



THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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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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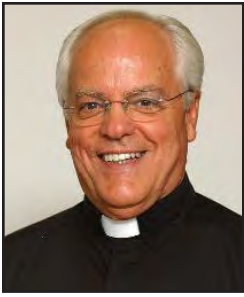
MONTHLY MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 25, 2018

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.



"Dear children! You have a great grace of being called to a new life through the messages which I am giving you. This, little children, is a time of grace, a time and a call to conversion for you and the future generations. Therefore, I am calling you, little children, pray more and open your heart to my Son Jesus. I am with you and love you all and bless you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call."

November is the month dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The photograph above was taken in the cemetery behind St. James Church in Medjugorje. In the background can be seen Mt. Krizevac (Cross Mountain).



Fr. Bill Kiel

Apostle of Love???

By Fr. Bill Kiel

Have you thought of yourself as an apostle of love?

"I am calling you to be courageous and to not grow weary, because even the smallest good — the smallest sign of love — conquers evil which is all the more visible. My children, listen to me so that good may overcome, so that you may come to know the love of my Son. This is the greatest happiness — the hands of my Son that embrace, of Him who loves the soul, of Him who has given Himself for you and is always giving Himself anew in the Eucharist, of Him who has the words of eternal life.

"My children, the world needs apostles of love; the world needs much prayer, but prayer spoken with the heart and the soul and not only pronounced with the lips." (10/2/18)

Reading these words should cause us to reflect on our actions of love. What do I do to help conquer evil? Do I reflect on how deeply I know the love of Jesus? Am I open to receiving the love of Jesus in the Eucharist?

Many days, as we live moment by moment, do we ever think of reaching out *in the love of Jesus* to overcome evil

around us? Let us first reflect on our spiritual life. How deeply do we "know" Jesus and His love? Can I say I am aware of His love in my life each day? Do I feel His embrace?

Receiving the Holy Eucharist should be a time to have a most intimate conversation with Jesus; do I listen then for His words of eternal life? Do I have a relationship with Jesus that opens me to the graces to be an apostle of love?

Our lives can be discouraging as we become aware of much evil in the lives around us — people in close proximity, especially friends and family. We are given the words "...even the smallest good — the smallest sign of love — conquers evil..." (10/2/18)

Before we take on the role of "an apostle of love", we need to be honest about who we are and how we live the love of Jesus. We may need to ask Our Blessed Mother to help us to know Her Son and His ways of loving; we cannot do it alone. Mary Queen of Peace, pray for us.



Vicka, an apostle of love, painted by Jim Wilson

"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Note from the Editor: Thank you in advance for your patience. I may not be able in November and December to respond to your mail, emails, or phone calls in as timely a manner as I would like. Your prayers are appreciated as well.

Message to Mirjana on October 2, 2018



Mirjana on October 2, 2018

"Dear children, I am calling you to be courageous and to not grow weary, because even the smallest good—the smallest sign of love—conquers evil which is all the more visible. My children, listen to me so that good may overcome, so that you may come to know the love of my Son. This is the greatest happiness—the hands of my Son that embrace, of Him who loves the soul, of Him who has given Himself for you and is always giving Himself anew in the Eucharist, of Him who has the words of eternal life. To come to know His love, to follow in His footsteps, means to have a wealth of spirituality. This is the wealth which gives good feelings and sees love and goodness everywhere. Apostles of my love, my children, be like the rays of the sun which with the warmth of my Son's love warm everyone around them. My children, the world needs apostles of love; the world needs much prayer, but prayer spoken with the heart and the soul and not only pronounced with the lips. My children, long for holiness but in humility, in the humility which permits my Son to do that which He desires through you. My children, your prayers, your words, thoughts and actions—all of this either opens or closes the doors to the Kingdom of Heaven for you. My Son showed you the way and gave you hope, and I am consoling and encouraging you because, my children, I had come to know pain, but I had faith and hope. Now I have the reward of life in the Kingdom of my Son. Therefore, listen to me, have courage and do not grow weary. Thank you."

