

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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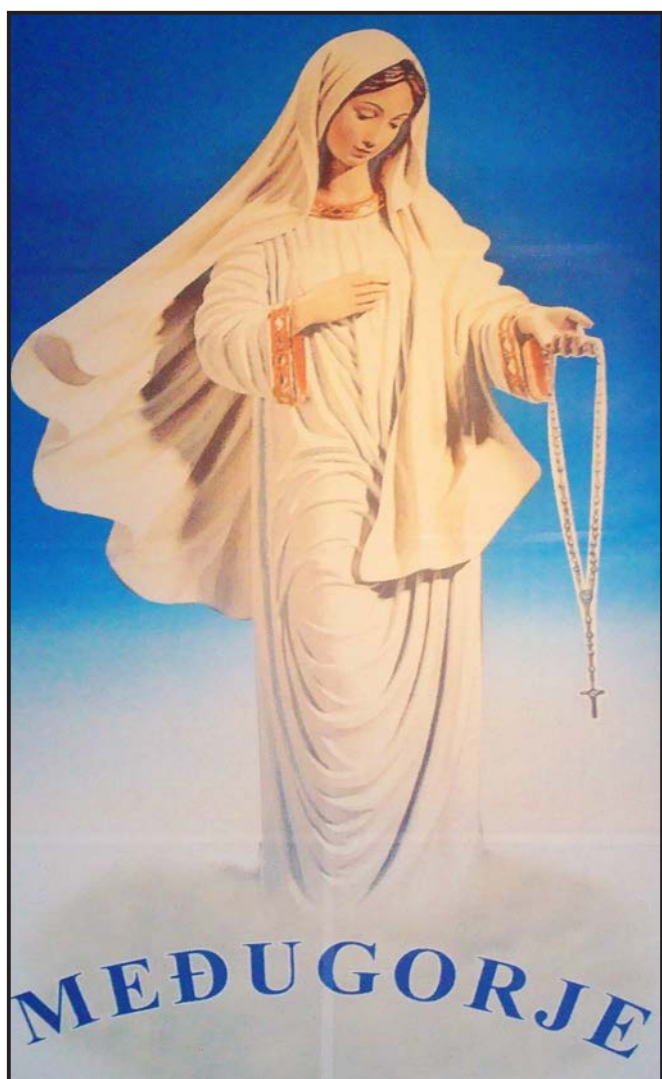
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MONTHLY MESSAGE OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

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! Pray, witness and rejoice with me because the Most High continues to send me to lead you on the way of holiness. Be aware, little children, that life is short, and eternity is waiting for you to give glory to God with your being, with all the saints. Little children, do not worry about earthly things, but long for Heaven. Heaven will be your goal and joy will begin to reign in your heart. I am with you and bless all of you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call."

October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. In a little known message to Jakov on October 8, 1984, Our Lady said, "Dear children, let all the prayers you say in your homes in the evening be for the conversion of sinners because the world is in great sin. Every evening pray the Rosary." And on August 15, 1985, Our Lady said to Mirjana, "My angel, pray for unbelievers. People will tear their hair, brother will plead with brother, he will curse his past life lived without God.... Now is the time for conversion. I have been exhorting you for the past four years. Pray for them. Invite everyone to pray the Rosary." We hope this issue will inspire you to pray the Rosary often and with your heart.



Fr. Ray

look back at all the things I have done, I am amazed at how wonderful God is, and how wonderful that He puts so many opportunities in front of us and wants us to use them for the good of all!

October is another month dedicated to our dear Blessed Mother. We especially turn to the holy Rosary and pray from our hearts for Her powerful intercession and graces. Our Blessed Mother is always there for Her children, and we run to Her in holy prayer for ourselves and for others, the sick and the well, the young and the old, and everything in-between!

I am amazed to see so many trees that have not only already had their leaves turned to golden yellow and deep browns, bright reds and glorious colors, but that so many of the trees have already not only begun to lose their leaves, but I have quite a few that have already lost ALL their leaves. It is the time to change – a new and different season in our lives!

