



**THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE**  
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[www.spiritofmedjugorje.org](http://www.spiritofmedjugorje.org)

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE - FREE WILL OFFERING - PLEASE SEE PAGE 8**

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



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## MONTHLY MESSAGE OF JANUARY 25, 2022

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 artwork above was done by Mike Conti from Wales. We thank Mike for sharing his work with us and allowing us to use it. Although Medjugorje is up in the mountains it is rare for them to see much snow. When they do, it is beautiful.*

“Dear children! Today I am calling you to return to personal prayer. Little children, do not forget that Satan is strong and that he wants to attract all the more souls to himself. That is why, you be vigilant in prayer and resolute in the good. I am with you and am blessing all of you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

# Dear Children, You Forget That You Are All Important

While Father Ray is taking some time off, we would like to share an excerpt from a talk by Fr. Slavko Barbaric given in Medjugorje on April 26, 1986.

In Her first five messages, Our Lady said "Prayer". Since last March, 1984, She has been giving us a message every Thursday. When we read these messages, it can be seen that no message is without this strong invitation to "Pray."

Naturally we must ask ourselves why there is this invitation to pray. If you read the messages, you will understand the reason. Our Lady repeats many times, "Pray and you will have all you desire", "Pray and you will have peace, a deeper joy, you will overcome your tiredness, you will have love, strength for reconciliation", and much else.

Many people have discovered something very important here: that they can pray and that they have time for prayer.

Many of us caught up in the hectic routine of our modern world lose the time to pray and many people excuse themselves, "I haven't enough time." It would be more honest to say, "I don't see the need for prayer." We can't see the value of prayer any more. Thinking of all of us who wish for peace, wish to love and be loved, it is true what Our Lady is telling us, "Pray and you will have all of this." And what do we do? We leave prayer, we haven't got time for it, we believe that we can resolve everything with our money, by our devices, and I don't know what else. This is a great mistake, also in the lives of us Christians.

But when we discover the value of prayer, then we find the time for prayer and we start again to organize our life with God. This is our conversion. This is the significance of the words in the messages where Our Lady says, "Abandon yourselves, let yourselves be guided by me."

... She said, "You are too preoccupied with material goods, and in these goods, you lose everything that God wishes to give you." In other words, in the first place in your lives there is not God, love of God, or peace; material goods take the first place. Naturally, if we do not meet each other through our hearts, but with our money, our muscle, our heads, then conflicts and wars must follow. I would like to explain to you that Our Lady has never spoken against our belongings, against our money or against our work, never. But She has spoken many times about changing our relationship with all our possessions and finding a new order of values in our lives. This is what the apparitions are for, to produce this new order of values in our life. God is not inviting us, through Our Lady, to lose something, but to change our values in the light of our faith. This is why Our Lady is always telling us, "Pray." Without prayer, this change is not possible. But not all prayer helps us to change our lives and to bring harmony to them. You know that Jesus told us not

to pray as the pagans do, only with our lips, but to pray from the heart; seeking first of all the will of God and the Kingdom of Heaven and then all else will be given to us.

Here Our Lady is inviting us to heartfelt prayer and asks that it be active prayer, that the words be active... What does heartfelt prayer mean? It means feeling the words of God in our heart and allowing ourselves to be moved by these words. Do God's words move me or not? What does it mean to me when God says, "I give you My love", "I give you My Body", "Here is My Word for you", and from the Cross, "Here is your Mother; Here is your son", "Be reconciled to your neighbor", "Love your neighbor, love your God above all else, love yourself, do not destroy yourself"? If these words leave us indifferent and if we continue to find excuses, it means that our prayer is not active, it cannot move us and we are closed. Or, in other words, what does the Cross mean for you in your family? When you look at it, does it invite you to love and to reconciliation? Does it help you not to blaspheme and not to use swear words? Does it help you to love your neighbor? Does it help you to accept Our Lady? To pray or not?

If we continue to behave selfishly in front of the Cross, if we affirm that we cannot forgive when someone has offended us, then it means that the Cross is silent and is no longer speaking to us. Our Lady, by inviting us to pray, wants us to be touched by God's Word once again, and not to be afraid in the face of these things...