Our thanks to Joanne Warren, Sue Taccone, Diane Niebauer, Julie Hansen, Rose Heintzel, Chris Falk, Dianne Yochim, Vickie DeCoursey, Marge Burchard, Barb Cesare, Elaine and John Brady, Joan Peterson, Chris Opron, Estrella Igras, Georgia Chludzinski, Irene and Dan Zuba, Laura DiBacco, Kathy Luschini, Cindy Bielanan, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the October mailing. We thank Dave Wayman, Maria Sowinski and Jason Smith for their photos in this issue. We thank Joan Peterson for making us more prayer cloths. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for November

In Service of Peace: That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.



As of October 25, 2018, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 26,350. Thank you.

Healing from Grief in Medjugorje

By Sr. Emmanuel

Lebanon is one of the countries most touched by Medjugorje and many are the graces granted to their pilgrims, who enjoy good spiritual leadership. To those who doubt the wonderful action of Our Lady in Medjugorje, we say: come and listen to the witness of the Lebanese pilgrims on the day they leave!

Here is an example related to me by Leila, 52, a widow and mother of three children. She lives in the Plain of Bekaa and when she decided to come to Medjugorje, her heart was tormented by anguish and sadness. She came at the urging of her sister, but because of the burden that was oppressing her, she had come like a robot, without any conviction. Her husband had died of liver cancer four months earlier and, since his death, she had stopped praying, stopped living, and she would run away from everyone, trying to lock herself away in loneliness because of despair.

On the fourth day of the pilgrimage, she phoned her sister and told her desperately, "I don't know what I have come here for. I feel terrible, much worse than when I was in Lebanon; it's dreadful, I find no peace, nothing is happening to me here, I would have been better off staying at home!" Her sister encouraged her, assuring her that she and many others were praying a lot for her and continuously supporting her, offering Masses and the Way of the Cross for her sake.

Last Friday, May 10, Leila was at the Blue Cross (at the foot of Apparition Hill), away from the crowd gathered at St. James for the Rosary. A friend from her group saw her and offered to pray a Rosary with her. Leila sat on a rock and her friend on another one. They prayed silently so as not to bother the prayer of a French group that had just arrived. During the Rosary, Leila poured out to the Gospa all of her suffering and asked her, "Why did you let me come here if it is to suffer more than I did in Lebanon?! You can see that I have no peace. I beg you, help me! And if you see anything that hinders peace in my heart, I beseech you, take it away, for I can't bear it any longer! Please bless me, give me a sign! If you set me free, I promise you to recite a Rosary every day for my husband's soul."

The sky was very cloudy, for it had been raining. Around 6:30 p.m., Leila raised her eyes and she was surprised to see the sun break through the clouds, shining more brightly than ever, and yet she was able to stare at it without being dazzled. The sun seemed to be swelling and throbbing, pulsing as a beating heart and getting close to her. It turned into a huge host, then Our Lady appeared in it, holding out Her arms as if to welcome someone. She was all white, beaming with light, and next to Her was a cross of light. Then Jesus appeared right next to Our Lady. Leila saw only His face, crowned with thorns and stained with blood. Jesus was looking at Leila, who started crying; she couldn't believe her eyes. She stared at him for 20 minutes, unable to move. Her friend heard her say out loud several times in Lebanese, "Don't go, please stay longer!" The other people

present, including a few French people, claim to have seen the same thing, but not the face of Christ. After this event, Leila could only keep repeating, "Thank you, my God, for the grace you have given me!"

Though I cannot make a judgment about the event, if we are to recognize a tree by its fruit, we can all see that Leila has become another person. Isn't that the essential thing? A profound peace took hold of her, prayer has started to flow again in her heart, and most of all, the terrible resentment she was holding towards her husband dissolved. For the first time Leila was able to forgive, yes, forgive the years of marital suffering that death seemed to have shut up in her heart with no possible escape. Whatever Leila saw with her eyes, one thing is sure – she now feels released, and her happiness is inexpressible. Inner peace has at last flowed into her heart. That same evening, she called her sister to tell her with tears of joy, "I saw Our Lady, I saw Jesus!"

