



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



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The Vatican Has Granted a Nihil Obstat to Medjugorje!

MONTHLY MESSAGE OF APRIL 25, 2025

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.



May is the month of Mary and also the month (in the US) in which we celebrate Mother's Day. Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers and especially our Heavenly Mother! Let us make our Mother happy and strive to live Her messages the best we can. Shown above is the beautiful face of our traveling statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje. If you live in the Erie area and would like a visit by this statue, blessed by Fr. Ray and by Our Lady during an apparition, please call June at 814-898-2143.

"Dear children, winds of peacelessness, selfishness and sin are catching hold of many hearts and leading them into peacelessness and perdition. That is why I am calling you, little children: return to God and to prayer, so that it may be good for you in the hearts and on the earth on which you live. I love you, little children, and that is why I am not tiring of calling you to conversion. Thank you for having responded to my call." (With Ecclesiastical approval)

The Blessed Month of May

By Fr. Ray Donohue



Fr. Ray

Mother dearest, Mother fairest, help us, help, we cry to Thee! Virgin purest, brightest, fairest, help us, help, we cry to Thee! Help us in our cares and sorrows, Mary, help us, help, we pray!

Our Lady, whether we address Her as the Mother of God, Holy Mother Mary, Immaculate Mary, Mary, Undoer of Knots, Mary, Queen of Peace, Our Lady of Medjugorje, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and countless other titles, our dear Blessed Mother is

not only the Mother of Jesus, our Savior, but Mary is our Mother too, as well as all of the above and so much more. We call upon our Holy Blessed Mother in holy prayers, in times of need, for ourselves and for others whom we pray for, and Mary always hears our prayers.

The month of May is dedicated to the Most Holy Blessed Virgin Mary, with devotions, novenas, the holy Rosary, and many prayers from our hearts.

From the Constitution on the Church of Vatican Council II, we hear this: "Let the faithful remember moreover that true devotion consists neither in sterile or transitory affection, nor in a certain vain credulity, but proceeds from true faith, by which we are led to know the excellence of the Mother of God, and we are moved to a filial love toward our mother and to the imitation of her virtues."

The constitution continues: "The entire body of the faithful pours forth instant supplications to the Mother of God and Mother of men that she, who aided the beginnings of the Church by her prayers, may now, exalted as she is above all the angels and saints, intercede before her Son in the fellowship of all the saints, until all families of people, whether they are honored with the title of Christian or whether they still do not know the Savior, may be happily gathered together in peace and harmony into one people of God, for the glory of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity."

When I was 5 years old, on a Monday evening, my mother took me by the hand and we walked the 5 blocks to our church, Saint Teresa's in South Buffalo, NY. I didn't understand at the time why, since we went to church the day before as we always did as a family. My dad worked nights, so it was just my mom and me!

St. Teresa's is a big church and lots of room for lots of people! The church was packed! It was the Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. I had no idea why, because we went to Mass the day before, a Sunday. This was Monday at 7:00 p.m. When one of our priests came out, he had on a long cape, and on the altar was a huge golden "thing" – I never saw anything like it! We started with a hymn, "Immaculate Mary," then a lot of prayers. My mom

had this little book, with a picture of the Blessed Mother on the cover, and the Miraculous Medal. I had to stand on the kneeler to see up at the altar, and suddenly everyone knelt down as the priest put something big and round and white into the golden thing on the altar. Then, a beautiful smell of holiness permeated throughout the whole church. I never smelled incense before, and the cloud of smoke ascended to Heaven. Then, my mother said something to me that I never forgot and will never forget! She silently pointed to the golden object now in the priest's hands, surrounded with the wonderful, holy-smelling smoke, and he held it high up for everyone to see it, and bells rang three times. First he held it up in the air, and the incense surrounded it, with the bells, and everyone was on their knees as the bells rang 3 times, and the priest held it up high, then moved it to one side and the bells rang and smoke went up again, and then he moved it to the other side and the bells and smoke happened again.