Our Lady said, "Dear children, you forget that all of you are important." These words said by Our Lady are serious. She is telling each one of us personally, "You are important." Sometimes we talk about inferiority complexes in psychology; how many people, especially amongst the young, have lost the meaning of life, of sacrifice, of love and many other aspects, and do not want to live life, and so the way is opened for drugs, alcohol, crime, and all that is negative. Our Lady says to each one of us, "You are important." I believe that these words must heal our soul and our heart of every fear and worry. We are important for Our Lady and important for each other.

If we accept this and begin to live it, who will dare to hate someone any more, or with hate destroy someone? What parent will dare to fight or get divorced if they become important to each other, and if their children become important to them? Look how important what Our Lady is telling us is. In the Kingdom of Heaven no one can be idle because no human being refuses love.

So, if I make up my mind to love, I will always have much to do. Do not complain that you do not have any work to do. You have work. Many people are waiting for your help, a word from you, and your presence.



Fr. Slavko statue in Mother's Village



# Update from Denis

## “It Should Be As It Is Here In Medjugorje”

By Denis Nolan

It must have been a shock for the Franciscan Minister General who had come from Italy. Fr. Massimo Fusarelli, OFM, the Franciscan Minister General had come to Medjugorje from Rome to preside at the parish's Jan. 1, 2022 Midnight Mass. The line of nearly 100 priests, who processed into Church with him, had to make its way through the crowds standing in the cold surrounding the church. There was no more room inside. The church had been packed for hours.



Fr. Massimo Fusarelli,  
photo credit [Medjugorje.hr](http://Medjugorje.hr)

In contrast, Marija told Fr Livio, during their discussion on the message for December 25, her experience of attending Mass in Italy the week before: “On Christmas day, I got very sad because at Mass (in Italy) there was only one family with children and the church was with very few faithful.” See their full discussion of her December 25th apparition at: <https://marytv.tv/december-25-2021-marija-speaks-about-our-ladys-message/>.

Italy may be struggling, but the faith is very much alive in Medjugorje, as Fr. Fusarelli witnessed on New Year's Eve.

Trying to squeeze into an already packed St. James Church is not an unusual occurrence. I remember 25 years ago trying to squeeze in, but I could only get one foot inside... people were packed shoulder to shoulder. I said my “Good-bye” to Jesus and then went to pack. I had to catch a cab to Dubrovnik for an early flight home.

After arriving home, I decided to stop at St. Matthew's Cathedral for the 5:15 p.m. Mass. I was surprised to find the Bishop officiating. It was a big diocesan celebration. The Knights of Columbus lined the aisles.... As I knelt during Adoration after Mass I heard in front of me, “click, click, click.” Opening my eyes, I discovered it was a *South Bend Tribune* photographer. He would stop and look around the Cathedral, and then turn back to me and resume clicking away. Then, looking around myself, I saw there were only a handful of people in the Cathedral. I was the youngest person there. And I was the only one kneeling. I was the only shot the photographer had! Sure enough, I was the only picture for that story in the *South Bend Tribune* the next day! Where were the faithful?

Eight years later, Bishop Domenico Pecile, the Vicar of St. John Lateran Basilica, the Pope's Cathedral in Rome,

testified: “In Medjugorje Our Lady is coming in a very powerful way... It is impossible not to see here the Lord our God. Impossible! In all our churches throughout the world, it should be as it is here in Medjugorje!”

Ivan once described Our Lady this way: “In Our Lady's voice, there is no fear, no threat, no pessimism, no anxiety. Her words bring us the sound and voice of God and His peace. She sees very well the conditions of the world and what conditions we are living in. She sees very well the crises of the Church,

of the family, of the youth. But She also sees very well the source of peace and how mankind can come to this peace.

“Our Lady wishes to guide us through peace to God, to a condition in which we have only peace through God. Therefore, let us allow Him to have the initiative in our lives. May Jesus have the initiative in our lives. Because it is more important what He is doing within us than what we are doing. Allow Him and His love to touch our hearts and to touch our lives with His peace, to speak through our lives, our words, and our actions.”

Our Lady leads us into a living relationship with Her Son, Jesus. It is vital that we follow Her to Him in these days. The Church is in such need of this guidance.

