



THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE

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



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CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF AUGUST 25, 2018

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



September is the Month of Our Mother of Sorrows. How sorrowful Our Lady must be right now. But She said that in the end, Her Immaculate Heart will triumph. We can make the victory come more quickly by living Her messages. "I desire you to grasp the seriousness of the situation and that much of what will happen depends on your prayers ... I am inviting you to begin to pray and fast seriously as in the first days of my coming." (7/25/91) The picture to the left was taken at visionary Ivan's house in Medjugorje. It is the artwork of Fr. Zlatko Sudac. You can read the conclusion of a three-part series about one of Fr. Sudac's seminars on pages 6 and 7.

"Dear children! This is a time of grace. Little children, pray more, speak less and permit God to lead you on the way of conversion. I am with you and love you with my motherly love. Thank you for having responded to my call."



Fr. Bill Kiel

The Cross

By Fr. Bill Kiel

The Exaltation of the Cross, or the Triumph of the Cross, is celebrated on September 14 in the liturgical calendar. During the Lenten season, the Cross is a part of meditations and prayers, but do we think much about the importance of the Cross throughout the remaining liturgical year? In Medjugorje, there are three crosses that pilgrims make an effort to reverence – the Blue Cross at the base of Apparition Hill, the cross on the right side of the path as one ascends Apparition Hill, and the cross on Mount Krizevac.

"Holy Mary, heaven's Queen and our Lady, you stood by the cross of the Lord." These words are part of the responsory of evening prayer of September 15, the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. You can follow Mary's presence with Jesus as you meditate on the Stations of the Cross on Mount Krizevac, as you walk up the mountain to the cross on the top.

Mary is presented in the magnificent *Mary's Way of the Cross*, written by Richard Furey, in an enlightening way for praying and meditating on the Stations. This booklet gives us insight into what Mary may have experienced in Her steps following Jesus on His walk, and it gives a reflection—almost a brief Examination of Conscience—following

Mary's experience at each Station. Pilgrims have felt a need to partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation after using this booklet. The power of the Cross!

"We adore You, O Christ, and we bless You, for by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world." As we pray and meditate

on the Stations, these words introduce each Station to remind us of our redemption through the death of Jesus on the Cross. Again, we are reminded of Our Father's love for us; He sent His only Son to die for our salvation. What love of the Father and His Son!

Pilgrims consider climbing Cross Mountain and reaching the cross a great victory. Do they reflect on the power of the Cross or are they just happy to have reached the top? *"Give glory to the risen Christ and to His Cross give praise, the sign of God's unfathomable love, the hope of all our days."* (Benedictines of Stanbrook Abbey)

When we reflect on the goodness of God the Father and Jesus, how can we not understand why Mary is asking us to *"open hearts to my Son... do not ever forget to keep on thanking Him: speak to Him"* (8/2/18)?

Let us not just wear the cross as jewelry, but meditate on the beauty and victory won for us through the Cross.

Mary Queen of Peace, pray for us.



"The Cross is the key that undoes the padlock of sin, trips the lock of death and opens Heaven's door. The Cross is the key to Heaven's door; there is no other key. Heaven's door is where Heaven and earth meet, at the summit of Golgotha. ... Some think that it has no lock and opens to whoever pushes it. But when you approach the door, you will realize that it has a lock, and it can only be opened with its proper key. The true key cannot be recognized unless you put it into the padlock. There is only one true key: the Cross of Christ." ~ St. Charbel, our patron saint this year

Message to Mirjana Soldo on August 2, 2018

Dear children, with a motherly love I am calling you to open hearts to peace; to open hearts to my Son, so that in your hearts love for my Son may sing, because only out of that love peace comes in the soul. My children, I know that you have goodness, I know that you have love – a merciful love, but many of my children still have a closed heart. They think that they can do it without directing their thoughts towards the Heavenly Father who illuminates – towards my Son who is always with you anew in the Eucharist and who desires to listen to you. My children, why do you not speak to Him? The life of each of you is important and precious, because it is a gift from the Heavenly Father for eternity. Therefore, do not ever forget to keep on thanking Him: speak to Him. I know, my children, that what is to come afterwards is unknown to you, but when your hereafter comes you will receive all the answers. My motherly love desires that you be ready. My children, by your life keep putting good feelings in the hearts of the people whom you meet, feelings of peace, goodness, love and forgiveness. Through prayer, hearken to what My Son is saying and act accordingly. Anew, I am calling you to prayer for your shepherds, for those whom my Son has called. Remember that they need prayers and love. Thank you.