Is this not what Medjugorje is all about? Does not our dear Mother call us to change, to open our hearts, to let the old selves go and to become a new person of beauty, love, and peace? We change, just as the leaves do, in this new season of love and grace, and we allow the old self to fall away, as we bring color and joy and beauty into a world of darkness, sin and sadness.

Our Lady uses us as Her dear children to bring Her messages to all! She entrusts us with something so gentle and fragile and holy: Her love to be spread to the whole world! For 40 years, our Mother has asked us to respond to Her call, to put those messages into action, to build up the body of Christ on earth by prayers, fasting and doing as She has asked. She has thanked us so many times and thanked God the Father and Her beloved Son, our Savior, for allowing Her to be here with us, so we know this is very important. *"If you knew how much I love you, you'd cry for joy!"* Have we begun to cry for that joyful love, or do we still hold back?

October ushers in a dramatic change, as the days are so much shorter, it is so much cooler, we begin to put the summer things like the grills and picnic tables and our summer clothes away, but we also bring out other things. People will need to be warm. People will need shelter and

Tempus Fugit!

By Fr. Ray Donohue

food. People will continue to need help, and friendship. There are so many things we never use anymore that are just screaming to be donated! Things like blankets, clothing, money, our time, our care, and mostly, our love.

Our Blessed Mother has spent over 40 years now in Medjugorje and our world telling us to share God and be truth and love for others. What an opportunity for us to do just that! Do it for our Mother and listen to what Jesus tells us: "Whatsoever you do, for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do it for ME!" Who would not want to feed and clothe Jesus? Who would refuse to

show Jesus love and joy and peace and what is in our hearts?

We only have so much time in our lives. We really only have today! Tempus fugit! Was it so long ago that our Mother said to us: *"Dear children! My heart is joyful because through these years I see your love and openness to My call."* Then She concluded Her message by saying: *"That is why decide for God so that it may be good for you on earth which God gave you."*

Mary calls you and calls me and calls everyone to love each other, treat each other well, care for one

another, do it all in Her name and the name of the Lord. Satan wants division and hate; our Mother is calling us to love and to care and to give of our time, talents, selves and energy!

In a message a few months ago, our Blessed Mother asked us and reminded us: *"Dear children, I am calling you at this time to prayer, fasting and renunciation, that you may be stronger in faith. This is a time of awakening and giving birth. As nature which gives itself, you also little children, ponder how much you have received. Be joyful bearers of peace and love that it may be good for you on earth. Yearn for Heaven; and in Heaven there is no sorrow or hatred. That is why, little children, decide anew for conversion and let holiness reign in your life."*

When we think of others, pray for others, do for others, our faith becomes strong! Our souls awaken to the needs of others, and as autumn gives us beauty and change and hope, so do we, by our good actions and love and care. If we are indeed *"joyful bearers of peace and love"*, it will be good for everyone on earth. It shows we care! It shows we love and have faith! It shows we are putting our Blessed Mother's messages and words into action from our hearts and responding to Her call! It also shows that, as time flies by, we respond in time to the needs and hopes and dreams of others and their material needs and wants and hopes – for those and their families.

In October, we dedicate this month to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. We take the time to really pray the holy Rosary from our hearts, for everyone, and remember them to our Blessed

"...help the needy, and in their want, do not send them away empty-handed" (Sirach 29:9).



Photo taken on Cross Mountain

Mother. It is good to get a family Rosary started throughout the month of October. It would be wonderful to pray the holy Rosary before or after holy Mass. It would be wonderful to have a little procession to a grotto at your church, or in your church, to the Blessed Mother statue or shrine, and as a group pray the holy Rosary as a parish or community. The more we pray this openly and in community, the more people we bring to devotion and honor, and people see our faith and our love!