Marija said what we received when Our Lady and the Baby Jesus appeared to her on December 25th is a blessing of peace “not only for us, our families, but also for all those we will meet.” (Again, see her discussion with Fr. Livio on Mary TV's web page; the link is above.) “It is more important what He is doing within us!” Our Lady's children are being given something incredible through Her continued daily apparitions.

Let's stay very, very close to the Gospa of Medjugorje, the real, living, breathing Blessed Mother here with us. She alone has from God the promise of victory over Satan. If we don't let go of Her hand, blessings will go out through us to the whole world.

“Rejoice, little children, because God is merciful and loves you all with His immeasurable love and leads you to the way of salvation through my coming here!” (Our Lady of Medjugorje – June 25, 2018) God bless you!

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

As of January 25, 2022, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 37,084. Thank you.

**Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for February: For religious sisters and consecrated women** – We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.



Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Carol Bleck, Dorothy Bennett, Laura and Kevin Di Bacco, Julie Hansen, Marlene Figurski, Peggy Smith, Elaine Brady, Tom McIntire, Peggy Chludzinski, Joan Peterson, Georgia Chludzinski, Pat Heinlein, Irene and Dan Zuba, Darleen Wilkinson, Rose Heintzel, Kathy Wayman, Kathy Luschini, Louise Lotze, Diane Niebauer, Chris Falk, Barb Cesare, Sue Taccone, Mary Spaeder, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the January mailing. We thank Diana Stillwell and Denis Nolan for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

# How I Converted and Found Jesus

*The following is excerpted from a testimony given by Mia Salazar on Fruit of Medjugorje (Episode #460, aired on 12/20/21) on marytv.tv. To get the full effect of this powerful testimony we strongly recommend watching it.*

I grew up in a Catholic family. My grandma was religious, my mom was also religious, and my mom would bring my family to church almost every Sunday. But every time I'd go to church when I was a kid, I never really resonated or understood what the priests were talking about when they would talk about God. I felt like everything was going in one ear, out the other... I went to CCD, I had my first Holy Communion, and I had my Confirmation, and I also ended up going to a Catholic high school for four years, where I had theology class. But you would think I would know the Bible or have a relationship with God, or I prayed, but really I didn't... I didn't really have ears to hear what was being taught. I thought that God was just some mean, judgmental "man in the sky" who was telling you, "You have to do this, you have to do that." And I just didn't understand it.

I never liked rules, growing up. I was always very kind of rebellious, so I didn't like to listen to rules, and I always got away with not listening to the rules, so I thought the same would go for God. I don't have to listen to what He's saying. He says not to do this – I can do it. What's going to happen? So, I decided to basically not follow God's will for my life and I decided to take my life into my own hands.

So around senior year of high school (this was three years ago), I stumbled upon a video on YouTube titled "How to manifest anything you want using the law of attraction". At this point of my life, I was really kind of just bored and didn't have anything going on, so I was like, "This is perfect..." I clicked on this video and this girl was talking about how you work with "the universe" and he will basically grant your wishes and give you anything you want. ... I didn't have the foundation of God's Word, I didn't know that this is something God warned us to stay away from, and that life isn't about getting everything you want. It's about giving your life up into God's hands and that He'll just provide what you need. He'll give you what you *need*, not what you *want*. But because I didn't have that foundation, I was deceived. So, I started getting into this, and it was like the New Age spirituality. I wrote down everything I wanted in my life and I started talking to "the universe". I didn't call it God or Jesus. It was "the universe". And I thought, "Oh it's the same thing as God." But it's NOT...

Everything I wanted was granted to me, and before I knew it, I was into astrology and tarot cards and meditating... I did not know all this stuff was forbidden by God to do, because what it does is it opens up and invites demons into your life to mess with you, to be with you. But I didn't know. And everyone in my generation was doing it, too. ... It was all fine, it was all fun for a while. And then I started receiving these messages from these demonic spirits that I had allowed into my life. And they started kind of just

whispering things to me, telling me this information, this "truth". And everything they were saying was completely the opposite of what Jesus shares in the Bible... The spirits were saying, "Hell isn't real, satan isn't real, you don't have to follow God." They told me reincarnation was real, all these false truths. And I started believing in them... I was completely being deceived. Before I knew it, I was so far from God. I wasn't even a Christian anymore. ...I was seemingly happy at this point, but I was super far from the truth, super far from God.



