

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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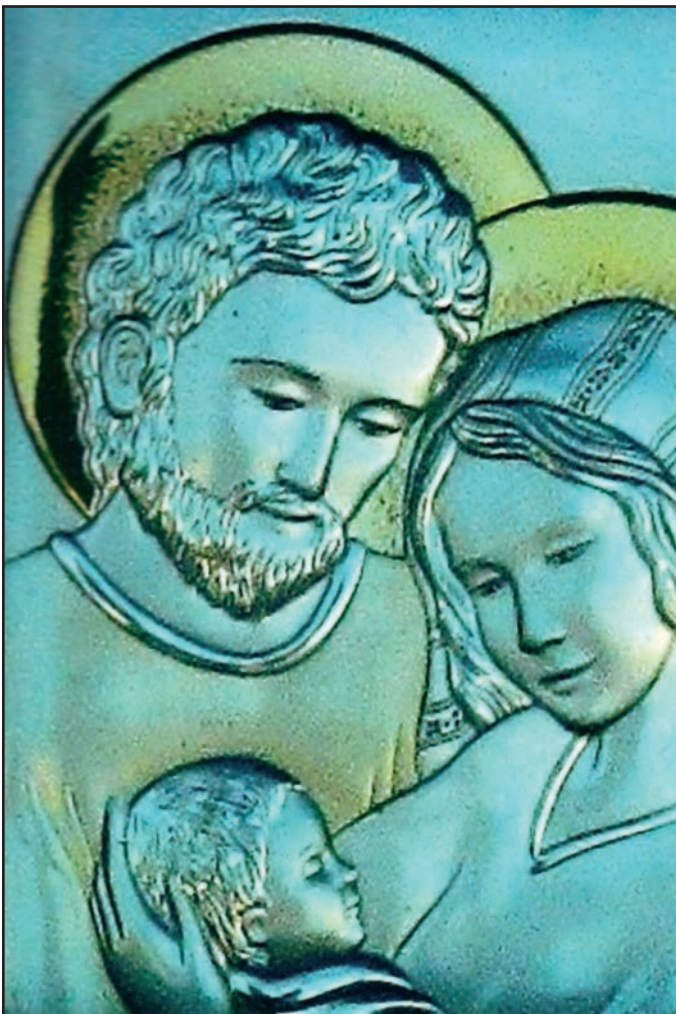
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MONTHLY MESSAGE OF NOVEMBER 25, 2020

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



The photo of the artwork above was taken in Medjugorje. "Dear children! Today, I and my Son desire to give you an abundance of joy and peace so that each of you may be a joyful carrier and witness of peace and joy in the places where you live. Little children, be a blessing and be peace. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Our Lady, 12/25/10) May the Lord bless you with Peace, Love and Joy during these holy seasons of Advent and Christmas and throughout the New Year!

"Dear children! This is a time of love, warmth, prayer and joy. Pray, little children, for little Jesus to be born in your hearts. Open your hearts to Jesus who gives Himself to each of you. God sent me to be joy and hope in this time, and I am saying to you: Without little Jesus you do not have the tenderness or the feeling of Heaven which is hidden in the Newborn. Therefore, little children, work on yourselves. By reading the Sacred Scripture you will discover Jesus' birth and joy, as in the first days which Medjugorje gave to humanity. History will be truth which, also today, is being repeated in you and around you. Work on and build peace through the Sacrament of Confession. Reconcile with God, little children, and you will see miracles around you. Thank you for having responded to my call."



Fr. Ray

A Real Christmas

By Fr. Ray Donohue

So hard to believe it is December already, although from what I hear all the time, many, and including myself, will be happy to see 2020 go by the wayside.

It is a different world we are living in, certainly NOT the one most of us grew up in. Instead of playing outside, many young people stay inside and are glued to their phones (sadly, many adults,

too). I have given retreats to high school students who, at lunch, do not talk to their fellow students at the table; they text them instead. All you hear from them is an occasional chuckle, but no words are spoken. All at the same table, looking at their phones and not to or at each other!