Many people like Leila remain imprisoned in revolt and bitterness after the death of a close one, when forgiveness did not take place during that person's lifetime. Many think it is too late then to make peace, they believe they have lost the chance to reconcile with the deceased who is out of their reach. This creates serious disturbance of soul which Satan may easily use to drive the remaining one to despair. Yet, God's grace has no limitation of time or circumstance! With Him, it is never too late, especially for mercy. How important it is to make peace with those who have died as well as with the living! God does indeed grant graces of liberation, we just have to sincerely desire them and ask him for them. On the other side of the veil, the deceased now see things quite differently. It is a big mistake to freeze the image of the deceased at the state they were in when they left us, as if their death made it final. This is not the case for them. On the contrary, their leaving this world will have transformed them deeply, more deeply than the most amazing conversion would have on earth. Even if they are still suffering in Purgatory, they now love all men with a pure, unadulterated, totally God-inspired love; they can no longer sin. They desire for their dear ones what God himself wishes for them: they embrace the will of God with all their soul and cherish it. Thus, the bad memories that might persist in the hearts of those who outlive them no longer apply. They have "expired", so to speak! This is why it is so important for us, the living, to free ourselves from those bad memories, through forgiveness.

Many people in mourning can be met in Medjugorje. I notice that the Mother of God intervenes powerfully and consoles Her children. She sweeps away the old stories that paralyze so many hearts. We just have to ask Her and open ourselves up sincerely to this grace of renewal; then life will rush anew into our heart, as Leila's experience shows (usually without extraordinary visions or manifestations).
Children of Medjugorje, www.childrenofmedjugorje.com, May 15, 2002 report



The Blue Cross

“You are Created for Heaven”

By June Klins

On All Saints Day, November 1, 2017, my sister-in-law, Sharon, was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. Sharon had battled kidney cancer around eight years before that, and had asked me for a Medjugorje prayer cloth. Her husband, Dave, who had a cloth I had given him for cancer, was not willing to give his up. He had been diagnosed with cancer several years before that, and I had offered him one even though he and Sharon were not Catholic. I had explained to them that they needed to pray with the cloth and that it is not like a “lucky charm”. Sharon said Dave slept with the prayer cloth and it gave him great peace. He was healed of the cancer.

Of course, I gave Sharon her own prayer cloth. Through medical procedures, Sharon was cancer-free for years until six weeks after Dave died during a heart procedure. Two days after Sharon’s diagnosis, we went to the hospital to visit her. I asked her if I could pray over her with a hair from Msgr. James Peterson, our former spiritual advisor, whose cause may be opened for canonization in the future. She was very open to it and asked some family members who were in the room to stay, so they could “learn something”. (These family members were not Catholic either.) I prayed for Msgr. Peterson’s intercession, since he had died of cancer and knew what the suffering was like. I also prayed Our Lady’s Prayer for the Sick (see page 7).

The doctors did not give Sharon much hope and she was released to her home, where family members took care of her. As her condition continued to deteriorate, she did not want visitors, but as she saw the end was near, she wanted to say her good-byes to everyone. On January 25, I went to see her, which just happened to be a “Medjugorje message day.” I printed the message out and took it with me because I thought it would give her some consolation, especially when Our Lady said, *“Above everything, little children, seek God and the things of God and leave earthly ones to the earth... You are called to holiness and you are created for Heaven; therefore, seek Heaven and the things of Heaven.”* Sharon did like the message and laid it next to her bed.

On February 2, the feast of the Presentation, we got a call from Sharon’s daughter, Lora, saying that the Hospice nurses did not think Sharon would make it through the day. My husband and I prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet for Sharon around 2:00 p.m., and then he went to her house to be with her. He and Lora were with Sharon when she passed peacefully during the 3:00 p.m. Hour of Mercy. I found it consoling that my daily Bible calendar that day read, *“On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines”* (Is 25:6). When I looked in my Bible at that passage, I noticed that the verses after that read, *“He will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces.”*

By that evening I had enough friends and family members willing to join together to have Gregorian Masses said for Sharon, so I had them scheduled less than nine hours after

her death. I knew, from having Gregorian Masses said many times before, how efficacious these Masses can be.

