerning the call to religious life. Wanting to belong all and only to Jesus, I knew that I had to first let go of everything that was preventing me from giving my whole self to Him. A General Confession is, therefore, both incredibly useful and encouraged, when one is about to make a life-changing decision in faith to draw closer to Jesus and to enter into a much deeper union with Him.

It was not at all surprising for me that this call came during a time that I was actually living in Medjugorje – the "confessional capital of the world" – and so I asked the Lord to send me His priest with whom He wanted me to confess. Within one month, I met a Franciscan Friar of the Holy Spirit from Arizona who agreed to hear my General Confession and to pray for the healing of my heart.

As we commenced the celebration of this Sacrament, he first anointed me with healing oil that had been blessed by both Pope Francis and Pope Benedict and together, we prayed a prayer of protection. The Holy Spirit then gave me all the words I needed to say and all the memories I needed to recall, so verbalizing everything actually felt very easy. The priest then laid his hands on me and prayed in Jesus' name to break the attachment to all the evils I had turned to or been affected by in my whole life. During this time,



Confession sign at St. James in Medjugorje

he said that his hands became so hot that he almost wanted to remove them from my head! Following this, he both led me in prayer and asked me to use my own words to renounce each individual evil by saying, "In Jesus' name, I renounce..." and then to forgive all of those who had sinned against me, as well as to forgive myself, all in Jesus' name. Then Father asked me to start to slowly and deeply breathe out all of the darkness and to breathe in the peace of Christ. This was all an incredibly real and liberating experience, and when I received absolution, I was completely encapsulated by the awesomeness of God's power, mercy, strength, forgiveness, presence, peace, goodness and love.

The day that I made this confession was the day that Our Lady had told the visionaries that it was Her actual birthday [August 5]. So, I decided that my birthday gift to Her would be the complete unburdening of myself to Her merciful Son.

For the rest of that day, and in the days that followed, I felt a deep presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, in prayer, in others, in nature and simply in everything. On the evening of my birthday, I was blessed to go to an Apparition of Our Lady to the visionary Marija. During this time, I felt a beautiful warmth all around me and I felt an incredible, deep sense of peace within me. Whilst my birthday gift to Our Lady was to unburden myself of everything that wasn't of Her Son, Her birthday gift to me was to fill me with everything that is of Her Son.

So for all of you who may feel anxious at the thought of going to Confession, and for all of you – no matter what your life has been – who no longer practice your faith and who haven't been to Confession even since the day you first made this Sacrament, rest assured that God actually wants you, and thus invites and welcomes you, to confess. Jesus knows more about you than you could ever know yourself, and there is absolutely nothing that the priest will not have heard before, so there is no need at all for any embarrassment, fear or shame. Be reassured that God is love and mercy itself, and that Jesus will forgive and forget all of your sins if you are truly sorry. Place your hands into the hand of Jesus, the Wounded Healer, and Mary, the Mother of Mercy, and permit Them to guide you out of the darkness. Know that Jesus is the light of life, and that if you do unburden yourself, you will truly feel His peace which all of us crave and need.

So in this Jubilee Year of Mercy, whoever you are, wherever you are, whatever your past, and whenever you last made your confession, be comforted by the words of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as He says in Matthew 11:28, "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Editor's note: Emily is entering Aspirancy with the Missionaries of Charity this January in India! It was through Our Lady in Medjugorje that she found her vocation. Her story was in our December 2015 issue. Please keep her in your prayers.

The Priest Who Spoke Spanish

By June Klins

When I was in Medjugorje in June, our guide, Ana, told us some very interesting stories. One story was about a Mexican pilgrim who met a priest as she was climbing Mt. Krizevac. The priest spoke to her in her native language, which was Spanish, and told her that she was leading an immoral life. He invited her to Confession the following day at 5:00 P.M. The next day, she went to the confessionals as she was told, but could not find any priests who spoke Spanish. So she went to the rectory, where they were able to convey to her that no one spoke Spanish there. The lady was a bit angry, and as she was leaving the office, she saw a big photo of Fr. Slavko Barbaric on the wall. She recognized him as the priest who spoke to her on the mountain, and said, "This priest speaks Spanish. Where is he?" The pastor told her that Fr. Slavko had died two years prior on November 24, 2000! Needless, to say, this woman had a conversion through this experience.