October is a true month of change. Yes, you will see Halloween things and candy in the stores, and of course the early Christmas decorations and lights; yes, you will see the trees outside going from full colors to stark bare trees, raking of leaves and putting things away for the season, and some of us may even receive our first light snowfall. It is, indeed, a time of change! So let us also be part of the change. WE accept from God the needs around us. If we see a need, respond to it. Do it in the name of the Lord God. Do it for the Blessed Mother, simply to please Her and make Her happy!

I used to go to my grandmother's house out in the country. I lived in the city, and we had some trees on the street, but my grandmother had a ton of trees. We used to go out and pick up the most beautiful, colorful leaves we could find, and bring them to our grandmother, who would make a big thing about them, and she would always put them at her little shrine she had in her house. She had a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a statue of the Blessed Mother, one of St. Teresa, a candle, holy water, and some prayers. The leaves we gave her went to that little shrine in her living room.

We thought it was great! (In the summer, we would pick dandelions and she would put those "flowers" there.) My grandmother accepted them with the love that was given. How much more will our Blessed Mother accept the gifts we bring Her in this season of change, of charity, love, prayer, goodness, selflessness, and peace?!

Yes, *tempus fugit*! Time flies! But what do we do with the time we have been given? WE USE IT!!

We use it to give love, like Jesus did. Like Jesus does! We use it to give praise, as the Holy Church has and does each Sunday and everyday! We use it to give of our self, as our Blessed Mother did and continues to do! We find beauty and joy in change. And strength in goodness.

May this autumn and this season bring to you, one and all, joy – that feeling inside us when we see a truly beautiful sight of a colorful tree outside and reflect on its beauty through change, and see in ourselves the beauty of changing our ways, bringing beauty to others and Glory to God!

I used to live in the Adirondacks and the fall season was breathtaking. People flocked to the mountains to see the beauty! May we flock to God and our Mother and see the beauty of Their giving so much to us; and please Them by the beauty we give to others in charity and kindness and love in action!

In Jesus and Mary and Saint Joseph,

~Father Ray and colorful Dublin dog ☺

Editor's note: Fr. Ray has a program on MaryTV called "20 Minutes with Fr. Ray Donohue". You can visit <https://marytv.to/20-minutes-with-fr-ray-donohue/> to watch the current episode and all the prior episodes.

A Rose of a Different Kind

By June Klins

One year on October 4, I felt drawn to go to Mass at a church I rarely went to at the time. I almost ignored the inspiration because the priest, Fr. Bob, never gave a homily for daily Mass, and I wanted to hear a homily on St. Francis, since it was his feast day.

After the gospel, Father said, "I hope you are not in a hurry, because I want to give a five-minute homily." I was thrilled that I would now hear a homily about St. Francis! I was baffled, though, as he began to talk, not about St. Francis, but about St. Thérèse, the Little Flower. Her feast day was three days before, on October 1. Was he confused??? As he talked about St. Thérèse's virtuous life, my eyes welled up with tears because just that morning a friend had asked me to pray for the intercession of St. Thérèse!

After he talked briefly about St. Thérèse, Fr. Bob said that when he was first ordained, he was charged with caring for a 90 year-old French priest as he was dying. A week before



he died, the priest called Fr. Bob to his room, and told him to get a pouch out of his drawer. In it was a photograph of a young nun. He gave it to Father as a gift and explained that the young nun was St. Thérèse, the Little Flower. The old priest had been a neighbor of St. Thérèse when they were young, and when she took her first vows as a Carmelite nun, on September 8, 1890, her sister Celine took this photograph of her.

Fr. Bob said he had 1000 reprints made, and he had a few left over that we could take. I felt so blessed to have received this special photo. I cried all the way home when it dawned on me that St. Thérèse did not send me a rose for the novena I had made the week before, but, instead, sent me a photograph of herself !!! Thank you, St. Thérèse, for this gift and for being our patron saint this year.

Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Carol Bleck, Dorothy Bennett, Rose Heintzel, Peggy Smith, Laura and Kevin Di Bacco, Tom McIntire, Peggy Chludzinski, Kathy Luschini, Joan Peterson, Elaine Brady, Kandace Lyons, Kathy Wayman, Louise Lotze, Georgia Chludzinski, Diane Niebauer, Sue Taccone, Chris Falk, Marge Spase, Cindy Bieleanin, Barb Cesare, Irene and Dan Zuba, Darleen Wilkinson, Susie Duda, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the September mailing. We thank Louise Lotze, Johannes Dittrich, and Wendy Ripple for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

As of September 25, 2021, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 36,741. Thank you.

My Son's Miracle – The Power of the Rosary

By June Klins

Some of our longtime subscribers may remember this story. I first wrote about this miracle in our October 2001 issue. Since this past September 8th was the 20th anniversary of this miracle, I felt prompted to print it again for our new subscribers. No matter how many times I read this, I always cry. I can never thank Our Lady and Our Lord enough.

It was September 8, the day the Church celebrates Our Lady's birthday. I had no sooner arrived home from an out-of-town retreat when I received a phone call from my husband Tom, requesting that I come down to the hospital right away. Upon arrival at the hospital, Tom broke the news to me that our son Brian was in surgery to repair damage that was done when he accidentally shot himself in the leg and severed a major artery. Tom was there when they brought him in, and his description of Brian was that he looked "like a casualty victim from Vietnam". Then he handed me a bank envelope and said, "Here is Brian's rosary. It is covered with mud and Brian wants to leave it that way." I went to the chapel in the hospital and knelt in front of the Tabernacle and prayed countless Rosaries until I thought it was time for Brian to come out of surgery. When it was time for us to see Brian, I could not believe my eyes. After Tom's description, I expected the worst. Instead, I found Brian sitting up and talking and joking with the nurses. He even requested to watch the video "Young Guns"!

During the days that followed, Brian shared his experience with me. Brian told me that early on the morning of the 8th, he had a strange premonition that something was going to happen to him that day. Since it was a beautiful day, he decided to spend some time in the woods nearby. As he headed towards the woods, though, he felt the urge to turn around and go back home to get the wooden rosary he had brought from Medjugorje that summer.

When Brian got to the woods, he did some target shooting, and as he was putting his gun into his holster, his gun accidentally went off, hitting him in the upper right thigh. Brian immediately blacked out, and when he came to, he could not hear or see anything for a time. When he realized what had happened, he yelled for help. He did not recall having seen anyone else in the woods that day though. Brian realized very quickly that he could not walk, so he tried to hop on his good leg. Each time he would try to stand up, though, he would fall down again. Weakened from the loss of blood, he fell to the ground and began crawling on his belly. It was not long before he noticed he was bleeding so profusely that his jeans looked like they could be used for a Santa Claus suit. They weighed him down so much from the blood and the mud he was crawling in, that he eventually removed them so he could continue to move. Brian then removed his shirt and tried to make a tourniquet with it, but it was not successful because his leg had become so swollen. Soon Brian became dehydrated, so he crawled to the mud puddles and sipped the water out of them. He said that he



Drawing by Brian after his miracle

had to stick his lips down into the puddles because of the layers of gas and oil from the ATVs that formed a film on top of the puddles. He said that by that point, even the stagnant mosquito-infested water in the mud puddles tasted good. During this time Brian's hearing began to fade in and out, and his breathing became labored. As he continued to crawl from mud puddle to mud puddle, he screamed for help, but there seemed to be no one else in the woods that day. This went on for 2 1/2 to 3 hours.

Before Brian discarded his jeans, he took out of the pocket his wooden rosary from Medjugorje. He wrapped it around

the fingers of his left hand, and crawled to the next puddle. As he lay on his back in the puddle, he relaxed and began to pray the Rosary. Brian said that before he found his rosary he was very angry, but as he began to pray the Rosary he relaxed and came to terms with the idea that he might not make it out of the woods. Dragging himself from puddle to puddle, he continued to pray the Rosary. Finally he reached what looked to be the last puddle. In front of him was a big hill. He made himself as comfortable as possible, and prepared to die. He closed his eyes as he prayed in his Rosary for God to send him an angel to rescue him, or if that was not God's plan, then to let him die peacefully. "Hail Mary, full of grace..." Then he heard the noise of motors! With what little strength he had left after having crawled approximately 500 yards, he yelled for help. Two men on ATVs heard his cries and came over and asked him what was wrong. By this point, he was not bleeding anymore because he was virtually out of blood. He told them that he had been shot. Then they asked what was in his hand. Barely able to breathe, much less speak, he answered, "My rosary." Then they helped him onto one of the 4-wheelers for the half hour ride to the nearest house, where they called 911.