The next thing is something I have never forgotten and never will. My mother quietly whispered into my ear: "That is Jesus up there, Jesus is blessing us through the arms of the priest!" I was only about 5 years old, and I had goose bumps all over me! I was in Heaven! The smell of the holy incense, the holy ringing of the bells, seeing the white Host inside the Monstrance, and the holy hymn we sang (the "Tantum Ergo") and then the Divine Praises, with my mother pointing to all of this and telling me, "THAT IS JESUS!" At 5 years of age, I felt the Holy Presence of God and I never forgot that! I encountered God, through the Miraculous Medal Novena, I met God through Mary, Jesus' Mother! I still get goose bumps like it was just yesterday!

I begged my mother that we could come back the next evening again, but she told me it is only on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. I cried all the way home, I wanted so much to come back the next day, and the next day! Through the Blessed Virgin Mary, Jesus reached out to me at age 5 and touched my heart and soul forever! My mother's faith, the faith of the faithful who came each Monday evening, the holy priests that we were blessed with at Saint Teresa's, THIS is where I was touched by God and our Blessed Mother. She brought me to Jesus through my mother, just as Mary continues to do everywhere, and especially in our times and lives today in Medjugorje! Our Blessed Mother is bringing us to Jesus!

My father became an usher and he came with my mom and I every Monday without fail after he retired. He worked nights and was unable to come to the Novena before, but my mom's prayers were heard and answered. They rented an apartment where we lived, but the landlord didn't want us kids playing in the yard, and so on... So my mother's and father's prayers to Our Lady were that they could afford to buy a house over time, and still be parishioners at Saint Teresa's. Our Lady answered that prayer and in less than 2 years they owned their own house just a block away from the church, and we all went to Our Lady's Novena every



Fr. Ray's with a picture of his parents on his ordination day

Monday evening without fail right up to the day I entered the Seminary!

My parents went, and I did, too, when I came home for Thanksgiving and Christmas from the Seminary. My mother's prayer was to have a house of our own to live in, and my father's prayer was to live long enough to see me ordained a priest. He did. I was ordained a priest at Saint Joseph's Church where I served as a seminarian and a deacon, and ordained a priest on April 26th, 1985. My dad's birthday was April 25, the day before! The Bishop came to have dinner with us before the ordination at the rectory, and the Bishop sang "Happy Birthday" to my dad with all of us. That was his last birthday before the Lord took him home to Heaven. I was so blessed. Not many priests have his holy Bishop come to dinner before the Ordination, and sing "Happy Birthday" to his dad, not knowing that this was the last birthday of my dad. My Bishop was Bishop Edward D. Head, a very holy and wonderful man, who knew the names of all his priests and was always there for us.

Go to Mary, have great devotion to Mary, our Mother, and the Mother of our Savior, Jesus! Pray from your heart, and have faith! By the time you read this, I will be back from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, my 31st Pilgrimage and I will be praying for all of you and your intentions. I will be celebrating my 40th anniversary of Ordination to the Holy Priesthood, and 40 years of celebrating my very first Mass as a priest of Jesus Christ! Feel the Grace and Love of our Blessed Mother surrounding you with great love and mercy and prayers. I am taking a group with me, and all of you will be in our prayers and in our hearts as we lift every one of you up to our Blessed Mother, in Her month of May. Pray for us, and all of you will be with us in our prayers, Masses, mountain climbing, and in our hearts! Go to Mary, pray from your hearts.

In the Love of our Blessed Mother in Her month,
~Father ray on his way to Medjugorje, and Dublin and Sweet Pea who are being so tenderly cared for by my dear friend Tom

Vicka's Example

In Medjugorje, one person who lives the messages beautifully is Vicka. Here is a testimony that Sr. Emmanuel told me some time ago, and allows me to share with you today:

"One morning, I had an appointment with Vicka at 8:00 AM for an important matter. When I arrived in her courtyard, I saw a huge group of Polish pilgrims. Vicka gestured to me that right after speaking to them, she would see me. So I started to pray as I waited, trying to push away from my mind the vision of all the work that was waiting for me at home. The problem was that Vicka's care for the pilgrims wouldn't end. Thirty, fifty, seventy minutes went by. Each time Vicka finished blessing two people, another little group would show up. In one word, I became impatient and got up to leave.

