

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

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

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



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VOL. 33, NO. 10

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2020

## MONTHLY MESSAGE OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

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



*October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. On June 25, 1985, Our Lady said, "I invite you to call on everyone to pray the Rosary. With the Rosary you shall overcome all the adversities which satan is trying to inflict on the Catholic Church." And on August 8, 1985, "Dear children, put on the armor for battle and with the Rosary in your hand defeat him!" The picture above was taken in a chapel in Suchcice, Poland.*

"Dear children! I am with you for so long because God is great in His love and in my presence. I am calling you, little children: return to God and to prayer. May the measure of your [way of] living be love and do not forget, little children, that prayer and fasting work miracles in you and around you. May everything you do be for the glory of God, and then Heaven will fill your heart with joy and you will feel that God loves you and is sending me to save you and the earth on which you live. Thank you for having responded to my call."

# Which way do we go? There is only ONE Way!

By Fr. Ray Donohue



Today, I find myself in a little pain, as I dislocated a disk in my back. Years ago, I dislocated 3 disks and on top of my rheumatoid arthritis, it was very difficult, and I never experienced such pain. I was pastor, at that time, of three parishes and a jail. I prayed for strength to be able to do all my priestly duties and Graces, and God and Our Lady listened to my prayers. I was able to, very slowly and carefully, celebrate Holy

Mass and do my priestly Graces for the parishes. Some parishioners told me it was the devil trying to keep me away from doing what I loved more than anything in this world, and I had to remind them, the devil cannot keep me or anyone away from what we love and doing God's work and putting our Catholic love into action, only *we* can keep us from doing that! We have a power over evil!

The devil is pure evil. There is no good in him at all. He hates himself, he hates the other demons, he hates and there is no light or love in him. In hell, it is darkness and hate, the complete absence of love. They chose that! It is horrible; can you imagine an eternity of this?

I have heard many times from people that the devil made them sin. This is completely false! The devil cannot MAKE us do anything against our will. He will tempt us, ply us, and do everything in his power to trip us up, but he CANNOT make us sin. We sin! We sin of our own free will.

If you are old like me (☺), you may remember Flip Wilson, the comedian. He would dress up as a character named Geraldine, and every time something went wrong, she would say: "The devil made me do it!" I used to see T-shirts with this character on it, that read: "The devil made me do it."

But truth be known, *we* do it. Why? Why do we let the devil get to us? Why do WE do it? As I said, the devil tempts, but we have free will. We have Prayer. We have the Holy Sacraments, and we have the "Five Stones" Our Lady gave us against the "Goliaths" in our lives. The problem is, we don't use them, or we do not use them correctly! The devil is tricky, oh yes he is, but we have so much power over him that most of us either don't know about, or that we have forgotten.

Last week, I saw a post from a priest who posted on Facebook that: "Prayer, the Holy Rosary and the Sacraments are NOT weapons, as God does not use weapons and it would be heresy to say so." I reprimanded, in fraternal correction, this priest. These ARE indeed weapons! Remember, Jesus Himself made a whip out of cords and drove out the money changers and those abusing God's Holy Temple. Our Lady gives us the weapons against our Goliaths. These are the most powerful weapons. USE THESE WEAPONS! Our Mother would never have given them to us unless She knew they would work! Our Lady chooses Her words very carefully and lovingly to protect Her children. She is our Mother. She loves us, and to do what our Mother asks us to

do, is to show Her we love Her, too, and Her Son!

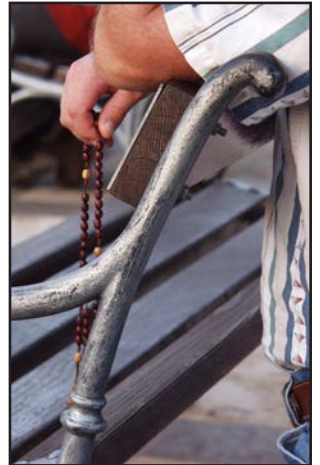
The Five Stones of Our Lady are the nourishment our soul needs, such as **praying** from our Heart and not just saying words – praying the Holy Rosary and meditating on the life of Jesus and Mary as we also pray gently, slowly, prayerfully the Hail Mary, the Our Father, the Glory Be and the Fatima prayer. Don't rattle off a Rosary like you are an auctioneer, as fast as you can, with no feeling or thought behind it. PRAY the Holy Rosary slowly, deliberately, and prayerfully! Meditate on the mysteries. Put your mind, soul and heart into all your prayers! If you wander, bring yourself back and focus again. God and Our Lady love it when we pray from our hearts!

