

THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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SUBSCRIPTION RATE - FREE WILL OFFERING - PLEASE SEE PAGE 8

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



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VOL. 30, NO. 10

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2017

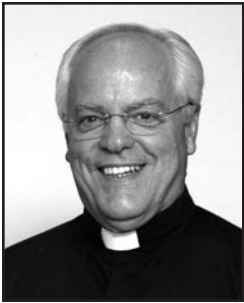
CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2017

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 picture above was taken during a procession in Fatima, Portugal in 1999. We are featuring this picture because this year is the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, and October 13, 1917 was the last public apparition there. About 70,000 witnessed the miracle of the sun that day, a phenomenon that continues in Medjugorje. See page 4 for a related story.

“Dear children! I am calling you to be generous in renunciation, fasting and prayer for all those who are in temptation, and are your brothers and sisters. In a special way I am imploring you to pray for priests and for all the consecrated, that they may love Jesus still more fervently; that the Holy Spirit may fill their hearts with joy; that they may witness Heaven and Heavenly mysteries. Many souls are in sin, because there are not those who sacrifice themselves and pray for their conversion. I am with you and am praying that your hearts may be filled with joy. Thank you for having responded to my call.”



Fr. Bill Kiel

Pain and Suffering

By Fr. Bill Kiel

"You do not comprehend pain. You do not comprehend that through the love of God you need to accept pain and endure it. Every human being will experience it to a lesser or greater measure." (9/2/17) Often in our suffering we ask why we have to suffer or why does a loved one have to suffer. During bouts of pain, we do not think of the good that

results from suffering; the pain itself remains the focus of our attention. Reading the lives of the saints and thinking of the Blessed Mother's experiences, we know even they suffered pain—many times, deep pain.

Pain takes on many forms. It may be experienced in our spiritual life, emotional life and/or our physical life. The effects of pain in our lives may not be apparent to us, but may be recognized by our family members and friends. During our suffering we seek relief, we seek strength, we seek hope. In our pain, *"...with peace in the soul and in a state of grace, hope exists; this is my Son..." (9/2/17)* During suffering, we are reminded *"...you who suffer, know that your pain will become light and glory... while you are enduring pain, while you are suffering, Heaven enters in you and you give a piece of Heaven and much hope to all those around you." (9/2/17)*

Often during pain and suffering we think we are alone in the struggle of life, but this is not the case. *"I see your suffering, but you need to know that you are not alone. My Son is with you. He is everywhere. He is invisible, but you can see Him if you live Him. He is the light which illuminates your soul and gives you peace." (8/2/15)* Again, we are given words which give meaning to our suffering: *"I am a mother who understands you. I lived your life and lived through your sufferings and joys. You who are living in pain understand my pain and suffering because*

of those of my children who do not permit the light of my Son to illuminate them; those of my children who are living in darkness. This is why I need you – you who have been illuminated by the light and have comprehended the truth." (11/2/14) These words are especially helpful to the parents who are suffering the pain of having their children reject faith and the need for God, the sacraments and prayer in their life. We see the reduced number of "Catholics" participating in Masses on Sundays and Holy Days. Where are the children who are living in darkness? Why have they rejected Jesus? They need our prayers. We need to offer suffering for them. *"In praying for them you are showing to my Son that you love Him and follow Him. My Son promised me that evil will never win, because you, the souls of the just are here; you who strive to say your prayers with the heart; you who offer your pain and suffering to my Son; you who comprehend that life is only a blink; you who yearn for the Kingdom of Heaven." (11/2/14)*

Our Blessed Mother continually reminds us to seek Her Son, Jesus, in Whom we will find peace, love and joy during our pain and suffering. *"Accept the love of my Son and erase from your hearts fear, pain, suffering and disappointment." (2/2/08)* *"...pray that you may be able to accept sickness and suffering with love the way Jesus accepted them. Only that way shall I be able with joy to give out to you the graces and healing which Jesus is permitting me." (9/11/86)*

As Jesus walked through His public ministry, He healed many individuals. Jesus heals many people today for reasons we know not. Jesus does not always answer our prayers for the specific healing for which we pray. Why? Our pain and suffering, with God's help, needs to be accepted by us and offered for the salvation of souls, including our own.