It is sad what is happening. Reality around us is so manufactured. No need for imagination, everything is done for us. I hate the term "The New Normal", because NOTHING about this life is normal. We are people, and people need people. The whole notion of "social-distancing" makes no sense, as to be social is not to distance oneself from another, but to be in close proximity.

2000 years ago, the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to a young lady named Mary. From the Holy Scriptures, I see this as a possibility of what took place. I am using some poetic license here; bear with me.

"Mary, My Name is Gabriel. I am an Archangel, and I was sent by God to you, to bring you this news. You are very pure and honest and holy, and God finds you very worthy to do both Him and all humanity a huge favor. God wants you to bear a Son, HIS Son, and you are to name Him *Jesus*. He will be great, as He IS the Son of the Most High God."

"Also, your cousin Elizabeth, who you know is very old, is also going to have a child, by the Grace of God. This is also a great sign, and it will make more sense as things go along. That is about all I can tell you."

Mary replied to the Archangel: "I have had no relations with a man; I don't understand how all this will take place." And the Archangel Gabriel replied to Her: "Don't worry, Mary, God has that all figured out. You will conceive by the power of the Holy Spirit. God can do all things, so that the child will be called 'Holy', the Son of the Most High God. Remember, Mary, NOTHING is impossible for God!"

Mary replied to the Archangel: "You know I am but nothing, just the handmaid of the Lord. I will do whatever He asks of me, with a loving and willing heart." And with that said, the Archangel returned to God in Heaven.

That is what took place, and we are so thankful. But this is indeed a different world. If that happened today, to someone, what do you supposed would happen?

In 2020, the Archangel Gabriel comes to earth and sees a young woman. He greets her and says, "Hello, I am the Angel Gabriel sent by God." There is no response, as the young woman is too busy on her cell phone. The Archangel again tries to communicate with her. "Can you please look at me?" The girl looks up and says: "Did I conjure you up in my mind, now that marijuana is legal and I was high all last night?"

"Um, no, I was sent to you by God Himself." Her reply: "Oh, I don't go in for that 'god-stuff'; my parents never did,

either. My father, before he abandoned us, was a druid, and worshiped trees and darkness. I had an aunt who went to a church, at least I think it was a church. We didn't have much to do with her; my mother called her a 'holy roller', and all that church stuff showed she was a fanatic. I go to the gym, and I like to go to the lake on Sundays with my boyfriend. All that church stuff is for old people and is just superstitious; I don't believe it at all. My teachers in school tell us it is all so old and out-dated, and we all know there is no god. The government will take care of us; we don't need a god, we have them."

"But," the Archangel continued: "God wants to save the world and He wants you to conceive a son and this person will be the One Who will save the world!" The young girl replied: "No, not that conception/baby stuff again! I went through that a year ago; my mom paid for the abortion. My ex-boyfriend had a fit. Besides, it isn't a person, it is just a mess of cells and things, it isn't a 'real' baby. My mother said children are a pain, they cost a lot of money, they are messy and I would do better without them. I can use the money I would spend on a kid and buy a car, a new cell phone, new clothes – lots of things better than having a child! Besides, my mom works for Planned Parenthood. They sold the body parts and made a real killing. Do you know they can get thousands of dollars for the hearts and other organs? It all worked out so well. So, no thanks. It's MY life, and I am not interested in your god stuff."

I hope you hate reading this as much as I hated writing this. This was NOT what I planned to do at all. I live Christmas every day of the year. Those who know me, know that Christmas joy is always in my eyes and soul, as I love God with all my heart, and I am so totally devoted to our dear Blessed Mother. But we need to wake up and see what has happened to our world, and to our Church.

As our Blessed Mother has told us time and time again, satan is getting stronger and much more aggressive to bring down the Church, as well as all of society and morality and dignity. "*Satan is strong and is fighting to draw all the more hearts to himself. He wants war and hatred.*" (Our Lady, October 25, 2020). And even though our Mother has told us this, and She has given us the weapons to defeat the evil one, so many are NOT listening, or following Her requests.

