



**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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## MONTHLY MESSAGE OF JULY 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! My call for you is prayer. May prayer be a joy for you and a wreath which binds you to God. Little children, trials will come and you will not be strong, and sin will reign but, if you are mine, you will win, because your refuge will be the Heart of my Son Jesus. Therefore, little children, return to prayer until prayer becomes life for you in the day and the night. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

*Our Lady told the visionaries that Her real birthday is August 5, although the Church celebrates it on September 8. Some people give Our Lady three days of fasting previous to Her birthday; some pray extra Rosaries. Some bring Her flowers. Still another idea is to have a Mass said for Her intentions. As of July 25, 2019, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 27,955. Certainly that makes Our Lady smile. Thank you! The picture above of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was taken at the Castle in Medjugorje. See page 6 for a related story.*

Our spiritual advisor, Fr. Bill Kiel, is unable to write for us at this time, so several "guest writers" have agreed to "pinch hit" for Fr. Bill in his absence. Please continue to pray for Fr. Bill. He is very appreciative of the prayers.

## Mary, Model of the Christian Vocation

By Fr. Norbert Khangelani Nyathi

Each day, as we pray the Angelus, we meditate on the mystery of the Word Incarnate, Who dwelt among us. We reflect using the story of the Annunciation, how the Angel of the Lord visited Her who became the Mother of the Lord. The story of the Annunciation is the story of each and every Christian experience, the love story of God visiting mankind, a story of how from all eternity God chose man to be in union with Him in Jesus Christ. The story of the Annunciation follows these stages of God's experience with mankind at a personal level: visitation/contact, the reaction, the assurance, the doubts, the reassurance, the assent.

**Mary is visited by God.** Mary is an ordinary, humble woman of the humble home of Nazareth, engaged to a humble carpenter. In the midst of Her humble life, God visits Her with a special plan of salvation and how She could be a participant in this great mystery. Later, tradition was to emphasize how Mary had been prepared for this role from Her infancy – how She was born immaculate and raised in purity and the ways of the Lord. Does that make Her different from us? No. We, too, by being born and endowed with rationality and natural law are, as it were, being prepared for God's visitation upon our lives. The Church Fathers constantly affirmed that Grace acts on/builds on Nature. The inherent goodness in all of us, marred and tainted by human weakness, cannot be blocked from the Grace of God. That is why we are all given a chance – given a call to daily take up the Cross and follow Christ, daily challenged to bloom where we are planted (St. Francis de Sales), daily exhorted to take up the universal call to holiness as the People of God. The word *angel*, in Greek, means "messenger"; how many messengers are daily sent to us to remind us that we, too, are God's children, full of Grace?

**Mary reacts to the visitation by God.** Mary has never heard of such a greeting before, worse still from such a heavenly being. She is deeply disturbed by these words, worried, perturbed. She wonders, not at whether they are true or not, but at what they really mean. No doubt Mary was familiar with the Scriptures of old; no doubt She was well-versed in the sinful ways of Israel. The promised Messiah had not yet come, to deliver them from sin and oppression... so how could the angel say this to Her? When God visits our lives, we often shy away from His beckoning. A deep consciousness of our murky past, our dark present and uncertain future clouds our vision. Like Isaiah, we exclaim "Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips!" (Is 6:5) Such a consciousness is necessary, for it shows us that we are still conscious of who God really is in our lives. It is natural to be afraid like Isaiah, to panic like Moses, to mistake His voice

for other people's voices like young Samuel in the Temple... Mary, too, was disturbed.

**Mary is assured by the Good News.** The angel reveals God's plan to Mary. He begins by telling Her not to be worried, not to be afraid. God knows us – after all, He created us, knit us together in our mothers' wombs (Ps 139). When He tells us not to be afraid, it means that He has the bigger picture at heart than we do. We tend to focus on the small details, the particular problem, the reason why we cannot respond to His invitation in our lives. Yet God knows that, in the long run, it will work out well for us, hence the words, "Do not be afraid, Mary". As God unfolds His plan and how Mary fits into it, She listens attentively and opens Her heart to God. Only if we listen to God, will we be able to calm our fears. "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps 46:10); only in stillness and the silence of God will our fears be calmed.