"But Our Lady detained me and spoke to my heart. Actually, I had neither a vision nor an audible inner locution, rather a clear inspiration that I can transmit in this

way: 'Stay and look at my servant. She acts the way I like. Her heart is in all that she does. Look! Look with what joy and love she welcomes each person who comes to her. Look at her patience. She behaves as I taught her to do. You follow her example!'

"At once my impatience collapsed and I started watching the whole scene with the eyes of my heart, in awe. I was enthralled with the loving care she extended to each person she prayed with. At last it was my turn. I left having received a better understanding of the true grace of Medjugorje and how much we need to be healed, healed from our very human sense of efficiency, so that we may bear divine

fruit, fruit that will last."

Vicka has taken in what Our Lady has taught her. We can, too, as we begin to live Her messages. The world is depending upon us!

Children of Medjugorje, sremmanuel.org, September 2001 report



Vicka

Someone 'Round the Corner

By Marlene Figurski

You won't be loved by everyone
We all know that is true,
But someone 'round the corner
May want to be like you.
And you may never know it
But God will know it's true,
That someone 'round the corner
Has been admiring you.
And when you reach God's Kingdom
Your grateful friend will say,
"I followed your example."
That's why I'm here TODAY!"

Editor's note: Marlene is a faithful member of our mailing crew.

"Everyone on the Earth is My Child"

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Vicka on July 16, 1988 by Jan Connell of the Pittsburgh Center for Peace.

Q: Is there anything people throughout the world can do to help share your goals?

A: I asked Our Lady this question, and She said that by prayer and fasting, we can stop war.

Q: If we don't pray and fast, will there be a war?

A: Our Lady didn't say. She always says that with prayer and fasting, we can stop war.

Q: Vicka, do you feel great urgency to spread Our Lady's messages?

A: Yes! I want to bring Our Lady and Her messages closer to everyone. I know why Our Lady is appearing for so long a time! She loves us so much! Our Lady says, "Everyone on the earth is my child. I want everyone to be saved. I don't want a single one of my children in hell." Our Lady is hoping people will accept Her messages little by little. She says praying the Rosary, especially as a family, and fasting are powerful ways to rescue souls for the Kingdom of Her Son.

Pope Francis

This issue was complete, except for the message, when we learned that Pope Francis had passed. We thank Pope Francis for, as Archbishop Aldo Cavalli stated, "making Medjugorje an international center of spirituality." Pope Francis allowed priests and bishops to lead pilgrimages; he appointed an Apostolic Visitor for pastoral care; and recently gave Medjugorje a "nihil obstat." Please pray for the repose of his soul. May he rest in peace with Our Lady of Medjugorje.



The Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary

Editor's introduction: In our February 2012 issue, we featured two articles about what has been called the Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary. The man who made the rosary and traveled with it, Richard Bingold, passed away on June 24, 2019, the 38th anniversary of the first

apparition in Medjugorje. Recently I became aware that the Central New York Marian Center has temporary guardianship of the Pilgrim Rosary and that it is traveling again. We thought it might be good to re-print these stories to help promote interest again.

The Story of the Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary

By Richard Bingold

The Stone Rosary was fashioned by the writer from the very stones on top of Apparition Hill, in Medjugorje, where Our Blessed Mother appeared to the children. I remember the very moment, while kneeling there with Fr. Albert Mary Shamon (deceased) – we were praying the Rosary and Fr. Shamon noticed I was picking up many stones. He asked me, "What are you doing?" I answered, "I think I will make a rosary from these stones."

I had no idea what Our Lady had in store for the rosary She was inspiring me to make. It took six months to fashion by hand; every stone and link had to be carefully prepared. The drilling of the stones had to be submerged in water to keep them from breaking. Then the moment came to drill the first stone I had picked up on the hill as it reminded me of a human heart. It was to become the center stone or medallion, to bear the image of Our Lady's young face surrounded by 12 semi-precious diamond-like stones, forming Her crown, which represents the 12 tribes of Israel.

