



THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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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 APRIL 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.

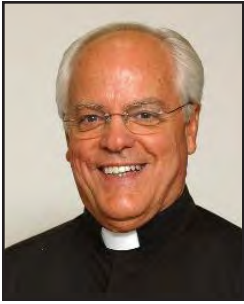


“Dear children! This is a time of grace, a time of mercy for each of you. Little children, do not permit that the wind of hatred and peacelessness rule in you and around you. You, little children, are called to be love and prayer. The devil wants peacelessness and disorder, but you, little children, be the joy of the risen Jesus who died and resurrected for each of you. He conquered death to give you life, eternal life. Therefore, little children, witness and be proud that you have resurrected in Him. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

May is the month of Mary. In his 1965 encyclical, Mense Maio, Pope Saint Paul VI identified the month of May as an opportune time to incorporate special prayers for peace into traditional May devotions. We hope this issue will inspire you to do that, particularly since Our Lady identified Herself in Medjugorje as “Queen of Peace”. We wish a blessed Mother’s Day to all mothers. The beautiful painting shown above was purchased in Medjugorje.

A Mother's Love

By Fr. Bill Kiel



Fr. Bill Kiel

Our spiritual advisor, Fr. Bill Kiel, has been unable to write for us, because he has been undergoing cancer treatments. The following is a re-print from our May 2016 issue.

In the United States, we celebrate "Mother's Day," the second Sunday of May, as a special day to recognize our earthly mothers. On this day, we may

send special cards, have a dinner to honor our mother, plan a special occasion for our mother, send flowers, or make an effort to visit our mother. We should be aware of, and honor, our earthly mothers each day for all they have done for us. Our mother was the one who usually taught us to pray, kept us on the "right path" in life, and gave us that exceptional love only a mother can give her children. The care and love of a mother is a gift from God for His children.

The month of May is regarded among Catholics as the "Month of Mary." Recently, we were taught that we should approach our heavenly Mother to permit Her Motherly love to illuminate hard hearts and fill them with love and hope, so that, as a Mother, She may soothe their pains, because She knows them and has experienced them. In other messages, words were given that refer to Her Motherly Love and Her care for us,

that help to bring us to a closer relationship with Her Son, Jesus. Examples are: *Motherly perseverance and love, Motherly way, Motherly heart, Motherly hand to lead, Motherly blessing, blessing you in my Motherly love, Motherly embrace, Motherly battle, Motherly patience.* These words serve as a model for our earthly mothers to imitate, using ways that will draw us to Jesus, and teach us how to live a life worthy of being called a child of God.

When we see images of the Blessed Mother holding Her child Jesus, it evokes memories of us being held in our earthly mother's arms, and we can imagine what comfort and love we would receive in being held by our Blessed Mother. We should be aware that Mary, our Mother, cares for us and intercedes for us to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Many times in our prayers, we can "feel" the presence of Our Lady.

During May, if we are not showing love for our earthly mother and the Blessed Mother, let us renew our appreciation and love for them — both have done, and are doing, many loving things for us.

Mary Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Editor's note: *If you would like to send Fr. Bill a card, you can send it c/o The Spirit of Medjugorje, P.O. Box 6346, Erie, PA 16512, and we will forward it to him. Thank you.*



Fr. Bill in Tihaljina, not far from Medjugorje

April 2, 2019 Message to Mirjana Soldo

"Dear children, as a mother who knows her children, I know that you are crying out for my Son. I know that you are crying out for truth, for peace, for that which is pure and not deceptive. That is why I, as a mother, through the love of God, am addressing you and calling you that, by prayer and a pure and open heart within yourselves, you may come to know my Son – His love, His merciful heart. My Son saw beauty in all things. He seeks the good in all souls – even that which is little and hidden – so as to forgive evil. Therefore, my children, apostles of my love, I am calling you to adore Him, to ceaselessly give Him thanks, and to be worthy. Because He has spoken to you divine words, the words of God, the words which are for all and forever. Therefore, my children, live joy, radiance, unity and mutual love. This is what you need in today's world. In this way you will be apostles of my love. In this way you will witness my Son in the right way. Thank you."