Mary did not think of Herself. She did not hesitate in Her answer to the Angel. In all humility, Mary said "YES!" Yes to God's will. God asked us to keep holy the Lord's day, but I can tell you as a priest, when the bishops gave us a "blanket dispensation" from attendance at Holy Mass, so many of my parishioners went to the lake on Sunday mornings, listened to Holy Mass on the radio, drinking coffee, laughing and talking in their lawn chairs, and have not been inside the Church in 10 months. 10 months without Holy Confession. 10 months without the Holy Eucharist. And, they are not coming back any time soon. They live in fear, even as Jesus tells us, "Do NOT be afraid." They are comfortable NOT going to Holy Mass! After all this time, many feel they don't need it anymore.

"Catholics" have voted for the party of death and as of this writing, it looks like that evil group is going to take power, through cheating and stealing the election. Abortions will be in the millions of millions. Churches will be locked again, and severe penalties levied upon Churches and clergy. How

could any Catholic vote for a party of death? To vote this evil into power is against all Catholic teachings and doctrine. A person is in no way a Catholic who does these things and we will see in horror that there will be the slaughter of the Holy Innocents magnified thousands or millions of times over.

I wanted this to be a very happy and joyful article. I wanted to express to you all the holiness of God-made-man for us. But we need a shock of reality. Christ will be reborn only in those who do His will, who are open to Christ Jesus and HIS ways of life and holiness.

Just because I stand in a garage doesn't make me a car, and just



One of the many Nativity sets at Fr. Ray's

"Anyone who is so 'progressive' as not to remain in the teaching of the Christ does not have God; whoever remains in the teaching has the Father and the Son" (2 Jn 9).

because I say I am "Catholic" but all the while I still am promoting 100% for abortions, for sex changes of 8 year-old boys and girls, for selling body parts of aborted babies to the highest bidder,

and allowing a perfectly normal and healthy baby that is 6 hours old after birth to be killed instead of adopted, BY voting these people in who promised.. yes, PROMISED they would make these evil things law and follow through on them, most certainly does NOT make anyone Catholic, but in reality shows the person is most evil and doesn't care about God and His coming to the world to save it, as a tiny baby, born in poverty lying in a manger bed in a stable. *"Dear Children, as I look at you, my heart seizes with pain. Where are you going my children? Have you sunk so deeply into sin that you do not know how to stop yourselves? You justify yourselves with sin and live according to it. Kneel down beneath the Cross and look at my Son. He conquered sin and died so that you, my children, may live. Permit me to help you not to die but to live with my Son forever. Thank you!" (Our Lady, 10/2/09)*

God is HOPE! He is Emmanuel, "GOD WITH US". Now, more than ever, we need God. We need the Church. We need the Holy Sacraments. We need to listen to our Mother in Heaven, and Pray the Holy Rosary with all our hearts daily and throughout the day. We need to go to Holy Mass and especially Holy Confession monthly and make a GOOD and sincere and holy and accurate Confession. We need to promote our faith, to be good mothers and fathers and lead by example, like Mary and Joseph did. We must listen to God in holy prayer, as Saint Joseph did, and act on it, doing things God's way, teaching our children about God and the Saints and the Sacraments, and being the best example by going to Church as a family, and praying together – praying Grace at every meal, praying a family Rosary together, going to Holy Mass as a family. This is Christmas. God is with us!

Christmas is a time to show God, as He gives us the Gift of Jesus, that we respect that gift and embrace that gift and show we use that gift in ALL our actions and in Who we are in this world.

Catholics need to be vocal, and stand up for the Faith. Jesus doesn't want Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, but He wants us to live the Truth. Proclaim Him as Lord, live the 10 Commandments and be faithful to God in word and deed. He wants us to pray, to be holy as He is Holy, love one another and be the best parents, priests, people we can be in holiness and charity.

I pray for our world. We are offending God so much, and so many simply don't care. We take our faith for granted and use it when it is convenient, and discard it when it is not. How can anyone on earth rejoice at the birth of a baby in Bethlehem while they sit back and do nothing about the millions of babies who are being murdered and tortured to death in their own mother's womb every day? Is this the Christmas gift we are giving our Lord and our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, doing nothing and turning our heads like we don't see it or act like we don't know it is going on?