**Fasting**, as I have said so many times, is a very high and holy prayer. Fasting is so holy; the devil runs away when we are fasting. Fast with your heart and soul. I have talked about that in previous articles. You have no idea how powerful fasting is! Jesus fasted constantly and was able to withstand the devil and his evil works, temptations of all sorts. Fasting brings us closer to God and gives us so much strength against the evil one!

Come to the **Holy Eucharist** as it truly is – coming to receive the precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. Come prayerfully up to the Holy Altar. Focus on Who you are receiving. I actually see people chewing gum as they come forward to receive Jesus, or talking to others on the way to the Altar, patting people on their backs as they go by this pew and that pew. This is NOT the time for that! FOCUS! You are about to receive the Greatest Gift in the Universe! You are about to receive the Lord Jesus – the very same Jesus, Son of God, Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity! Come humbly and lovingly, focused to receive the Lord Jesus in awe! You, the living Tabernacle of the Lord Himself! Go back to your pew and thank God. Prayerfully, open your heart to Him, and feel the joy and peace and Graces!

Read the **Holy Bible**, and if you have a Mass Missal or the *Magnificat*, look at the readings ahead of time of Holy Mass. If you don't understand a passage of Holy Scripture, either look it up on your computer or in books, or ask your priest after Holy Mass. Your priest will be more than happy to assist you! That is what the priest is there for! Speaking for all priests, we love to help you and assist you in all your needs at any time! We love you, and we are here to serve you; and in serving you, we are serving God!

Monthly **Confession** is a MUST! DO IT! Make the effort and clean your soul. I love going to monthly confession and receiving cleansing and strength. The devil can't stand a clean house; he loves it all stained with darkness and sin, but you have the power given to you by God in His Holy Church to clean your house at any time! I cannot tell you enough –



get to monthly Confession. No one is too good not to go to Confession. If you say you didn't do anything wrong, now you can go and confess that you have lied, for we are all sinners, but with Holy Confession, we receive countless Graces and indulgences and peace. We are cleansed and renewed! We are strong in Grace and can fight against the evil one. God loves this; we feel it, and the devil runs from us.

We are in the beautiful season of Autumn. The trees change colors, they shed their leaves, they prepare for another season. We, in the state of Grace are beautiful. We shed what we don't need and prepare for another season of our lives – to be good and holy and remind ourselves we belong to God. We are the most beautiful thing we can present to God! Do we want to give him a dirty soul and a body filled with sin? Cleanse the inside and the outside of the cup!

Holy Mother Church is a moral compass in our world. It shows us what is holy and what is evil. In a month, there are elections. Many are proven pro-life candidates and do all they can to protect ALL life: the babies in the womb of their mothers, the babies just about to be born, and the babies who are newly born. These are holy and come right from God, precious and beautiful, just like Jesus was in the womb of Mary and on His birthday.

Many candidates promise that they will make sure these babies in the womb will be murdered and their body parts sold. They state that even up to the birth and even after they are born, they will be horribly murdered. This is a moral issue. I hate politics. But I love God and His teachings, and I made a promise on my Ordination Day to do all I can to uphold Catholic teachings, which are Christ's Teaching! Our Lady told Mirjana, "Abortion is a great sin, for it is killing a human being." And in a talk given in Ireland in January of 2013, Ivan reinforced the dignity of all human life. He said the large number of abortions in the world gives the Virgin Mary tears in her eyes, and that She calls us to respect life from the moment of conception to natural death. Please pray and fast that people, especially Catholics, will vote for candidates who support life.

Also please pray and fast that people do not vote for candidates who promote socialism. I was in Medjugorje in the early years and saw what communism and socialism are

like. I talked to the young people there and saw and heard directly from them the turmoil and sadness. It is evil and the work of the devil. In the 1950s, Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, in his famous TV show, "Life is Worth Living," warned viewers of the dangers of communism. He said that communism, socialism, and other secular atheistic ideologies are a threat to Christian freedom and to the unalienable rights endowed by God – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that we must vigilantly defend our freedoms, particularly our freedom of religion. He said that it is not a political issue, but a moral issue.