In our pain and suffering, Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Mirjana's Message of September 2, 2017

Dear children, who could speak to you about the love and the pain of my Son better than I? I lived with Him; I suffered with Him. Living the earthly life I felt pain because I was a mother. My Son loved the thoughts and the works of the Heavenly Father, the true God. And, as He said to me, He came to redeem you. I hid my pain through love, but you, my children, you have numerous questions. You do not comprehend pain. You do not comprehend that through the love of God you need to accept pain and endure it. Every human being will experience it to a lesser or greater measure. But with peace in the soul and in a state of grace, hope exists; this is my Son, God, born of God. His words are the seed of eternal life. Sown in good souls it brings numerous fruits. My Son bore the pain because He took your sins upon Himself. Therefore, you, my children, apostles of my love, you who suffer, know that your pain will become light and glory. My children, while you are enduring pain, while you are suffering, Heaven enters in you and you give a piece of Heaven and much hope to all those around you. Thank you.

Our thanks to Sue Taccone, Diane Niebauer, Joanne Warren, Marge Spase, Chris Falk, Emily Arduini, Marge Burchard, Dianne Yochim, Kathy Wayman, Peggy Chludzinski, Pat Berrier, Cindy Bielani, Diana Englund, Margaret Zaphiris, Barb Sirianni, Vickie DeCoursey, Laura DiBacco, Irene and Dan Zuba and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the September mailing. We also thank Diane Niebauer and Cassandra Dragone for making us more prayer cloths. We thank Susannah Klins, Helen Bell, Louise Lotze, and Dennis Todaro for their photos. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, and our webmaster, Jason Klins.

As of September 25, 2017, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions is 20,135.



Pieta statue in Medjugorje

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for October:

Workers and the Unemployed:

That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights, and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.



Finding Our Rainbow

By Nicole Dice

Each of us carries a cross throughout our life. Sometimes our cross is heavy, but at other times the load is light. In November 2015, the load of my cross was overwhelming, and I found myself searching for God's help in lightening it. My newborn son, Daniel John, passed away shortly after birth due to a chromosomal mutation known as thanatophoric dysplasia. My husband and I knew the outcome throughout our pregnancy, but nothing could ever prepare us for burying our newborn baby.

For the months following my son's death, I leaned on my faith and sought support from friends and family. But my soul was searching for peace that I could not find. Several of my friends had taken pilgrimages to Medjugorje, and I considered going there to find whatever it was I needed for peace. I prayed about it and asked the Blessed Mother to show me if She wanted me to go on my own pilgrimage there.

In January 2016, the Blessed Mother sent me my sign calling me to Her in Medjugorje. There was no denying Her call to me, so I listened to Her and began the process of joining a pilgrimage that summer. At this point, I still did not know what it was that I was seeking, but I trusted in my faith and Our Lady. She knew the pain of watching Her Son die and She knew what would heal me.

When I left for my pilgrimage in June 2016, my heart was open and my goal was to be present in every moment of the journey. I wanted the Blessed Mother to help heal the pain from losing my son and be in a place where I could think about my path from here. The first few days other people were seeing amazing signs and I wondered if the Blessed Mother would speak to me in a special way. The peace felt in Medjugorje was filling my soul and I was content just being in such a spiritual place.

The one thing my soul was yearning for was to be on Apparition Hill. On the third day of the pilgrimage, a small group of us walked up Apparition Hill to pray before sunset. My heart felt so full as we walked and prayed, that I was not expecting all the beautiful messages the Blessed Mother was about to give me.