Jesus is the Gift! God's LOVE is the gift! It is precious and wonderful and awesome! Our gift back to God is to use this Love, His holy Presence, and bring it into a world sadly in need of it. To sin by silence when we should protest makes cowards of men.

May God help us to be strong, and may this Christmas, as was the year 2020, be totally different, but in a GOOD WAY. May we rise to act and embrace our Faith, not ignore our duties! We are the Lord's disciples, and disciples LIVE and Proclaim and LOVE that faith. That is a gift from God.

Blessed Mary, Saint Joseph, dear Jesus, help us to be strong. May we defend the Faith You founded, dear Jesus, and not so much say we are willing to die for the faith, but this Christmas, to say we are willing to LIVE for the Faith and spread the Good News! Oh Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Rejoice, rejoice!! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, America. PRAY, FAST and BE CONVERTED! Put your faith into action.

On December 2, 2010, Our Lady said, *"I invite you for this special time of preparation to be a time of prayer, penance and conversion. My children, you need God. You cannot go forward without my Son. When you comprehend and accept this, what was promised to you will be realized. Through the Holy Spirit the Kingdom of Heaven will be born in your hearts."* God bless you this Christmas and always, and may YOU make a huge difference in the world around you. Faith is only faith when it is put into action.

In Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph,
~Father Ray

The Heavenly Babe suffers and cries in the crib so that for us suffering would be sweet, meritorious and accepted. He deprives Himself of everything, in order that we may learn from Him the renunciation of worldly goods and comforts. He is satisfied with humble and poor adorers, to encourage us to love poverty, and to prefer the company of the little and simple rather than the great ones of the world. This celestial child, all meekness and sweetness, wishes to impress in our hearts by His example these sublime virtues, so that from a world that is torn and devastated, an era of peace and love may spring forth. Even from the moment of His birth, He reveals to us our mission, which is to scorn that which the world loves and seeks.

Oh let us prostrate ourselves before the manger, and along with the great St. Jerome, who was enflamed with the love of the infant Jesus, let us offer Him all our hearts without reserve. Let us promise to follow the precepts which come to us from the grotto of Bethlehem, which teach us that everything here below is vanity of vanities, nothing but vanity. (Excerpted from a Christmas meditation by St. Padre Pio)

The Christmas Day Crucifixes

By June Klins

In our March 2020 issue, we featured the powerful testimony of Jim Browne, an abuse victim from Ireland who turned to alcoholism and then had a conversion in Medjugorje. Soon, Jim began leading pilgrimages and has many stories to share. His testimonies can be seen on MaryTV.tv, Episodes #29, #44, and #199. The following was taken mostly from Episode #199 and some from #44.

Jim recounted that when he was in Medjugorje in December of 2004, a friend of his told him to buy a few crucifixes because they were going to meet with visionary Vicka on Christmas Eve, and that these crucifixes, which they would leave with Vicka, would be blessed on Christmas Day by Jesus and Mary. "At the time, I didn't understand the difference between that apparition and all of the other apparitions where Our Lady appears to three of the visionaries every day," Jim confessed. So Jim's friend explained to him how different and how special the Christmas Day apparition is. He said that Our Lady comes with Baby Jesus in Her arms, like the very first Christmas. Jim held up a picture of Our Lady arrayed in gold and holding Baby Jesus, as the visionaries have all described. He continued, "During the apparition, Jesus and Mary bless these beautiful crucifixes." Jim purchased the crucifixes, as his friend suggested, and "went with it as blind faith." The following week, they went back to Vicka's to retrieve the blessed crucifixes. "I didn't know the real healing power and the graces of conversions of what I was carrying home."

Jim soon began to see these graces after he gave one of the crucifixes to someone whose friend was in a coma. The man put the crucifix under his friend's pillow in the hospital on a Monday. On Wednesday, the man came out of the coma and went back to work the following Monday!