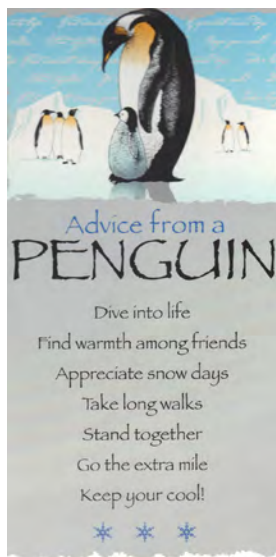
For those who are not familiar with Gregorian Masses, they derive their name from St. Gregory the Great. Gregorian Masses are offered for thirty consecutive days for the repose of the soul of a particular person. In the fourth book of his *Dialogues*, St. Gregory relates how one of the monks of his monastery, named Justus, did not keep his vow of poverty very well. When Justus died, St. Gregory feared that the monk might have to spend a long time in Purgatory, so he ordered Masses be offered up for Justus for thirty consecutive days. On the thirtieth day, Justus appeared to a brother monk telling him that he had been freed from his sufferings because of the thirty Masses. Following St. Gregory’s example, Catholics have continued the pious custom of having thirty Masses said for their departed relatives and friends. The Sacred Congregation on Indulgences has declared that “the offering of Gregorian Masses has a special efficacy for obtaining from God the speedy deliverance of a suffering soul, and that this is a pious and reasonable belief of the faithful.”

Following the example of St. Therese of Lisieux, who had asked God for a sign that her father was in Heaven, I asked for a sign about Sharon and wanted the sign to be something unusual, so there would be no doubt. I wanted to share it with family and friends to show the efficacy of the Masses. A priest once told me not to limit God, so when I asked for the sign, I told Him to send whatever He wanted, but a couple of “suggestions” might be a ground hog, since Sharon died on the Feast of the Presentation, known in the secular world as “Ground Hog Day”, or a penguin, because she really liked penguins.

Exactly two weeks later, I was flabbergasted when I received a card in the mail with penguins on the front, saying “Advice from a PENGUIN”!!! In the card was a subscriber’s donation, renewal, and a personal note. I couldn’t wait to show everyone! In over 16 years of editing this newsletter, I can’t remember ever getting a card with a penguin on it! “Could this really be the sign, though?” I wondered.

Penguins seemed to come out of the woodwork in the following weeks. On February 28, the picture on my Bible calendar was a flock of penguins. The next day, March 1, I got a Facebook message from someone who uses a penguin symbol for his website. (This is not new, but it was the first time I ever noticed it.) On March 2, when I was watching the national news, they reported about a new colony of penguins that was recently discovered. There was also an article in the paper with a picture of the penguins. The report said, “A previously unknown ‘mega-colony’ of Adelie penguins have been found on the islands, which sit on Antarctica’s northern tip.”

On March 3, when I was looking through a clearance rack of winter clothing in Kohl’s, I noticed three different shirts that had penguins on them. I took pictures of them and



when I showed our mailing crew, as I recounted this story, they thought this was incredible, and one lady said she had looked all over for a shirt with penguins and could never find one.

The following day was Sunday and I went to a different church for Mass, and a few rows in front of me was a young family. To keep their child quiet at Mass, they opened a book bag they had with them and took out – you guessed it – a stuffed penguin. After Mass, I asked if I could take a picture of it and explained why. That same day in the newspaper was a picture of a person dressed up like a penguin and one of the girls with the “penguin” was named Sharon!

After that week, I still got some penguin signs but they were more sporadic. God had made His point. I did not need any more penguins. What is also interesting is that I got these signs even before Sharon’s Masses were completed. The same thing happened when we had Gregorian Masses said for my mother. God is sooo very good!

Originally I was only going to write this story for the family, but then Our Lady gave me three big nudges that She wanted it published. Hopefully this story will inspire

you to have Gregorian Masses for a loved one. What a great Christmas gift for your deceased loved one! If you cannot afford the stipend, you can take a collection like Judas Maccabeus did (2 Macc 12:43-46) and my friends and I have done many times. The soul you help will never forget you and will be a great intercessor for you in Heaven. On November 6, 1986, Our Lady said, “Dear children: Today I would like to invite you to pray, day by day, for the souls in Purgatory. Every soul needs prayer and grace to reach God and His love. This way, you too, dear children, can find new intercessors who will help you in life to know that all things of the earth are not important for you. It is only Heaven which you need tend to. For this reason, dear children, pray without interruption so that you may help yourself and those to whom your prayers will bring joy. Thank you for your response to my call.”