And then one day – this was April of this year (2021) – and I was sitting on my bed one day, and the feeling of ...this overwhelming feeling of love and light just took over me... I felt like I was so close to God. I felt like I was being hit with the Holy Spirit. And I felt so much love and so much peace, and I started crying out of just love. I've never felt that emotion before. It was so beautiful. And I remember in that moment I said, "I feel so close to God, I feel Jesus is in me, I feel like

God is with me right now." And that was the first time I have acknowledged Jesus my entire life, but specifically within the last year of being led so far from Him... It's almost like God showed me how much love He has for everyone, no matter if you are the most hardened sinner, if you're a criminal – it doesn't matter who you are. He loves everyone so, so much...

It was as if ever since I acknowledged Jesus, everything that I had led into my life, all those demonic spirits that had entered me from dabbling into the New Age and the occult, they turned on me. They kind of revealed themselves to me as they were. I started getting demonic dreams, and in real life I would get just hit with extreme depression and anxiety and paranoia and disassociation and disconnection from reality. I felt like I was going crazy... I felt like I was living in hell. I was getting these intrusive thoughts of things telling me to do this to myself, do this to someone else, all these evil thoughts, evil feelings. I felt like there was just this gray cloud over me at all times, even if I was surrounded with people who were laughing and smiling. I felt like I was being tortured and tormented and I didn't know why. I was so confused, because I didn't realize this whole time what I had been doing is opening myself up to demons to come into my life, because when you go against God, He doesn't just say, "Don't do this, don't do that," for no reason, because He's mean – no, because He wants to *protect* us. He knows more than we know as humans. He knows what goes on behind closed doors spiritually when we sin and live a sinful life, especially when we dabble into the occult. I didn't know, so I was being just tormented every day.

I remember going to my grandma who is close to Jesus, and I said, "I don't know why I feel so depressed and why I feel so terrible. I never felt this way before. I've always been

"These were demonic spirits who performed signs" (Rev 16:14).



so happy and I've never struggled with mental illness." ... And she told me, "Mia, you know there's two sides." (She knew I was into spirituality and stuff, but she didn't know how far I took it, how far gone I was.) She told me, "Mia, there's two sides to the spiritual realm: there's God, heaven, Jesus, angels, good, truth, and then there's demons, there is Satan and there's hell and its deception. Satan disguises himself as an angel of light to come and deceive you. Both sides can give you everything you want. Both sides can give you gifts and wealth and money and love, but one of them is *fake* love, *fake* happiness and the other side is *true* love and *true* happiness and *true* joy.... You just have to make sure you know which side you're talking to."

And in that moment, she planted such a seed in me because that's when I realized I had not been talking to Jesus. I had been into all this spiritual stuff, even astrology, but I had not once mentioned Jesus, so I realized – I thought, "Well I had good intentions with everything I was doing. I didn't mean to go against God, but really it doesn't matter your intentions. It doesn't matter if you don't mean to be going against Him or you don't mean to be dabbling, dancing with the devil. If you don't know you are, it doesn't matter. If you are going against God and living a sinful life, you are dancing with the devil..." She told me in that moment, "Mia, if you get one of those thoughts again, or these terrible dreams, these terrible feelings, just rebuke that negative thought in the name of Jesus and they'll flee. They'll go away." ...So that's what I would do from then on out. I would have these terrible thoughts, terrible feelings, terrible dreams and in the dreams, I would rebuke them in the name of Jesus and they would go away. In real life, if I had a terrible thought, I'd rebuke it in the name of Jesus and it would go away. ...It was like I was in this spiritual war. It was like every single day I was just rebuking these thoughts, these feelings, in the name of Jesus and they would go away temporarily, but then they would come back...

Eventually, it just got so bad, I was in my car one day and I called out to Jesus: "Jesus, I don't know what's going on, but You take care of this. I obviously don't know what I'm doing. I obviously can't fix this situation. You take care of it. I give my life to You. I'm so done trying to find it myself. I surrender my life to You. Use me as Your vessel. Use me in whatever way You want to use me, and let's see if You can get me out of this mess. Let's see what You can do."