Bits and "Peaces"

- If you are moving back north – or moving anywhere – PLEASE send us your change of address. The post office will NOT forward the newsletters because they are third class mail. The fees we are charged for undeliverable mail have increased recently.
- Sometimes we have newsletters left over at the end of the month. If you would be interested in distributing them (no charge to you), please contact us and include the maximum number you can distribute.
- Many thanks to all who have renewed their subscriptions this year. We could not do this without you!

As of April 25, 2019, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 27,363. Thank you!

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for May

The Church in Africa, a Seed of Unity: That the Church in Africa, through the commitment of its members, may be the seed of unity among her peoples and a sign of hope for this continent.



Our thanks to Tom and Joanne McIntire, Georgia Chludzinski, Irene and Dan Zuba, Diane Niebauer, Marge Burchard, Chris Falk, Sue Taccone, Marcella Aloiz, Joan Peterson, Rose Heintzel, Chris Opron, Marge Spase, Barb Cesare, Pat Berrier, Darleen Wilkinson, Louise Lotze, Dianne Yochim, Kathy Luschni, Estrella Igras, Laura DiBacco, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the April mailing. We thank Joseph Hooker and Chris Falk for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

Questions and Answers with Mirjana

The following was taken from a question and answer session with visionary Mirjana Soldo on November 11, 2018.

Q: I wanted to ask Mirjana if she has received any specific details on Our Lady's life story. I think one or two of the other visionaries received the story of Her life.

M: Yes, but we cannot talk about that yet. When things start happening, then I will be able to say something.

Q: (from a priest) What would you say to someone who is struggling to have a relationship with Our Lady, either someone who is not Catholic, Protestant, or even some Catholics who don't know how to have a relationship with Our Lady?

M: I feel sorry for such people. They lose a lot, because Our Lady is Mother. She doesn't ask anything for Herself. She's always asking something for Jesus, for God. And She puts always Herself aside. But what Mother can give you, no one else can – the warmth and motherly love. That is why I feel sorry for those people who do not want Her as mother. They lose a lot. For example, now, you priests, close your ears. Let me give you an example. If you look at a priest who is, so to say, a Marian priest, his eyes are so warm and full of love. If you look at a priest who is not really Marian in a way, he has a little colder eyes. That is what I noticed, because only Mother can give that kind of love and warmth.

One time when a group of Americans came here in my home, as soon as they entered...I was greeting them, and one gentleman among them told me right away, "Let's make it clear – I am a Protestant." I said, "No problem. You are Protestant. I'm Catholic. Welcome." As I was serving the meal, while I put soup in front of him, I always told him, "I would like to offer you this soup, if you will not protest." (laughter) Then he asked me, "Do you know who the Protestants are? I said, "I really do not know much because we do not have Protestants here, but I do know that you always protest against something." So those seven days we were joking all the time, and when he was leaving at the end of the pilgrimage, he embraced me so strongly, and he said to me, "I found Mother!"

Q: I was just wondering, if you really want to be close to Mother but you're having a block – it's hard – you're just not feeling it – do you have any suggestions as to how to...?

M: My suggestion or advice would be talk – talk with Her. Tell Her, "Why is it so?" For example, now, you're here in Medjugorje. Go alone to the Blue Cross, Apparition Hill, Risen Christ statue behind the church, and talk with Our Lady. Talk with Jesus. Tell Them everything that you have on your heart. For example, when I have hard times, I go to the Blue Cross and I talk with Our Lady, with Jesus – not *really*, but with heart. And I tell Them everything. And then I come back eased, because I feel that They have listened to me. That is what I would like to advise you, or suggest to you.