Our thanks to Joanne Warren, Sue Taccone, Diane Niebauer, Chris Falk, Cassandra Dragone, Marge Burchard, Irene and Dan Zuba, Kathy Wayman, Marge Spase, Joan Peterson, Peggy Smith, Cindy Bielani, Peggy Chludzinski, Barb Sirianni, Estrella Igras, Louise Lotze, Georgia Chludzinski, Tom McIntire, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the August mailing. We thank Deborah Husava Valenti, Helen Bell, and Louise Lotze 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 August 25, 2018, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 26,308. Thank you.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for September

Young People in Africa: That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.



The Angel of Peace

By June Klins

On September 29, we will celebrate the feast day of the Archangels, St. Michael, St. Gabriel, and St. Raphael. In 2010, St. Michael was the patron saint of this newsletter. Reportedly, the saint stays with us even after we pick a new saint, so perhaps it was he who guided me to share the following story. Maybe some of you are familiar with this story, but for me, it was new and an answer to something I always wondered about. This story was told by Fr. Ronan Murphy, who was the guest priest at our Carmelite Days of Prayer (in Erie, PA) this year. Fr. Murphy has been to Medjugorje nine times and has a great devotion to Our Lady. He spoke quite a bit about Our Lady of Fatima.

Fr. Murphy began by saying that in 1916, an angel appeared to the Fatima children, calling himself the Angel of Portugal. "Now who was this angel?" he asked. "It was St. Michael the Archangel. How do we know this?" He answered, "Because Sr. Lucia told us it was St. Michael the Archangel, and he called himself the Angel of Peace and the Angel of Portugal." Father explained, "Portugal has been consecrated to St. Michael the Archangel since 1140 A.D., so we know it was St. Michael the Archangel."

The Angel of Peace appeared to the children on three occasions. Father's story involved the third and final visit.

"He [the angel] brought to the three children a Sacred Host, a Consecrated Host, and an empty chalice." Father posed, "Now where did this angel get this Consecrated Host, this empty chalice? An angel can pray over bread and wine until it is blue in the face (I don't know if an angel can get blue in the face), but anyway, it still remains bread and wine. Only an ordained priest – a validly ordained priest – can consecrate bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. So he had to get the Host from somewhere." I interject here that this is what I always wondered about in regards to this story – where the angel got the Sacred Host.

Father began to unravel the mystery. He said that in a village about 20 miles away from Fatima is a church dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, and they had celebrated the feast of St. Michael with a Eucharistic procession. "After the Eucharistic procession, the priest took the large Host from the monstrance and he placed it back in the tabernacle." As for the chalice, Father explained, "He would also place the empty chalice from Mass each day in the tabernacle. And he would place it in a certain position in the tabernacle every day. So here was the Host and empty chalice in the tabernacle."

Father stated that the parish priest had the only key for that tabernacle and it remained with him.

"The next morning, he goes to open the tabernacle in order to retrieve the chalice for the Mass, only to notice that the large consecrated Host was missing. And in the chalice – the chalice was moved in the tabernacle – there were drops of the Precious Blood. So it is believed that St. Michael the Archangel went to his own church dedicated to his honor. That's where he took the Host and the chalice to the three shepherd children!"

Fr. Murphy described that third encounter with the angel, according to Sr. Lucia's testimony. "Now the Sacred Host and the chalice remained suspended in the air and he [the angel] prostrated himself before the Eucharistic Lord.

And the three children followed suit." Father then gave a catechesis regarding this event. "They adored Jesus, and the Sacred Host started dripping Blood into the chalice to show forth the *sacrificial* nature of the Mass. The Eucharist is both *sacrifice* and *sacrament*." To show forth the *sacramental* nature of the Eucharist, he gave the Sacred Host as Holy Communion to Lucia, and he gave the Precious Blood to Francisco and Jacinta to show the *sacrificial* nature of the Mass.