Jim believed at this point that there must be something very special about the Christmas Day blessing. He digressed at this point in his testimony to explain why he thought it took him so long to understand the different blessings. Jim proposed, "It takes longer to re-learn than to learn." He then very briefly summed up a part of his life before Medjugorje. He had gone away from the faith he had as a young boy and got into New Age practices. "We were all told that we're developing a relationship with Jesus, when in fact, we are developing a relationship with the universe and with Satan...It is a wolf in sheep's clothing." He continued, "I had to get all this rubbish completely out of my spirit and out of my soul." A priest performed deliverance on Jim, and as a result, he became more open to the graces and blessings in Medjugorje.

Jim also explained that Our Lady insists that sacramentals be blessed by a priest, so they asked a priest to bless the crucifixes as well. The priest gave them a full exorcism blessing with exorcised salt mixed with water. (Fr. Leon, the chaplain for the English-speaking pilgrims has done this for them the last few years.)

Jim continued with a few of the many stories of the blessings of these crucifixes. He said, "There hasn't been a

week that goes by that I don't get phone calls from people asking me for them." He told the story of a 10 year-old girl from Citluk (not far from Medjugorje) who had been in a terrible head-on collision. After many hours of brain



surgery, the doctors told the mother that if she survived, she would be a vegetable and never be able to do anything for herself. One of the guides from Medjugorje heard of this situation and gave one of the crucifixes to the mother to put under the girl's pillow. Three days later, the girl woke up from her coma and asked for the can of Coke and the sandwich she had been eating when the accident happened! The girl went back to school a few weeks later! Her brain was 100% healed.

Jim had an appointment with a particular doctor one time and she happened to ask him where he was going for Christmas. He told her he was going to Medjugorje and would be taking crucifixes to be blessed during the Christmas Day apparition. He then recounted

the story about the girl in Citluk. Jim gave one of the crucifixes to the doctor. Jim said, "I know she took it without offending me, but she didn't understand what she had in her hands." The following year, Jim went back for a check-up and the doctor exclaimed, "James, thank God you're here!" Jim thought the worst, since his health was not the best. "Am I OK?" he asked, to which she replied, "You're fine, but I need another crucifix." She added, "There's good news and bad news about the first crucifix you gave me. My father got very sick and he was in a coma, and my brothers and sisters came from Australia and America because we were told he was going to die. Then I remembered the story you told me about the young 10 year-old girl, and I have to be honest, I had to start looking for the crucifix. I didn't know where I'd left it." She lamented, "I'm sorry that I desecrated it by just leaving it in a drawer." Then she exclaimed, "I found the crucifix, and like the mother with the daughter, I put this beautiful crucifix under my father's pillow. There's good news and there's bad news." Jim asked for the good news. She said, "The good news is that in three days, my father came out of the coma and now he's driving around Galway." And the bad news? "He won't give me the crucifix back, so I'm asking you – and I promise you, Jim Browne – I'll know where I put this one!"

One day a young man called Jim and asked him if he was the one who had the crucifixes. Since he sounded so young, Jim asked him his age, to which he responded that he was 19. Jim remarked, "It's lovely to have a young fellow of 19 to want a crucifix." "Well," the young man replied, "you gave one to my mother last year, and anything that could have stopped my mother from worrying – there had to be a miracle attached to it!" He now wanted two crucifixes – one for himself and one for his girlfriend.

Jim recounted one of his own "beautiful experiences" with the crucifixes, and I have to admit, this is one of my favorites. As a shoe salesman, at the time, Jim was loading up his car with shoes for his exhibition the following day. As he was heading to the hotel to get more of the shoes, a man

jumped between two cars, demanding money. Jim checked his pockets and there was some change, but also two of the crucifixes. He held all he had in his pocket out to the man, and the man asked, "Do you mind me having one of those crosses?" Jim, of course, obliged his request, and added, "Do you know anybody else who would like the other cross?" The man answered, "Yes, I do, and I think that you know I do." As Jim wondered what would happen next, the man took the crucifixes out of Jim's hand. Jim asked him, "What about the money? Don't you want the money?" The man replied, "I only want to take it if you want to give it to me." Jim handed it to him and added, "Not only that, but I still have some extra money in my car, and I'd like to give you some of that, too." When they got to the car, Jim gave him the money and shook his hand. As Jim headed back, he glanced back and noticed that the man was kissing the crucifix! Jim believed this man was a drug addict and needed money urgently, but, "when he saw the crucifix, he recognized it as being more powerful and more beneficial than any money I could give him".



