

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 SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

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.

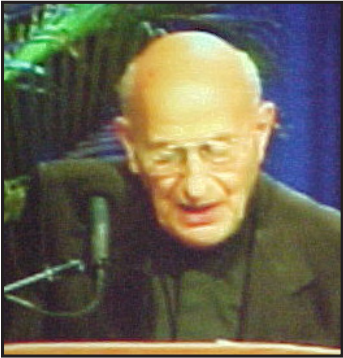


“Dear children! Today I am calling you to pray for my intentions so that I may help you. Little children, pray the Rosary and meditate the mysteries of the Rosary because, in your life, you are also passing through joys and sorrows. In this way, you are transforming the mysteries into your life, because life is a mystery until you place it into God’s hands. In this way, you will have the experience of faith like Peter who met Jesus and the Holy Spirit filled his heart. Little children, you are also called to witness by living the love with which, day by day, God wraps you with my presence. Therefore, little children, be open and pray with the heart in faith. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The picture above was taken at Mirjana Soldo's pansion. You can read an excerpt from a talk by Mirjana on page 3.

For our "guest priest" article this month, I felt prompted to use the following excerpt from the book *Our Lady Teaches About Prayer at Medjugorje*, by the late Fr. Albert Shamon.

You Must Pray for God's Plans to Come About!



Fr. Shamon in 2002

One mistake we can make in prayer is to pray only for our own needs. Jesus never taught us to pray that way. Some people have even reduced the Madonna of Medjugorje to a personal piety. They go there only to see what they can get from it. They are thinking only of themselves and not of anyone else. Whenever we let our own plans and projects crowd

out God's, then atheism sets in.

At Medjugorje Our Lady told us to widen our horizons in prayer. She said: ...continue to pray so that all my plans may be carried out... (9/27/84). Her plans! Again, on January 25, 1987, she said to the visionaries: I want you to understand that God has chosen each one of you in order to use you for the great plan of salvation of mankind... God's plan is for the salvation of all mankind, not just you and me.

The same was true of Fatima. There, Our Lady asked prayers and sacrifices for the conversion of Russia and to save souls from hell. God's plans, her plans – these should be the object of our prayers.

At the Annunciation and in the Agony in the Garden, both Mary and Jesus prayed that the will of God be done in them.

We must pray for what God wants. And He wants the salvation of the world and the conversion of poor sinners. That was why Our Lady spent weeks teaching the prayer group at Medjugorje how to pray the Our Father. The Our Father is really the blueprint of what we ought to pray for in prayer.

Jesus taught us to pray big: to pray first for God's glory, for His kingdom to

come on earth, for His will to be done as in heaven.

Between His cosmic plans and our spiritual needs, He sandwiched in only one petition for temporalities; and then it was a prayer for everybody: "Give US this day our daily bread."

Our spiritual needs followed. He taught us to be forgiving. To pray that not one of us fall into temptation – the temptation of an affluent society; namely, of thinking that we do not need prayer, that we can go it on our own. Finally, to pray for deliverance from our common enemy:

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you – says the Lord – plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope" (Jer 29:11)

the evil one, the devil; he does exist.

Jesus wanted us to pray for everybody, to share His concern for the whole wide world. That is why the priest, another Christ, assumes the obligation of praying the Liturgy of the Hours each day. He not only sanctifies time, but he is praying for the whole Church.

What a misuse of prayer to use it only for our-selves. We can get some idea of how wrapped up we could be with praying just for ourselves if we were to say: "I don't need the message of Medjugorje. I don't need to pray the Rosary daily or to go to Confession monthly or to fast. I'm OK as I am." And that's the trouble: we're not OK, if all we think about is ourselves.

Our Lady pleads with us to widen our vision in prayer, to try and put on the mind of Jesus in prayer. At Fatima she asked us to pray for the world. I think most of us missed the point. Here again at Medjugorje she asks us to widen our vision and pray for the salvation of the world, for she knows that the salvation we seek for others will be given to us.



The Annunciation Mystery on Apparition Hill

Our condolences to the family of Susan Kirby who passed away on September 8, 2019 (the day that the Church celebrates the birthday of the Blessed Mother). Susan was a faithful member of our mailing crew for years, as well as a member of our Medjugorje prayer group. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for consolation for her family. Thank you.



Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for October
A Missionary "Spring" in the Church: That the breath of the Holy Spirit engender a new missionary "spring" in the Church.



As of September 25, 2019, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 28,290. Thank you!

Our thanks to Marge Burchard, Diane Niebauer, Sue Taccone, Joan Peterson, Joann and Tom McIntire, Rose Heintzel, Chris Falk, Pat Berrier, Marge Spase, Cindy Bielamin, Delores Faipier, Laura DiBacco, Barb Cesare, Georgia Chludzinski, Dianne Yochim, Peggy Smith, Elaine Brady, Estrella Igras, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the September mailing. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

Mirjana Speaks about Prayer and Fasting

The following is an excerpt from a talk given by Mirjana through her translator, Miki Musa, on November 11, 2018.

Our Lady asks for prayer in our families and Our Lady says, "There is nothing that can unite the family like when family prays together." And She says that parents have great responsibility in front of their children, because parents are those who are supposed to put roots of faith in their children. And they can do it if they pray together and if they attend Holy Mass together. We cannot speak to our children about the importance of the Holy Mass if they don't see that Holy Mass is in the first place for *us*. We cannot talk to them about the importance of prayer if they don't see *us* praying. That is why Our Lady says that parents have responsibility, because children do only what they see in their home. And they see much more than we can even imagine.

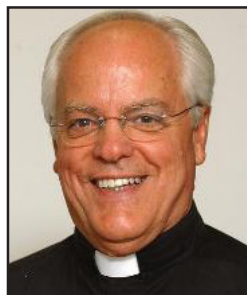
I always share a cute example from my own family with pilgrims. When my older daughter, Maria, was only two and a half years old, I did not speak to her about apparitions because I thought at the age of two she could not really understand that. And one day, while she was playing with her friend, I was watching over them. And then I heard this other girl saying, "You know, my mom drives a car." And as I do not drive, Maria remained quiet for a moment. Then she said, "Big deal to drive a car. My mom speaks with Our Lady every day!" So, without even saying anything, she comprehended because she saw what happened in our home. That is why it is very important for our children to see that God, for us, is in the first place and then everything else. And then, when our children are grown up and leave our home, they may try to live opposite from what we told them, but with our love, example, prayer, they will come back because we put the roots. That is why it is very

important what they bring from their home.

"If you are ill and cannot fast, be more generous in almsgiving." ~ St. Philip Neri, our patron saint this year

Our Lady asks from us fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays on bread and water. She does not ask fasting from those who are sick – those who are *really* sick. Those will comprehend through their prayer what they can do instead of that. But for example, if you never prayed an entire Rosary every day so far, you've never fasted twice a week so far, I would like to recommend you do the way Our Lady did with us. The first thing She asked from us was to pray the Apostles Creed and seven sets of Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be daily. And do not tell me that in 24 hours a day that God gave us, we have no time for this! Sometime after, Our Lady added one part of the Rosary daily and to fast on Friday. But you do not have to start immediately on bread and water. For example, you can give up meat. For example, Catholics never eat meat on Friday. You can start like this. Sometime after, She added second part of the Rosary daily; and sometime after, also the third part of the Rosary daily and to fast on Wednesdays.

I remember when Our Lady added the third part of the Rosary daily and fasting on Wednesdays, Jakov, the visionary, was only 10 years old. So, when Our Lady left us that day – all worried, he turned to the rest of us visionaries and he said, "I truly hope that She will stop at this." [laughter] But Our Lady gave us example, step-by-step. It is important to walk with Her. But it is not that She needs our Rosaries and our fasting. *We* need that in order to be able to open our hearts and to put Jesus in the first place, because when Jesus is in the first place, then we have everything, because we have peace. And the only true peace is peace given by Jesus. That is why Our Lady asks all these things from us. She desires that Her children may be happy.



Special Day of Prayer and Fasting for Fr. Bill October 7, 2019



As many of you are aware, our dear friend and spiritual advisor, Fr. Bill Kiel, is experiencing a serious medical issue. You are invited to unite with thousands of people he has touched over the years, for a day of prayer and fasting especially for Fr. Bill on October 7, 2019.