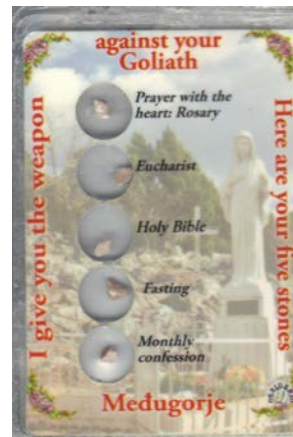
Stay in the state of Grace. Be responsible for your actions and those of your family. Teach them by your good and holy example. Crush Satan's head by your good works, by your charity, by your love and holy example.

Use the Five Stones our Mother gave us to use. She gave us these for a reason; they are needed now more than ever. Listen to our Mother, and act upon Her requests and wishes.

God bless you. I pray you have a blessed October, which is Respect Life Month. We honor Our Lady so much in October; may we all do our best to please Her by our actions, our love, and our hearts. May we all be converted in heart, mind, soul and spirit. May others see in us a strong moral compass to guide us in the correct direction by what we say and do, especially by what we do. We need to give example to the whole world of the Graces of God to those who follow Him through Mary.

I love you, and I want what is best for you always. I will suffer for you and if I had to, I would die for you. You are in all my daily prayers, all my daily Masses, and in my heart. God, deliver us from evil, now, and at the hour of our death! Amen.

In Jesus and Mary,  
~Father Ray, and my little beloved dog Dublin, and my reindeer Sleigh Belle



"5 stones card" from Medjugorje

## A Medjugorje Moment

By June Klins

Quite often there are newsletters left at the end of the month, and I am grateful for people who have volunteered to distribute them. At the end of August, I asked a lady who takes the newsletters to a Marian shrine by her home if it was all right to send her some. I thought maybe people were not taking them because of the virus.

Not long after, this lady answered in the affirmative. She wrote, "Yes you can!!! You have no idea. The day I took the last ones was a marvelous day. I have a health concern which has kept me from the Sacrament since Ash Wednesday. That day, I couldn't take the aching in my heart – virus or no virus. I made a split second decision to take the newsletters and went early for one of the best confessions ever! Then I lit a candle for Our Lady and went to Mass and received

Our Lord with all my heart. I then went to put the newsletters near the office. Just then Father saw me and welcomed me back. He asked me if I had received the Sacrament of the Sick. I said, "No." Then, he asked what I was waiting for. Next thing I knew, I was in Our Lady's Chapel receiving that wonderful Sacrament for the first time. I know Our Lady wanted me to get the newsletters there that day and showered me gifts beyond measure when I did. So yes, yes, yes!"

*Editor's note: If you are interested in distributing extra newsletters, please contact June at [jklins1981@verizon.net](mailto:jklins1981@verizon.net) with the number that you can distribute. If you signed up before the pandemic, please sign up again, as so many circumstances have changed. Thank you for having responded to the call!*

## How to Prepare for the Future

The following is excerpted with permission from the book *My Heart Will Triumph* by visionary, Mirjana Soldo.

When Lucia [dos Santos] announced that she had been given secrets [in Fatima], she probably faced the same kind of fearful speculation that we've had to endure all these years. But the Blessed Mother did not entrust me with secrets for the purpose of causing fear. When you come to know Heaven, you learn to accept the will of God with all your heart.

Why be afraid of what might happen tomorrow if we don't even know what will happen in an hour? The only thing we need to fear is sin, which distances us from God. Fear of the future, and fear of the secrets, wastes our limited time on Earth. Your future could end today. We should cherish life while it lasts.

So when Our Lady told us that Medjugorje would be the fulfillment of Fatima and that her heart would triumph, it was a message of hope, not gloom. She was reminding us that when we walk with her we have nothing to worry about. But even now, people often ask me how they should prepare for the time of the secrets. Should they stock their basements with food? Move to the countryside and live off the land? Buy a weapon to protect themselves?

I tell them, "Yes you should get a weapon, and you should use it often. I show them my rosary. This is the only weapon

you'll ever need. But it only works if you use it."

In one of her earliest messages, Our Lady told us, "Prayer and fasting can stop wars and change the laws of nature." She was not speaking figuratively; prayer is more effective at creating change than anything we can do alone. The rosary is an especially powerful prayer.

So should you prepare for the future? Yes. Prepare by making sure your soul is always ready to stand in front of God – not by building bunkers and stockpiling supplies. No one can live in this world forever. We should focus on what comes next. I have experienced Paradise, and I can attest that there's no place on Earth – no mountain range, tropical island or seventh wonder – that compares to what awaits those who choose light over darkness.