Christmas Day Crucifix

In 2010, Jim was selling his footwear to a shopkeeper who seemed down in the dumps. He shared with Jim that he was upset because he and his wife were not able to have a baby. They had tried many things, and had just tried a new treatment and it was unsuccessful. He said that the doctors said it was impossible for them to have a baby. Jim pulled a crucifix out of his briefcase, offered it to the man to

bless himself and his wife. The man kissed the crucifix as he accepted it. Ten months later, on the Wednesday of Holy Week at exactly 3:00 p.m., Jim received a text from this man with a picture of their new baby daughter, named Mary. Later, the man invited Jim to his house so he could present Mary to him. Jim exclaimed, "It reminded me of Simeon in the temple when I held this beautiful girl, who was a gift from Jesus and Mary." The couple then announced to Jim that they were now expecting a second baby!

Jim ended his testimony (#199) by saying that there is only one answer to everything, and it's a song that is sung all the time in Medjugorje: "Jesus, I believe".

Editor's note: To send for a crucifix (ONE only per order), include your name and address, typed or printed legibly, and a minimum of a \$5.00 donation for postage to Barbara Kleaveland, 822 Moulton Ave., North Muskegon, MI 49445. Any donation beyond the postage helps buy more crucifixes for next year. For those outside the US, you can email Jim at jpbshoes@gmail.com for a crucifix. I asked Jim about whether he would be able to go to Medjugorje for Christmas this year (because of Covid-19), and he replied, "I will not be in Medjugorje at all this year, but I have made arrangements with Mojca (the Marian Pilgrimage Guide) and Vicka's husband, Mario, to collect the crucifixes and have them present for the apparition on Christmas Day. Last year's Christmas Day Crucifixes all arrived here two months ago except for the many thousand I give to Fr. Leon. One way or another, whoever needs a Christmas Day Crucifix will get one."

A Medjugorje Moment

By Mary Kelly

Little Charlotte [my great granddaughter], age 3 1/2, was still unable to speak. She was very alert and appeared to be smart, but could not say words. With therapy, she was able to really struggle and then form one-syllable words. I sent a Christmas Day Crucifix [see the story above] to my daughter, Charlotte's grandma, telling her about its history.

Without telling anyone, my daughter handed the crucifix to Charlotte, and told her it was Jesus and He loved her. She took the crucifix in her hands, smiled and kissed Jesus.

The next morning, Charlotte's dad happened to drop in to my daughter's house. First thing he said was, "Charlotte is saying two syllables today!" My daughter waited a few

days before telling Charlotte's parents about the crucifix. They all completely believe it was Jesus' intervention that helped her. Today, a couple of months later, she is still slowly improving. One of the biggest changes, they say, is that though she still speaks fewer words than her age group, what she does say is easy, with no struggle. She spits it right out! We are thanking Jesus and praying for continued healing.

Editor's note: Mary is from Waconia, MN.

"They were exceedingly astonished and they said, 'He has done all things well'" (Mk 7:37).

The Legend of the Rosemary Bush

One day, Mary was washing the swaddling clothes of the Infant Jesus. Nearby was a date palm, a sugar cane and a rosemary bush. The plants were debating about who was the most helpful to the Holy Family. The palm tree said, "I am, because my leaves shelter them and my fruit feeds them." The sugar cane argued, "I provide sweetness and can refresh their drink." The rosemary bush said nothing. It had no fruit, no sweetness, not even flowers to brighten their day.

Mary finished her washing and turned to the palm tree, but she could not reach its branches to hang anything. So she turned to the sugar cane, but its stems were too straight

and slippery. Finally, Mary turned to the rosemary bush. Its outstretched limbs easily accommodated the laundry and its leaves left a fresh smell. Mary smiled at the rosemary bush. "You are a useful little bush and you deserve to be prettier." From that day on, the rosemary bush has borne flowers the color of Mary's gown. "Dear children, I wish that you would understand that God has chosen each one of you to have a part in the great plan for the salvation of mankind. You cannot fully understand how great your role is in God's design. For that reason, pray, dear children, so that through prayer, you may be able to know your role in God's plan. I am with you, so that you may be able to realize it fully." (Our Lady, 1/25/87)

The Weight of a Baby

By Sr. Emmanuel

Stéfania grew up in a very devout Catholic family in Milan, Italy. But as a teenager, she soon turned away from the Lord. Studying at university, traveling to various countries and working as a manager gradually led her to stop praying, while as a child she was happy to speak to the Lord in her heart.