**Mary seeks understanding.** The question "How can this be, since I know not a man?" is a classic case of faith seeking understanding. Mary has heard the good things that God has planned for Her, She has envisioned, perhaps, what it will mean for the whole human race. She still questions, She airs Her uncertainties, and She does not remain in the dark. She refuses to let Her human reason confine Her, keeping Her from expanding Her faith. Oftentimes, we shy away from God because we allow our own human conclusions, reasoning, explanations to limit us. We fail to respond to God's call because of what we might perhaps have heard from others. "How can God love me, since I sin constantly? How can I ever work for God, lead a holy life, be a modern-

day apostle...given my background?" That is the human element of every Divine love story: God always calls, and man will always doubt, or question, or fail to understand. We, too, like Mary, need to take all these to none other than God himself. Fellow humans might help, but only God has the clarifications we seek.

**Mary is reassured of God's power.** For with God, nothing is impossible...no other words could ever be more comforting. Humanity is full of failed promises that serve to highlight only too painfully our limitations. We still make great scientific strides yet encounter major setbacks, too. God, however, is omnipotent – not in ways we can understand sometimes – in ways that work for our ultimate good. Events, personal and communal, have caused many to doubt this; God's power has been questioned through the centuries. Yet this simple declaration showed itself true for Mary; it still remains true for us. As St. Paul wrote, "All things work together for good, for those that love the Lord and are called according to his purpose" (Rom 8). Again, listening to Him is the key to assurance. Shut out the other



Fr. Norbert



voices and search for the voice that really calls you and you will see the hand of God.

**Mary says “Yes” to God.** Mary’s fiat has set the tone and re-written history the world over. Mary willingly surrenders Herself to God. She does not express a total understanding – indeed, passages in Scripture hint at how She continually kept events in Her heart and pondered on them. She was still trying to grasp at the mystery in Her life. Yet that did not stop Her from saying “Yes” to God. That “Yes” was a yes of trust in God – a yes of assent to the Divine Will – a yes that never wavered, even when Her life was about to radically change – a yes that was to destroy Her comfort zone and Her quiet, lowly life as She knew it. She said that “Yes”, anyway, and trusted in God. We have so much information in our age – information that leads to more questions and more quests for it. Trust is so scarce, not just in fellow beings, but in God as well. How can we say “Yes” to what we cannot see? How do we trust where information

is scant, where a leap of faith is demanded of us? Where/ what is faith? Such is our struggle to say “Yes”, like Mary.

Mary, therefore, remains our model of Christian life. Her apparitions carry the underlying message of trust – trust in God, for He will never leave you. Say “Yes” to God, for He wishes to save us all to Himself. Let us turn to Her with our stories. Where do we lack? Do we still shy away from God? Are uncertainties still hindering us? Have we lost our trust in Him? Is our “Yes” long in coming?

Let us turn to our Mother to help us. Mary, Dawn of Redemption, whose “Yes” brought us Christ, help us to say “Yes” to Him, that He too may dwell in us like He did in You...

*Editor’s note: Fr. Norbert lives at the Embakwe Mission, Sacred Heart Parish in Zimbabwe (southern Africa). Over the years he has celebrated many Masses for Our Lady’s intentions. He was blessed to visit Medjugorje in 2016.*

## Message to Mirjana on July 2, 2019

“Dear children, according to the will of the merciful Father, I have given you, and will still give you, evident signs of my motherly presence. My children, this is a motherly desire for the healing of souls. This is a desire that every child of mine may have true faith, to live to see wondrous experiences, drinking from the spring of the words of my Son – the words of life. My children, my Son, by His love and sacrifice, brought the light of faith into the world and showed you the way of faith. Because, my children, faith elevates pain and suffering. True faith makes prayer more sensitive, and does acts of mercy – a conversation, a gift of alms. Those of my children who have faith – true faith – are happy despite everything because they live the beginning of heavenly happiness on earth. Therefore, my children, apostles of my love, I am calling you to give an example of true faith, to bring light where there is darkness, to live my Son. My children, as a mother I am telling you: you cannot go on the way of faith and follow my Son without your shepherds. Pray that they may have the strength and the love to lead you. May your prayers always be alongside them. Thank you.”