"God gave you free will to choose life or death," Our Lady said on March 18, 2003 during my annual apparition. "My children without God you can do nothing; do not forget this even for a moment."

Our Lady's message is clear: we are all destined for eternity, but our actions on Earth dictate what it will be like for us. Our Lady showed me just a hint of what awaits those who reject God's love, and even the little I know is enough for me to feel immense sadness for every wayward soul.



Photo of Mirjana in her book taken by my friend (now deceased)

## Our Lady's Pep Talk

The following reflection was written by Cathy Nolan of Mary TV for August 24, 2020.

As we look forward to a monthly message from Our Lady tomorrow, let's again prayerfully meditate on the message for July 25, 2020: "Dear children! In this peaceless time in which the devil is harvesting souls to draw them to himself, I am calling you to persevering prayer, so that in prayer you discover the God of love and hope. Little children, take the Cross in your hands. May it be your encouragement for love to always win, in a special way now when the Cross and faith are rejected. You be a reflection and an example with your lives that faith and hope are still alive, and a new world of peace is possible. I am with you and intercede for you before my Son, Jesus. Thank you for having responded to my call." (July 25, 2020)

This message is much like a coach's huddle on the sideline, when the game is a tough one, and the team is getting worn out.

First the coach recognizes that the opponent is making headway! Yes, the fight is hard, we are down a few points. (In this peaceless time in which the devil is harvesting souls to draw them to himself...)

What does the coach tell the team? Don't give up, not now!! Keep going, keep fighting!! Keep it up until you discover the way to win. ... (I am calling you to persevering prayer, so that in prayer you discover the God of love and hope.)

The team is hurting, they are tired and frustrated. So, what does coach say? Don't let the suffering discourage you! Don't

let the opponent take you down. Don't let it get to you! Now is not the time to give up!! (Little children, take the Cross in your hands. May it be your encouragement for love to always win, in a special way now when the Cross and faith are rejected.)

Finally the coach gives them their game plan! You be the team I have trained you to be, winners! (You be a reflection and an example with your lives that faith and hope are still alive, and a new world of peace is possible!!)

And as an added incentive the coach tells them she is with them to the end! And she has help from someone powerful on their behalf! (I am with you and intercede for you before my Son, Jesus.)

Go, team, Go!!! Don't give up now!! Win!!!

This is a huddle for all of us on Our Lady's team. She is giving us a pep talk. Don't give up! A new world of peace is possible!! Don't give up! I am with you! Don't give up! I intercede for you before my Son, Jesus. Don't give up! Take the Cross in your hands! May it be an encouragement for love to always win!! Don't give up! You be a reflection and an example with your lives that faith and hope are still alive! Thank you for having responded to my call!

We say "Yes" to our Heavenly Coach! She is a tough woman. There is no stopping Her. And She will get the job done. We should be very proud to be on Her team. This is going to end in a terrific triumph!! The Triumph of the Immaculate Heart!

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

# A Miracle of the Rosary

By Sr. Emmanuel

Donatella, a 45-year-old cook, had a difficult start in life. In Milan, both her parents were drug addicts, irresponsible, and unable to raise her. What she suffered in her childhood simply cannot be told. Saved by her grandmother who took her to the Abruzzo region (Italy), she began a normal life and got married. However, having no faith, she felt within her an emptiness that was all the more profound because her childhood wounds weighed upon her. She was always sad. She was missing something essential. In addition, she could not have any children and was unemployed.

She then began to visit soothsayers and witches, hoping to find meaning in her life. She saw her sadness increase until the day she decided to end her life. But the Lord sent her an angel in the person of her neighbor, who saw that she looked peculiar that day. She understood her distress and advised her to go and see a priest, a certain Don Michele, in whom she confided and to whom she confessed. He was part of the Renewal in the Spirit. He was able to understand her and prayed for her. This was the beginning of a beautiful journey with God. Donatella had to undergo exorcisms for several months to be completely free. She also discovered that a spell had been pronounced on her, and this curse was eliminated.

In 2010, after listening to a CD about Medjugorje, she decided to go there. For her, this was a bolt of light. She discovered in Mary the maternal tenderness she had never received; she met a real Mom who was full of love, took her under Her mantle and never left her. From that moment she felt the need to pray a great deal, especially the Rosary, of course together with the daily Mass and the sacraments. The Rosary prayer flowed in her heart all day, as if the Blessed Virgin wanted to restore within her the integrity of her wounded identity resulting from maternal absence during her childhood. Donatella decided to pray the four mysteries of the Rosary every day. Like all "survivors of Mercy", she did not skimp in glorifying heaven! One of the first miracles

was that, although medically sterile, she gave birth to two children. She was becoming increasingly happy.