At the age of 38, during a holiday to Croatia, she felt moved to visit Medjugorje. Her first impression was that it was pretty lame, she felt nothing and did not see the point of coming to such a place. The shops, the restaurants and hotels ... is that what Medjugorje was all about? But where is the Gospa? She was riddled with doubt. But in the evening, she decided to go to Confession after 20 years of having abandoned this sacrament. It was the most beautiful Confession of her life! She received absolution for all her sins, and upon leaving, the priest asked her to forgive a man who had caused her a lot of harm. Impossible, she thought! No way, it would never happen! But while she was walking along the road, without realizing it, she found herself praying for this man, and even forgiving him. That was it. The Gospa had touched her heart! She then climbed Mount Krizevac [Cross Mountain] and Podbrdo [Apparition Hill]. Stéfania felt like a different person. She finally managed to pray with all her heart and soul. The grace of prayer flowed freely in her heart; she had found her God again!

Then came a crucial moment. Her guide invited her to visit the crib in our garden and contemplate the birth of the Child Jesus. She listened to my talk in our little forest. Stéfania realized that she still had some people to forgive, because

she felt trapped by some stubborn bitterness. That day, I talked about the Child Jesus. We asked the Mother of God to stand before us and to offer us her Child. Then I suggested that every person present should welcome Him. They could reach out their arms in the shape of a cradle to receive, in spirit, from the hands of Mary, her newborn Son Jesus. Stéfania closed her eyes and recollected herself to welcome the Infant God. It was then that she lost consciousness of what was happening around her, because she felt in her arms the weight of the Child she had just received!!



Crib at Sr. Emmanuel's

Overwhelmed by this unexpected presence, so real and so tangible, she felt wrapped in an immense and unconditional love. More and more, she could feel the weight of the Child, and Stéfania understood that in reality, Jesus himself had come to take her in His arms. She felt that she herself was the child that Jesus had come to cradle. She experienced indescribable joy! This extraordinary embrace slowly dissipated after the meeting, and today,

Stéfania says: "I will remember this eternal love forever! As the weight of the Child gradually disappeared, I felt that the evil one was leaving me too, and that the weight of bitterness that had remained on my heart was dissipating."

On this Christmas of 2019, one year after this miracle, Stéfania will be coming back to Medjugorje... May her testimony inspire many young people to welcome this Child wholeheartedly and to give Him the first place, because He is the Love and Peace that everyone is looking for!

Children of Medjugorje, www.childrenofmedjugorje.com,
December 2019 report

Mirjana Answers Questions

The following was taken from a question and answer session with visionary Mirjana Soldo in October of 2019.

Q: Why do you think Our Lady appeared with Baby Jesus on the first day, because it wasn't Christmas?

M: I can tell you only what I think. I always kindly ask the pilgrims, "Please make the difference between what Our Lady says and I say." I think that Our Lady came on the first day with Baby Jesus in order to tell us, "I'm coming and I'm bringing you salvation – and that is my Son." But I did not see Jesus, because I was at the base of the hill and Our Lady was on the hill. I just could see that She was holding an infant baby in Her arms, and I think that it was Jesus. And I think this is the reason She came with Jesus, that we may comprehend that *only He* is our salvation.

Q: Does Our Lady say anything specific about the Holy Souls in Purgatory?

M: Our Lady gave a mission to [visionary] Marija to pray for the souls in Purgatory. But Our Lady doesn't say who is where, or what will happen with someone who dies. Holy God decides this. As far as I know, as far as I have learned in these apparitions, for our departed ones, we are to pray and offer our Masses – but not that you should just give a donation for Mass – we should be present for Mass and pray for our departed ones at that Mass. But I never think about that [where the souls have gone]. For example my father passed away. Many people who I love passed away, but I never think about where they are. I pray for them and offer my Masses with complete trust in the Heavenly Father and in His love. Because if I start thinking about who is where and those who have passed away, I just waste my time and I cannot change anything that way.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for December For a Life of Prayer: We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.