## News from Medjugorje

- Terri Enright Smith, of the MIR group, reported in the June/July 2019 issue of *The Medjugorje Star* that on her recent pilgrimage, visionary Mirjana shared that two emissaries from the Pope recently visited her. They came to apologize for the Pope’s remarks on the plane in May of 2017 when he mocked Medjugorje and alluded to Our Lady as a postal director. The emissaries said that the Pope had been given misinformation on the apparitions.
- According to the official Medjugorje website, [www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr), the number of Holy Communions distributed at Medjugorje for the first six months of 2019 increased by almost 17% on the corresponding period for last year. 705,000 consecrated hosts were given out for the months of January to June 2019. June’s total of 219,000 was the best for that month since 2011 (the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year) when 225,000 hosts were distributed. In June, 4,567 priests concelebrated at Holy Masses.
- From [spiritdaily.com](http://spiritdaily.com): “This afternoon [July 8, 2019] during the Mass in Italian in the parish of Medjugorje (Parish of St. James), the priest responsible for the Italian pilgrims warned all the faithful: ‘By order of the Pontifical Delegate [Mons. Henryk Hoser] today, it will be possible to receive Communion only in the mouth, and no longer on the hands.’ The reason? Not only liturgical – they explained to me – but also practical, given that there are many cases in which someone, once he has taken the Host in his hand, has hidden it in his pocket to then sell it maybe for a fee (they even tell me for 500 euros) to others....There are also some crowds who think that the Host consecrated in Medjugorje is more ‘powerful’ than others. Madness!” Ana Shawl, pilgrim leader and head of the IIPG Medjugorje internet prayer group, wrote, “As we know, the Church allows Communion both ways, on the tongue and in the hand, but those of you who have been to Medjugorje know that not many at all have ever received in the hand. There are just too many people, so many pilgrims, and the number of pilgrims is growing these days. It is just too risky to be giving Communion in the hand, as the priests and also the faithful find Hosts in the pews, in books and on the floor, and also we have heard of people taking the Hosts and selling them, which is just awful.”
- Ana Shawl continued, “On that same note, for those going to Medjugorje, there is no hand-holding for the Our Father. The Sign of Peace is just brief, mainly to the person beside you. There are so many Holy Masses per day, with a strict time limit – to make sure all the languages are able to have Holy Mass in the mornings in their own language – so that is the main reason.”



## Fr. Leon Speaks About the Five Stones – Part III

The following is a transcription of a talk given by Fr. Leon Pereira, the chaplain for the English-speaking pilgrims in Medjugorje on November 9, 2018. He gave us permission to transcribe it for the readers of *The Spirit of Medjugorje*. Parts I and II were in the June and July issues. This part concludes the series.

Now the last stone is **Confession**. Our Lady says, “Go to Confession at least once a month. The West has forgotten Confession. If people in the West went to Confession at least once a month, whole regions of the West would convert.”

Now I always think of Confession as doing my laundry.

So how often do you wash your clothes? Every three years? Once a year? Is it every Easter you wash your clothes, or every Christmas? Some of you have not washed your clothes since your First Holy Communion. You know, if we don’t do our laundry regularly, everyone else is going to know. We’ll all be gagging and retching, right? Or clasp our smelling salts and praying it be let out before we die.

If we don’t confess regularly, the angels will be gagging and retching. They tell a story of Catherine of Siena. This very pompous woman went to see her. For the whole interview, Catherine turned away at 90° and would not look at the woman – for the whole interview! And then finally when she left, Catherine turned back, and Catherine’s friend said, “Why did you do that? That’s strange.” And she said, “Couldn’t you smell the stench – the stench of the woman’s soul?” Because she had not been to Confession in a long time.

Now Confession is easy. To make a good Confession, remember the short sentence, “**Confess your sins**” – those three words. Confess your sins – period. By emphasizing each word, in turn, you’ll know how to confess.

Number one – **confess**. It needs to be an actual confession... don’t come and say, “Father, *maybe* I did this, or *maybe* I did that.” Then the priest is thinking, “Maybe I absolve you, or maybe I won’t.” Did you do it, or did you not? Just say it.