And as a sister, I'd like to say one more thing. Do not waste your time judging your own prayer, because none of us – neither me nor you – can say, "Yes, I do everything exactly according to the way God wants me to." If someone says so, I am afraid of such people. We all are on the way of holiness. We all are trying. So for me, it is important that we keep on trying, because my prayer is my conversation with my Heavenly Father. For example, when you love someone on earth, if you want to keep in contact with that person, if you do not want to lose that person, you have to talk with that person. And if you do not talk with that person for a couple of days, a few months, you lose the person. That is how I, personally, look at our prayer as well. If you desire to remain in communion with our Heavenly Father, you have to talk with Him. You have to pray. And then, for example, today your prayer is excellent, the next day it's so-so; the day after, it's not good at all. But you still keep on trying and let God be the one to judge.

Happy Feast Day to Our Patron Saint, St. Philip Neri!

By June Klins

After my granddaughter, Molly, randomly picked our patron saint this year, St. Philip Neri, I started doing some research on him. I came upon a picture of him with Our Lady, and was curious as to whether Our Lady had appeared to him.

According to information I found on the EWTN website, one time in 1594, St. Philip was very sick with a fever. Although he was in terrible pain, he never complained. Sometimes he would repeat the words: "Aduge dolorem, sed adauge patientiam" (increase my pains, but increase my patience). Finally, when it seemed he was at death's door, he had a vision of Our Lady. He fell into a rapture, and cried out, "O most holy Mother of God, what have I done that you should vouchsafe to come to me?" When he came to, he said to the four physicians who were present, "Did not you see the Blessed Mother of God, who by Her visit hath driven away my distemper?" When he realized he had said this, he requested that they not disclose his vision to anyone.

St. Philip died on May 26, 1595, and was canonized



The Madonna Appearing to St. Philip Neri by Sebastiano Conca

in 1622. His incorrupt body lies in the Church of Santa María en Vallicella, under the beautiful mosaic of his vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. His feast day is May 26. Happy feast day to our patron saint, St. Philip Neri!

Fr. Leon Teaches About The Hail Mary

Fr. Leon Pereira [the chaplain to the English-speaking pilgrims in Medjugorje] often gives a short teaching before the English Mass, which MaryTV calls a "Sanctuary Snippet". You can listen to the following snippet from October 14, 2018, as well as all the snippets, at Marytv.tv. We are never too old to learn something new!

The prayer of the Hail Mary is in two halves. The first half comes from Scripture. The second half, which begins with *Holy Mary*, is supplied by the Church.

When we look at the first half, the greeting to Our Lady – *Hail Mary, full of grace* – whatever the angel said to Her in Hebrew or Aramaic, it's written down for us by Luke in Greek; and it says two words – *chaire kecharitomene*. *Chaire* means "rejoice". Both words have a root in it – *charis* – which means "grace". So, *chaire* – rejoice, or grace to you, or joy to you – this is not an unusual thing. Think about when we say, "Hello" in English. "Hello" literally means "health to you" ...

The second word is an unusual word. It only appears once in the New Testament and, in fact, it doesn't appear in any other literature. It, *kecharitomene*, means: "You, female, who have been and remain filled with the Divine Grace". (Greek is one of those languages you can do such things – this one word means "You, lady, who have been and remain filled with Divine Grace".) This is why we translate this as "Full of Grace", because it's very difficult to translate. But it's really an astonishing thing to greet anyone with! This is why, of course, in the Gospels we read that Mary was puzzled and wondered what this greeting could mean. It's a very strange thing to address Her: "Hail, Full of Grace". I think, honestly, the best translation, back in Yorkshire, we would say this is God saying to Our Lady, "Hiya, gorgeous!" (You have to say it with a Yorkshire accent and then it makes more sense.) It's God admiring His own handiwork.