Editor’s note: Please note that most parishes cannot have 30 Masses said in a row for the same intention. There are a number of organizations who offer Gregorian Masses. Here are just a few: The Seraphic Mass Association, (877) 737-9050; The Pious Union of St. Joseph, (517) 522-8017; Marians of the Immaculate Conception, (800) 462-7426.

Does God Love the Devil?

By Cathy Nolan

Fr. Leon, the chaplain to the English speaking pilgrims in Medjugorje, gives what he calls “Sanctuary Snippets” every day before English Mass (<http://marytv.tv/sanctuary-snippets-2>). These “Snippets” are short teachings on our Catholic faith, and they are brilliant! Here is the Snippet for June 4, 2018:

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Sometimes to know what we truly believe, we have to ask questions, and ask good questions! And expect an answer. And the sort of questions that children ask are usually very good. For example, children will ask things like, ‘Does God love the devil?’ What’s your answer? Anyone for yes? Anyone for no? Ok! Undecided!

“Now, does God love the devil? That is a very important question. The short answer is, yes! Of course He does. I knew someone who always used to say, ‘I can’t reconcile the idea of a God of love with the existence of Hell.’ So I said to him, ‘Well, look, if there is no Hell, it means we are forced to go to Heaven. And if we are forced to go to Heaven against our will, then God is some kind of despot, or He is not love. Right? Because we are forced, and if we are forced it is not love. So Hell exists because God is love.’

“And I will put it to you this way. The cause of all three things, Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven, is God’s love. In Hell the damned are loved by God, and they don’t want to be loved. So they experience it as sheer torture. In Purgatory, the Holy Souls are loved by God. And they see how they have held back from His love, how they have been selfish. And this pain purifies them. In Heaven, the Blessed are loved by God, and they delight in being loved. And this is the cause of their Beatific State, seeing God as He is, face to



Fr. Leon

face, becoming like Him, living by His Divine Life. Ok, so all three are caused by God.

“In the Narnia Chronicles, the last book – you know those children’s books by C.S. Lewis – the last book is called ‘The Last Battle’. Near the end, there is a scene in which the heroes, the children, end up in a barn with all the bad guys. And the heroes, the children, experience the barn as all lit up beautifully, with all these wonderful silver candlesticks holding candles, and a wonderful meal set out on silver platters. And they drink fine red wine out of crystal goblets. But meanwhile, the baddies think they are in a dark barn, eating and drinking swill. And they tread on each other and they curse each other, and they hate everything and everyone including themselves. This is a powerful image of both Heaven and Hell, both caused by God’s love. To the extent you are open to God’s love and mercy, you receive it. To the extent that you are closed, you receive His justice. There is a gentleman, a friend of mine now, who was a pilgrim like you. And he said, ‘Father, I used to struggle to believe that God loved me, but ever since you said that God loves the devil, I think I can believe it now!’

“But remember God is love; God is not sentimentality. We must be open to that love. And if we are not open, then He will lovingly send us to Hell. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

www.marytv.tv

The Miraculous Medal

By June Klins

On November 27, 1989, Our Lady of Medjugorje gave the following message to Marija: "... Today is the feast day of the Miraculous Medal, and I want that you pray, in a special way, for the salvation of those people who are carrying this Miraculous Medal. I want you to spread the devotion and the carrying of this medal, so that more souls may be saved, and that you pray in a special way."

On November 27, 1830, St. Catherine Labouré received the image of the Miraculous Medal from Our Lady in the motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity in Paris. After she received the vision of the front of the medal, St. Catherine heard the words: "Have a medal made according to this model. For those who wear it with confidence, there will be abundant graces." Then after she got the image on the back of the medal, Our Lady said, "All who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck."

One of the many, many people who have received "great graces" from wearing the Miraculous Medal is Fr. Ronan Murphy, a holy Marian priest who has been to Medjugorje nine times. He was the guest speaker at our Carmelite Days of Prayer last summer, where he shared his conversion story. Father described himself as a "practical atheist" before his conversion, explaining that he "believed in God, but didn't act like it".

