

THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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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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VOL. 34, NO. 5

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

MAY 2021

MONTHLY MESSAGE OF APRIL 25, 2021

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.

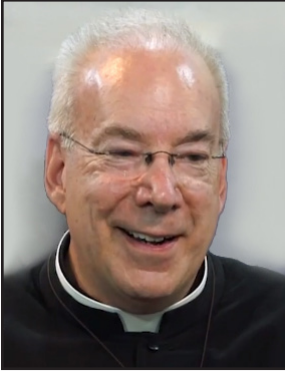


The photo of the artwork above was taken in Medjugorje. "I am your Mother and, therefore, I want to lead you all to perfect holiness. I want each one of you to be happy here on earth and to be with me in Heaven. That is, dear children, the purpose of my coming here and it's my desire." (Our Lady, May 25, 1987) We wish a happy Mother's Day to our Heavenly Mother and to all mothers.

"Dear children! Today I am calling you to witness your faith in the colors of spring. May this be a faith of hope and courage. May your faith, little children, not waver in any situation, not even in this time of trial. Go courageously with the risen Christ towards Heaven, which is your goal. I am accompanying you on this way of holiness and am placing all of you in my Immaculate Heart. Thank you for having responded to my call."

MAY – Many Dates, Many Things to Do!

By Fr. Ray Donohue



Fr. Ray

Hail Virgin, dearest Mary, Our Lovely Queen of May! O Spotless Blessed Lady, Our Lovely Queen of May! Thy Children, humbly bending, surround Thy shrine so dear, with heart and voice ascending, Sweet Mary, hear our prayer!

I remember singing this as a child at the annual May Crowning at my parish, St. Teresa's in South Buffalo. It was a huge event. The whole school was present, and the First Holy Communion class

was up front surrounding the altar of Our Lady, and a boy and a girl from the class who just made their First Holy Communion the Sunday before got to crown Our Lady! The Church was packed, standing room only, to honor our Blessed Lady.

Behold earth's blossoms springing in beauteous form and hue. All nature gladly bringing her sweetest charms to You. We'll gather fresh, bright flowers, to bind our fair Queen's brow; from gay and verdant bowers, we haste to crown Thee now.

This was an event every May. The nuns got help from the 8th graders to move the Mary altar forward and decorate it with beautiful fresh flowers mostly picked from their parents' flowers (or their neighbors)! © They rehearsed the children, and we all knew this song by heart. It was so beautiful! I still know this song, but, sadly, I haven't heard it in years. In fact, I rarely see any May crownings anymore in most parishes.

This is the month of Mary! New Life springs up all around us. We just celebrated (and are continuing to celebrate) the Resurrection of Jesus from death to New Life, and we honor our dear Blessed Mother, Who gave life to Jesus on this earth. We bring sweet, beautiful flowers and hymns to honor our dear Mother, and dedicate this month to Her, Queen of the Angels, Queen of the May!

Hail Virgin, dearest Mary! Our Lovely Queen of May. O spotless blessed Lady, our lovely Queen of May. And now, our Blessed Mother, smile on our festal day; accept our wreath of flowers, and be our Queen of May!

It is so fitting that we honor the Mother of God this month, and always. In doing so, we are giving Praise and Glory to God! Mary was human like us in all things except sin. God preserved Her from the stain of sin to make a worthy place for His Son to come to us! And Who also comes to us to assist us? Our Mother, Mary! One hundred and four years ago the 13th of this month, our Blessed Mother came to us in Fatima to help us and warn us to change and to pray! This year, we celebrate Ascension Thursday on this very date!

Just as Holy Mary was preserved from sin, so too, Our Lady reminds us in Medjugorje that we, too, can be freed from sin through monthly Confession. Ah! How is that going? Are we making the effort to get to monthly Holy Confession and make our souls pure and holy? Do we remember that the Lord comes to us at every Holy Mass we come to and finds us to be His Tabernacle? Do we not want a pure and immaculate place for God to come and rest in us? Remember to use our 5 stones [see page 8] that Our Lady gave us to use against evil and to make us holy and happy

and blessed! They really work! With practice, they get easier, and remember what our Lovely Queen of May tells us: *"If you knew how much I LOVE you, you'd cry for Joy!"*

Our Mother performed a powerful sign for us at Fatima, with the sun, the rain, and Her Love. Even the communists' newspapers recorded that miracle of the sun. People changed. People listened to the children and believed. Hardened hearts were softened, and people began to believe again. They stood up for their faith and fell down on their knees!