Brian's surgery was successful. Amazingly, the bullet had exited the leg through the back and had not done any damage to the bone, surrounding muscle or major nerve. The next day, when the policeman came to the hospital, he told us how very lucky Brian was. He said that if the men on the ATVs had not picked Brian up when they did, he would not have survived. If they had gone for help and then come back, it would have been too late. He had not much more than 20 minutes left.

When the policeman gave us the names of the men on the 4-wheelers, we called them right away to thank them. Eric Swindlehurst and Christopher Firment both humbly admitted that it was God who saved Brian, that they had just been in the right place at the right time. Both men told us that they had not been planning on going 4-wheeling that day, that it was a spur of the moment decision. They also told us that they almost never go to that part of the woods, and had not been there in months. What is even more amazing is that, even with their helmets on, they were able to hear Brian's cries for help over their loud motors. And where

they found Brian was the exact opposite direction of the way Brian had intended to go. Brian had been so disoriented, as he faded in and out of consciousness, that he headed the wrong direction in the woods he had been so familiar with since he was a child. Brian was also surprised that the men were able to see him at all because his whole body except for his head was immersed in the deep puddle.

Several months later, as I was telling this story, a nurse asked me how much damage Brian sustained. She was surprised when I told her that he had no damage at all. She said that because of the large loss of blood over a long period of time, he should have had kidney, liver, and/or brain damage. He could have lost his leg and he could have gotten a terrible infection from the stagnant water. Other medical personnel I have spoken with agreed. Brian was back at his college classes a week and a half later and began jogging again the following month.

Brian even made the Dean's List that semester for the first time! Our Lady of Medjugorje said, *"The Rosary alone can already work miracles in the world and in your lives."* (1/25/91)

There is a footnote to this story, which is just as miraculous as the story itself. The day after Brian was rescued, my husband, who was a U.S. Army Reserve Criminal Investigator, went down into the woods to follow the path where Brian crawled, and took photographs. As he was showing the photos at the hospital, someone noticed that in the mud where Brian crawled with his rosary was an image of Mary! Mary looks to be holding a rosary. Then we noticed another image, which we later assumed was Joseph because Baby Jesus is in the manger near Mary. Several days later, as I was showing someone the photo, I happened to have it turned the opposite way, and a lady noticed an image of Jesus' Crucifixion! Coincidentally, this lady's last name is "Cross" and the day she noticed it was Sept. 14, the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross!

During the weeks that followed, people began asking me for copies of the miraculous photo. When I had reprints made, I accidentally checked off "4 x 7" instead of "4 x 6", and I was surprised to find another image which we did not see at first. Above the cross is a leaf that is shaped exactly like a dove. It took my breath away, as it occurred to me that in the mud we had images from the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, and it was amazing that we found them in that same order. We saw the Holy



Photo of the mud (better seen online)

Family first, then the Crucifixion, and then the Holy Spirit.

Two months later I was sharing this story with a group of people, and a man turned the photo sideways and said, "Look at the lamb!" The lamb is formed from the images of Mary and Baby Jesus. I could not believe we did not see this in the first place. And what does this have to do with the Rosary? Easy – the Rosary is the story of our salvation, the story of the Gospel, the story of Jesus, the Lamb of God. The Rosary connects us to Jesus and Mary, as we meditate on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In 2002, when Pope John Paul II instituted the Luminous Mysteries, the lamb made even more sense, since, in the First Luminous Mystery, John the Baptist called Jesus, the "Lamb of God."