As we drew near to the wooden cross on Apparition Hill, the members of my group approached it to pray and look at it. I felt compelled to stay on the path because something was keeping me from walking over. I looked at the cross wondering if I should also go over, and there it was, my first sign. To the left of the cross was a small piece of a rainbow. Seeing that rainbow was the Blessed Mother telling me that the storm is passing. It was my sign that I will begin to find some peace in this storm.

A little further up the path we saw the sun spinning in the sky. It was so beautiful between the trees, and I felt in

that moment the peace God wishes for us to have in our souls. As we continued walking, I prayed for myself, my husband, and my family. I prayed that we would know the plan God has for Daniel's life and make a positive impact for others through his life. I also prayed for God to bless us with another child so we would not have empty arms the rest of our lives.

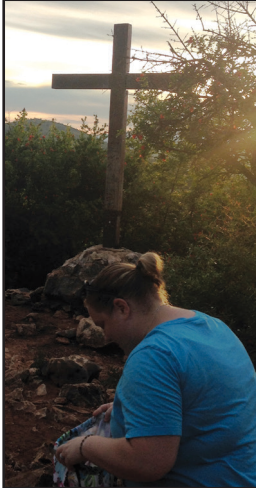
Later that night, at Eucharistic Adoration, I thanked Jesus for His love and His mother's presence around us. I prayed that the Lord and the Blessed Mother would bless my womb and give the opportunity to have a healthy baby. When leaving Adoration, I noticed many people snapping photos of the sky and one of our group members who knew my story stopped me, telling me to look up. In the sky was the moon with a beautiful rainbow above it. My heart was so full because I knew my prayer of having another child would be answered.

The rainbow showed me that I would have my "rainbow baby" (a term for a baby after the loss of a child).

The rest of my pilgrimage filled my soul and sent me home with a new purpose of bringing people together through Daniel's life. My husband and I began a non-profit we call "Loving Daniel", which raises money to give other families support who suffer infant loss. We spread our faith and love to others every day through Daniel's life and God's plan for him. My Medjugorje pilgrimage gave me the peace I needed to turn my sorrow into something positive for others around me.

I have spoken to many people about my pilgrimage and use my experiences there to bring hope to others. The most amazing outcome of my pilgrimage happened almost a year later when my husband and I welcomed our "rainbow baby". Just under a year after my pilgrimage, we were blessed with another son who we named William Emmanuel. We want our son to know what a blessing he is to us and that God is always with him. The peace we see in his eyes shows us that he knows God and he knows his big brother is watching over him. We will always hold Daniel in our hearts, often asking him to intercede for us. We praise God and thank the Blessed Mother for interceding for us and bringing our rainbow. Our work of love in memory of Daniel will continue with William and show him the love the Blessed Mother has for us.

Editor's note: Nicole lives in Uniontown, PA. Nicole was on my 2016 pilgrimage to Medjugorje. When I asked her to write her story for the October issue, she mentioned that October is Infant Loss Awareness Month! What Nicole did not realize is that at the wooden cross where she saw her first rainbow, Our Lady appeared to Marija in tears, "near a cross with rainbow colors" on June 26, 1981 and said, "Peace, peace, peace! Be reconciled! Only peace. Make your peace with God and among yourselves. For that, it is necessary to believe, to pray, to fast, and to go to Confession."



Nicole at the wooden cross



Baby William Emmanuel



Moon with the rainbow over it

Fatima and the Supernatural

By June Klins

It has been widely publicized this year that October 13, 2017 is the 100th anniversary of the *miracle of the sun* in Fatima. What has not been so widely publicized is that there were other miracles in Fatima as well. Sr. Lucia, one of the three visionaries at Fatima, related in the book, *Mother of Christ Crusade*, that on the day of the fifth apparition, there was a sudden cooling of the air and the sun was dimmed so much that thousands of people could see stars even though it was mid-day. Also there was a "rain" of iridescent petals that vanished upon reaching the ground.