The Lord is with You – now this line is very special. "The Lord is with you," in the Bible, whenever it is said by a human being, they turn out to be *wrong*. Whenever it is said by an angel, they turn out to be *right*. So, the angel is right, because it's God telling them to go and say this: "The Lord is with You." But when human beings say that, they are presuming, committing the sin of presumption, and they always turn out to be wrong in the Bible. If you don't believe me, go and check it for yourselves. This is why, even at the Mass, we never say, "The Lord is with you" but we say, "The Lord be with you". We turn it into a prayer. If we said, "The Lord is with you", that's presumption and, as we know, when human beings say it, they're always wrong. But to Our Lady, we are repeating the angel's words, "the Lord is with You," and it's true.

Blessed art Thou among women and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb – this is what Elizabeth says to Her.

Remember that scene, when a woman in the crowd calls out to Jesus, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breast that suckled You!" – meaning blessed is Your mother for being Your mother. Jesus says, "Blessed, rather, they who hear the Word of God and fulfill it." And when He says that, He's not putting down Our Lady. He's pointing out the real reason that His mother is blessed. She is blessed, not for



Fr. Leon

being His mother, primarily, but primarily for being His disciple. And we know this because even Elizabeth, at the Visitation, she says this – "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment to what God said to Her." So, Our Lady is blessed, first of all, for being Christ's *disciple*; and, then, for being His *mother*. And then in the prayer, we add the word, *Jesus*, that was put in by a Pope six to seven-hundred years ago.

And then the second half – *Holy Mary, Mother of God*. We call Our Lady "Mother of God" because She *is*. She is the mother of Jesus; Jesus is God; therefore, Our Lady is Mother of God. Some people don't like this. They say we should say, "Mother of Jesus' humanity"; but humanities

don't have mothers, *people* have mothers. The person, Jesus, has a mother, and the person, Jesus, is the Second Person of The Blessed Trinity. He is God. So, when we say that Mary is Mother of God, we don't mean She's some kind of goddess; we mean She's a human being who gave birth to a person who happens to be God. It's because of Our Lady that we can say confidently that God was born in Bethlehem, God wept, God was wrapped in swaddling clothes, God was crucified on the Cross, God died on the Cross, God rose again. We can say this confidently. This is the Catholic faith. We do not balk from such language, because it is the truth. When we say, "God died," we don't mean He stopped existing; we just mean His Body and Soul separated. That's what death means, right?

Pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. This is an important prayer. First of all, we don't know when we're going to die, and we want to entrust those final moments where we might be scared, to the gentle hands of Our Lady, *Our Mother*. Christ gave Her to us from the Cross. He says to the disciple He loved best, "Behold your Mother." The disciple He loved best stands in for *all of us*, so Mary is given to *us* to be our Mother. This is why we pray this prayer – looking forward to the hour of our death – that we may not have an unprepared death, but may die reconciled with God and our fellow human beings, and having been fortified by all the Sacraments that we have access to.

The Hail Mary Project

By June Klins

Recently, Kay Stankiewicz, one of our subscribers, called to share something exciting with me. She referred to our project to have Masses said for Our Lady's intentions, which we have been doing for a few years now. She said that some people cannot afford the stipend to have Masses said, and that especially people in nursing homes want to help, but cannot get out to get Masses said. So her parish, St. Stanislaus, began the "Hail Mary Project", in which they encourage people to pray one Hail Mary a day for Our Lady's intentions. She said they spoke to many priests who were very receptive. They ordered 1,000 cards with the Hail Mary prayer on it. She said that people do not need the cards to pray the Hail Mary, but the card is just a "gentle reminder". She added that the cards are going rapidly.