Our Lady of Medjugorje comes to us daily. Our Mother gives us Her motherly blessings, inspires us to pray, to be converted, and to take the Word of God to heart and LIVE IT! Like any good Mother, Our Lady brings us to God by asking us to pray the Holy Scriptures daily. How are we doing with that? Are we, or have we been reflecting on the Holy Scriptures throughout Lent and Easter, and throughout the year, as our Mother is asking us to do? We ask Sweet Mary to "Hear our prayer," but do we hear Hers? We want Our Lady to put our prayers into action for us, but do we forget to put Her prayers for us into action? I am NOT saying that to "guilt" us into doing what our Mother is asking us, but just to remind us! I need to remind myself often, and I do, and it helps me to pray better and meet God and Our Lady and the saints in my prayers!

When our own mom asked us to do things for her, even though we wanted to go outside and play or watch TV or do something else, did we not do what we were asked to do from our mom? All the more to do what our Heavenly Mother is asking us to do! Do we pray from our hearts, or just race through the words and not even realize what we have just "said" or supposedly "prayed"? Again, I am not trying to guilt us, but gently remind us (and me). It is not just for one time, or two, or five, but for all time, every time we pray, we need to practice slowing down, and reflect on each word, to set time aside for prayer, to Honor God and Our Lady and the saints when we pray, to truly Pray from our Hearts! In this we Honor the Queen of the May, our Blessed Mother!

We celebrate "Mother's Day" this month on the 9th. We honor and remember our moms, all those still here, and those who God has taken to Heaven. We remember all the mother figures we have had in our lives, those who love us and help us as a loving mom, whether related to us or not. Our Blessed Mother is one of those moms. She is loving and kind to us, coming daily to us in Medjugorje and in our prayers at home, kneeling before Her Son, Jesus, asking and praying with us, to Her Son, the prayers of our hearts for ourselves and those we love and pray for.

It would nice again, this year, if we made a little "May altar" in our homes, or in our yards, to honor Our Lady and pray a family Rosary each night, if we do not already do that. We are the flowers that surround the little altars we make. Maybe we can we pray an extra Holy Rosary for any shut-in people we know, or even who we do not know, such as those who are ill, elderly, lonely, or just alone and in need of love and prayers and kindness.

Near the end of this month, on the 23rd, we, the Holy Catholic Church, celebrate the Holy Feast of Pentecost. This

is the very birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit descends upon the apostles and our Blessed Mother. When they received the Holy Spirit, great gifts were given to the Church (which is all of us). As we receive the Holy Spirit – at Baptism, at Confirmation, and in every Sacrament, and in everyday life – we have the opportunity to “Give Back” to God, by giving of ourselves to others and the Lord. These are called the “Fruits of the Holy Spirit”. When the Holy Spirit came upon Mary at the Annunciation, She produced the Fruits of Holiness, including and most importantly, the Fruit of Her womb, Jesus! We, too, produce these gifts when we receive the Holy Spirit empowering us, as I like to put it, to “give back” according to the Holy Catechism of the Catholic Church. These Fruits we produce from the Holy Spirit are: Charity, Chastity, Faithfulness, Generosity, Gentleness, Goodness, Joy, Kindness, Modesty, Patience, Peace, and Self-control.

I pray every day in my morning prayers that I may produce these Fruits to benefit my life and soul as well as others. As we produce these Fruits, we become holier, happier, more peaceful and better people. We see in the Holy Scriptures that Mary, our Mother, produced these Fruits in abundance, and so can we, as they are freely given to us so that we can freely produce them in our lives – for us and for others and for God!

At the end of this month, on the 30th, we celebrate the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity! Every time we bless ourselves, we do it in the Holy Name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. What Grace God gives us to invoke His Name, One God in the Holy Three Persons. In Mary, we see that God the Father, in His plan to save us, sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary, in the power of the Holy Spirit descending upon Her. Mary’s “Free-Will” “YES” to God allowed her to carry in Her womb the Holy Son of God. We can see the Power of the Holy Trinity working in Mary, as She was open to God in every way. Are we as open to God? We certainly can be and should be. We humble ourselves before God, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit. Mary in all humility said to the Angel: “*I am the handmaiden of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word.*” Many times, when we pray, we kind-of say: “This is ME, Lord, and let it be done according to MY word.” That is not how we should pray. We ask, not demand. We ask in humility and

patience and love, as Mary and Jesus always did.