Father said that at that time the faithful were not used to receiving the Precious Blood. Father

explained, "We don't have to receive under both forms. We do not. You receive Jesus whole and entire, under either species, under the form of bread or under the form of wine." When Francisco was dying, he told Lucia that Our Lady was taking him to Heaven, but he lamented that he had not yet received his First Holy Communion. Lucia reminded him that when the angel gave him to drink of the chalice, that was the Precious Blood of Jesus. So Francisco and Jacinta received their First Holy Communion from the hands of an angel. Father asked, "Now you think that is special?" He went on to say, "It's unusual, but let me tell you, it more special to receive Holy Communion from the hands of the priest because you know an angel is only a *servant* of Jesus and a priest is another Jesus – very special." Father did not say this, but I did find in my research that Francisco did receive his First Holy Communion from the hands of a priest before he died.

St. Michael the Archangel, Angel of Peace, pray for us.

Editor's note: Fr. Murphy sent us an awesome testimony, which can be found on pg 7. Visit Marytv.tv to listen to his homily from June 16, 2016 in Medjugorje. You can also read an excerpt from this homily called "The Bible on a String" in our October 2016 issue, www.spiritofmedjugorje.org/issues/October2016pdf.pdf.



Angel of Portugal statue in Fatima

During that third visit, the Angel of Peace prayed what is now known as "The Angel's Prayer": "Most Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit– I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences whereby He is offended. And through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg of Thee the conversion of poor sinners."

One Light at a Time

By Terri Enright Smith

Over 30 years ago, I experienced a conversion in Medjugorje. I am certainly not alone in that statement. It is a statement that I have heard over and over again, usually as a beginning for a great life story to follow. My story is not special, but it is unique. That is the truth about Medjugorje and its healing love. The common thread of conversion in Medjugorje is sown through the complexity of human existence.

I first went to Medjugorje in 1986 as a favor to my parents. I subsequently returned every year for the next three years. After that, I would marry and raise three children, not returning for nearly 15 years. Medjugorje was in Yugoslavia at the time and they were at war. I did not see it as part of my vocation to go and risk leaving my husband and family wifeless or motherless.

Ever since 2004, I have led pilgrimages once, twice or even three times a year. I have had a front-row seat on conversions, healings, life-changing experiences, and so much more. There are stories that would fill volumes, many of which would challenge and many of which would affirm our faith in God and the Catholic Church. I have a few favorite stories because they have taught me so much about how to live life and because the lesson came to me in the simplest of ways. Praise God for knowing that I simply need to be “knocked off my horse” every once in a while to get it.

I was in Medjugorje at the end of June 1987. It was the sixth anniversary of the alleged apparitions. At this time in 1987 my name was Terri Bosse. In 1986 I had been part of a pilgrimage that resulted in a TV documentary in New Orleans, and that changed almost every aspect of my life. I went back to Medjugorje in 1987 to attempt to grasp what had happened to me. I am told that on the night I write about, many people saw Our Lady on the mountain. I actually heard that 18 years later mentioned matter-of-factly by my sister who was with me in 1987. I have never seen Our Lady. I have seen Her handiwork in the lives of God’s people.

We had gone up Mt. Krizevac, the Mountain of the Cross, on one of the nights preceding the anniversary. The information that the visionaries would climb Krizevac that night for an apparition was moving through the village faster than you can imagine, since this is before internet, before most locals spoke English, before cell phones, heck, before phones in most places in the village. Medjugorje then was a small, poor and simple farming village.

A lot of us had gone up the mountain early to claim our piece of ground and to pray. We were up there for a long time without the benefit of bathrooms or food and water except for what we carried up on our backs. When we ascended the mountain, it was daylight, and we prayed the Stations of the Cross on our way up. Night fell upon us before the visionaries even made it to the top. I have never seen that many people on Krizevac since that night. There were thousands upon thousands of pilgrims from all over

the world singing and praying. One of my favorite stories happened on the way down the mountain that night.