A few weeks later, my mom was going to Medjugorje for the first time on a pilgrimage and she asked me if I wanted to go with her. But at that point I was so just down and depressed, and I felt terrible, that I didn't want to do anything. My friends were asking me to hang out. I didn't want to hang out with them. When my mom asked me to go on this trip with her, I didn't want to go... So, she went alone with my aunt, and she was praying for me the whole time, which I didn't know. But the night that she came home from Medjugorje, I was home alone. I was feeling so terrible. And I randomly stumbled across this video on YouTube. It was this priest who was basically doing an over-the-screen exorcism. I don't even remember how I stumbled upon this video, and

I didn't even know that this was a thing. I didn't know that someone could have demons in them. And I didn't know you could cast, expel demons from people and I didn't know what deliverance was. But I just decided to watch this video for whatever reason. And he was casting out demons from witchcraft, demons from astrology, tarot cards, psychics, all the New Age stuff I was into. And as he was doing this, he was praying over me and I just started crying and yawning. I was yawning so much. I was shaking and I was sweating and I had all these manifestations from this prayer. When



Mia

he finished this prayer...I felt like this weight has been lifted off of me and I felt like that dark cloud that was over me for months had just disappeared. And I finally felt peace again and love again. As I was crying...I realized that I had basically gone against God. It was almost like Jesus was showing me what I had done, how I had allowed darkness into my life. After this video was done, I felt so at peace and I remember praying, "Jesus, show me how You see me. I want to see myself as You see me. If there's anything that I'm doing that's not of You, please let me know."

Then my mom came back from Medjugorje that night and she was just telling me about her trip and how amazing it was... She had totally just gotten so much more at peace since this trip. I was like, "Wow! Jesus is really the Truth. Jesus is amazing!" So, then I went to bed that night, and as I was going to bed, Jesus just showed me my soul as he sees it. He basically showed me that He viewed me and everyone as these like pure angels, like innocent little children... But then He showed me kind of what my sin had done to me and how I had made myself just completely basically by dabbling into the occult and dabbling into the New Age. And it looked like just mud, like just dirt. All my sins were shown to me – they were just terrible. And I saw that it just ruined me completely. It had made me just a different person. And He showed me how I was going down such the wrong path, and it was in this moment He gave me a second chance at life. He turned me in the right direction. I knew in that moment that my life was never going to be the same... I knew that I needed to buy a Bible and confess all of my sins, repent of everything and just completely turn away from a sinful life. He also showed me in that moment all of Satan's tactics that he used to his victims, especially for the New Age spirituality. And I just saw everything that I was doing as Jesus saw it, and I was mortified. But He showed me in such a loving way. He wasn't like condemning or anything... He wasn't mean or judgmental or angry or anything like that. He was so loving: "Look how much I love you, but ... look at what you've done to yourself." ... I was like, "Oh my gosh. I'm so sorry, I am so sorry." And ever since that day I've never been the same.

The next morning, I woke up and I ran to the church... I just went to Confession and I confessed everything. I repented of my sins. I asked Jesus to close all of the doors that I unintentionally opened from living a sinful lifestyle. I asked him to take away all my sins and He did.

And then my mom was like, "I am going to go back to

Medjugorje in September. Do you want to come for a pilgrimage?" I said, "Sure!" I wanted to go to Medjugorje. I felt like I should be there for some reason. So, we went and at first, I didn't really know if I liked it. I didn't really know if it was for me, but the more I stayed in Medjugorje, the more peace I felt in my heart, and I felt like I was walking in heaven on earth. It was this peace that I've never experienced and it's love that I never experienced, and I felt the Holy Spirit so much here every day. As I was getting ready to leave Medjugorje after one week of being here, I didn't want to leave. I was like, "Is there any way I can extend my trip?" But it didn't work out...but once I got home... I just felt it so strongly in my spirit that I just for some reason needed to be back in Medjugorje alone. I just needed to get back there as soon as possible and I didn't know why. But I listened to this



*Mia on Apparition Hill*

Voice and I packed up my stuff and just moved to Medjugorje alone. I've been here now for this past month and I'll be here for however long I am led to be here for. It's been so amazing and there's been such a work in my heart being done and I've just had so much peace and so much love. I realize that Jesus really is the truth and He is love and He is light ... He really just wants a relationship with everyone. He just wants to be everyone's best

friend. He wants to guide you, to protect you, and when He does convict you of your sins, ...He just kind of gently tells you, "Hey you should probably not be doing this, look what it's done to you. Let's turn away from that." He's so gentle, so patient. My life has changed completely...