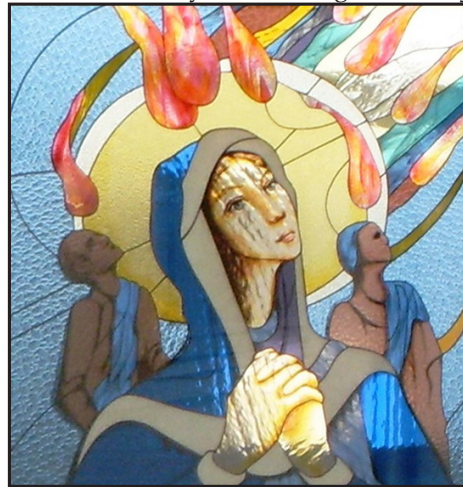
In the garden, before Jesus was arrested, sweating drops of blood and knowing what He was about to go through, remember His prayer to the Father: “Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by without drinking from it; yet, not My will, but Yours be done.” That is a very humble human prayer. We pray like that many times: “Dear Lord, if it is possible that my father not suffer so much, please help him,” or “Dear Lord, please, help us to end abortion and save the lives of these babies,” or again, “Loving Father, we humbly ask you to have great mercy on the Holy Souls in Purgatory and bring them into Heaven.”

We ask. We do not demand or tell God to do our will; we ask God to help us as we do His will. Mary did this, which is why she had the strength, albeit how agonizing it was, to stand by the Cross and see what they did to Her Son.

God gives us the strength we need. Mary intercedes for us always to God. Pray with Love. Pray with confidence that God knows what to do and how to do it. Thank God that we are not God, but that He is, as WE surely would mess up the world, while we know that God will bring us hope and peace.

God bless you all. Have a wonderful May! We plant flowers and they grow and bloom and bring sweetness and beauty into our lives. Our devotion this May to Mary, our Mother, brings us all new growth, happiness and sweetness and beauty. Hail Mary, our lovely Queen of May. We haste to crown Thee now!

In love of Mary, and with prayers and joy,
~Father Ray and my little May flower, Dublin ☺



Stained glass window in a church near Medjugorje

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for

May The world of finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.



Here is a beautiful prayer that was prayed during the homily at English Mass in Medjugorje on July 23, 2014.

Prayer to Mary, the Bride of the Holy Spirit

Mary, our Mother, the Bride of the Holy Spirit, protect us. Implore love for us, the true love of God and the Holy Spirit. Implore wisdom for us, the true wisdom of your Groom. Mary, may we not go astray,
May we not lose hope,
May we not extinguish our faith.
Help us to persevere on the path to salvation.
Help us to win the battle against the enemy.
Oh Bride of the Holy Spirit,
Stretch your protective mantle over us and our families,
And bring us safely to eternity. Amen.

www.marytv.tv

As of April 25, 2021, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady’s intentions was 31,920. Thank you!

Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Carol Bleck, Mary Spaeder, Laura and Kevin Di Bacco, Pat Berrier, Louise Lotze, Diane Niebauer, Marge (Hummel) Burchard, Sue Taccone, Betsy Truran, Chris Falk, Marlene Figurski, Tom McIntire, Joan Peterson, Barb Sirianni, Marge Spase, Kathy Luschni, Peggy Smith, Cindy Bielanin, Georgia Chludzinski, Barb Cesare, Peggy Chludzinski, Irene and Dan Zuba, Darleen Wilkinson, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the April mailing. We thank Susannah Klins and Mike Golovich for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

Mirjana Answers Pilgrims

The following is excerpted from a Question-and-Answer Session with Mirjana on March 16, 2014. The entire talk can be seen on Fruit of Medjugorje, Episodes 106 and 107 on MaryTV.tv.

Q: Fasting costs me a lot. I spend all day thinking about food. Can you give me advice on how to fast, or can I do something else rather than fast?