But one day, an unexpected ordeal befell her. Her husband had left his mobile phone at home. As she glanced at it, she realized that her husband was cheating on her. She found some disturbing messages. This was a very cruel shock, for she had never suspected her husband. She immediately summoned her Mother from Heaven and, without losing her composure, decided to forgive him, before even confronting him. Paying no attention to her broken heart, she designed a plan of reconciliation inspired by the Mother of God: she called her husband, remained calm as if nothing were happening, and told him that they should go have dinner together that evening in a pizzeria. When they were seated at the table, she revealed her discovery to her husband, saying without bitterness that she forgave him and that they would start a new path together, without this other woman. She also went to see the mistress and said: "You have a family, two children, focus on your family and leave my husband alone! I forgive you, but don't do it again!"

This is how this affair ended in peace, with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary who took care of the case smoothly, without hatred and without crisis. A family was saved from the plan of destruction that the evil one had on it!

Donatella told us that if one day she is unable to pray her four Rosaries, she gets up at night to finish them. And yet she doesn't exactly have a lot of free time, with a husband, two children, a job as a cook in a restaurant, together with the house work! Her love for Mary is extraordinary; she never refuses Her anything. And what fruits she can harvest!

She concludes in saying: "Never doubt the merciful love of God; He is our Father and loves us with immense love. He is always ready to give us mercy and to draw us into His arms. True freedom is in Him!"

*Children of Medjugorje,*

*[www.childrenofmedjugorje.com](http://www.childrenofmedjugorje.com), January 2019 report*

## Baby Steps

By June Klins

A friend told me one time that she had recently had the stomach flu and was so miserable that she was not able to pray her Rosaries. That day she just happened to receive a Medjugorje Peace Chaplet in the mail as a gift. She said it could not have come at a better time, that it seemed like a gift from Heaven. Because it is much shorter than the Rosary, she prayed the Chaplet (the Creed and 7 sets of the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be). Then she added that after she prayed the Chaplet, she was given the grace to be able to pray three Rosaries! She was so grateful!

I reminded my friend that this is how Our Lady taught the visionaries to pray when She first appeared in 1981. She did not ask them to pray the Rosary at the beginning. She requested that the visionaries pray the Chaplet (although She did not call it that at the time). After a period of time, She asked them to pray one Rosary a day and then later, She requested that they pray three Rosaries. To this day, the Chaplet is still prayed every night in Medjugorje after the evening international Mass.

If anyone is having trouble praying the Rosary, start small. Pray the Chaplet until you feel ready to pray the Rosary. Baby steps... It works!



# When Miracles Produce MIRACLES

By Greg Miller

When “miracles” produce “MIRACLES”? What’s the difference between “miracles” and “MIRACLES”? Arguably, every miracle deserves ALL CAPS emphasis. Yet Scripture emphasizes miraculous signs in nature that *produce even more miraculous* interior conversions in observing souls. At Cana, for example, Jesus’ first miracle wasn’t just to change water into wine, but to change His disciples’ lives. Scripture says *as a result of this miracle* Jesus’ “disciples believed in Him” (John 2:11). A physical “miracle” produced a greater interior, spiritual “MIRACLE”. With that view, here are miracles from our family’s Medjugorje trip in 1990 that produced still greater MIRACLES thereafter.

**OUR SON’S MIRACLE:** What college student wants to celebrate his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on a pilgrimage with his parents? Not our son. As his parents, we required him to do so, praying that this trip and birthday would occasion new spiritual blessings for him. Thankfully, he was obedient if not pleased. Our first full day in Medjugorje was his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. It started with Mass (on a weekday) and his sarcastic groan: “WHAT A BIRTHDAY this will be!” Throughout Mass, I pleaded: “PLEASE, LORD, grant him a special birthday blessing!” Afterward, our family group (nine in total) began to pray the Rosary outside when someone cried, “Look!