The information sheet Kay sent from her parish said: "Our Blessed Mother knows, better than we do, what we need

and She constantly intercedes for us. Her love for us is beyond our comprehension. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, St. Stanislaus Parish has begun the Hail Mary Project. This is a simple and gentle reminder through the use of a holy card depicting Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, with the Hail Mary printed on the back, and the statement that one Hail Mary a day be prayed for Our Lady's intentions. It is said that when we sincerely ask Mary to intercede for us, She takes those prayers on a golden platter to the Father and He will answer them. Just beginning, we have had many churches, groups, and individuals eagerly accept the cards and many of them are giving cards to others. It is our hope that this project will bring more people into a closer



relationship with Jesus and Mary and help create a better world."

Thank you, Kay, for sharing. Wouldn't it be great if every parish could do something like this?! If your parish or group decides to do this, let us know and we will put a list on our website of all those participating.

A Medjugorje Moment

By Carolanne Kilichowski

My first pilgrimage to Medjugorje was in 1990 when the Bosnian war was escalating. Needless to say, the group had to leave in four days instead of ten!! The whole group was heartbroken. We received many graces, and truthfully, I never thought I would return. After that pilgrimage, I began taking busloads of people on days of prayer to a place in Canada, where we talked about the messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje. I did that for many years.

As it turned out, I returned to Medjugorje in 1998 with some friends, in a group that was going from my church. My close friend insisted that I bring people to Medjugorje, claiming that God wanted that for me. I was reluctant, as I did not want to be responsible for people overnight going to any place. And I was scared. I asked God for a sign if this was His plan.

On our last day there, we were getting ready at 2:30 a.m. to leave on a bus to the airport for home. Carol, my friend who had a room across the hall, came over to my room. She told me to quickly come to her room, which faced Cross Mountain. She told me to

look at the cross. I was in complete awe. There was light all around the cross [at the time there were no lights on Cross Mountain]. The strange thing was that it was a throbbing light, to a dim light, then to a bright light. All of a sudden, it burst into a light so bright that I never saw before. It was so very bright and it turned into a ball a fire, almost as if all the stars in the sky fell into a ball. Then I saw a big thick cross inside this ball of fire with rays of light flying all around the cross. Then it all went away and there was total darkness.

A lady came into our room and asked us if we saw a ball of light from the cross. My two friends in that room also saw a ball of light. No one else saw the cross – only the ball of light. I remembered that Ivan always says, "Our Lady left in a sign of a lit cross!" When I had realized God was giving me a sign, I cried. When that happened, I also remembered there was an awful howl in the village. It was so loud, it scared people so much that they slammed the doors of their houses. I laughed, as all I could think of was....."OH OH!! The devil knows I am going to work even harder for

"I will turn darkness into light before them" (Isa 42:16)

Our Lady." Instead of buses, I would be coming on planes. And he knows Our Lady will keep him away from me.

On the first pilgrimage I led to Medjugorje, which was at anniversary time, I had many stumbling blocks, but that is a whole other story. I have been back 12 times to Medjugorje, with groups to the Holy Land, France, and Poland on pilgrimages. Unfortunately, I had to stop for health reasons. Since then, I had a hip and a knee replaced. To replace the void in my heart, I am now teaching sixth graders in Faith Formation to live the messages of our faith. I try my best to have God come alive for them.

There is not a day that I don't relive the ball of light with a lit cross! It has given me faith like a rock and a ministry to proclaim the Gospel. I thank God for giving me the gift of watching others live their faith because of something they heard me say or because of grace received on a "Blessed Journey".

God works through all of us. You only have to give your "YES".

Editor's note: Carolanne is a catechist and Felician Associate, and resides in Hamburg, NY. Her former pilgrimage company was called "Blessed Journeys".

Blessings in Disguise

The following is an excerpt from a talk given by Paul Ruggieri at a Gospa Missions Retreat on 9/22/18.

Did you notice that throughout history God has chosen the height of mountains to reveal certain truths and save people? For example, Noah and his boat came to rest at the top of a mountain – with the only people left in the entire world. Moses went up high on the mountain to encounter God and receive the Ten Commandments. Jesus revealed to Peter, John, and James what His glory looked like in the Transfiguration – again, on a mountain.