A: I cannot tell you to do something else instead of fasting, because Blessed Mary said fasting on bread and water. But you can try step-by-step with fasting. You don't need to fast immediately on bread and water. You can say on Friday you will not eat meat. Catholic people never eat meat on Friday. You can start like this, and ask Blessed Mary to help you, because to be able to fast is also a gift of God. Ask God for this gift. When you pray, think like this: Who is the owner of my body? This meal or myself? Who is the King in my heart? My God! If I can't do this for Him, this small thing, how can I do more if He asks me? But always pray, because for me, personally, prayer is the answer for everything. For example, in my family I never said, "God, help my daughter finish university, help me with this, help me with this." Never! I always say, "God, my family is in Your hands, and You know what is good for us." And I pray and fast. I always say to Blessed Mary, not during an apparition, but when I pray normally like you, "I can pray, I can fast, but You, You can talk with Your Son. Do this!"



Mirjana

Q: How long does the apparition last? And talking about fasting, is it for all your life, or just one period of time? And what is the language that you speak to Our Lady?

A: Are you sure you are not Italian? Because these three are typical Italian questions! [laughter] The apparition is not always the same, from three to eight minutes. Talking about fasting – it is for all of your life. But Blessed Mary doesn't ask fasting for people who are sick. But sick is not headache or stomach pain. These people can ask, through prayer, what else they can do instead of fasting. If Blessed Mary wants

that we understand Her when She appears here in Medjugorje, She must talk in Croatian! Because this is a typical Italian question, I remember one old man, very nice old man, [and at] 93 years old, he came to Medjugorje. He told me, in front of everybody, like we are talking now, "I was in the Second World War, a Fascist." I said, "Ok, we are not all perfect. God will forgive you." But he said, "Just a moment, what language is Blessed Mary talking to you?" I said, "Croatian", because I could only understand Croatian at this time. I said, "I'm sorry." But he said to me, "But now that you understand Italian so well, why doesn't She speak to you in Italian???" I said, "Next time I will say, 'In Italian, please, Blessed Mary...'" He said, "Grazie!"

"Our Lady Will Do Anything for Her Children"

The following testimony was taken with permission from the website, imeditjugorje.com. This testimony was given by a lady named Sheila during her pilgrimage to Medjugorje during Lent this year.

It's been a long time coming. It's been 30 years since I was introduced to Medjugorje. I never could come. I didn't have the means. It's my first time out of the United States. I've always had this hope in my heart, and when does She bring me? Well, it would seem one of the worst possible times, yet it's probably the holiest and most healing time. It's during Lent. I'm offering up my sufferings. I'm offering up everything for other souls. That's what we do. We want souls to be saved for Our Lady and Jesus. You do whatever you gotta do when you're in love.

I believe I've been drawn by Our Lady, that I'm supposed to be here, and She has a mission that I'm supposed to do. I have utmost faith. Even though it was, to put it mildly, h*** to get here, it was worth it. The demon tried every stop he could to make me break down and stop. I even canceled once and then reestablished.

I have to trust. Our Lady says we have to trust, to have full confidence in Her. And "Jesus, I trust in You," that's the Divine Mercy. We love Jesus and His Divine Mercy and so I'm trusting. I'm just free-falling into that. As much as my humanness pulls me back into my doubt, I continually just come back to that total "Jesus, I trust in You," and "Be not afraid." So that's why I'm here.

I'm here because I'm healing the residue of past sin that holds me still in bondage. Even though I'm in a state of grace most of the time, I'm healing that bondage. This is the place to be to do that.

I'm bringing all of my family and the trauma and everything that they have suffered, but mainly my children. I pray for their conversion all the time. And I trust. I offer up my sufferings for them, and my son specifically. He's lost right now. I trust that, if I lift him up, if it's God's will, he will be healed. I can't think of a more beautiful, holy, reverent place to be to lift him up along with all of my blood relatives, and all souls, for conversion, for healing, to fall in love, and to be transformed.

I had a blessing to be able to talk to [visionary] Mirjana. I mentioned my son's name for healing, and she assured me that Our Lady knew all about him already and that I am a momma, I am a mother, and Our Mother will do anything for Her children...hence, Our Lady coming to Medjugorje for so long – 40 years. Forty years of pouring that love and grace. She will do anything. So, we are called as well to help Her draw souls to Her for conversion.

So, I have offered myself to my Mother to use in the Divine Will. I'm giving Her my children to hold in Her mantle for healing. And I trust. Jesus, I trust in You.