Krizevac was a more treacherous climb in the ‘80s than I feel it is today, although it is always intimidating to people when they first see it. There is a path on Krizevac that has been worn by the feet of over 1.2 million pilgrims every year as they pray the Stations of the Cross. In 1987 the path was not so clear. As the crowd started to go down the mountain, I realized that descending this rocky, slippery mountain in total darkness was not a thought I had contemplated before going up. I never once considered how we would get down. There were no lights in the village of Medjugorje and certainly there were no lights on Krizevac.

Our group ended up following another small group that was being led by a woman we had to assume was a local. Most pilgrims had flashlights, but that only made the mountain more treacherous because of the shadows cast by the rocks. We were left to trust God and to cautiously descend the mountain. Thirty one years later, I still believe that descending Krizevac even in daylight is harder than climbing up. That extremely hot night in June of 1987, I wasn’t sure we would ever get off the mountain. Eventually we did.

On our descent, more than likely because I was an impatient kid in my twenties, I had ended up right behind the woman leading the group down. When we reached the bottom of the mountain, the woman we assumed to be a local started to cry hysterically. She fell on the ground weeping. I ran to her with a few others to attempt to console her. It was then that she told us she was blind. I have been blessed with a sense of humor at almost every moment of my life. I remember telling this woman, whose name I still don’t know, it was all of us

that should be crying because we followed a blind woman down the mountain.

This is what she said that forever changed my life. She told us that she never saw the path. She did not know how she would get down, but she saw in front of her a light and she moved toward it. Then, she saw another light and she moved towards it. The times we thought she was taking a break for fatigue, she said she was waiting for the light. By one light at a time given to her by God, this blind woman led a group that continued to grow down the mountain. God never showed her the path. He gave her one light at a time.

Some of you may be saying to yourself that’s God – one step, one light, keep coming. You have learned the lesson and seen the hand of God in your life. Others may be saying this is a coincidence. I don’t believe in coincidences in life. I do believe in God-incidences. He is our Father, always



Rocky path on Mt. Krizevac

“I

will lead the

blind on a way they do

not know; by paths they do

not know I will guide them. I

will turn darkness into light

before them.”

(Is 42:16).

inspiring us to do more than we ever thought possible, as long as we trust Him.

The one-light story has helped me to have faith in some of the darkest moments of my life. Once I was having a really hard day I did not expect to have. I went home and opened the door to my pantry to write on the parish calendar that hung there, "This day will live in infamy." It was then that I noticed it was the Queenship of Our Lady, August 22nd. I knew it that day in my kitchen that it was a light on a long,

hard path for me. As I walked with my family through criminal proceedings against a man who had abused me and my sisters in childhood, Our Lady gave me a light by putting every single court hearing on a marked feast day on the same parish calendar. I watched Our Lady and Her Son, my Savior, give me another light when I needed it until I had walked the path as far as I could. *"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you"* (NABRE, John 14:18). *The Medjugorje Star, Volume 31, No. 4 August/September 2017*

The 29th Youth Festival in Medjugorje

The 29th Youth Festival finished this morning with the Holy Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated at the top of Cross Mountain at 5 a.m., on August 6, 2018, by Fr. Marinko Sakota, the parish priest. The Youth Festival began on Wednesday, August 1, 2018, and was held with the theme "Living on the Word of God," when dozens of thousands of youth from 72 countries gathered. The program began each day with the morning prayer at the White Dome of St. James' church, continued with catechesis, testimonies, music and some inspiring thoughts from our Christian life. On Thursday, August 2, youth gathered at the Apparition Hill for the prayer of the Rosary at 6 a.m.

Morning catechises were given by Fr. Ante Vučković (Thursday and Friday) and the Apostolic Visitor for the parish of Medjugorje, Mons. Henryk Hoser on Saturday. The prayer of the Rosary was every day at 6 p.m. and the central event of the day was always the evening Holy Mass at 7 p.m.

The opening Holy Mass and Homily on August 1 were given by Mons. Luigi Pezzuto, the Apostolic Nuncio to Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 472 priests concelebrating. Celebrants on the following days were Fr. Ante Vučković, Fr. Marinko Šakota, parish priest of Medjugorje, Fr. Miljenko Šteko, the Provincial of Herzegovina Franciscan Province and the Apostolic Visitor

for the parish of Medjugorje, Mons. Henryk Hoser.