The heart-shaped stone, while being drilled, gave off the aroma of fresh roses. The fragrance overcame me to the point that I could not control my emotions. Breaking down into tears, it took almost an hour to drill the three openings through which the fine stainless-steel wire would be placed.

The crucifix also was inspired. I had taken home some thorn branches from the hill along with a much larger stone that I believed I could make into a cross. The thorns from the branches became the crown of thorns behind Our Lord's precious head. The three other smaller thorns became the nails by which Our Lord was nailed to the cross. It came out beautifully, and I sized it to the stone cross and it looked perfect. I decided to encase both the crucifix and the medallion in liquid glass. It took over 30 coats for each to complete.

On completion of the rosary, I decided to return to

Medjugorje to see if one of the visionaries would present it to Our Lady as a rosary that would travel the world in Her honor. The rosary was presented to Our Lady during an apparition to Vicka in 1994. Our Lady, I was told, approved my intention that this rosary would travel the world in Her name. Fr. Jozo blessed the rosary, and became very emotional upon doing so.

*"Its stones
are dear to your
servants"
(Psalm 102:15).*



Pilgrim Rosary

Upon returning home, I was asked to show the rosary at a Marian conference in Rochester, NY. It was at this conference, under unusual circumstances, that I was given the hand carved, 3' high statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje. This statue was carved in Italy by a family of carvers that kneel in veneration to Our Lady while carving. The statue has been with me for 14 years.

At that conference, a man approached the area where the rosary and statue were being viewed. His wife was in a wheelchair.

She sat motionless, a victim of MS. He told me she had not moved in years and that he would feed her and bathe her. I noticed he had been kneeling in front of the rosary while reading the story about it.

Getting up from his knees, he asked me, "Would you pray over my wife with your rosary?" I refused several times, telling him to go find a priest. He said "No, it's your rosary. Please pray for her." A woman standing next to me said, "Oh, come on, we will all pray for her." She grabbed my hand and placed it on the woman's head. I felt embarrassed, but silently prayed the "blessing" Our Lady revealed in Medjugorje, that we could pass on to another in Her name. At first I thought the man moved her chair, and upon opening my eyes, I watched her sit straight up in the chair and lift her arm to touch her husband's cheek with her little hand. He collapsed to his knees in tears with his head now on her lap.

Thus the Ministry had begun... By the end of 2011, 116,000 souls had been prayed over with this rosary!

Healings at St. Barbara's

By Richard Bingold

In the fall of 1994, I received a call from the Reverend Father Vince Malone, pastor of St. Barbara's Church in Winchester, Massachusetts. He had been approached by Maureen O'Connor, my friend in Reading, about my coming to give testimony and pray over his parishioners. Fr. Malone and I set a date. When I arrived a day early to prepare, I received a call from a woman who asked me to visit her nephew, Jamie, 27, who had been critically injured in an automobile accident and had been in a coma for the past seven months.

I asked my good friend, Bruce Ellavsky, an FBI agent, with whom I had visited Medjugorje, to go with me to the hospital. Jamie was lying on his bed on top of the sheets and his condition took us by surprise. Bruce and I exchanged questioning frowns of pain and concern: still in a coma, the young man was in a spastic state, shaking without stop.

I opened its case, and, holding it steady, placed the Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary across Jamie's body. In an instant, he slept as if he had been sleeping at peace all the while. Again, Bruce and I exchanged glances, but now with looks of surprise, relief and wonder. I said, "Let's pray," then I placed my hand on Jamie's forehead and prayed for a minute, not more than two. Seeing him so peaceful, we stood peacefully. Five or six minutes passed. Bruce and I exchanged a glance and prepared to depart. But just before we did, I placed a large picture of Our Lady above his bed.

The following night, some 300 attended the event at St. Barbara's Church. After my testimony, the main aisle filled with those who, one at a time, came forward to be prayed over.

Shortly after I began, a woman stood before me and said, "I am Jamie's mother." I was totally surprised. She told me that, though her son would require months of therapy, he had that very morning awakened from his coma. And then she lifted her head and looked me in the eye. "I have my son back," she said.