Fast forward to almost 2,000 years later: I accomplished my goal and was hired by KDKA [in Pittsburgh, PA]. A manager was introducing me to employees and we came upon a man named Tom Rutkoski [his story is in our December 2009 issue]. The manager said, “I’d like you guys to meet our newest editor, Paul Ruggieri.” Tom looked up and said, “Did you ever hear of Medjugorje?” Honestly, I thought it was a new piece of television equipment, so I replied, “No.” I was afraid of being questioned. Tom then said, “It’s a small village in Yugoslavia where the Blessed Mother is appearing to a group of kids.” I thought, “Oh boy, a big city religious nut!” Those thoughts of Tom being a nut began to fade, as each day he would seek me out and present new newspaper articles offering stories of miracles occurring in Medjugorje.

My mother had been dealing with ovarian cancer for about a year. We had recently received word that it was terminal. I knew then that I had to take Mom to Medjugorje. Practically speaking, I had very little faith at that time, but Tom’s evidence showed me that the possibility of a miracle did exist.

Tom began organizing trips there, and I wanted to go. My first major task, however, was to convince my wife, Marie, that we had to take my mother to a communistic, atheistic country on the other side of the world, so God could heal her. I remember saying, “We have never done *anything* to show God that we love Him. Maybe by making this trip, it will be enough to show Him that we care, and maybe He will heal Mom.” Marie agreed. That was miracle #1!

My mother was easier to convince, so we bought three tickets to Medjugorje soon after. Over the next several weeks before our trip, my mother became sicker with each passing day. By the time the journey was upon us, she was too sick to go. Her tumor was so large that she appeared to be pregnant, and the tumor was attached to organs which made it inoperable. Tom refunded her ticket but told me that if I went there *for* my mother, she would be healed. That statement made me nervous. I replied, “Tom, you shouldn’t be talking like that. I’m a friend, and will forgive you if that doesn’t happen, but you should be careful.” He said, “I’m not sure why I’m saying that, but go and see what happens.”

So, Marie and I went to Medjugorje without mom. To be honest, the first four days we felt nothing special and began to wonder why we were even there. But, on about the fourth day, a feeling of peace came over everyone in my group. There were about 40 of us. It became stronger every day, to

the point where it felt like we had stepped into the edge of Heaven.

One day while we were there, Marie and I were at the bottom of Apparition Hill. There was a lot of commotion outside of the shop we were in, so we went out to see. We were astounded to see a perfect crucifix. It was made from clouds hanging above the hill. It was resting in an otherwise cloudless, clear blue sky. You could see the eyes, nose, mouth, crown of thorns, and even muscle tone in His arms. It hung in place for about twenty minutes, and the face turned to the right. It became the profile image of the Blessed Mother holding Baby Jesus – while the rest of the crucifix stayed in place. After about five minutes or so, the profile image turned back, and became the face of Jesus again. It hung in place a little while longer and only then began to fade away. The only time I did not have my camera with me – I’m still crying about that one!

On the plane ride home, I had an aisle seat. I remember praying, “Blessed Mother, I want to make a deal with you.” Instantly, I felt Her standing next to me with Her arms folded, looking down at me. I said, “If you will obtain a healing of my mother from your Son, I’ll go into all the Catholic schools in the diocese of Pittsburgh that I can get into, and talk to the kids about Medjugorje and rock and roll, or whatever.” As soon as I finished saying this, She was gone – like a light switch.

We arrived home and Mom was still alive. She sat up in bed and asked us about the trip. Over the course of the next month, my mother seemed to get better. We were cautiously optimistic.