This past summer I attended a number of talks on Fatima at our Carmelite Monastery. At the first talk, the priest, Fr. James, spoke about the lesser-known supernatural events at Fatima. For instance, most people know that Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco were visited by an angel who gave them Holy Communion, but did you know that an angel appeared to Lucia and three of her friends the year before? Or that the devil appeared in all his fury breathing out fire to Francisco when he was alone?

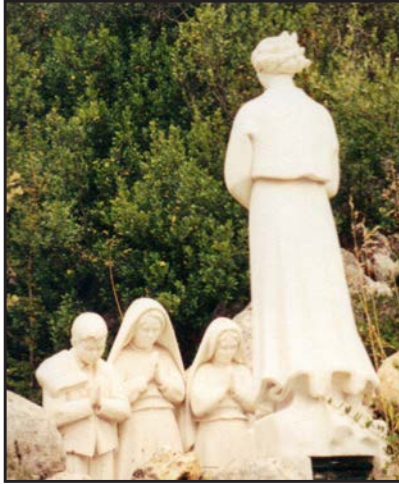
Father said that to prepare for the talks he had read four books of Sr. Lucia's memoirs. Father then related a number of miracles that were wrought through little Jacinta and Francisco.

On one occasion, there was a woman afflicted with a terrible disease who wept as she knelt before Jacinta and begged her to ask Our Lady to cure her. Jacinta said three Hail Marys with the woman, and she was cured!

On another occasion, there was a soldier who had been ordered to leave for the front. His wife was sick in bed and he had three small children. He wept and pleaded that his wife would be cured or that his orders would be revoked. Jacinta invited him to pray the Rosary with her. She said to him, "Don't cry. Our Lady is so good. She will certainly grant the grace you are asking." Not only was the soldier released from military service on the eve of his departure, but also his wife was miraculously cured!

Later Jacinta interceded for a young woman whose father had suffered for three years and was unable to rest because of continual hiccups. What a terrible cross that would be! He appeared emaciated and wept uncontrollably. Jacinta prayed the Rosary with their family and the next morning, the girl and her father came to thank Jacinta because he no longer had the hiccups and had gained his strength back.

Father then told a story about Jacinta's "prodigal" cousin who had been missing. His mother, Jacinta's aunt, pleaded with Jacinta to ask Our Lady for help. The cousin returned the very next day. He related how he had been lost in a pine grove in the hills and it was storming. Desperate, he got on his knees and prayed for help. He said that Jacinta came to guide him home, but when he went to thank her,



Statue depicting the Angel of Peace in Fatima

she had no idea what he was talking about. Apparently Jacinta had been given the gift of bi-location (being in two places at once) that night. Jacinta said, "I only prayed and pleaded much with Our Lady because I felt so sorry for Aunt Victoria."

Father also related a few miracles through Francisco. In one particular story, a member of a family came to Francisco and pleaded with him through tears for his intercession for their family that was experiencing "disharmony, disunity, and division." Francisco prayed for that family and they were re-united and all signs of disunity vanished. Father suggested that those who have problems like this in their families should pray to St. Francisco for his intercession.

As I was listening to these stories, I couldn't help but notice a comparison to the supernatural events in Medjugorje. There have also been cures reported when the visionary Vicka has prayed with people, and it has been reported on a number of occasions that Vicka has been gifted with bi-location in order to help people. The devil appeared to Mirjana, as he did to Francisco. And of course, many, many people have witnessed the *miracle of the sun* in Medjugorje.

Although I have never heard of petals coming from the sky in Medjugorje, pilgrims have reported seeing "gold dust" on people. When I was in Medjugorje in 2001, during a Corpus Christi procession, many of the pilgrims in my group, including my teen-age niece, saw gold dust on the priest who was with us.

In his talk on Fatima and the supernatural, Father James said, "I think we can be so focused on the world, the material, the physical things here and now that we forget that there's an invisible realm, a supernatural realm that surrounds us. But Fatima awakens us to these invisible realities. Fatima opens our eyes to the supernatural...Fatima lifts our hearts. It opens our minds and stretches our spirit beyond our senses."