That simple statement would have made the service complete, but there was more to come – another four hours of stories of suffering and Our Lord's mysterious ways.

Immediately behind Jamie's mother stood two young women, sisters, suffering from bipolar disease, the modern name for manic depressive disorder. Both were on medication and both had husbands who were abusing them, one verbally and the other physically. They came up to me, arm in arm... "We don't want you to pray for us, but rather we ask you to pray for our girlfriend, Susan, who lives about an hour away, in Lenox, Massachusetts. Susan is dying of Leukemia. She was in remission and now she is told she has about two months to live." She was to have come with them, the sister told me, but it was too risky, for she was hemorrhaging. I was very moved by their unselfish request, and I proceeded to pray for Susan. In addition, I quietly prayed for these two generous women.

By the end of the service, which had taken some four hours,

the church was empty but for the two sisters, at that moment in the very first pew, heads bowed, praying before the statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje and the Pilgrim Rosary.

"They are in a bad way,"

Fr. Vince Malone said, "see if you can console them." I went forward and, standing near them, asked, "Have you ever asked Our Heavenly Father to remove this depression from you?" They looked up, their expressions saying in so many words, "Are you kidding?"

With that, I said, "Why don't we go ask Him!" One each side of me, I took them by their hands, led them toward the main altar, saying to them, "Kneel and pray to our Heavenly Father, and from the bottom of your hearts, beg Him to remove this depression from you, in whole or in part, whatever is His will for you."

I got up and went to pack up to leave. Fr. Vince came through the church at that moment, and seeing them in front of the tabernacle asked what they were doing. I said, "They are praying to Our Heavenly Father." Fr. Vince responded, "Oh! O.K." And we left them there, praying.

Some three months later, I received a call from one of the sisters. She said, "Richard, have I got a story to tell you. My sister and I have not had a moment of depression since that night. I am totally off my medication and my sister is on the mildest prescription. Our husbands are now behaving so well. We had the most joyous and peaceful Christmas you can imagine." I said, "Praise God!"

"But that's not why I called you," she said. "I want to tell you about Susan. We called her the next morning to relate the evening. Susan asked what time we had prayed for her. We told her about 7 p.m. Susan said that she had felt well at dinner and had got up to go to the bathroom to check her bleeding and found her bleeding had all dried up."... "Richard, since then, Susan has been to every doctor in Boston General Hospital and none can find a trace of the cancer."

As of this writing, August 15, 2010, Susan is still cancer-free. This event happened in the fall of 1994.

The events that took place at St. Barbara's Church were certainly very profound. This story reflects on the power of God to heal those who come to Him with humility and faith. We are weak souls that find it hard to trust (faith). Yet, time and time again, Our Lord shows us the way to Him. We question too much and trust too little. Yet through His mercy, He shows us how to come to Him. He draws us near so we may witness His Mercy.

Editor's note: If you would like to bring the Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary to your parish or conference, you can visit the CNY Marian Center site at www.cnymariancenter.com for more information.



Richard and his wife Monique with Vicka

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Devout Hindu Mother and Daughter Convert and Bring Their Family to Medjugorje

"We are all Hindus but Mary called us to discover Her Son, Jesus"

Jyoti Bahdresa, a devout Hindu woman, was invited by her Catholic sister-in-law to Medjugorje. They came with us in May, and Jyoti had a life-changing experience and brought her family back with her to the Youth Festival. They stayed with us at the visionary Marija's and we are delighted to share her incredible testimony.

"For 30 years I've known about Christianity through my sister-in-law, but I never considered it something for me. I had Hinduism, and I was a very devout Hindu. I had all my statues and images to the different gods and goddesses and did all my prayers always.

"I've even visited Catholic churches with my sister-in-law and attended Masses, but I never thought it necessary to change religions.

"My daughter at first called me crazy. Later she phoned me from Australia saying she had a strange dream and woke up to find her Sai Baba image snapped off her ring.

"My sister-in-law was telling me about Medjugorje. She told me the National Medjugorje Movement was giving a presentation about the Shrine and asked me to come along.

"They said they were going in May and my sister-in-law said to me, 'Let's go!' – and I said, 'OK!'