Second word – confess **your** sins. They must be *yours*. “Father, I get so angry. My husband and my children, they make me so mad. They’re real idiots. But still my husband is not as bad as my daughter-in-law. She’s evil. Oh, I don’t like her. I don’t like the way she raises my grandchildren. Still, she’s a saint compared to my new parish priest. He’s awful.” OK look, if people confess other people’s sins, I’m happy to absolve them. *You* can go to hell. So, remember – life is too short. Just confess *your* sins; don’t confess other people’s. As tempted as you are to moan or whine about other people, don’t.

The third word – confess your **sins**. They must be sins. Do not confess emotions, feelings, sentiments. “Father, my brother is a drug addict and he always asks me for money. I didn’t give him any.” Well, you did the right thing. “I know. I feel so badly, though.” Well, you did the right thing. “I feel so bad, though.” You need therapy. Do not confess feelings. Confess sins. If your feelings are bothering you, then maybe you need therapy. It’s not a bad thing. But confession is not

therapy. Do not confuse them.

So just remember those three words and you’ll know how to make a good confession. Remember, at the same time, to not say... things like, “Father, I have no sins.” What does the Bible say? First letter of St. John – “If we say we have no sins, we make God out to be a liar and the truth is not in us.” So, don’t say crazy things like, “I have no sins”.

Look, if I go skiing every seven years, am I going to be a great skier? No. If you don’t go to Confession regularly, you’re going to be rubbish and you’ll say things like that, right? “I can’t see any sins.” Of course, because you don’t go to Confession often enough! Think of skiing and Confession, and then you’ll see the link. Practice makes perfect.

Then resist the temptation to tell stories. I am saying this for all of our sakes, Fathers [motioning to the priests in attendance]. “Father, last Thursday – no, I tell a lie – it was Wednesday, because it was

bingo night, I remember, the doorbell went, and I went to look through the peephole. It was my friend, Mildred, and I had a fright, so I ran out of the back door. I put on my black shoes, in my haste, not my brown ones. And I leapt over the hedge into the alley behind, and Mildred had come around to the back of the house. Father, she caught me. And she said, ‘Oh, Betty, you’ve got your black shoes on, not your brown ones.’” Now when you do this, the poor old priests are left with thinking, “So this is a fashion faux pas, or what is it?” **Just confess your sins**. “I stole a pair of shoes.” And you don’t have to say you lied to Betty. And don’t mention Betty or Mildred by name. Keep it anonymous. But **just confess your sins**. Do not tell stories! I never get tired of hearing confessions here [in Medjugorje]. But I get tired of hearing stories. Stories are exhausting, because then you have to try and work out, “Is Alan married to Mildred?” I can’t keep up. So **just confess your sins** – short, sweet, to the point. You can, if it’s relevant, tell some of the background details. The details you *should* tell, a lot of people don’t say. Like you should say, “I am a married man, five kids, working far away overseas.” These are the kinds of relevant details. “I’m a priest” – relevant details.

Then last of all, remember Confession is not just the forgiveness of sins. Confession is also God giving us grace to change us. It is like an ATM machine, churning out all the free money – you can take as much as you can grab, as much as you can hold. How often would you go? Be honest. Every day. Would you bring your family and friends? Would you bring all of them? Form a big line every day? I want you to remember that we would do that for filthy money, which is going to rot in this life. What should we do for treasures in Heaven, where thieves cannot break in and steal it, moth or rust cannot destroy?

Now we can’t force our family to go to Confession, but we can still invite them to come with us. But we have to set an example ourselves and go to Confession. And remember I said, “As much money as you can hold.” What I mean by



Fr. Leon



that is *as contrite as we are, to that extent we receive grace*. So, if you're truly sorry, God is lavishing grace on you. Don't be afraid. As I said the other day, we are sorry because God has already forgiven us. God does not forgive us because we're sorry. We are sorry because God has already forgiven us. So, if you're sorry before you've even gone to the priest, you know God is already beginning to forgive you, so don't be afraid. Don't be afraid of going to Confession, OK?...