One night, my sister called me. She said they had just taken mom to Connellsville Hospital and they could not find the tumor. She was in an ambulance and on her way to Pittsburgh to be evaluated. They did a sonogram and still could not find the tumor. Then, they did a CAT scan and brought in a specialist to verify that this was the same person they had pictures of from just two weeks before. It revealed what was a small amount of tumor, so they cancelled an elective surgery and took my mother straight in. It was a combination of the three most aggressive cancer cells and they found that she had cancer in her liver. About an hour later, my other sister called, and she said they found a tiny bit of tumor and took it out. There were no longer cancer cells on any of the organs, and there was no cancer in her liver. She told me they declared mom cancer free!

As soon as I hung up the phone – again like a light switch – the Blessed Mother was standing there. I could not see Her, but I could feel Her presence so strongly that I might as well have. Right over top of my thoughts, Her beautiful voice streamed. She said to me, “Okay, I did my part, now what about you?” I thought, “Oh wow, my promise on the plane!” The Blessed Mother was now gone, I had a miracle on my hands, and I was panicked. The Queen of Heaven took my promise seriously and I had to fulfill my end of the bargain.

I had never spoken to any group about anything, and while I could tell the Medjugorje story, I felt rock and roll music



videos had to be addressed. MTV was coming on strong and kids were dressing and acting like the performers. Also, I felt that these videos were breaking down moral values, but I could not explain it. Keep in mind that this was 1990, and it was before the internet. Researching information amounted to visiting libraries and phone calls to experts, though none of which bore any fruit. More than a month passed, and I was stressed about this situation. The Mother of God was expecting something from me and I had to deliver.

One night, at about 11 p.m., I said to Marie, "I'm not going to bed. I *am* going out to the dining room table and waiting for the Holy Spirit to give me the information I need. I am not leaving until it happens. The Mother of God is expecting something from me and I must fulfill my promise. I will stay there until I die. I would rather die than disappoint Her." Marie replied with an "Okay" and a "goodnight".

Now at the table, I sat down with a notebook and pen. Alone now I announced, "Holy Spirit, forgive me for talking to you this way, but Your spouse, my Mother, expects me to deliver on my promise. I am not leaving this table until you give me the information. So please, give it to me." After a minute, a few words occurred to me, so I wrote them down. Before I was finished, I had eleven handwritten pages that explained the psychological process in which all multimedia can break down moral values. I had to read it a dozen times just to understand what I had written. I had my presentation.

I bought a diocesan directory and went to every school and parish that would let me in, and then joined a Catholic youth evangelization team and crisscrossed the country speaking at youth conferences.

One year after our first trip to Medjugorje, my mother was back to work as a nurse and she decided that we should make another trip there to say thank you. Once again, I called Tom, and the three of us were off on a series of unexpected experiences.

On the last day of our trip, we were praying rosaries on Apparition Hill. My mother was sitting about 20 yards from Marie and I, when an older Bosnian-looking woman approached us on a path from the left. She was walking with a few goats and, as she came closer, I could see Her eyes. They were like blue lights! I addressed my wife saying, "Marie look at that woman. What do you notice?" She said, "Wow, look at her eyes." I replied, "I think that is the Blessed Mother." She agreed, telling me that she thought it was, too. I wanted to go over and ask Her. I stood up, and Marie

pulled me right back down. She reminded me that the evil one can also appear as an angel of light. This woman walked past everyone and stopped at the end of our path. Then She looked at Marie and I and nodded approvingly. Nervously, I gave a little wave, (but I thought, 'If this is the evil one, I don't want to wave to him'). She then continued to walk, and went directly over to my mother. When my mother looked up, she reached down and held her hand. My mother started crying. They seemed to be communicating without words. After a minute this woman looked back to Marie and I, nodded again, and continued walking with her goats over the hill.