"My view was that all religions were just all different ways to pray and it didn't matter. When I came to Medjugorje, I was wearing Hindu rings and objects. For me I did not expect conversion, because I did not think it mattered. There were many gods and many religions as far as I understood.

"There was so much peace there, which was the first thing that hit me. I was hearing this story of the Blessed Mother wanting to show people the way to Her Son. On the third day, it was my birthday, and my sister-in-law gave me a blessed Crucifix. I was covered with so many of my own religious articles, but when I wore this Crucifix, I took off several of my objects and found myself beginning to search even more. I wanted to know more about what was happening at Medjugorje. So whilst I was there, I began to seriously investigate it.

"I was scared at first, and my whole family was against me, but I placed myself under Mary's protection. Now many of them are coming with me.

"I realized I was always searching. I wanted to hear what exactly was the precise message that the Blessed Virgin allegedly had to say. It was that there was one God and one faith, and the Church was the home. From there I began to thirst to learn everything about that faith and that Church. I cannot explain what happened, but it was a conversion of heart. There weren't many gods and many religions. There is one God and one true faith. I felt like I had found what I was searching for and had come home.

"The turning point for me was when I learned about Confession. I was wondering what everyone was queuing

up for. Then when I was told it was Confession I wanted to know what that was. In our faith, we have a different understanding of sin: karma. When I was being told about Confession and the forgiveness of sin (no karma!) I thought, 'How is this possible – how can you escape karma for your sins?' My sister-in-law explained everything – how Jesus died for our sins, so He has paid for them already, and because of this, I am freed from the debt through Confession. She told me to go to [a] priest and speak with him about my sins. I went before a priest, and as we were speaking about sin, I cried and cried and cried. I could not stop. It touched the core of my being and I felt God's forgiveness there in Medjugorje. And I believe in His forgiveness. Now I cannot wait to become Catholic, so I can make a full Confession and receive full absolution.

"My second daughter lives in Australia, but I always speak to her on Skype so I was telling her about my experience.

"Not only did I understand there is one God, and Mary is the Mother of Christ, but I also renounced all the previous gods and goddesses I worshipped.

"She said, 'Mum, what are you doing? You are going crazy. Whatever you do, you better not convert.'

"I didn't know if I was going to convert or not. That wasn't what I was thinking. Instead, I could recognize Mary's presence and She was showing me something. And everything I believed before became nothing to me.

"There was one last bracelet still on me – you must understand I was so devout [a] Hindu before and now I could not believe it that I actually tore it off. I felt like it was not right anymore.

"I was initially met by resistance from my family. However, I stayed strong, and I knew that what I was seeing and experiencing was true.

"I came back home and I have to say I was physically unable to kneel before my shrine with my statues. I had to set up my own, one with Jesus and our Blessed Mother. I began to pray to Them from my heart and call upon Them for help.

"I didn't even want to look at the photo of Sai Baba – I was scared. How was this possible? Before I was such a devout Hindu, now coming back from Medjugorje, I can't look at the images, and don't even want to get involved in it. There was something strange going on.

"All my life I was searching and in

Medjugorje it felt right.

"To my surprise, my same daughter contacted me a few days later and her tone was completely different this time.

"Mum, I need to tell you something – some strange things have happened. I had a dream that I got rid of all my Hindu statues, and when I woke up in real life, I found that



Jyoti and her daughter

*"...from all
your idols I will
cleanse you"
(Ez 36:25).*

Sai Baba's image had snapped and fallen off my ring. I now find it extremely uneasy praying or even looking at all the different statues of gods and goddesses. I got rid of them all, Mum. I've been reading about the Christian faith and I want to get baptized and become a Catholic.'

"I was shocked, hearing this was happening on the other side of the world in Australia, whilst I was here praying in Medjugorje. I wasn't even thinking too much about the practicalities of becoming a Catholic at this stage, although I felt the call and here was my daughter wanting to be baptized.

"And that was exactly what happened to me. I couldn't look at my shrine, so there was something strange about that. I said to my daughter, 'Are you sure, because this is a whole change of faith? This is serious. You can't just convert. You have to go to classes and be baptized.' I told her to go and read more about it.