The largest number of the priests concelebrating was on Friday – 570 of them, on Wednesday there were 473, Thursday 548, Saturday 537 and on Sunday 485 priests.

On Friday, August 4, after the evening Holy Mass, there was the procession with the statue of Our Lady in front of the White Dome, carried by the youth from Medjugorje, followed by the young representatives of each country. The statue was brought back to the altar, when Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament began and Benediction.



Youth Festival

On Saturday, August 4, members of Cenacolo community gave a performance play after the Holy Mass. Priests were available for the sacrament of Confession for most of the day. Every day, the service and the program was more beautiful thanks to the singing and music of the International Choir and Orchestra, conducted by Prof. Damir Bunoza, made of the youth from 23 countries. The festival was simultaneously translated into 17 languages, and many radio stations, web sites and TV stations broadcasted and live streamed the whole event. Besides radio Mir Medjugorje the whole day and night program was

also taken by Radio Maria from 8 countries, Laudato TV (Croatia), Espanol TV, Kit TV, Kathtube and many more. There were 1,076,600 live streaming viewers of the program on the last evening.

Mir Medjugorje, www.medjugorje.hr

Cardinal Christoph Schönborn, Archbishop of Vienna, sent a message to the youth in Medjugorje and said: "Dear young friends in the Lord! Again, you gathered in such a great number for the Youth Festival in Medjugorje. Again, as in the previous years, I wish to send you my warmest greetings, but this year we have a special opportunity to be especially grateful! Each of us has reasons to thank Holy Father for his kind care for Medjugorje! The installment of the Apostolic Visitor is the sign of a great respect and recognition. This is the act through which the Church officially recognized the good fruits of Medjugorje. Archbishop Hoser is now the official representative of the Holy Father for this parish and pilgrims of Medjugorje. For you, dear friends, who have despite the heat came to Our Lady to pray, confess and celebrate here, this sign of the Holy Father is the great encouragement, for us to gaze into Mary and to follow her words: "Do as Jesus tells you to do!" With my great gratitude, I am sending you my greetings and I ask you to pray in a special way for our Holy Father Francis! Please pray for me too, as I pray for you all that you may have specially blessed days with Our Lady! Yours, P. Christoph Cardinal, Schönborn "

"We have a great responsibility towards the whole world, because truly Medjugorje has become a place of prayer and conversion for the whole world. Accordingly, the Holy Father is concerned and sends me here to help the Franciscan priests to organize and to acknowledge this place as a source of grace for the whole world."

~ Mons. Henryk Hoser, Apostolic Visitor to Medjugorje on July 25, 2018, the feast of St. James

Editor's note: In 2002, I wrote a 3-part series about a seminar I attended with Fr. Zlatko Sudac. At the time, many people told me they made copies and handed them out. Recently, Our Lady and Her Son made it very clear to me that the series needed to be reprinted. Part 1 was in our July 2018 issue, Part 2 was in August 2018, and here is Part 3, the conclusion.

Seminar with Father Zlatko Sudac

Part 3

By June Klins

"We have come here not to rest, but to be shaken up," said Father Zlatko Sudac at his very powerful seminar in Chicago in November [2001]. "I feel that my place is here (in the U.S.) now with the blessing of my bishop. All I say to you, God says to my own heart."

Father Sudac, a Croatian priest who bears the stigmata and has a realm of charisms, is, as I mentioned in a prior article, a very joy-filled man, but like Jesus, he also "lays it on the line" for us. As an instrument of God, Father outlined for us at this seminar how we too can become God's instruments and be filled with peace and joy.

Father began, "There is no life of faith in security. If we are praying and we don't change, something is wrong." As I energetically took notes while Father spoke, I put an asterisk by his next statement: "If prayer doesn't change me, I must change my prayer." Father emphasized that to become an instrument of God, we must die to our own plans, visions, and ultimately to our own selves. "It is up to us to become open to God." Father used Mary as the prime example. Mary submitted to God's plan without asking how or why. "God works in His plans, not our plans," Father said. I placed another asterisk by his next statement: "Don't ask how or why. Live in the Spirit." *"Blessed are those who do not see, but believe."* As he warned us about a "tremendous uncertainty" in the world, he told us that we need to be like Mary: "Let our hearts be joyful. Let our hearts cry out."