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

## Petitions

By using the email address below, you can send your petition of intentions, via email, directly to the Information Center in Medjugorje. The Information Center collects them and will make sure they are given to either Vicka or Ivan to be presented to Our Lady during one of their daily apparitions.

Although hundreds, and sometimes thousands of petitions are offered to

Our Lady at one time, Our Lady knows the content of each petition. Our Lady tells us that she will pray with us and intercede for us before her Son, Jesus, for our intentions. After every apparition, the petitions are burned.

Email your petition to:  
[molitvene.nakane@medjugorje.hr](mailto:molitvene.nakane@medjugorje.hr)  
[www.medjugorje.org](http://www.medjugorje.org)



*Vicka during an apparition*

## Thank You, Action Printing!

By June Klins

When I was a young girl, I used to love to go with my father to hand out flyers for the family business at the local home shows. Little did I know that nearly 40 years later, I would be handing out flyers (newsletters) with Our Lady's messages printed by the same exact company that printed my father's flyers.

The printing company was named Action Printing. The founder of the company, Stanley Kowalski, was actually related to St. Faustina! Stanley and a friend founded the Divine Mercy apostolate here in Erie, PA, and from what I understand, Stanley died during the Hour of Mercy (3:00 PM) after his friends and family prayed the Divine Mercy Chaplet for him. I was sorry I never got to meet Stanley. I am sure I would have liked him. Stanley's family kept the business going after his death. His wife, Helen, and daughter, Carol, worked in the office, and his son, John, ran the business.

By the time I got involved with *The Spirit Of Medjugorje*, former editor Joan Wieszczyk already had established a good relationship with Action. It was an easy transition for me, who happened to be a math teacher and knew nothing about publishing a newsletter. I remember leaving Action

Printing in May of 2002, crying tears of joy because I felt so blessed to be a part of this apostolate. The following month Joan had a heart attack and the newsletter fell into my lap.

Action Printing has continued over the years to deliver top notch service for us and has bent over backwards to make sure the newsletters were done by the time we requested. Over the years, I have been blessed to work with four graphic artists at Action, all of them very good and flexible with their time, but the one who worked with us the longest has been Holly Bebko. She has the patience of Job to put up with me and my last-minute changes. She would even come in to work to place the messages in the newsletter on her day off so we could get our newsletters on time. I cannot say enough about how good everyone at Action has been to us.

Sadly, all things must come to an end, as Action has merged with another company. I thank Action Printing for 34 years of great service! May their cousin, St. Faustina, intercede for them in their new venture.

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers" (1Thes 1:2).



# Conversation with Marija

*The following is an excerpt from a conversation between visionary Marija and Fr. Livio Fanzaga of Radio Maria on December 25, 2021.*

F.L. ...Marija, I would like to ask you for your impression: two years of epidemic have gone by, two years of suffering, and at the same time despondency has spread, too – let's say fear and anguish, too. In your opinion, in these two years, certainly there have been conversions, but has the world come closer to God or has it walked further away?

M. To me, it depends on whether one has begun to pray and to be a blessing, as Our Lady says. I have been in Medjugorje since the month of May, where prayer is intense, so powerful, and perhaps because it is a small town, we all live like in a big family. People there don't experience problems related to the pandemic like in Italy. I came back to Italy a few days ago and it is a completely different reality, where people think only of consumerism, they are afraid of the pandemic, and a large number of people lack faith. I deeply believe that, at this moment, a lot will depend on us, certainly also on our fasting, on our behavior, on our attitudes, in order to end quickly the pandemic and the war. I heard from many families who asked me for prayers. I told them to start praying together, to make novenas asking for the protection of St. Joseph, Our Lady and Child Jesus, who are living among us. Ultimately, they begin to put order in their lives with the achievement of peace, joy and unity as fruit of the graces requested through prayer that works miracles.