Mirjana has a light. To hear her words of comfort, that Our Lady knows, even though I know in my heart as well. But to have Mirjana, in her glow and in her love, share that

from her heart... Our Lady loves us so much that we can't comprehend it. She wants nothing more than for us to be saved and to be healed and to bring us to fall in love with

Her Son and to be in that state of grace and transform our lives. What a powerful, powerful thing, Medjugorje.

"In trial or difficulty I have recourse to Mother Mary, whose glance alone is enough to dissipate every fear."
~ St. Thérèse of Lisieux, our patron saint for 2021.

Our Lady's Motherly Blessing

By June Klins

In March, I received an email from a reader named Mark, who wrote, "Our Lady at Medjugorje blesses religious articles with Her motherly blessing. I know She has asked that a priest bless them too. Do they have to get Our Lady's blessing first, since I heard She will not impose Her blessing on a blessed article? Is it supposed to be blessed by Her first, THEN be offered to a priest? Or, She blesses all religious articles no matter what? I've heard both and cannot find an answer in my research. So... if I went to Medjugorje and took my First Communion rosary, blessed years ago, it would receive Our Lady's blessing, too, or not, because it's already blessed? Second question, what is the reason for and function of Our Lady blessing things and what are the rewards of receiving such blessings on religious articles? What has She said?"

After praying to answer these questions the best I could, I sent a reply, but also offered to send his note to Fr. Ray, our spiritual advisor, for his viewpoint. Fr. Ray's reply was very beautiful, so I asked his permission to share it with you.

Fr. Ray wrote, "ANY religious object you want blessed, whether it was already blessed by a priest or not blessed at all, our dear Mother will bless with Her Motherly Blessings. When I first went to Medjugorje, I held up my Rosary that I had for a long time, and during the Holy Apparition, our Mother blessed all the religious articles, including that Rosary, and I watched and so did my group, as it turned to gold.

"There are many kinds of blessings. The priest's blessings are SACRAMENTAL BLESSINGS. He has the authority to bless and make Holy anything through his authority from Holy Mother Church and Jesus Christ, Himself, through his holy consecration and ordination.

*"Have
you only that
one blessing, father?
Bless me too!"
(Gen 27:38)*

"My mother would trace the sign of the cross on me at night, as a child, and many times as I left for school; that is a motherly blessing, it isn't Sacramental, but it is nonetheless, a blessing.

"They don't always do it today, but when a young couple wanted to get married, the groom-to-be went to the woman's parents and asked for a blessing; this was a blessing of good will and giving their consent.

"Our Lady's Blessings are coming from the Mother of God. They are NOT Sacramental, because as Our Lady and Mother tells us, 'I give you My Motherly Blessing,' and has said many times, 'But go and have a priest bless this, as I am not a priest'. See how humble Our Lady is, and how

humbling it is for any priest to bless something, as She is showing the Love She has for Her children, and yet showing us the authority God has given to His priests? I think this is where Mark may have thought to have the Blessed Mother bless first, then a priest, but She is only saying She knows many people in Medjugorje have just purchased many religious articles and have not had time for them to be blessed, so She reminds them.

"Also, remember... every single day at ALL the Holy Masses at Saint James Church in Medjugorje, at the end of



A rosary listing the 5 stones, blessed by a priest and by Our Lady

Holy Mass, the priests BLESS ALL the articles they want Our Lady to bless, and those Masses are usually BEFORE the Apparition, (except in the evening Mass); so, whether it is before, or after, makes no difference. Our Lady, our dear Heavenly Mother blesses ALL we have to bless, but also reminds us, whether it is before, or after, have a priest bless them, too.

"Many people, before I go to Medjugorje, give me their relics, holy cards, Sacramentals like rosaries, medals, etc. to have our Mother bless them, and they have already been blessed at home by a priest or deacon, some many years ago, even pictures of their loved ones who are living, or who have died, but they want Our Lady to bless them, and She does!

"Many groups come and have not had things already blessed or have had things already blessed. Our Mother's Blessing is a very Holy Blessing, as is a blessing from our moms and dads and loved ones, but this is the Mother of ALL Mothers and the Mother of Jesus, the Savior, Our Savior!

"So, don't worry, it makes no difference in order Who blesses it first, the priest or Our Lady. What a wonderful gift to have anything blessed – it defends us against all evil and protects us with Blessings from God and the special holy Blessings of our Mother. The rewards of our Mother's Motherly Blessings are countless, Graces given to Her by God to give to US: love, peace, guidance, hope, and Grace to bring us to the very Heart of our Mother and the Heart of Jesus that beat and grew in the very person of Mary, our Mother, and the Mother of Her Son, Jesus Christ!!"