Here in Medjugorje, we hear everything under the sun. There's nothing you're going to say that will shock us, or entertain us, or delight us. You know if you have the same sins, fine. You're not supposed to increase your repertoire just for my enjoyment... So, don't worry about that. The thing is, we never remember your sins. You know, if you come and say, "Father, I said to you yesterday...", please, I *don't* know. I have no idea, because honestly, I look at you and I think, "I've never seen you in my life." And that's not just a kind of racist thing, thinking that all white people look the same. I honestly don't remember. So, if it's relevant to what you said the day before, you'll have to tell me again. So, don't be afraid of Confession.

Take advantage while you're here in Medjugorje. Here in

Medjugorje, so many people come back after years – years away, for all sorts of reasons. I think back in England, if I'd heard someone say in Confession that someone had been away for 40 years. I would've been excited. Here, it is kind of normal – 40 years (yawn). 50 years is also kind of standard. My record is 63 years. As soon as someone says, "I haven't been in a long time," I am like a man possessed. How long? I want to know exactly. I want to beat the record! ...

And you know, there's all kinds of reasons why people don't go to Confession. They went as a child and it traumatized them, with a priest who was awful. I don't know. They never really understood Confession. But, sooner or later... I can spend my whole life with a fear of needles – and as a doctor [he was a physician before he became a priest], I can say, I actually don't like needles. I don't mind injecting *other* people. But, sooner or later, you might have to have an operation, and you have to get a line in, and you have to put up with it. And then, when you do that, you think, "It actually was not as bad as I feared." Confession is a lot like that. It's not as bad as you fear. In fact, it's mostly quite liberating. It can be. If we are open to God, He is open to us.

It is reported that visionary Vicka has the gift of bi-location (being in two places at once). We have published accounts of this in our December 2014 and September 2018 issues. Recently it was stated in the *Magnificat* magazine that our patron saint this year, St. Philip Neri, also had an experience with bi-location when St. Catherine de' Ricci appeared to him while at the same time she was in her convent! St. Philip once said, "We must always remember that God does everything well, although we may not see the reason of what He does." He insisted that the most important thing is the mortification of the inclination to demand the reason why about everything. Similarly, on January 2, 2017, Our Lady said, "My children, do not waste time posing questions to which you never receive an answer. At the end of your journey on earth, the Heavenly Father will give them to you." We still have some holy cards of Our Mother of Sorrows with the previous message of Our Lady. If you would like one, you can send a self-addressed stamped envelope to P.O. Box 6346, Erie, PA 16512, and write "Our Mother of Sorrows" on the envelope.

## Our Lady, Queen of Peace

On August 22, we celebrate the Queenship of Mary. Subscriber Glenn Marsh recently sent us a picture of an altar to Our Lady, Queen of Peace, in the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. and a picture of a nearby sign. The sign reads:

"Mary has long been honored under this title. A reference to it is attributed to St. Ildephonsus, Archbishop of Toledo, Spain, who died in 667.

Tradition says that Mary appeared to him using this title. When a feast of the Holy Name of Mary was granted to a Spanish diocese in 1513, it became a festival, honoring the Queen of Peace. The feast was extended to the Universal Church in 1683 in order to commemorate the delivery of Vienna under King John Sobieski of Poland, from the siege of the Turks. During World War I, the invocation 'Queen of Peace' was added to the Litany of Loreto by Pope Benedict XV. The donors of this chapel, dedicated on October 17-18, 1970, are the Croatian Catholics of the United States and Canada."

I thought this was interesting,



especially regarding the Croatian Catholics, since Our Lady began appearing in Medjugorje 11 years after the dedication of the chapel and requested to be called "Queen of Peace"! The prayer on the sign reads: *God, our Father, Creator of the world, You establish the order which governs all ages. Hear our prayer and give us peace in our time that we may rejoice in your glory and praise You without end. Mary, Queen of Peace, look upon us kindly. Through your prayers obtain for us the gift of peace which Your Son promised. We ask this through the same Lord Jesus Christ, Prince of Peace, Son of God, Son of Mary, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.*

**Prayer Intention of  
Pope Francis for August  
Families, Schools of Human**

**Growth:** That families, through their life of prayer and love, become ever more clearly "schools of true human growth."