Father James warned that we can be too preoccupied with worldly concerns that we don't even recognize God or acknowledge His presence, His work in action in our lives. "Do you look every morning outside and see the creation, the wonderful portrait that God painted? Are you reminded of His love? ...Fatima helps us establish the consciousness, this awareness within ourselves and awakens us to the supernatural, to the eternal, to the presence of God."

Yes, it does, and I would add, "So does Medjugorje."

Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Medjugorje, please help us to be open to the supernatural, the presence of God.

Editor's note: If you are interested in reading some of the stories about Vicka's gift of bi-location and healing through Vicka's intercession, you can go to our website, and use the search bar at the very bottom of the home page.

The Triumph, a very well-done film about Medjugorje, is now available to watch for free online. Go to youtube.com and in the search box put the words "The Triumph." Please pass this information along to spread the word.

Saint Pope John Paul II and the Rosary from Medjugorje

By Don Benavidez

In May of 1991 (a few weeks before the war broke out in former Yugoslavia), I was in Medjugorje and on my way down Apparition Hill when I was struck with a notion. I felt compelled to collect enough stones from Apparition Hill to make myself a rosary when I returned home. At the time, I felt sure I was on my last trip to Medjugorje because it cost a lot of money to go there.

When I returned home, I put the stones in a drawer and forgot about them. Two years later and about two weeks before World Youth Day 1993 was to begin in Denver, I once again felt the compulsion to make the rosary out of the stones I brought back from Medjugorje. However, my desire was that the rosary would not be for me; instead I was going to make it for the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

I bought two diamond tip drill bits and during the course of a day I drilled a small hole in each of the stones. Once I was done drilling all of the stones, I realized that I had never made a rosary before in my life. After some thought, I called my friend, Ed Langfield, and asked him if he knew where I could obtain the material necessary to put the rosary together. Ed gave me the telephone number of his mother, Bertha Langfield, who was 91 years old and lived at Francis Heights in Denver. Ed told me to call her and see if she could help me.

I called Bertha and she told me that she could help me and to drop by. After I arrived at her apartment, I asked her if she would sell me the materials I would need to make the rosary. I told her who I was making the rosary for. She told me that I did not have to pay for the materials I needed. She told me to stay with her and she would make the rosary for me.

During the afternoon it took Bertha to put the rosary together, she shared with me some of her experiences. She told me when she was a child she remembered St. Mother Cabrini coming to the farms asking for food for the children she cared for. Bertha also shared that she had made over ten thousand rosaries during her lifetime. She told me that her little bird would chirp and sing all day but would remain perfectly quiet when she prayed the Rosary. After she finished making the rosary, she said that this particular rosary was the hardest rosary she had ever made.

Once I had the rosary in hand, I called the World Youth Day headquarters and informed them that I had a special rosary for the Holy Father and asked if I could simply leave it with them for the Pope in hopes that someone would get it to him. I was told that that would not be possible.

I was so disappointed and felt that I had hit a dead end. I prayed and prayed and let God know how much I wanted to give the rosary to the Holy Father, even if someone else could give it to him. A week before World Youth Day was to begin, I received a call from a non-practicing Catholic who had a VIP pass to the gate where the Pope would be landing

and was going to be received by President Bill Clinton. The VIP pass was offered to me and, of course, I scooped it up. A few days later, I put the beautiful rosary in a black velvet case and took it with me to the airport, with the hope that I could leave the rosary for someone to give it to the Holy Father.