It is suggested that, if possible, you offer **Holy Mass** for Fr. Bill's healing (if not that day, then at your next Mass). Also, please recite the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** at 3:00 p.m., followed by the **Holy Rosary**. If unable to pray at that time, please pray at your earliest convenience.

Message to Mirjana on September 2, 2019

Dear children, pray! Pray the Rosary every day – that wreath of flowers which, as a mother, directly connects me with your pains, sufferings, desires, and hopes. Apostles of my love, I am with you through the grace and the love of my Son, and I am asking for prayers of you. The world is in such need of your prayers for souls to be converted. With complete trust, open your hearts to my Son, and in them He will inscribe the summary of His words – which is love. Live in an unbreakable connection with the Most Sacred Heart of my Son. My children, as a mother, I am telling you that it is high time for you to kneel before my Son to acknowledge Him as your God, the center of your life. Offer gifts to Him – that which He most loves – which is love towards neighbor, mercy, and pure hearts. Apostles of my love, many of my children still do not acknowledge my Son as their God; they have not yet come to know His love. But you, with your prayer pronounced from a pure and open heart, by the gifts which you offer to my Son, will make even the hardest hearts open. Apostles of my love, the strength of prayer pronounced from the heart – a powerful prayer full of love – changes the world. Therefore, my children: pray, pray, pray. I am with you. Thank you.



The Testimony of Deacon Tom and Sharon Maedke

By June Klins

Recently I was inspired by several testimonies I watched on the "Fruit of Medjugorje" program on Mary TV and hope to share them in upcoming issues. This month, I want to share the testimony of Deacon Tom and Sharon Maedke from Steubenville, OH. I will never be able to do justice to their heartfelt witness, so I hope you will go to marytv.tv and watch Episode #374.

Tom and Sharon met in college. They married and were living near Chicago in what Tom called "kind of a secular life". Around 1988, a friend gave him a video that her father had taken in Medjugorje. Tom said that although the video was in black and white and taken with a hand-held camcorder, it was outstanding. He took it home for Sharon to watch. Sharon interjected here that she was too busy to watch it, but then one day, she decided to take a look at it. As she was watching it, she was very convicted. She said, "**This is Fatima in our day!**" Her first thought was that she would sell everything to get there, including their dream home they had just built. She told Tom, "We have to go!"

Sharon felt strongly that the Blessed Mother's message was a call to bring the children to Her. In prayer, she felt prompted to bring their nephew Michael (age 18), and their godchild April (age 16), in addition to their own three children, who were younger. To pay for the pilgrimage for the five children, they decided to sell their horse. They were told they would never get what they were asking for the horse, but they got exactly what they needed!

Around that time, Tom had a business convention in Traverse City, MI. They stopped at a church looking for a morning Mass and were told there was no morning Mass there, but that a church down the street had one. As they drove into the parking lot, they asked a lady walking out if there was morning Mass and she said, "Yes, we have Mass in the morning and, by the way, are you interested in going to Medjugorje? We have 12 people who just returned from Medjugorje and they're giving a witness." What are the odds??? They signed up with the Michigan group to go to Medjugorje. This first pilgrimage was in 1990.

The flight overseas was from Chicago, where Tom and Sharon lived. There was a snowstorm in Michigan and the only way the group could get to Chicago involved leaving their luggage behind. They all agreed, including a man named Larry who lived with agonizing back and neck pain from an accident. He had a traction-type instrument in his luggage that he left behind, knowing he would be in severe pain without his instrument.

Once they got to Medjugorje, Larry's pain increased every day he was without his instrument. The day the group was scheduled to see Vicka, Larry was in so much pain, he didn't think he could go. The group begged him to go, so he did. Once they got there, they pushed Larry through the

crowd at Vicka's house and got him right up front. Sharon thought it was wonderful that he had a nun right next to him. When Vicka came down the stairs, she prayed over certain people, including Larry. That evening, Larry shared that when Vicka placed her hands on his head, it felt like the weight of his instrument that he used every day that was in his luggage. Her hands relieved all the pain and he had no more pain!

Later that night, Larry woke up in the middle of the night with a bright light in his room. He sat up in his bed and watched what was like a video playing on his wall. It was a re-play of what had happened to him that day. He watched Vicka come down the steps and walk past him. The nun who was next to him said, "Vicka, this man – come back to this man," motioning to Larry. So Vicka came back and laid hands on Larry. When the nun turned, he could see part of her face. He said, "I knew right then it was the Blessed Mother. She was so beautiful!" Tom said that Larry wept through the whole story and that it was truly amazing.