# An Awesome Experience

By Romilly Fenlon

[On my 2007 pilgrimage to Medjugorje], a small group of us went to the Castle belonging to Patrick and Nancy Latta, to hear Patrick's testimony [see our May 2013 issue]. At the end of his testimony, he explained that the Castle was dedicated to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and that all his money was being spent on the Castle in Her honor. Both Patrick and Nancy are devoted to Our Lady and this place of prayer they have built over the years has love in every stone. Everyone is always welcome, especially children, priests and religious.

We were then told about their awesome experience. Patrick said that Marija (one of the visionaries) rang them on August 30, and asked if she could have her apparition at the Castle. Naturally they said, "Yes." Nancy said about 70 people were present

Here is what happened: At the daily apparition to Marija Pavlovik-Lunetti on Thursday, August 30, 2007, on the premises of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, home of Nancy and Patrick Latta in Medjugorje, Our Lady came to Marija. After the apparition, Marija said that she

had recommended all of our intentions to Our Lady and that Our Lady had blessed everyone and all of the religious articles brought for blessing. Marija then wrote the following regarding what had happened during the apparition:

"To Our Lady I consecrated this place to Her and to Her Son, Jesus, that They may reign in this place. Our Lady smiled and said: 'I am joyful that you\* consecrate this place to me. Those who will come here I will bless and protect.' Thursday 8/30/07. Marija"

The tears were running down Patrick's face by the time he had finished telling us, and Nancy said to us later, "Can you just imagine doing something to make Our Lady joyful? It's awesome!"

So remember Our Lady's promise – if you go to the Castle to see Patrick and Nancy, you will always be welcome, and Our Lady will bless and protect you.

\*In Croatian, the "you" referred to more than one person.

*The Welsh Medjugorje Apostolate, Issue #57, October 2007*



Castle in Medjugorje

## Who is This Robed Man?

By June Klins

August 6 is the feast of the Transfiguration, so I thought this would be a good month to see if our readers can solve a little Medjugorje mystery involving the Transfiguration.

When I was in Medjugorje last November, my roommate, Chris Falk, noticed an extra person in the mosaic of the 4th Luminous Mystery, the Transfiguration, behind St. James Church. The only people present at the Transfiguration were: Jesus, Moses, Elijah, Peter, James, and John (Mt 17:1-8, Mk 9:2-8, Lk 9:28-36). But there is a little robed figure in the lower right hand corner. As many times as I have been to Medjugorje, I never noticed it. Chris asked one of the priests with us, who has been to Medjugorje many times, if he knew who the image represented. We thought for sure he would know, but he did not. We traveled home still wondering who this mystery man is.

On March 17, when the gospel reading was the story of the Transfiguration, I decided to pose this question about the little man to our Spirit of Medjugorje Facebook group and to my Facebook friends. Some responses included Abraham, St. Charbel, and St. Leopold Mandic. All of the answers were possible, but I wondered what the reason would be for any one of those to be in there. I was wondering if it could be the artist himself, as Fr. Leon told us about Medieval artists painting themselves into their works (see our June issue), or God the Father, as another person suggested.

Maureen O'Brien, a pilgrim leader, was also

intrigued, and did some digging for the answer. She told me that a popular pilgrim guide, Slavenka, had told her that the artist who created the Luminous Mysteries is from Travnik, Bosnia and his name is Anton Mamusa. Slavenka said that she and Fr. Leon (the chaplain to the English-speaking pilgrims) think maybe the figure represents us – a pilgrim – but they don't know for sure.

My investigative work to find the artist was unsuccessful.

Who do you think the robed man is??? If we receive an answer from the artist, we will publish it in a future issue.





# Our Lady, the Queen

By Cathy Nolan

*Here is the message given through Ivan on August 3, 2018, on Apparition Hill; the priest for yesterday's Mass (August 22, 2018) in Medjugorje spoke about it; "Dear children, also today, I desire to call you in a special way to forgiveness. Forgive, dear children, and like this, open the way to the Holy Spirit to your heart. I pray, dear children, for all of you, and intercede for you before my Son. Pray together with me for my plans. Thank you, dear children, for also today having responded to my call."*

*The homily for English Mass on August 22, 2018 in Medjugorje ([marytv.to/english-mass-in-medjugorje/](http://marytv.to/english-mass-in-medjugorje/)):*

"Praised be our Lord Jesus Christ, now and forever... Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, dear brothers in saintly priesthood, today we celebrate Our Lady with this title: "Queen". And as I spoke at the beginning of the Mass, She, here in Medjugorje – She is the Queen of Peace. Queen means 'to have mercy.' And She is indeed the Queen of Mercy, because She is coming here in Medjugorje for 37 years. And She is spreading Her love to us. And She is spreading Her love, Her divine love from the person of Jesus Christ through messages, through events. And we should understand the calling of our Mother here in Medjugorje.