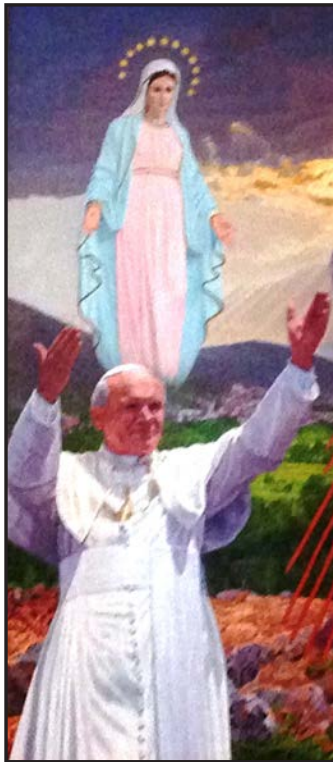
Once I got through all of the security screening, I realized that I was among a crowd of about 300 to 500 people. I worked my way as close to the barrier as I could (about three or four people deep) and I kept noticing a young priest, every now and then, single out someone from the audience to go to him. I prayed and prayed and kept staring at the priest in hopes of making eye contact with him. After some time, the priest and I did make eye contact and he motioned for me to come to him. I approached the priest and he asked me if I would like to meet and greet the Holy Father and of course I accepted the invitation. About fifteen of us were moved to an area by the Secret Service. We were told that each of us should take our time when greeting the Pope, as we would all be able to speak with him.

The Holy Father started greeting the small group of people I was with. When he was standing before me, I told him that I had a rosary made from stones that I had gathered on Apparition Hill in Medjugorje. When I gave the rosary to the future saint, Pope John Paul II, he said to me, "Medjugorje, ah Medjugorje," smiled at me, blessed me, and moved on.

I was asked to go to the Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church where the Holy Father would be staying and leave my name, address and a brief story related to the gift I had given to the Pope, which I did. Some months later, I received a letter from the Vatican in which I was thanked on behalf of the Pope for the gift I had given him and was told that the Holy Father had imparted his Apostolic blessing on me. I was also given a card with the future Saint Pope John Paul II's picture on it.

A couple of years later, I was praying at the foot of a huge crucifix (Stations of the Cross in San Luis, CO) meditating on the bitter passion of my Master. There were other people with me on the mountain also praying. However, I became oblivious to their presence. After some time, a woman approached me and told me that she had never seen anyone pray and meditate on the Passion the way she observed me doing. Needless to say, I was very embarrassed. The woman opened her purse and pulled out a rosary that was given to her by the future saint, Pope John Paul II. The woman told me that she felt I was the one who was supposed to have the rosary, not her. The woman handed me the papal rosary and walked away. I have not seen or talked with the woman since. Thank you, my Jesus, my Master and my love.

Star of the New Evangelization, October 2016 issue



Part of a mural in Tiheljina

Return to the Rosary

By Sr. Emmanuel

2017, the Centennial Anniversary of the apparitions in Fatima, is a vitally important year for believers. Let's take a careful look at the message that Mary gave the three little shepherds, a message that [has] shown across the entire 20th century like a beam of light. Mary presented herself as Our Lady of the Rosary. She revealed to us the path toward a lasting peace for the whole world, and She specifically gave us a sure way of ending World War I, namely to pray the Rosary!

There is certainly a major reason why the Blessed Virgin, in all of Her appearances throughout the Church's history, strongly insists that we pray the Rosary every day. Why does She constantly reiterate this tender supplication? As a Mother, She knows best how to guide Her children toward happiness.

Many have never practiced this prayer. Some do not even know it, while others have stopped praying it. It has to be said that the hidden treasure of the Rosary is not always very easy to find. That is why I propose to give you a little explanation.

There are two ways of praying the Rosary, the good way and the bad way. Or...let's rather say: the weak way and the powerful way.

The weak way: Suppose that I carry a heavy burden on my heart because one of my relatives is dying in [a] hospital and is in great pain. So I decide to say a Rosary for this intention, in the hope of obtaining a healing for that person or at least some tangible relief. So I start reciting my Hail Marys pretty mechanically, while my mind is anxiously focused on the suffering of this person. I wonder how I am going to be able to deal with this very difficult situation.

It goes without saying that this Rosary will still bear a little fruit, but it will leave me more tired and stressed than before I prayed. It's a pity, because I've spent some time praying it!