"Our thoughts are with our jobs, etc. We are concerned about many things. We have been manipulated by this world," Father said. "How much energy do we spend thinking about what other people think and say about us?" he posed. "Jesus does not recognize compromise. When a person feels Jesus in his life, he cannot continue to walk the old path." Father passionately went on, "Blessed is that heart that doesn't care about anything else but what I am about to talk about – God, Jesus, eternity..."

"What will I carry with me at the moment of my death?" Father set forth. "My spouse? My diploma? My house? My bank account?" Father continued solemnly, "We have to know who we are and why we are here. The moment of your complete nakedness will come—your complete loneliness and powerlessness. In the moment of your death, no one will be there to help you. There is nothing. You leave your married body behind. If you are attached to anything, it will be very hard to leave it behind." This statement echoed a verse from Scripture, *"As he came forth from his mother's womb, so again shall he depart naked as he came."* (Eccl. 5:14) Father continued, "If you have never experienced forgiveness, at death it will be very difficult. If you have never loved, who will love you then?"



Fr. Sudac in Medjugorje in 2011

Father spoke of various attachments people have, calling them a form of slavery. Our Lady spoke of attachments also when She said, *"I especially want you to renounce all the things to which you are attached but which are hurting your spiritual life."* (2/25/90) Father mentioned briefly the obvious attachments such as drugs, alcohol, money, and success. (Mentally, I added sports, hobbies, food, TV, computer, cigarettes and the one I used to have, shopping!) Then Father challenged us to think about things that most people would never consider attachments. He said that some people are too attached to their spouse or to their children. He said that other people are too attached to their prayer life. In other words, they feel duty-bound to say certain prayers every day, but do not really pray with the heart. Then he said that some people are attached to holiness, and he said that this is the most dangerous attachment. Sounding like Jesus admonishing the Pharisees, Father said, "You fool, you already are holy! If you think you can earn Heaven, there is no greater heresy than that. We cannot earn Heaven. It is waiting for us. Jesus Christ did the work for us. Until we are delivered from that fear, we cannot love."

Father quoted Our Lady's message of June 2, 1984 as he called for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. "Love, forgive and do not judge," Father decreed. "Be a person of virtue and then your heart will be free so you can love." He said that if we have love in our hearts, we will be on fire for Christ and we will be able to embrace and forgive everyone. "When you feel God is touching you within, God becomes Emmanuel—God with us." Father expanded on this: "People who are in the Spirit of God are not afraid of anything." Father zealously continued, "No one has power over them and no one can manipulate them. People who are not afraid of anything speak the truth because something is pushing them. They cannot help it. No one has control over them. They even scare themselves!" Father warned that people of Spirit will be persecuted, though, just as the prophets in the past were persecuted. "If they are attacking us, though, it means the Holy Spirit is ALIVE!" Father bellowed. "Whoever truly lives for Jesus Christ provokes this world. Jesus predicted this. Let us stop being afraid when people speak against us."

On the second day of the seminar, Father Sudac spoke of the difference between religion and spirituality. He described spirituality as love, freedom and peace. "The people who crucified Jesus were not evil, but religious people," he pointed out. "They felt endangered when Jesus touched their religion. For the Pharisees, the Messiah was not in their hearts, but in their heads and in the laws. Their hearts could not feel this because He endangered their

religion. They did not recognize the Messiah. Jesus was killed because they were afraid of Him,” Father continued. “They were afraid to change their own mentality. All evil begins in the mind and then sinks into the heart and poisons the heart. The Pharisees did not change because people do not wish to change.” Father then expressed his concern that people like this—with tremendous minds, but no heart—will destroy humanity. He repeated twice, “Progress without compassion—riches without work—learning without peace in the heart—religions without fear of the Lord—prayer without love—will destroy the world.”

“Why is there no faith today?” Father posed. “Because we are concerned about securities of our mentalities,” he answered. “Jesus wishes us to open our hearts and not be fearful of the Spirit opening us up completely.” Father stressed that “awareness” is an essential quality. Our Lady also spoke of awareness when She said, “*Come to prayer with awareness.*” (11/28/85) “God happens here and now!” Father exclaimed. “We know God, but we must become aware of God. Every pore in our bodies should be soaked in God’s, and the material world becomes nothing compared to the awareness of God.”