As if that were not enough, a few months later, a 16 year-old student of mine noticed what he described as an "evil face" at the foot of the cross. The young man said that

his interpretation was that Jesus is crushing the devil by His death on the Cross. And as we pray the Rosary we are crushing the devil also.

Coincidentally, the article about Brian's rescue, and the disclosure that he was praying the Rosary when the men found him, appeared on the front page of our local paper on the morning of September 11 (2001). At Fatima, Our Lady said, *"Let the people continue to say the Rosary every day to obtain the end of the war."* She wants us to pray the Rosary every day. In 1985, Our Lady said, *"Tell everyone to pray it,"* (3/18/85) and *"Put on the armor for battle and with the Rosary in your hands, you will conquer."* (8/8/85) Brian's story is proof that miracles can, indeed, be brought about by praying the Rosary.

Editor's note: This story is recounted in Wayne Weible's book, A Child Shall Lead Them, and in the book, 101 Inspirational Stories of the Rosary. In 2002, I sent this story to Pope John Paul II and received a letter back from the Vatican saying the Pope thanked me and was sending his apostolic blessing to my family. Brian continued to make the Dean's List and graduated from college in 2003. He worked in the area of child protection for 4 years in London, England where he met his wife. They live in the US now and have four beautiful children, one of whom was born on June 24th, the anniversary of the first apparition in Medjugorje. The picture above can be seen clearer on our website. There is also a picture of an angel in the mud which can be seen there. spiritofmedjugorje.org/index.php?ArticleSeq=60#featuredArticle

What Does Praying the Rosary Do For You?

By Dianne Yochim

Praying the Rosary draws me deeply into the spiritual world. Each "Hail Mary" is prayed with the heart of Mary. She leads me into an understanding and deeper union with the joys and sorrows She experienced during Her life with Jesus. In meditating on these mysteries, Mary opens my heart to God's love for me, too. If I am anxious or upset, praying the Rosary calms me. If I am afraid, it melts away all fears. If I am sad or depressed, it comforts me. If I am

too busy, it slows me down and shows me what's most important. If I have a problem, it shows me the solution. The Rosary gives me great peace of mind and heart and strength for everything!

Editor's note: This reflection was originally printed in the parish newsletter of Our Lady of Peace Church in Erie, PA. Dianne is a member of our mailing staff, but has been on the sidelines praying the past year. We are grateful for her powerful prayers.

That Quiet Moment with Mary

The following testimony was taken with permission from imedjugorje.com. This testimony was given by a woman named Jennifer during her pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

I've always loved the Blessed Mother. Since I was little, I've adored Her and loved Her as Jesus' Mom and turned to Her as a female for guidance. In times of trouble, I've felt like I should unite my pain as a mom or anything I fear for my kids, unite my pain to our Blessed Mother's at the Cross. Look at what She went through. I can get through this. She's just always helped me. I've had tremendous faith in Her, love for Her, respect for Her. I always heard about Lourdes and Fatima and thought, "Oh! I wanna go there." I did go to Our Lady of Guadalupe [shrine] on pilgrimage as a teenager. That helped my growth even more in the faith.

When I was 18 years old, this boy asked me out. On our first date, we sat down and we were talking for hours. He had just come back from Medjugorje. We just spoke for hours. He couldn't believe I didn't know what was going on. That was our date, and I knew, "Oh, I'm marrying this guy. Could there possibly be someone who loves Mary more than me?"

He's now my husband; we have four kids together. We have a beautiful, blessed life together.

And from that day, for 30 years, I've been, "When is it going to be my turn? When can I go?" Then life gets in the way. You have your family, which is all beautiful. Mary wants that for all of us and a good life. My prayer was always, "Mary, if You want me to go, You have to pave the way. You really gotta let me know You're calling me. I can't have all these obstacles. I have kids. Who's going to watch the kids? I gotta work. I gotta help my husband."