As of November 25, 2020, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 29,446. Remember, our goal is 40,000 by June 25, 2021. What a great Christmas gift it would be for Jesus to have a Mass said for His Mother's intentions!

Fasting on Christmas???

By Ana Shawl

This question was recently asked and so I thought I would explain what they do in Medjugorje and what the Church has to say about fasting for special feast days. As you know, we fast on Wednesday and Friday, but this Christmas is on a Friday.

Christmas is considered a feast day not a fast day. We welcome the Baby Jesus and this is a great day for us that the Savior came into the world. Therefore, this is not a day of fasting, but of feasting. From the Catechism: "Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday." Christmas therefore falls into this category.

There should be no fasting on Christmas and Easter, and in Medjugorje, there is no fasting on those days. This year, from some of my friends in Medjugorje, what is going to happen is, they will fast on Wednesday. Then, Christmas Eve is also a big day for them when family gets together and they are getting ready to go to Mass at Midnight in the evening. So, many of them will not have any meat for breakfast and lunch, but then will eat with their families on Christmas Eve and then of course, go to a feast at one of their relative's houses for Christmas.

Editor's note: Ana, who is of Croatian roots, heads the International Internet Prayer Group, IIPG.



Rosary Mysteries of Faith

By Deacon Jerome Peterson

Why I wrote these mysteries [for private devotion]: I love praying the Rosary. These mysteries were given to me by the Spirit as my wife, Joan, and I were praying the Rosary after morning Mass.

1. The power of faith

Jesus said to them in reply, "Amen, I say to you, if you have faith and do not waver, not only will you do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' it will be done. Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." (Matthew 21: 21-22)

2. The faith of the suffering woman

A woman suffering hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the tassel on his cloak. She said to herself, "If only I can touch his cloak, I shall be cured." Jesus turned around and saw her, and said, "Courage, daughter! Your faith has saved you." And from that hour the woman was cured. (Matthew 9:20-22)

3. The faith of the Centurion

The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith." (Matthew 8: 8,10)



The Visitation Station on Apparition Hill

4. The faith of Thomas the apostle

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (John 20: 27-29)

5. The faith of Elizabeth

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1: 41-45)

Editor's note: Deacon Jerome is a deacon of the Diocese of Erie and a nephew of our late spiritual advisor, Msgr. James Peterson. I suspect he may have gotten a little help from him while composing these mysteries!

"God Will Reward You"



Our condolences to the family of Joanne McIntire who passed away on November 23. Joanne was devoted to Our Lady of Medjugorje, and was a faithful member of our mailing crew and a member of our Medjugorje prayer group. After our pilgrimage to Medjugorje together in 2006 for the 25th anniversary, Joanne helped make prayer cloths to distribute to those who requested them. On that pilgrimage, we were so overjoyed to hear Our Lady's message: "Dear children! With great joy in my heart I thank you for all the prayers that, in these days, you offered for my intentions. Know, little children, that you will not regret it, neither you nor your children. God will reward you with great graces and you will merit eternal life. I am near you and thank all those who, through these years, have accepted my messages, have poured them into their life and decided for holiness and peace. Thank you for having responded to my call." I can just picture Our Lady repeating these words to Joanne! May she rest in peace with the Queen of Peace.

Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Carol Bleck, Louise Lotze, Sue Taccone, Marge (Hummel) Burchard, Diane Niebauer, Zack Niebauer, Julie Hansen, Marlene Figurski, Peggy Chludzinski, Kathy Luschini, Laura and Kevin Di Bacco, Kandace Lyons, Darleen Wilkinson, Cindy Bielamin, Barb Cesare, Barb Sirianni, Marge Spase, Chris Falk, Irene and Dan Zuba. and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the November mailing. We thank Louise Lotze for her 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.

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 \$.70 postage on it.



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