Tom then related another miracle they experienced on that pilgrimage. A priest who was with them bought 500 little white metal Blessed Mother medals, which he took into the apparition room during Our Lady's apparition. When he came out, the medals were all coated in gold. He gave everyone in the group a medal. When Tom and Sharon returned home, they had a gemologist friend of theirs look at the medals. He said, "No, this cannot be gold. It doesn't make any sense." He took it into the back room for an analysis, and he came out looking "snow white". He said, "This has a fine dust of gold all around. It's 24-carat. I know of no process where we could adhere gold to white metal."

Sharon then began to talk about the blessings their family received. She was a bit apprehensive before the trip because their children were so much younger than their cousins and she was afraid they would be drawn away from the spirituality – would not want to go to Mass or pray the Rosary. And that did happen. Sharon cried out to the Blessed Mother. "You wanted them here. Now you have to do something with them!" That night there was an apparition on Apparition Hill. People were gathered around the metal cross that was there at the time (where Our Lady's statue is now), praying the Rosary. Sharon was so happy to see her son kneeling on the rocks. All of a sudden he was gone. Then he came up behind Sharon. Crying, he said, "Mom, Mom, come. Come and look. Jesus is bleeding."

She thought he meant the metal cross, and he said, "No, not that one – the one back here. Come, please. He's bleeding." Everyone in the group heard this, so they followed him back to the wooden crucifix that is still there today. He stood at the foot of the cross, crying, and then his sisters began to cry also. April was standing back by Sharon and asked, "What is the big deal? What do they see?" So Sharon explained to



The wooden crucifix on Apparition Hill

her that God does not make you see things you do not want to see. With that, she started stepping back, and sobbed, "How could they do that to Him?" As they were looking and praying, a little Croatian woman dressed in black came up to Jesus on the cross and lifted her hands up as far as she could, about knee height, and came down his legs and put the blood on herself. When she did that, Sharon began to cry. Sharon said, "She just continued to do that, like showing us – this is what you do."

That night when they got back to the hotel, Michael was not there. Sharon was worried about him, when all of a sudden he came through the door, carrying rosaries and scapulars, a totally different person. She said all the children were transformed. "It's just changed their lives and the extended family." Tom added, "The fruits from Medjugorje continue to shower upon our family and our friends we share it with. It's such an amazing place!"

At the end of that pilgrimage, they found out that one of the priests with them was the pastor of the church they originally stopped at in Traverse City and he told them that his church DID have morning Mass. But had they gone to that morning Mass, they probably would not have been on that pilgrimage! God works in mysterious ways!

In 1994, Sharon and Tom and the children went back, this time taking medical supplies because of the war. Tom said he visited the orphanage (now called John Paul II). He said there was a large room there with ladies of all ages dressed in black. Sr. Josipa, who ran the orphanage at the time, said, "Every one of these ladies lost their families to the war. They're basically orphans. Each and every one of them has forgiven the soldiers who killed their families." Wow!

Sharon then began to talk about the orphanage. I was very interested in this because I had been to the orphanage last year for Mass, but had been sick the night that the story of the orphanage was given. Sharon said that Pope John Paul II had asked Sr. Josipa to start this orphanage, to keep the children as a family unit, so that they wouldn't be split up. Sr. Josipa's biological sister, Sr. Cornelia (who is still alive and runs the orphanage) helped her with the orphans. They had one family of six children. Sharon exclaimed, "It was such an honor when the children and I came back in 1997 and were there for a month." This time,

"So do not worry and say, 'What are we to eat?'" (Mt 6:31)

there were 50 children in the orphanage, and they also had a summer camp in which, every week, 50 children from the war areas would get to come "and just be children".

Sharon said there were many mornings when they did not have bread or something to eat, and Sister would just say, "Pray! Just pray – it's coming." And it would always come. Sharon witnessed many times when someone would hand Sister money in one hand and she would give it to someone else needy from the other hand. "She had such a trust in the Lord. Anything that she needed, it would be there."