Trips have come up; one was with four or five best friends. They were all going, we were all going together, and I couldn't go. There were obstacles in the way. And I was okay with it. I always knew, "When She calls me, She's gonna make it happen."

That [time] was now, in a pandemic – COVID tests and everyone thinking we're nuts. But everything fell into place.

My anticipation of coming here – I could cry every day. Every day I would be in tears, jumping up for joy and

seeing my girlfriend that came also. I would just see her and it reminded me, "We're going to Medjugorje!" And I would start crying in Mass.

These last two weeks were such a countdown. I packed a week ahead of time. I was ready to go. And my heart was jumping out of my chest. It's just a blessing from our Blessed Mother. I'm thrilled to be here.

I'm eager to get to confession and to make a really great, deep confession. I think that's one of the fruits of Medjugorje, one of the five big pillars, five little rocks that we need to lean



Confessionals in Medjugorje

on. And that's the one I feel I need to work on more, with once a month as She recommends. I don't do that, so I'm striving to work more on that.

Another one is fasting. I started doing the Wednesday and Friday fasting a few weeks ago. That has been life changing. And that's from Medjugorje. I know on Fridays of Lent to abstain and fast, and I've done that, but the Wednesday was very new to me. I read a book Wayne Weible wrote, a book on fasting in Medjugorje. I've just been moved to learn more.

I would say fasting and confession have really been something growing in me, in our faith, and that came from Medjugorje.

In our town, in Long Island, a sister-in-law and a friend and I were getting together for a birthday one day, and one of us said, "Why don't we do a Rosary?" And from that one encounter, we now have a group of about 25-30 women. We crave it, and we miss it. With the pandemic, we couldn't do it [in person], and we started doing it on Zoom [via computer]. We do it Mondays on Zoom.

We see each other then. It's continued, so the pandemic didn't stop it.

I think the power, the connection, the blessing of the Rosary gets us closer to Our Lady. Certainly, for me.

Now here, we're doing two, three a day on Apparition Hill, and in between, and learning from Miki our local guide: "Don't waste time." If you're on a bus ride, do a Rosary. If you're driving, do a Rosary. I've seen that growth throughout my adult life.

It's that quiet moment with Mary. No distractions. And you start sensing, the world is very loud. With all that noise of radio, music, and televisions on, shut it down, because then we can't hear God's voice. It's too loud.

Focus on the Rosary, keeping it silent, that moment of quiet. Light a candle. Be in front of Our Mother – a blessed statue, a painting. I find that's very helpful.

Many people hated the shutdown of the pandemic. We were in New York. Everything was shut down for months. My college kids came home. My son was studying in London. Everybody came home.

I have some of the most beautiful memories because we started doing the Rosary as a family every night.

My husband's a physician so he was a frontline worker dealing with COVID patients. We were worried about him. But we would come together for the

Rosary, no matter what. The most vivid memories for me of that shutdown are not horrible. They're so precious because we were doing a Rosary every night as a family.

I'm gonna bring that back again. Because now the world opened and everyone went back to college. The kids have sports again. It's opening up, little by little. I don't want us to get away from doing a family Rosary. We can still do it.

"Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning" (Joel 2:12)

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for October: Missionary Disciples –

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.



The Rosary and Fasting

By Cathy Nolan

"I would like the people to pray along with me these days. And to pray as much as possible! And to fast strictly on Wednesdays and Fridays and every day to pray at least one Rosary: the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries." (August 14, 1984)

Today [Friday, August 19, 2016], we fast with Our Lady! Today, we offer our fasts for Her intentions. I want to share an email that I received last night that truly touched my heart. The power of fasting was simply presented from the witness of a holy priest who has been ordained for 62 years!! Here is the email:

Dear Cathy,

I was grateful to pray and listen to the wisdom spoken today about fasting and consumerism. I was not able to pray the last decade because I was going to pick up a priest who was going to celebrate Mass here in my home along with some dear friends. After the Mass, we were able to sit at my dining room table sharing another kind of meal and share hearts as well.