"I felt like I had reached my home. My daughter didn't even come on either of the trips to Medjugorje, but just by my visit, Our Lady's grace has even touched her. She flew over this Autumn to England and we have been receiving regular catechesis of the Catholic faith.

"My sister-in-law invited me to return with her in a few months' time for the Youth Festival – I declined, telling her there would be no way I could, with my family.

"But later I suddenly felt the strange call to go. I thought, 'Why, when I had just already been?' I told my sister-in-law to book me in.

"I shared my experiences of how Medjugorje touched me with the rest of my family. Not everyone accepted what I said, which I completely understand. However, my nephew

kept wanting to hear more. He wanted to come to the Youth Festival, but didn't want to leave his family. We prayed about it, and the next thing we knew, his wife wanted to come with their baby and also his mother – my sister.

"I realized why Mary called me back so soon, because She wanted my family to come with me!

"I returned there two months later, with four more family members, all from the Hindu faith and all heading to Medjugorje. We were with a large group and had the most incredible week staying with the visionary Marija. Most of all we discovered Jesus in the Eucharist. Adoration was so beautiful.

"That week, I can only say the Blessed Mother brought us all to discover Her Son, Jesus.

"My daughter and I have officially renounced our previous beliefs, worshipping many gods and idols, and have joined RCIA to be baptized and become Catholics next Easter. My sister, nephew and his wife are also learning about Catholicism.

"Saying the Rosary every day and trying to live Our Lady's messages helps me cope with the struggles that I face on this journey.

"This is only a brief witness of so much grace we are experiencing through Medjugorje. If there is one thing I would ask from the people who may read this is please pray for us on this journey. I am sure people will understand why we need your prayers, and your prayers are greatly appreciated. Everything I have placed in Our Lady's protection and I know She will bring us safely to Her Son as She started this journey."

The National Medjugorje Movement (October 22, 2015)

Fatima Prayer for Fasting

When Our Lady appeared to the children of Fatima on July 13, 1917, She showed them a vision of hell and taught them this prayer, to be said when offering up personal sufferings, sacrifices, or acts of penance: *"O my Jesus, this is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."* This seems like an ideal prayer to pray on fast days (Wednesdays and Fridays), especially for those who might have trouble fasting.

"You Have No Idea the Lifeline That You Are"

The following is a "Holy Spirit Moment" taken from a homily in Medjugorje on 7/4/24 by Fr. Benedict Croell. "Holy Spirit Moments" is a feature that can be found on marytv.tv in their Video Library.

Especially powerful are the prayers of a mother or a father for their children. Our friars are chaplains of the largest hospitals in New York City, [Memorial] Sloan-Kettering [Cancer Center] and New York Presbyterian in New York City. And one of the priests, one of our priests, received a call. A young man who was covered with tattoos – he had lived kind of – like he's only in his 30s though – he's in Sloan Kettering – had a very, very

rough life, tough life. And our priest asked him, "Why did you call for a priest to come?" And his response was extraordinary. He said, "My mother has been praying the Rosary for me every day since the day I left the Catholic Church, and she died five years ago."

You have no idea the power of your prayers for those whom you love. You have no idea the lifeline that you are to those who have gone off the deep end and don't understand the gift of liberation, the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. Stay a part of their lives. Your prayers are powerful for them.

marytv.tv



Fr. Croell, photo credit marytv.tv

"Seek refuge in Mary because she is the city of refuge. We know that Moses set up three cities of refuge for anyone who inadvertently killed his neighbor. Now the Lord has established a refuge of mercy, Mary, even for those who deliberately commit evil. Mary provides shelter and strength for the sinner." ~ St. Anthony of Padua, our patron saint for 2025

As of April 25, 2025, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 40,437. Thank you.

The Spirit of Medjugorje
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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 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.

On September 19, 2024 the Vatican announced that the apparitions in Medjugorje received a nihil obstat.

If you want a prayer cloth we made, send a self-addressed stamped business size (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with \$1.01 postage on it. This offer is available while supplies last.



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