One time, there was a group from Italy helping out, and they had run out of olive oil. The chef even threatened to leave! Sr. Josipa told Sharon not to worry. "It's coming. It's coming." All of a sudden, a couple appeared with five gallons of olive oil! The next morning, Sharon looked out the window and saw an elderly woman shuffling away from the orphanage dragging a gallon container of olive oil. "She [Sr. Josipa] held on to nothing. If someone asked, that was God asking, and she gave freely."

Tom interjected that they have even had the privilege of meeting some of the orphans who are now adults. Sharon said that when they returned to Medjugorje in 2018, her prayer was, "Blessed Mother, I would just love to see some of them if possible." And they did get to reunite with two of them!

This year, Sharon and Tom brought four of their 13 grandchildren to the 2019 Youth Festival. Sharon exclaimed, "All they want is to come back!" Tom said, "We're already planning for next year's Youth Festival. The Youth Festival is amazing!"

Tom continued, "It [Medjugorje] has truly been a wonderful gift to our entire family... We just wish everyone would come here. It strengthens your faith so much. Really come here and just concentrate on prayer and growing in the faith, growing in the love of Christ through His Mother. All the beautiful people you meet just almost instantly love you – strangers you meet from all over the world. The love here is tremendous."

Sharon added that it was through Medjugorje that Tom was led to the deaconate. Tom said, "It is such a gift. And then to come to Medjugorje and to be able to serve at St. James! It's such a phenomenal gift – just amazing! We're coming back!"



Painting of Sr. Josipa and St. John Paul II at the orphanage

Pray Without Ceasing

By June Klins

Our Lady has asked us repeatedly throughout the years to "pray without ceasing". She is just echoing the words of St. Paul who wrote the same exact words to the Thessalonians, "Pray without ceasing" (1Thes 5:17). So how do we pray unceasingly when we always have so much to do – our work, our families, our volunteer activities, etc.?

A suggestion came from a member of my Medjugorje internet prayer group. She wrote, "I just wanted to share a sermon I heard recently on praying constantly. As you

know our Mother has called us to pray constantly. What is it to pray constantly? This priest I heard drew a parallel with a football player who takes his wife to every game he plays. He keeps his eye on the ball, but every now and then he looks up at the stands to where she is. They make eye contact, and the love they share keeps him motivated to 'press on towards the goal.' We are also called to do the same – to carry out our daily duties constantly aware of His presence in our lives."

Witness with the Rosary in Hand

By Cathy Nolan

“...Little children, witness with the Rosary in hand that you are mine and decide for holiness...” (August 25, 2019)

I believe that Our Lady is very serious about this last line of Her message. In these days, with the devil roaming around, seeking someone to devour, we need to be associated with Our Lady. She has the promise to defeat satan. And so, when we have the Rosary in hand, we are declaring to him and all his minions that we belong to Her.

“Pray and let the Rosary always be in your hand as a sign to satan that you belong to me.” (February 25, 1988)

But the Rosary is not only a defensive weapon. It is also an offensive weapon. Our Lady told us: “Dear children! Today I call you especially now to advance against satan by means of prayer. Satan wants to work still more now that you know he is at work. Dear children, put on the armor for battle and with the Rosary in your hand defeat him! Thank you for having responded to my call.” (August 8, 1985)

These are the words of a warrior! Our Lady is not afraid of satan. She is the one who will defeat him in the final confrontation. She has the promise. And if we are Hers, we must be ready to do battle with Her. I believe that battle is waged with the prayer of the Rosary as our weapon.

And what is the purpose of this battle? It is to save souls. With the Rosary, we can intercede for souls, for people who really need help to convert and choose God. These conversions are always miracles of love. Again, Our Lady told us:

“If you so wish, grasp the Rosary. Even the Rosary alone can work miracles in the world and in your lives!” (1/25/91) With the miraculous power of the Rosary, souls can be saved!! With this in mind, let’s listen to these words of Sr. Lucia of Fatima.

Testimony from Sr. Lucia of Fatima to Fr. Fuentes in 1957: “Father, the Most Holy Virgin did not tell me that we are in the last times of the world, * but She made me understand this for three reasons. The first reason is because She told me that the devil is in the mood for engaging in a decisive battle against the Virgin. And a decisive battle is the final

battle where one side will be victorious, and the other side will suffer defeat. Also, from now on we must choose sides. Either we are for God or we are for the devil. There is no other possibility. The second reason is because She said to my cousins as well as to myself that God is giving two last remedies to the world. These are the Holy Rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These are the last two remedies, which signify that there will not be others. The third reason is because in the plans of Divine Providence, God always, before He is about to punish the world, exhausts all other remedies.