"She is a Queen. She is the Queen of heaven and earth. But today, She's coming in our hearts and She wants us to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit. In the last message given through Ivan, one of the visionaries, She said that forgiveness opens the way to the Holy Spirit. So the key to having the Holy Spirit in our hearts, to have the divine grace, is to try to forgive – because forgiveness means love. It means the love of God. And this is the will of God – to love one another, and to love each one with the love of God – which means forgiveness, which means peace.

"But to achieve this is not an easy feat. The key is to listen to what Our Lady, Queen of Peace, is telling us here today and is telling us through Her messages for 37 years. This is really mind-blowing – 37 years of apparitions, tens of thousands of messages given to the whole world, given to us to understand that God wants us to return to the right path. Because She is the Queen, She is the Mother who knows that Her sons are not following the path of God. They are following a path that leads away from God.

"And this is really the essence of Medjugorje – to return to God's way, to fulfill His will, and to forgive and to love. So today, Our Lady is telling us, 'I want to be the Queen of your heart. I want to be a Queen of love in your heart.' But

first, you have to forgive yourself. And you have to forgive everyone in your life that you cannot manage to forgive. If we don't have the power to forgive, we should ask Our Lady to give us this amazing power to forgive and to love. We, by ourselves, we cannot forgive because we have this ego which is from the beginning – from the mortal sin that we inherited from Adam and Eve. And this battle between us and our ego and Satan will last until the very last moments of our lives. And this is the most important battle in our life – to forgive and to love and to understand that our enemy is not the people around us. Our enemy is Satan, who wants us to be destroyed, literally.

"So to fight against Satan and against our ego, we must forgive and love with the love of Our Lady, Queen of Peace in Medjugorje. And the easiest way is to pray the Rosary, to fast, to confess, to read the Bible every day, and to attend the Holy Mass. These are the five stones with which we can defeat Satan. Our Lady is telling us this through Her messages.

So we must pray the Rosary. Our Lady has requested only one prayer. She requested the Rosary to be prayed all over the world, because the Rosary is the prayer of peace. And if we pray the Rosary, personally or with others, we manage to have peace in our hearts. We manage to have forgiveness and love.

"So, dear brothers and sisters, today I tell you with great joy that I am happy to celebrate the Mass today on the Queenship of Our Lady, and I am really happy to be in Medjugorje for the fourth time – second time as a priest – with two seminary students, and we are staying with Sr. Melinda. She has invited us here. And we want to stay here in Medjugorje as long as we can, to pray and be a sign for others that we have peace, forgiveness and love in our hearts."

*Thank you to this beautiful priest who gave the homily yesterday. I do not know his name, but he spoke very clearly about the essence of Our Lady's presence in Medjugorje. I had never realized that the five stones are actually designed to help us fight our own ego, our pride, and Satan. But it is so true! Each one of these practices help us to become smaller before God, more ready to be taught, more repentant and forgiving, and more teachable. How beautiful is Our Lady's plan. She helps us to fight our real enemy, through Her stones. The real enemy is our pride, our unforgiveness, and Satan, who tries to increase our pride with his temptations.*

*May we live the messages of Our Lady with the heart! She has such wisdom!*

[www.marytv.to](http://www.marytv.to)



Statue in Siroki Brijeg Church

*Our thanks to Diane Niebauer, Marge Burchard, Sue Taccone, Joan Peterson, Julie Hansen, Chris Falk, Darleen Wilkinson, Kathy Wayman, Chris Opron, Pat Berrier, Marge Spase, Peggy Chludzinski, Cindy Belanin, Louise Lotze, Irene and Dan Zuba, Barb Cesare, Georgia Chludzinski, Dianne Yochim, Peggy Smith and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the July mailing. We thank Louise Lotze, Diana Stillwell, and Susannah Klins for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.*

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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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