"I remember the day of May 13 in 1987, which was the year dedicated to Our Lady, called the Marian year. I was working for American Express at the time and on my lunch break. That very day I was walking up a busy street in Dublin City where an invisible force – the only way I can describe it – stopped me outside a Carmelite church. And right across from the entrance to the Carmelite church was a jewelry shop. As I gazed in the front window of the jewelry shop, all of the jewelry disappeared before my eyes and all that was left was one medal in the window. I knew it was a holy medal because it had the image of Our Lady inscribed on it. Later I came to know that it was a Miraculous Medal. And so I went into the jewelry store. I felt compelled to buy it.

"I had enough faith to go over to the Carmelite church and I got it blessed and I started wearing it. And my whole life changed. I believe I was given an infusion of the basic tenets of the Catholic faith. My faith was a gift, a gift given to me on that very day and Our Lady inspired me to get a rosary and start praying the Holy Rosary and to wear a brown scapular. I didn't even know what a brown scapular was, but I was in a Carmelite church and so I bought a brown scapular... And then 13 years to the very day, I was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ on May 13 in the Jubilee Year 2000!"

The Miraculous Medal was actually called the "Medal of the Immaculate Conception" when it was first released. Soon after distribution of the medals began, there were numerous stories of miracles attributed to it. One example involved the deadly cholera epidemic that had been plaguing Paris. Almost all the students in a particular class had been wearing



Miraculous medal

one of the medals except for an 8-year-old girl, and she was the only one of them who came down with cholera. She was given a medal to wear, and by the next day she was better and healthy enough to return to school. As more stories of miracles came forth, the medal came to be called the Miraculous Medal.

According to the Marians of the Immaculate Conception (marian.org), here is the meaning of the images on the medal:

The Front Side

- Mary stands on a globe, crushing a serpent beneath her feet. Describing the original vision, Catherine said the Blessed Mother appeared radiant as a

sunrise, "in all her perfect beauty."

- Rays shoot out from Mary's hands, which she told Catherine, "... symbolize the graces I shed upon those who ask for them."

- Words from the vision form an oval frame around Mary: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." Seen as a matrix, the elements of the front design encapsulate major Marian tenets:

Quality of Our Lady As Illustrated by the Medal

- Mother — Her open arms, the "recourse" we have in her.
- Immaculate — The words, "conceived without sin."
- Assumed into Heaven — She stands on the globe.
- Mediatrix — Rays from her hands symbolizing "graces."
- Our Protection — Crushes the serpent (Gn 3:15).

The Reverse Side

- A cross-and-bar surmounts a large, bold "M."
- 12 stars disperse around the perimeter.
- Two hearts are depicted underneath the "M," the left lapped with a crown of thorns, the right skewed by a sword. From each, a flame emanates from the top. Again, employing a grid analysis, we can see how the reverse-side design contains great symbolism reflecting major tenets of the Catholic faith.

Design Element and its Catholic Meaning

- The large letter "M" — Mary as Mother, Mediatrix.
- Cross and bar — Jesus' Cross of Redemption.
- 12 stars — 12 Apostles, who formed the first Church.
- Left Heart — The Sacred Heart, who died for our sins.
- Right Heart — The Immaculate Heart, who intercedes for us.
- Flames — The burning love Jesus and Mary have for us.

Visionary Marija has been handing out Miraculous Medals for years. In August of 2009, she said, "When I go to school to take my children to school ... there are some mothers of children who would like to approach me; that is why I always have some Miraculous Medals with me. And then I say, 'Here, this is a Miraculous Medal blessed by Our Lady and I wish that it may help you as well.'"

Sean Bloomfield, producer of the Medjugorje films, The Triumph and Apparition Hill, once wrote, "I don't think it's any accident that the cross on the back of the Miraculous Medal looks just like the cross on Cross

Mountain, with a distinct base. There are other correlations as well." Interesting! I have worn a Miraculous Medal for many years and never noticed that! I am guessing one of the other correlations would be the twelve stars since Our Lady appears in Medjugorje with a crown of twelve stars!