I quickly went over to Mom and rushed her, asking, "Mom, don't think I am crazy, but was that the Blessed Mother?" She replied, "Yes," as she was still crying. "Wow, what was she telling you?" I inquired. "The Blessed Mother didn't say a word," Mom answered. "I know, I could see Her, but She was telling you something." "Yes," she said, "She was telling me that no matter what happens... everything will be okay." My immediate reply was: "That's great! Your cancer is gone, and the Blessed Mother just gave you this good news." She then snapped at me. "No, that is not what She was saying. She said, '*No matter what happens, everything will be okay.*' That is completely different." This conversation took less than a minute, so I then went over to the side of the hill – I could see the path the whole way – and She and the goats were completely gone. It normally takes about 15 minutes to walk down.

The next day we left for home. The further we got away from Medjugorje, the sicker my mother became. The next day she went to the doctor. Bad news – the cancer was back and this time in a different area. My mother died a short time later, in May of 1993, on Mother's Day.

If she had never gotten sick, the blessings of faith and truth would never have come my way. So many people despair without realizing God might just have another great plan in the works. Mother Angelica used to say, "If it's happening, it's God's will." It is all for our good. God blesses those who receive His blessings with gratitude.

Editor's note: Paul lives in Greensburg, PA and works at WQED TV. He also owns a video production business. He has earned 31 Emmy awards and various other awards for his work. Although he did not have his camera when he saw the white crucifix, fellow pilgrim, Joseph Hooker, did, and he graciously gave permission for us to use the photo on page 6.

The information the Holy Spirit gave to me (I named "Music-Picture Association") works like this: Imagine that you have an album or a CD collection. We recognize the music we like in our collection by the image on the front. If you like hard rock music, for example, this image could be a monster with red flaming eyes. Every time we see the image, a reinforcing, pleasing sound follows, and we begin to associate the two together. Soon the demonic image is pleasing to us or "real cool". Each time it was seen, something pleasing followed (the music). Posters and T-shirts with similar images become part of our lives because we naturally want more of what is pleasing. A typical person who watches music videos will watch a favorite video many times over again. Immediately, there is a favorable reaction to a favorite song when the video comes on. While the video is playing, visual images are flashed on the screen while the music is heard. Some of these images may be offensive, immoral, or even satanic. Is it noticed? Probably not, since the music is so enjoyable and produces such a good feeling. The fact is that most people prefer to listen to the song and try to ignore any offensive scenes. When a person does "not notice" immoral or satanic images in the videos of the music, or if they notice but "don't care" because, "it's the music that counts," a subtle change slowly takes place within them. They subconsciously begin to associate whatever act is taking place in the scenes with the music attached to it. That is the way the human brain works. When a person repeatedly sees these negative images combined with hearing the pleasing sound of the music they like, the two become associated – the negative or immoral images lose their offensiveness and become acceptable or even pleasing.

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MARY IS CALLING YOU

On June 24, 1981 in Medjugorje, Our Lady appeared to six children. She identified Herself as the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace, and has continued to appear daily. Her message is PEACE, peace with God and man. Her words to the visionaries, "I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and obtain peace, you must return to God."

Today, all but three of the visionaries have daily apparitions of the Blessed Mother. During the apparitions, the visionaries do not react to light, don't hear any sound or react to being touched. They feel that they are outside of time and space. All the visionaries declare to see the Blessed Virgin as they see other people - in three dimension. They pray and speak with Her.

The Blessed Mother is confiding ten secrets to each visionary (some are chastisements for the world) and promises to leave a visible sign at the place of the apparitions in Medjugorje for all humanity. This time, this period of grace, is for CONVERSION

and a DEEPENING OF FAITH. After the visible sign, those still living will have little time for conversion.

Father Jozo Zovko, who was the pastor of St. James when the apparitions began, has spoken about what he calls "the weapons" or the "the five stones" of Our Lady. They are: prayer with the heart, especially the Rosary; Eucharist; Holy Bible; monthly Confession; and fasting.

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

To borrow an original prayer cloth from Medjugorje for a week, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address below. You must include your phone number. If you want a prayer cloth we made to keep, send a self-addressed stamped business size (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with \$.70 postage on it.



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