“Jesus gave us clear instructions,” Father said. “We are to announce the good news and to heal the sick and the brokenhearted. Whenever the Church was in crisis, God awakened the little flock. Do not be afraid to be witnesses and the salt of the earth!” Father described the times ahead as “very challenging,” and said that we are the “blessed ones” in today’s time. We should not be afraid, though. “You don’t need to justify yourself. God will justify you. God will tell you what to say.”

Then he spoke of what he described as “the only two

realities”—fear and love. He said that fear encompasses evil, doubt, and ignorance, whereas love encompasses God, happiness and peace. Fear is the complete antithesis of love. We first heard this in the first letter of John. “*There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear.*” (1Jn 4:18) “Evil tests us where we are weakest, but DO NOT BE AFRAID! Satan is afraid of people with faith. Evil is incapable of doing anything to you if your heart is with God,” Father proclaimed. Likewise, last September, Our Lady said, “*Do not be afraid because the one who prays is not afraid of evil.*”

Father continued, “There is not a person alive in God who has not been attacked by Satan, and we are deceiving ourselves if we think that God will not test us. Satan can do nothing to you without God’s permission, though. Satan is a servant of God.” Father used the example of Job and how he was tested. He said that in the end, Job was cleansed and Satan was used for this cleansing.

Father also spoke of physical illness. “Don’t let physical health be our main goal. God sometimes uses illness for our own good. Jesus is the healer of our souls. Be strong in the Spirit and you will chase evil away. Joy will be the exorcist itself, by chasing evil away.” Father suggested using the little prayer, “Evil, I am not afraid of you because Christ is with me.” “Fast and pray, pray and fast!” he echoed Our Lady of Medjugorje.

At the end of the seminar, Father Sudac encouraged us, again, not to be afraid to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, Who is calling us to change. “We need a new springtime of the Holy Spirit,” Father proclaimed. “There is no person that can say, ‘I do not need this.’ But don’t be afraid because ‘My yoke is easy and My burden light.’”

Vicka on Our Lady’s Mission in Dublin

By Fr. Ronan Murphy

In 1991, before entering seminary, I felt the call to go to Medjugorje, the first of many such visitations there, especially as a priest.

In 1992, whilst returning from the International Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests in San Marino, I was collecting my luggage in Dublin Airport, Ireland. The airport, I remember, was packed with people especially with foreign students who had just arrived in the country in order to spend the summer months learning the English language. I distinctly remember whilst waiting for my luggage to come out, saying to Our Lady in the silent recess of my heart, “Mother, are you pleased with the Cenacle I have just made?” At that moment, and the only way to describe it, everyone in the airport disappeared before my very eyes. And I found myself alone with a young woman in front of me, smiling radiantly at me. The feeling I experienced was one of peace. Just then I heard a sweet voice interiorly which I believe was the voice of the Blessed Mother say, “My Child, I am very happy with the Cenacle you have made and all the graces I have obtained for you”. Simultaneous



Fr. Ronan Murphy in Medjugorje in 2016

to the voice, I became aware of the identity of the young woman being Vicka, the visionary from Medjugorje, whom I had seen during my first visit there in 1991. I spoke once again to Our Lady interiorly, saying, “Mother do you want me to speak to her?” And the sweet voice once again replied, “No, this is my confirmation to you, a confirmation of Medjugorje and my Marian Movement of Priests”. At that, Vicka disappeared from before me and all present in the airport appeared once again, as if I came out of an altered state and back to reality.

I thank Our Lady for gracing me with this spiritual or mystical experience, confirming me to the authenticity of Medjugorje and the Marian Movement of Priests and with other such experiences which have assisted me in my vocation to and in the priesthood. **Ad Jesus per Miriam.**

Editor’s note: When Fr. Murphy sent us his story, he added, “I am a priest of the Camden Diocese, NJ., ordained May 13th, 2000, on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.” He is originally from Dublin.

The Church celebrates Our Lady’s birthday on September 8th. Happy Birthday, Gospa!

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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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