Thank you, Father, for taking the time to answer these questions for Mark and enlighten our readers as well.

Healed in Medjugorje

Maria Fernanda Trejos, from Columbia, came to Medjugorje for the second time, during the month of May, to thank the Queen of Peace for her healing. Maria is the mother of two girls.

Nine years ago, Maria began to have intense pain in the lower part of her spine. She attended many doctors and received various diagnoses; finally, she was told that surgery was the only answer, and it would be simple and quick; metal screws were to be placed in her spine.

The complication began when the head of a screw broke and could not be removed. The pain was worse than before the surgery. Maria lost mobility and could no longer walk or go about her daily chores.

Maria had heard about Medjugorje, and began to read many books about this holy place and in the end, she decided to go on pilgrimage. When she arrived last year, she had a great desire to go to confession but could not find a priest hearing in Spanish. She got annoyed with God, as she had a deep yearning to receive this powerful sacrament of reconciliation. Every evening she went to the confession boxes, but

there was no sign for Spanish.

Eventually, on the last day of her pilgrimage, she found a priest who spoke Spanish and she began to confess. During the course of their conversation, Maria realized that the priest had a similar diagnosis. They both agreed to offer up their pain to God for the conversion of those who have not yet come to know the love of God, for [the] sick and weary.

About a month after Maria returned home, she realized she was able to walk, to kneel, to do things around her house that she hadn't done for years. Glory to dear God!

She went to the doctor for an examination and after all tests were done, the doctor asked her what happened in Medjugorje as she was completely healthy. The screws that were causing her pain and problems looked now as if they had a shape of the rosary. Maria thanks God and Our Lady.

Medjugorje Council of Ireland

Editor's note: If Maria goes to Medjugorje in the near future, she should not have any problems finding a priest who speaks Spanish. See the article below.



Language signs by the confessionals in Medjugorje



“Help Me, Mary”

By Fr. Pablo Sciotti

I was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. At one point in my life, I stopped practicing my faith. I was one of those who said I believed in Jesus, but not in the Church.

I had a girlfriend, I was into art, and I lived a bohemian lifestyle. I kept moving and looking for the meaning of life, but I couldn't find it. After one evening out and getting drunk, when I had nowhere else to go, I entered the church hung-over and asked Our Lady to help me. I said a simple

prayer – “Help me, Mary, because I have no reason neither to leave nor to stay.” Then everything started to change.

In 2008, for the first time, I came to Medjugorje where I received a call to the priesthood, and in 2017, I said my first Mass. I have been living in Medjugorje for a month now. I serve as a chaplain here for pilgrims of the Spanish-speaking community. Our Lady called me, saved me and brought me to Jesus!

www.facebook.com/mediamirmedjugorjeen/

The Medjugorje Effect!

By Sr. Emmanuel

Writing a letter to Our Lady is never fruitless. As all mothers, She loves to receive mail from Her children, and as our Heavenly Mother, She answers divinely. Martina (from Milan) shares her own experience:

Shortly after writing to the Gospa, I understood that we should go to Medjugorje as a family. Great news, my parents accepted to join us. Of course, for them, the touristic side of the trip on the Adriatic coast was the most important.

From an early age, I had seen my parents fight. My brothers and I suffered a lot from this. Their emotions, crises, and arguing always ended badly: one of them would leave home for a few hours while the other one would weep. The worst was that their reputation for constant fighting stuck to them. Our friends were aware of it and we could feel it.

We did not know what peace was. The threat of divorce was constant. As a little girl, I would tell myself, “Well, let them divorce; that will make them happier!” Yet, during

40 years of marriage, the divorce did not happen, thanks be to God!

In October 2015, there we were in Medjugorje. How did grace reach my parents' hearts? On the first evening, my mother agreed to go to Confession, dragging her feet. She joined a long line in front of a confessional. But tired of waiting, she left her spot and I found her sitting in a coffee bar. I thought, “Well, this is a bad start to the pilgrimage!” She bombarded me with questions, “God exists, yes, but what does He want from me? My life is fine! God, OK, I don't mind a little bit, but I like my life. I don't want to end up in a convent. And then confession... I never know what to say to the priest, and I am not sure it is worth anything. The last time I went was seven years ago.”