The sun’s spinning!” (This miraculous phenomenon and others had reportedly been seen by many pilgrims in Medjugorje.) I and others in our family tried to look, but our eyes naturally kept closing. Providentially, ONLY OUR SON could stare at it without harm! Incredulous, he said, “Dad, certainly you can see it!” Nope. Here was his Special Birthday Blessing, a miraculous answer to our prayers! We all delighted as he described the miracle only he among us could see. His dreaded trip had become an unforgettable pilgrimage. His life was forever changed. Throughout college, he attended Mass faithfully. Later, as a married man and dad, he prominently displayed a Blessed Virgin statue in front of his home, and sent his children (at great expense) to Catholic schools. By God’s grace, that birthday miracle produced life-changing MIRACLES for our son and his family.

**MY FATHER-IN-LAW’S MIRACLE:** Just before we left home, my father-in-law (“Pops”) was diagnosed with incurable cancer. His Alzheimer’s had kept him from knowing and saying he needed help. On our second day in Medjugorje, we heard about and took Pops to a healing service there. Although skeptical about such things, we figured Pops and we had nothing to lose. When the “healing priest” (Fr. Peter Rookey) arrived, he began to pray over Pops and asked us to join him. As we prayed, amazing, observable signs and wonders began to happen ... *at least to us*. Uncontrollable weeping, laughing, shaking, all as we prayed over Pops with Fr. Rookey. When the service ended, we knew God had done something *for us*, but what about Pops? Of course, Pops with his Alzheimer’s couldn’t verify that he felt any different. Back home 2 weeks later, his doctors

declared Pops “cancer-free, a MIRACLE MAN”. Pops’ miraculous healing *impacted our entire family*. Moreover, his healing story was shared *with 1500 people at another healing service* led by Fr. Rookey near us in Ohio, bolstering their faith, impacting their lives.

**MY DAD’S MIRACLE:** Cynically, my Dad went to Medjugorje to protect Mom from “this obvious scam.” At every opportunity, he scrutinized every “visionary” for *any* flaws. As the week wore on, however, Dad’s cynicism seemingly wore out. Was he just tiring of being a doubting Thomas? No one knew. Finally, Mom confided that “your father asked me last night if I could see the lights streaming from atop Cross Mountain (a famous landmark in Medjugorje).” Mom saw nothing, and told him Cross Mountain (in 1990) had no lights on it. Dad mumbled to himself and that was it. At trip’s end, when we were alone at the airport, I asked Dad: “So, what do you think now (about Medjugorje)?” His reply stunned me. “Greg, I’m 63 years old, and *I’ve got to change*.” That was the most profound thing I ever heard my Dad say, and the most memorable moment we ever



Fr. Rookey

shared. He hadn’t just seen miraculous lights streaming toward him personally from Cross Mountain. He had finally “seen the Light” and received the call to change his ways, his life. By God’s grace, change he did. Dad only lived four more years, but he made the most of it. He became a daily communicant, a Legion of Mary member, a bold advocate of praying the rosary daily. Moments before his death in 1994, Dad apparently saw his own holy mother and sister (both long deceased) coming to greet him. He spoke to them aloud as though others could also see them. The lights from Cross Mountain had removed his shadowy doubts about believing in and following the calls to prayer, conversion, and holiness from Our Lady of Medjugorje. His MIRACLE was a blessing for us and so many souls touched by his dramatic conversion.

**WOE TO US, IF miracles DON’T produce MIRACLES:** We all want miracles, don’t we? But, do we want (and allow) miracles to measurably change our lives? If not, Jesus warns us about dire consequences: “*Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles performed in your midst had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they (unlike you) would have repented long ago...*” (Matthew 11:21). His message is clear: *Woe to us if miraculous signs don’t also produce lasting signs of repentance and change in our lives*. By God’s grace, our family saw “miracles” like the “spinning sun,” supernatural healings, and inexplicable lights. More importantly, those Medjugorje “miracles” also changed our hearts, our lives, and others’ lives. By God’s grace, my wife and I have been used by Our Lord and Our Lady in the years since that first pilgrimage to lead others to Christ through other trips to Medjugorje, very fruitful Bible studies (over 1000 students),

beginning Pro-Life ministries (saving hundreds of lives), and witnessing to our love of Our Lord and His Mother in many other ways. We can never repay Our Lord and Our Lady for all the miracles and MIRACLES we have seen and become. We offer this sharing of our family's "miracles-to-MIRACLES" stories as a partial THANK YOU to Them,

along with our profound commitment to live our lives daily in accord with Our Lady's messages hopefully on route to a holy life that edifies others, honors Our Mother Mary, and in all things glorifies Our Good and Gracious God.