The powerful way: The Blessed Mother has taught us to pray the Rosary for the past 35 years with great precision. Suppose that the same problem is bothering me and it hurts: one of my parents is dying in [a] hospital and is in great pain. So I am going to share this concern with my Mother in Heaven. Instead of locking my mind on that problem, I am going to completely get rid of it, let it go, throw it and abandon it in Her Immaculate Heart. I may tell her: "MOM, now this is YOUR problem! The burden is too heavy for me; please take care of it since you're my Mother. Aren't you all-powerful on the heart of God? He can't say no to you!" I know She is good at taking care of Her children's problems, so while She is busy with my problem, my heart is relieved and free to pray with serenity. With deep trust in Her, I can now focus on Jesus wholeheartedly and contemplate the various situations in His life that the mysteries talk about.

Of course, before pronouncing the prayers of the Rosary, I

take some time to go in spirit to the place where the mystery has happened. At that point, it's always a good idea to read the relevant part of the Gospel. With all my heart and using my imagination, I am going to look at Jesus in this situation, enter the scene and participate in what is happening.

A concrete example: when I pray the 5th Luminous Mystery, the institution of the Holy Eucharist during the Last Supper, I go in spirit to Jerusalem, I enter the Upper Room in the Cenacle and I sit down at the table among the Apostles in order to participate in the meal.

When Jesus gave His friends His Body and His Blood, He was already thinking of me, because in His Divine Spirit, He already knew all the Holy Communions that I was going to receive, as well as those of all men of all time. So I am not a distant outsider, rather I fully become part of this event that involves me directly. This extraordinary event is not an old story that is disconnected from my life. No, this action of Jesus is something He does for me again today. While I am watching Him in prayer, I receive the same grace from

Jesus that He poured out 2,000 years earlier to His friends. Because "we become what we contemplate," everything that lives in the heart of Jesus at this moment penetrates into my own heart. I become filled with His treasures and my whole being is enriched by the burning love which emanates from Him.

This example enables us to understand why such a prayer fills us with who Christ is, and increases our love for others. This love will then be transformed into action, because it is solid. As our Mother says [in the January 2, 2017 message]: "Of you, my apostles, I am asking for your roses of prayer which need to be acts of love. To my motherly heart these

are the dearest prayers." (In the Rosary, each Hail Mary is a new rose which we offer to Mary.) "Always love one another and above all, love my Son. This is the only way to salvation, to Eternal Life. This is my dearest prayer which fills my heart with the most beautiful scent of roses."

A Narrow Escape!

A few years ago, one of my sisters from my community came to fetch me from Split airport. We decided to pray the Rosary on our way to Medjugorje. That winter was very cold and the road was very slippery and icy in places. It was pitch black. We were not going very fast, but suddenly our car swerved to the left towards the huge mountainous rocks which form the inside of the roads here. On the right side was a ditch that we managed to avoid; and fortunately, along the left side of the road below the rocks, there was a small wall (about 20 cm high), curved like you see on a racetrack. Without hitting the rocks, our car went over the small wall, skidded along and ended by going back in the right direction on the road without any damage. We had a narrow escape!



The Fifth Luminous Mystery behind St. James in Medjugorje

We owed this protection to the Blessed Mother, to whom we were praying, and to the many Angels of whom She is the Queen. We warmly thanked them! But the most surprising part of the story unfolded a few days later when I had to drive on the same road back to Split.

Since I knew exactly where the event had happened, I took a close look at the place because I had never seen a road with a curved retaining-wall except in films which showed racing-car scenes. To my amazement the retaining-walls were not there! They actually never existed! Along the rocks there was an average small wall that is perpendicular to the road (90°), like on other roads everywhere else in the country. I understood that, on that night, Our Lady had looked after

us in a way we never could have imagined!