This priest was just here for the summer and goes back to India Sept 1. He was asked the question about his becoming a priest 62 years ago! He is 82 but looks 62! He visibly got emotional and told us his mother fasted every Friday on just a little water, for his priesthood, until the day that she died.

I will never forget his emotions at the table, nor will anyone else sitting there.

Can you imagine how many priests we would have if we fasted, or how Our Lady's plan would come to fruition in Her Triumph? With your words the past couple of days, I took my book out on Fasting by Fr. Slavko and also Sr. Emmanuel. Because of MaryTV's united prayer, I was able to fast yesterday and hope, with continued prayers and the help of Fr. Slavko, I can continue committed and faithful.

Gratefully,
Anita



Fr. Slavko's book,
Fast with the Heart

The power of fasting! If we only knew the great graces we could obtain through our fasting! Fr. Slavko understood. He embraced fasting and lived this call in a special way. He is one who can help us to fast. He suggested that when we fast, we should pray the Rosary because the Rosary will strengthen us in our fast. Here is what he said:

"Rosary on a Fast Day"

To pray the Rosary means to be with Jesus and Mary, in joy, in sorrow and in glory. When things are going well for us, we easily forget God and then cause problems and difficulties to ourselves and to others. These become real crosses in life. This is why we need the Joyful Mysteries in order to learn how to live with God when things are going well.

When things are difficult, we are inclined to complain to God because of our suffering and we distance ourselves from Him. In suffering we easily lose our faith, hope, love and trust and so live in anguish, fear, bitterness and mistrust. That is why it is good for us to learn how to live when it is difficult for us and why we need the

Sorrowful Mysteries.

In order to carry our crosses more easily we need to be with Jesus and Mary in glory to see what happens after the Cross, the Passion and Death. We often behave like children who see nothing else in a doctor except a painful injection. They cry and want to run away. When a person fixes his sight on healing, he can more easily accept every suffering.

In that sense, I recommend the prayer of the Rosary on a fast day for the grace of fasting and in order to learn how to live with Jesus and Mary. (Fr. Slavko Barbaric, *Fast with the Heart*, Par 12.2.)

www.marytv.tv

The Star that Guided Columbus

Every school child has heard of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, but few have heard of the Star that guided the great navigator during his first perilous voyage. It was none other than that blessed one whom men call the Star of the Sea, Mary Immaculate.

On August 3, 1492, Columbus set sail on board a vessel which he had consecrated a few days previously to Our Lady, changing its name from "La Callegra" to "Santa Maria", the Holy Mary. He had need of the Blessed Mother's help. Trouble followed trouble, still the Santa Maria held on her course. When, however, it became known that the compass proved to be no longer true to its star, that the constellations had changed, and that a meteor had been seen in the heavens, the men's hearts sank within them and they clamored to return. But Columbus was unbending and undaunted; the constellations might change, his trust was not in them. He confided in holy Mary, Star of the Sea, whose loving guidance and protection never change. From the beginning of the voyage, he had ordered that the

Ave Maria Stella (Hail, Star of the Sea) should be sung daily to seek Our Lady's protection.

The Star of the Sea heard their prayer and on October 12, land was sighted. In gratitude, Columbus named the archipelago to the east of Cuba: "Sea of Our Lady", and called the largest island "Holy Mary of the Immaculate Conception".

An enthusiastic welcome awaited Columbus on his return; the bells rang out and the inhabitants of Palos came to the riverside to do him homage. But the great discoverer refused all congratulations until he had fulfilled his vow to Our Lady. Faithful to that vow made on the unknown sea, as soon as this ship cast anchor, Columbus and his men walked in procession to the nearest shrine of Our Lady to thank Her, the Star of the Sea, for having guided them on their voyage and protected them from the deep.

Hail, Thou Star of Ocean, Portal of the sky, ever Blessed Mother of the Lord Most High!

Editor's note: I found this article in my October folder and found it interesting, but do not know who to credit for it!

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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.

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.

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 \$.78 postage on it.

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