“The two means to save the world are prayer and sacrifice. Look, Father, the Most Holy Virgin, in these last times in which we live, has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Holy Rosary. She has given this efficacy to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all, spiritual, in the private life of each one of us, of our families, of the families of the world, of the religious communities or even of the life of peoples and nations, that cannot be resolved through the prayer of the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve through the recitation of the Holy Rosary. Through the Holy Rosary we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves. We will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls. Finally, devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Our Mother, consists in considering Her as the seat of mercy, of goodness and of pardon and as the sure door through which we are to enter Heaven.”

* “Last times” isn’t necessarily the same as “end of the world”.

(*The Fourth Secret of Fatima*, Antonio Socci, Loreto Publications, 2009, pp. 99 - 102).

“There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve through the recitation of the Holy Rosary.”

www.marytv.tv

Cathy mentioned at the end of her reflection that Mary TV would be starting a 33-day Rosary Novena leading up the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7. Obviously it is too late to join that novena, but you can start one yourself at any time. There will be many Rosary marches this month throughout the world. Those in the Erie area can join The Rosary Coast to Coast at Presque Isle Beach #1 on October 13 at 3:30 P.M. The Rosary will be prayed at 4:00 P.M. (Bring chairs if needed.) Contact Chris at 814-722-1548. In 2018, over 1,200 Rosary Rallies participated across the U.S. as well as 50 other countries! You do not need to be along the coast to participate in the Rosary Coast to Coast. You can visit their website at Rosarycoasttocoast.com for more information and to view the map of all the Rosary rallies planned that day. The Erie Diocesan Rosary March will also be held on October 13 at St. Peter Cathedral at 2:00 PM.



Rosary at the beach in 2018

Please Note



If you are moving south (or any other place) for more than one month, **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** send us your alternate address. The same applies if you are moving permanently to a new location. It will save us both money and time! Also, I would **VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT** if you held off sending your newsletter renewals in December until **January** so that I can have time to properly prepare my soul for Christmas, as well as plan the January issue. **THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR HAVING RESPONDED TO MY PLEAS!**



A Medjugorje Moment

In our July 2019 issue, I invited people to share their "Medjugorje Moments" with us. One person who accepted the invitation was 94 year-old Shirley Dovichow. Shirley said she did not feel capable to write it, so I recorded her testimony and then visited with her in her home so she could show me her pictures.

Shirley recounted, "On May 12, 2006, I went on a bus trip to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Lewiston, NY with two friends of mine. We were scheduled to go to Mass at 7:00 P.M., but when the bus arrived at the shrine after dinner, we could not go into the basilica because the 6:00 P.M. Mass was not over. Some of the people got off the bus, but my friends and I stayed on the bus with three other ladies. As I was sitting there, I looked out the window and all of a sudden I could not believe what I saw. The sun was going around and I saw colors of the rainbow rotating around the sun! I watched the sun for about five minutes without moving my eyes away from it. Finally, I said to my friends, "Look at the sun!" They, as well as the other ladies on the bus, looked and saw exactly what I saw.

"There were different stages of this miracle. At first, it looked like the sun was pulsating in the middle. Next, there was a line dividing it into two, with a small triangle at the bottom. I assumed the triangle represented the Trinity. Next, there were two intersecting lines dividing it into four. Then there were three vertical parallel lines. The last one had four vertical parallel lines dividing it into five. At each stage, it would disappear a second and then come back and show different things. I was trying to figure out what this was all about. I tried to draw it when I got home, so I could tell people about it, but the ones I told didn't believe me and thought I was a little crazy.

"After a while, it dawned on me that, prior to that time, I

knew about Medjugorje and the Miracle of the Sun that is seen there, and I used to pray to the Blessed Mother saying, 'Blessed Mother, I'd love to see the Miracle of the Sun, but I'll never get to Medjugorje to see it.' So, I think She brought it to me – really!!! I saw that sun!