Not only had She protected us from a freefall down the precipice on the right and from crashing into the rocks on the left, but She made sure that there was a curved sidewall in place so that we could come back home safe and sound in a car free from bumps! Thank you, Mary, thank you for the power of the Rosary! I hope many of your children will adopt it while driving their car, and not only in the car!

Dearest Gospa, please, don't let us fall into spiritual laziness; help us seize all the means you are giving us to finally enjoy true peace and divine protection!

Children of Medjugorje, www.childrenofmedjugorje.com, January 2017 report

Fr. Bill's Mass with Healing Blessings

By June Klins

Last month, I attended a "Mass with healing blessings" celebrated by our spiritual advisor, Fr. Bill Kiel. As he explained in his July 2017 article, Fr. Bill received his gift of healing in Medjugorje. That evening was absolutely beautiful and I am more and more in awe as I reflect on it.

The Mass began as usual, but for the penitential rite, Father asked us to kneel and he did an examination of conscience with us. (A variation of his examination can be found in our March 2008 issue online. Father may share this again with our readers in the near future as well.) The gospel reading for that day just happened to be about the healing of a man with a withered hand. I thought this was Providential and Father alluded to it in his inspirational homily. Father witnessed in his homily, how he himself was healed of a back ailment he had for 15 years when he was a seminarian. He said this healing was immediate, but that some healings can be gradual and take days, months or maybe even longer.

After Mass, Father explained that he would be blessing two people at a time and that some people may "rest in the Spirit" and not to be afraid of that. He said that if you do not rest in the Spirit, it does not mean you did not get a blessing. We do not know why some people do and others do not. And he said for those who do rest in the Spirit, to enjoy the peace that comes with it and not to get up too soon. And he suggested that we all go back to our seats to give thanks.

Father began to bless the people two-by-two, and spent a lot of time praying over each "couple". I was sitting near the back, so needless to say, I waited in the crowded church for a very long time. As I sat there waiting, I was praying for those being prayed over. I watched as Father obviously prayed from the heart over each person. Father always says, "I pray and God heals." He never takes the credit for any blessings/healings worked through him. What a humble servant of God. I felt like I was watching Jesus as He made his way through the crowds blessing people. Although this took a long time, most everyone waited patiently. Sacred music

was played softly in the background to keep a prayerful atmosphere. A friend recently told me how people wait at Disney World as long as five hours to ride on a particular ride there. This is better than any Disney ride! (And for the record, we did not wait even close to five hours for our blessing.) A friend came up to me and whispered, "This is like being in Medjugorje!" And it was.

As I watched Father bless people, suddenly I had a flashback – something I had not thought about in years. Back in 1999, my mother and I went to a one-day retreat held by Gospa Missions in Evans City, PA. The retreat was held at a fair grounds that had bleachers. Fr. Bill was there and was climbing through the bleachers blessing people at the end of the retreat. I did not know Fr. Bill at all, but had heard he was special, and I wanted to be blessed by him. Someone else had blessed me, but I wanted to be blessed by Fr. Bill. I crawled over many bleachers to be near where he was blessing people, so

he could bless me. Now as I sat in this church in 2017, tears welled up in my eyes. Who would have ever guessed back then that I would be editor of this newsletter and that Fr. Bill, whom I did not know and who was blessing me, would be the spiritual advisor of the newsletter?

Finally it was my turn to be blessed. Father said we could take the blessing for ourselves, for someone else, or to let the Holy Spirit choose. I opted to let the Holy Spirit choose. I rested in the Spirit, and did not know how long I was on the floor, but friends and family members later told me it was a long time. I thought it was just a minute or two.

That night, I woke up in the middle of the night shaking. That is the third time that has happened to me after a healing blessing. The first time it really scared me, but my spiritual director at the time (now deceased) assured me it was the Holy Spirit at work. Praise God, and thank you, Fr. Bill, for your faithfulness.

Editor's note: Fr. Bill's schedule can be found on our website at www.spiritofmedjugorje.org/FrKiel.php.



Fr. Bill praying for healing

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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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VOL. 30, NO. 10