F.L. Yes, yes certainly I am very convinced of this. I am also convinced that in these past two years we have not prayed with great confidence, despite the fact that Our Lady has told us more than once that prayer works miracles, like miracles in our hearts and in the world, within you and around you. This must be understood. Certainly, you have said it well – science, which is all the humanly possible discoveries, does its part, but it is not enough. We need God's help. Therefore, we should be more determined to pray and fast as far as the pandemic [is] concerned. I am very convinced we did not do enough of prayer, but now we also run into a real risk of war in the world, and the weapon, the only one that Our Lady has told us is prayer and fasting; but we don't believe they are effective, and this is real lack of faith.

M. Yes, I deeply believe that it's a matter of lack of faith. Therefore, we should turn to the Lord, the Infant Jesus in a special way, being so innocent, so beautiful, and making Himself so small. Jesus did not bring war nor hunger; He was born in a stable and, being innocent, was able to draw near Him not only the shepherds, but to His heart all people of good will. And for this I say today we should turn to and ask Him.



Marija

Once Our Lady told us to bring a flower before the nativity scene and offer it to Jesus together with your heart. Let's then give our precarious situations of fear, war tension, often even of quarrels! ... The reality is that so many families asked me to pray for them, since their Christmas was a nightmare.

I remember the first years of apparition, Our Lady told me to go from house to house where we had broken off relations with our neighbors and ask for forgiveness and make peace. At the time, they were all farmers and many times they fought over the land, borders and other matters for which families spent many years without talking to each other. So, we did it. Today Our Lady and Baby Jesus gave us Their blessing and They asked us to be a blessing for others, a treasure for all those we meet.

F.L. Marija, tomorrow is the feast of the Holy Family, so a thought for the families, also an encouragement for young people so that they have the heart to face the mission of the family, to start a family, though it seems almost as if they don't even think about it anymore.

M. In Medjugorje, the bishop decided to increase the number of Holy Masses outdoors and, therefore, many families come with children; it is such a blessing, thanks also to these people who still believe in the future. Today, for example, on Christmas day, I got very sad because at Mass (in Italy) there was only one family with children, and the church was with very few faithful. In a special way, I started to pray to Our Lady for all the families I know, families with few children, for all the people who I carry in my heart. Let us ask and pray to the Holy Family that we are going to celebrate tomorrow, and many fruits will arrive if we'll radiate peace, joy, and faith.

How many Italian people have come to Our Lady and who today are so afraid of dying! I say that, in any case, we must die either of COVID, or of a tumor, or because of a tile falling from a roof, any type of accident; but how ready are we, how much do we pray, how deep is our spiritual life? When I was a young girl, we used to talk with the elderly, stating that life and death were in the hands of God, and today it seems that everything depends on *us*, only *we* are able to protect ourselves. Instead, we must be very careful, but above all, we must trust in the Lord with our faith, with hope, with prayer, because He is the giver of life and death.

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## MARY IS CALLING YOU

On June 24, 1981 in Medjugorje, Our Lady began appearing to six children. She identified Herself as the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace. Her words to the visionaries: "I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and obtain peace, you must return to God."

Today, the Blessed Mother still appears daily to three of the visionaries, and monthly or annually to the others. They are all now adults. During the apparitions, the visionaries do not react to light, don't hear any sound, or react to being touched; they feel that they are outside of time and space. They declare to see the Blessed Virgin as they see other people — three dimensional. They pray and speak with Her.

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

the original site of the apparitions in Medjugorje, for all humanity. In the meantime, this period of grace is for conversion and a deepening of faith.

Father Jozo Zovko, who was the pastor of St. James when the apparitions began, has spoken about what he calls "the weapons" or "the five stones" of Our Lady (as in the story of Goliath). They are PRAYER with the heart, especially the Rosary; EUCHARIST; BIBLE; monthly CONFESSION; and FASTING.

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

If you want a prayer cloth we made to keep, send a self-addressed stamped business size (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with \$.78 postage on it.



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