However, she gave it a go the next day. Surprise! There was a free confessional, so she entered it right away. What happened inside that confessional? I have no idea! But

several weeks later, I happened to spend a few days at my parents'. I was anticipating the atmosphere and I prepared myself to be hurt as usual. But to my great surprise, no fight started between them during that time, absolutely none! Even better, my parents invited me to share their morning prayers, the Rosary and other prayers, on our knees in front of a nicely displayed small altar – something new– and my mother wanted to close the prayers singing the “Ave Maria” with her beautiful voice.

Peace and reconciliation were restored again after 40 years of quarrels. This is one of the gifts I had asked for in my letter to the Gospa. Since then, my parents have become the model couple of my Christian faith. I am so happy to think that this radical change in them, towards peace and love, will inspire many people.

Thank you, Martina for giving this beautiful testimony! It reveals to us several things that many still find hard to believe:

– *With God, it is never too late! “Patience obtains everything” (Teresa of Avila).*

– *Our Blessed Mother unfailingly works on everything we confide to Her with faith, and She ultimately wins the case one way or another.*

– *Divorce is not the best solution. “For God,” Mary said, “divorce does not exist.” If divorce does not exist for God, it is because He has a better solution in store for us, and He will reveal it to us in prayer.*

– *If there is a major obstacle in your life, impossible to overcome with human means, remember that nothing is impossible for God. Pray and trust! Also, as Martina did, write a letter to the Blessed Mother. There are countless examples where She has answered positively. Does She not come every day particularly to help us? In your letter to Her, start with a warm thank you! “Prayers of thanksgiving are the first ones to reach Heaven,” said Vicka.*

Children of Medjugorje, www.childrenofmedjugorje.com, June 2016 report

Rosary Mysteries of Healing

By Deacon Jerome P. Peterson

1. Jesus heals a woman.

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. (Mark 1:29-31)

2. Jesus heals a man.

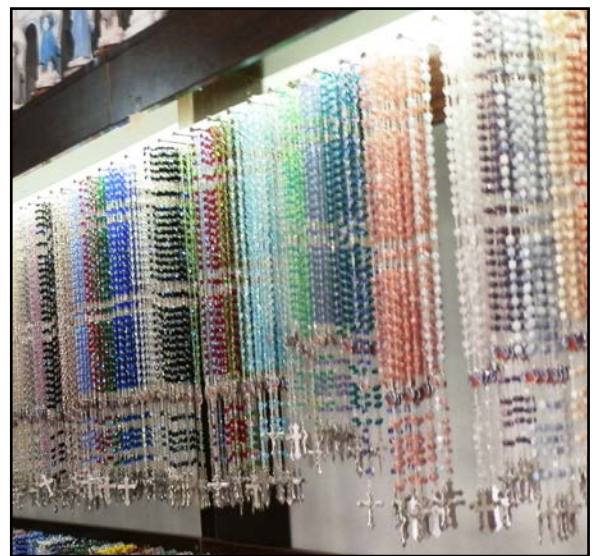
After this, there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem at the Sheep [Gate] a pool called in Hebrew Bethesda, with five porticoes. In these lay a large number of ill, blind, lame, and crippled. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been ill for a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be well?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am on my way, someone else gets down there before me.” Jesus said to him, “Rise, take up your mat, and walk.” (John 5:1-8)

3. Jesus heals a boy.

There was a man in the crowd who cried out, “Teacher, I beg you, look at my son; he is my only child. For a spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams, and it convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it releases him only with difficulty, wearing him out. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” Jesus said in reply, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long will I be with you and endure you? Bring your son here.” As he was coming forward, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion; but Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and returned him to his father. And all were astonished by the majesty of God. (Luke 9:38-43)

4. Jesus heals a girl.

Soon a woman whose daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, and she begged him to drive the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first. For it is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.” She replied and said to him, “Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's scraps.” Then he said to her, “For saying this, you may go. The demon has gone out of your daughter.” When the woman went home, she found the child lying in bed and the demon gone. (Mark 7:25-30)



Rosaries made by Ivo Juricic, who had a miraculous healing in Medjugorje (see our January 2013 issue).

5. Jesus heals a man born blind.

As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see. (John 9:1-7)

Editor's note: Deacon Jerome is a deacon of the Diocese of Erie and a nephew of our late spiritual advisor, Msgr. James Peterson.

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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 \$.75 postage on it.

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