*Editor's note: Greg lives in Euclid, OH.*

## The Second Half of the Hail Mary

*The following was excerpted, with permission, from the excellent book Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon by Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C.*

Until the 14th century, the rosary was prayed using the existing form of the Hail Mary: the combination of the Angelic Salutation [Lk 1:28] and the Evangelical Salutation [Lk 1:42]. This form of the Hail Mary contained an *implicit* prayer of petition, since it was an invocation to the mediating Mother of Jesus Christ. When the Black Death hit Europe, the Divine Craftsman inspired his people to formulate an *explicit* and urgent prayer of petition that he grafted onto the existing Hail Mary. By forging the intercessory prayer of his people into the flaming shaft of the sword, the Divine Craftsman gave the rosary the added bonus of being a prayer against death itself. After all, millions of people were dying. Everyone, at all levels of society, lived with the imminent fear of death. The Venerable Fulton J. Sheen articulated this point quite well:

"This [the second half of the Hail Mary] was not introduced until the latter part of the Middle Ages. Since it seizes upon the two decisive moments of life: 'now' and 'at the hour of our death,' it suggests the spontaneous outcry of people in a great calamity. The Black Death, which ravaged all Europe and wiped out one-third of its population, prompted the faithful to cry out to the Mother of Our Lord to protect them at a time when the present moment and death were almost one."

After the Black Death, the second half of the Hail Mary began to appear in the breviaries of religious communities, especially those of the Mercedarians, Camaldolese, and Franciscans. Its insertion into various breviaries also resulted in the full Hail Mary beginning to be used in the Dominican rosary. Like many things involving the rosary, however, it took a few centuries for this development to

become universal practice. It wasn't until the prayers of the rosary were officially codified by the Church in the 16th century that inclusion of the second half of the Hail Mary became the norm.

The people of the 14th century greatly needed the "hope-filled" dimension of the second half of the Hail Mary prayer. They not only needed to know that Mary would pray for them "at the hour of their death," but also that she would pray for them "now" in their current, dire situation. In

addition to the plague, the people found themselves in another challenging situation: the confusion of the Avignon Papacy. As if the Black Death were not enough, the politically motivated ordeal of the Avignon Papacy lasted from 1305–1377 and caused great anxiety, confusion and concern among the faithful. Even after the crisis ended in 1377, it was soon followed by the Hundred Years War between France and England. The people of the 14th century endured non-stop stress and anxiety. For those who had survived the Black Death and the many other anxieties of the first half of the century, the latter part of the century offered them a new crisis in the form of the Great Western Schism. At times there were as many as three different individuals claiming to be the true pope. Even various saints were at odds over

which pope was the real one, arguing with each other over the matter and defending the person they believed to be the authentic Vicar of Christ. This crisis began in 1378 and lasted until the early 15th century. The Great Western Schism was a theological nightmare, causing further division and confusion among the clergy and laity. In the medieval mind, there was no doubt that they needed Mary's intercession "now" and at the "hour of death."

*Editor's note: You can visit [www.shopmercy.org](http://www.shopmercy.org) or call 800-462-7426 to order this book or any of Fr. Calloway's other great books.*

Donald H. Calloway, MIC



The HISTORY and HEROES of a SPIRITUAL WEAPON

*Our thanks to Louise Lotze, Betsy Truran, Sue Taccone, Marge (Hummel) Burchard, Diane Niebauer, Marlene Figurski, Joan Peterson, Rose Heintzel, Peggy Smith, Barb Sirianni, Peggy Chludzinski, Kathy Luschini, Laura and Kevin Di Bacco, Darleen Wilkinson, Cindy Bielamin, Barb Cesare, Marge Spase, Chris Falk, Elaine Brady, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the September mailing. We thank Johannes Dittrich and Anna Karczemska for their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.*

### Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for October

#### The Laity's Mission in the Church:

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.



As of September 25, 2020, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 29,293. A subscriber recently mentioned that she read a published letter from Blessed Concepcion Cabrera De Armida to her son which read in one part, "Go to Communion often, have a great, great love for the Blessed Virgin, have a Mass said in Her honor every month." We thank all those who have responded to having Masses said for Our Lady's intentions, which honors Her greatly.

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## MARY IS CALLING YOU

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you want a prayer cloth we made to keep, send a self-addressed stamped business size (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with \$.70 postage on it.



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VOL. 33, NO. 10