What to Confess

The following is an excerpt from a talk in Medjugorje by Fr. Slavko Barbaric on December 30, 1985.

You know Our Lady has asked us to go regularly to Confession. Somebody asked me to say something on how we should confess. When confessing, many people say, "I have not stolen, I have not hurt anybody, I have been praying a little, I have been attending Mass, I am a Christian. All is in order."

It is not right to steal, it is not right to hurt others, that is true, and if we have done so, we must confess it.

But this is rated as zero in Christian life. We are not Christians in order *not* to steal, *not* to hurt. We are Christians in order *to do something positive*, to love, to bring peace. I will give you an example: we do not have legs in order not to fall, but have legs to enable us to walk. Naturally we can fall, but we have the legs to go forward on. Similarly, we are Christians not to do no harm to others, but to act in a positive way to love, to bring peace.

Therefore, it is not enough to say, "I did not steal, I did not swear." We must question ourselves on our positive actions and realize whether we have been doing what we were supposed to: if we have, in effect, loved others, if we have brought peace, comfort, if we have been sharing with others.

I am telling you that if you start with a deeper spiritual life, you will feel even the smallest things that need to be confessed. I am not saying you should become full of scruples; no, I am not, but when one leads a deeper spiritual life, one can understand better, one senses injustices better, one can get a better sense of all those opportunities where we could have done some good. So, confess always what you feel was not right, but also look positively at what people may have been expecting of you.

The Jumano Indians and the Lady in Blue

By June Klins

Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C., who had a radical conversion through Our Lady of Medjugorje, was one of the speakers at a Divine Mercy Conference in Buffalo, New York in August. Father spoke about the Rosary, and told a number of very interesting stories from his newest book, called *Champions of the Rosary*. (The subtitle of the book is *The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon*.) Father said his book is the most comprehensive book about the Rosary since St. Louis de Montfort's *The Secret of the Rosary*.

Champions of the Rosary traces the history of the Rosary and all its "champions" to the present. There is a chapter on other saints not included in the history who also were very dedicated to praying and spreading devotion to the Rosary. There is even a section on the Rosary in Art with some very beautiful paintings through the ages. What a great book!

One of the stories Father shared at the conference regarding the Rosary and our nation's history was particularly fascinating. Father said that, in 1629, Franciscan priests arrived in an area of the southwestern United States now known as New Mexico and western Texas. They were surprised to find that the Jumano Indians living there already knew the truths of Christianity, and were asking

to be baptized and receive the other Sacraments. They even had rosaries! The Franciscans inquired as to how that could be, since they were the first missionaries in that area. The Indians informed them that a "lady in blue" had been visiting them, instructing them, and giving them rosaries.

The Franciscans, of course, thought it was the Blessed Virgin Mary who had been visiting them. But when the Indians saw a picture of Her, they said that was not their visitor. In sharing the information with their superiors in Spain, it was determined that the woman who had been visiting the Indians was the Spanish mystic, Mary of Agreda. This mystic, who has recently been named venerable by the Church, had the charism of bi-location (being in two places at once), and she confirmed that she had, indeed, been instructing the Jumano Indians and taking rosaries with her to distribute to the Indians between the years 1620 and 1623. She was called "Lady in Blue" because of her blue habit. Isn't that awesome!!!!



Editor's note: Fr. Calloway's conversion story was in our April, 2004 issue. Champions of the Rosary, No Turning Back (Father's conversion story) and his other many books can be ordered from any bookstore, or by calling 1-800-462-7426.

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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 \$.68 postage on it.



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