Editor's note: Miraculous medals can be bought inexpensively in bulk from many online sources. It can be easily researched. For those who do not have Internet, you can call Laura at 814-838-4984 for more information.

OUR LADY'S PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Our Lady dictated the following prayer to Jelena, one of the locutionists from Medjugorje. (Obviously the male pronouns can be changed to female.)

O my God, this sick person here before You has come to ask You what he desires and what he believes to be the most important thing for himself. Grant, O God, that these words enter into his heart: "It is important to be healthy in the soul!" Lord, may Your Holy Will be done unto him in everything. If You wish that he be healed, may he be given health. But if Your Will is different, may he continue to bear this cross. I pray to You also for us who intercede for him. Purify our hearts so as to make us worthy of Your Holy Mercy to be given through us. Protect him and relieve his sufferings. May Your Holy Will be done unto him. Through him may Your Holy Name be revealed. Help him to bear his cross with courage.

(Pray the Glory Be prayer three times.)

Archbishop Hoser Outlines Plans to Expand Medjugorje

Archbishop Henryk Hoser, retired archbishop of Warsaw-Praga, who was appointed by Pope Francis in May as Apostolic Visitor to Medjugorje, has outlined plans for expansion, including more Masses in different languages and facilities for young pilgrims, according to www.catholicerald.co.uk.

"Medjugorje represents Europe's spiritual lungs, a place where millions discover God and the beauties of the Church," said Archbishop Hoser. "We now have to re-create its infrastructure, firstly by securing its liturgical space. We also need to expand its areas for retreats and provide new places for celebrating the Eucharist, especially for pilgrims."

In July, Archbishop Hoser said he was hoping more priests would come to provide sacraments and catechesis training at Medjugorje, according to Poland's Catholic Information Agency, KAI.

He said that with rising numbers of pilgrims and visitors, people wait in very long lines at the shrine's 50 confessionals. He also added that roofing is needed for Medjugorje's main walkway, and better facilities for conferences and charitable work.

In an interview published in *Veritas*, a magazine published by the Franciscans, Archbishop Hoser said, "Medjugorje has a meaning not just for this part of Europe, but for the whole world. Medjugorje is an international site whose message is directed to the whole world. Its existence and emergence in this part of Europe are very symbolic because this part of the world has almost always been excluded from peace in the past. Through the centuries, we could say that this land has always been a land of martyrs. This area has a mosaic of peoples, languages and cultures. I believe that the message of peace, which is central here in Medjugorje, is intended for the whole world."

The Apostolic Visitor ranked Medjugorje with Lourdes and Fatima. "With regard to the international phenomenology,

they are very similar. These are certainly the three greatest pilgrimage sites. Here we have two and a half million pilgrims a year. It was wonderful to see the Youth Festival, where I was present, which was attended by 30,000 young people from 72 countries. Many young people from Croatia also came. In addition, these are the three Marian shrines which call for repentance and conversion and for the prayer of the Rosary."

Archbishop Hoser continued, "Lourdes is a great shrine based on the dogmatical truth about the Immaculate Conception and it tells us about the identity of the Mother of God. Fatima gives us a look at the contemporary history of the world, the current as well as the future. Between these three pilgrimage sites there is a kind of spiritual solidarity and bondage." He explained that the most important characteristic of Medjugorje is "the power of grace." "Medjugorje has become the confessional of the world. The confessors confess in almost all languages."

When questioned about the complaints of so many shops and hotels in Medjugorje, Archbishop Hoser replied that those are located outside the shrine and that the Church has no authority over them. "After all, pilgrims who come here must have somewhere to sleep, eat, wash, etc. As far as trading is concerned, it is impressive to see the variety of souvenirs offered, much more than in Lourdes."

When asked about the views of the last three popes regarding Medjugorje, Archbishop Hoser answered, "Pope John Paul II monitored the development of the situation. The relatively short pontificate of Benedict XVI was very positive towards Medjugorje. This was also demonstrated by the establishment of the International Commission for Medjugorje. And finally, Pope Francis has made the biggest step by sending his representative here. Pope Francis wants to develop pastoral activities in Medjugorje and thus confirms the value of this place."



Archbishop Henryk Hoser

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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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