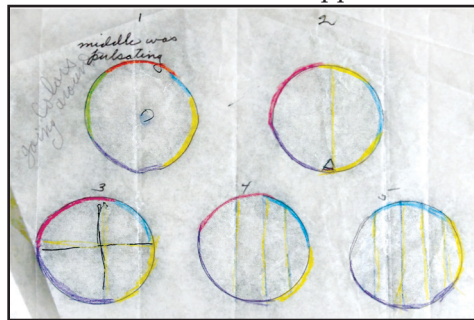
"Recently, I asked my two friends who were with me that day if they remembered seeing the sun miracle, and they said, 'Yes, we do.' They said, 'We never looked at the sun like that before, where we could look and not have to close our eyes or look away.'"

After Shirley shared her story, I wondered if perhaps she saw this miracle at apparition time, since it was before the 7:00 Mass, like in Medjugorje! (Ivan gets his apparition in the U.S. at 6:40 P.M.) When I mentioned this to Shirley, she said Ivan was actually there at the shrine that day and attended the 7:00 Mass!!! She also thinks he spoke about his apparition that day after Mass, through an interpreter, but she could not hear him well. (It was later confirmed through the shrine that Ivan was there for a visit that day, and not as a scheduled speaker.)

I also found it interesting that Shirley saw this miracle on May 12, which is the eve of the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13! In Her message of 8/25/91, Our Lady of Medjugorje asked us to pray and fast so that *"everything that I desire to realize through the secrets I began in Fatima, may be fulfilled."*

One last connection Shirley noted was the triangle she saw in the sun. She noticed that in our September issue, Archbishop Henryk Hoser referred to the "Holy Triangle" of Medjugorje (Apparition Hill, Cross Mountain, St. James Church). Whether that was why she saw that triangle, we will probably never know, but it is interesting.

Shirley said she will never forget that day when Medjugorje came to her at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima! She feels very blessed and grateful for this "Medjugorje Moment".



Shirley's drawings

Disarming Satan

By Sr. Emmanuel

Last winter, I interviewed Father Amorth, the famous exorcist in Rome. He told me how bitterly the devil expresses his hatred when he invokes certain saints while performing exorcisms. For example, the devil cannot stand it when the exorcist invokes the intercession of St. John Paul II. When Father Amorth asked him why, he answered, "Because he stole so many young people from me!" Another time, Satan declared how he hated the prayer of the Rosary. "At each Ave Maria," he stated, "I receive a painful blow on the back of my neck."

Sometimes during strong spiritual events in Medjugorje, tormented people start screaming. This was frequent during Jesus' missions, as can be seen in the Gospel. These torments

may have different causes, but sometimes they are satanic presences expressing themselves through those people.

The other day, when Vicka was praying for a long time over the crowd in front of her, a woman started shouting out at her with a horrible man's voice, "I can't stand you any longer! Stop praying! You always forgive! You should have been dead a long time ago! Shut up!" etc. Those cries from the enemy are meaningful and significant. Satan described clearly here what disarms him the most! It is no wonder that Satan dislikes prayer and the practice of forgiveness! They make him powerless to do any harm!

Children of Medjugorje, www.childrenofmedjugorje.com, May 2015 report

"I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life – to you, Christian families, to you, the sick and elderly, and to you, young people: confidently take up the Rosary once again. Rediscover the Rosary in light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives. May this appeal of mine not go unheard!" ~ Saint John Paul II
The feast day of St. John Paul II is October 22. St. John Paul II, pray for us.

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MARY IS CALLING YOU

On June 24, 1981 in Medjugorje, Our Lady began appearing to six children. She identified Herself as the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace. 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, the Blessed Mother still appears daily to three of the visionaries, and monthly or annually to the others. They are all now adults. 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. They declare to see the Blessed Virgin as they see other people — three dimensional. They pray and speak with Her.

The Blessed Mother granted to confide ten secrets to each visionary (some are chastisements for the world). Some of the visionaries have received all ten secrets. Our Lady promised to leave a visible sign at the original site of the apparitions in Medjugorje, for all humanity. In

the meantime, 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 five stones" of Our Lady (as in the story of Goliath). They are PRAYER with the heart, especially the Rosary; EUCHARIST; BIBLE; monthly CONFESSION; and FASTING.

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

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



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