

**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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## MONTHLY MESSAGE OF AUGUST 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.

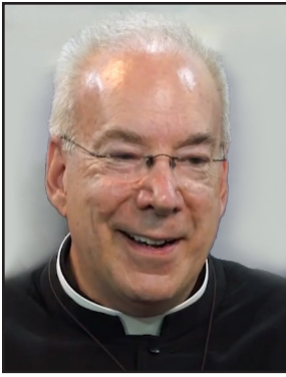


*September 14 is the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. We thought it would be a good time to share the following, courtesy of [www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv).*

“Dear children! With joy I am calling all of you, little children, who have responded to my call: be joy and peace. Witness with your lives Heaven, which I am bringing to you. It is time, little children, that you be a reflection of my love for all those who do not love and whose hearts hatred has conquered. Do not forget: I am with you and intercede for all of you before my Son Jesus, that He may give you His peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

### Did You Know?

The cement Cross on Krizevac weighs 16 tons. It was built in 1933 to commemorate the 1900th year of Christ's Passion. The parishioners carried up the materials to build the Cross by hand. The Cross contains a relic of the True Cross – gifted by Pope Pius XI. The Cross was completed on March 15, 1934. On August 30, 1984, Our Lady said that the Cross was in God's Plan. Today hundreds of thousands pray the Way of the Cross as they climb. Our Lady prays at the foot of the Cross every morning for us.



Fr. Ray

# Holiness and Virtues

By Fr. Ray Donohue

Our Lady tells us often: “My dear children, today I call you to holiness.” But what does “holiness” mean? What is our Beloved Blessed Mother asking us and calling us to do, or not to do?

I am sure I do not have to remind us what is going on in the entire world today. First, the

good news: God! God is everywhere. He is in this world, He is with us wherever we are – in our hearts, minds, souls, spirits, and actions. Now, the bad news: God sees the evil in this world everywhere, in our hearts, minds, souls, spirits, and actions.

I am reminded in my heart of the early days in Medjugorje, when the visionary told the people that Our Lady was present in a gathering, and the people there wanted to touch Her. Our Lady said: “Let them come forward, there will always be Judases.” As they came forward and touched where the visionary said Our Lady was standing, she began to cry, saying that the sins of the people made our Blessed Mother’s dress dirty and filthy with their sins!

How very sad! This is why Our Lady, our dear Mother, keeps asking us to go at least to monthly confession. Sin doesn’t just affect us, but it spreads like a filthy disease about us! The only vaccine for sin is to NOT sin! The only cure is Confession! Holy confession made from our hearts cleanses the soul and the very fiber of our being! It is a Sacrament, so God comes to us and remains in us.

A person wouldn’t invite someone they loved and cherished to a filthy house! No! They would clean it and make it look nice and welcoming. Why is it different with God? It isn’t any different. Jesus said: “Cleanse your hearts, you backsliders!” He meant it! He said that to shake us up and to convert and be clean and pure. This is the start of holiness. You know how it is when you have been working outside and get all sweaty and stinky and yucky!

You know how it feels to get in the shower with nice soap and water cleansing you and refreshing you and renewing you! This is Confession! Good for your soul, good for your body, good for everyone else! Go to Confession to get rid of all your sins, be contrite, mean it when you say you will do all in your power to avoid sin and all the near occasions of sin. If someone is causing you to sin, avoid that person. Make sure you do all you can to please God, not to please others first, but always God first! Mary always put God first! St. Joseph always put God first! WE must always put God first!

At Holy Mass, we need to do as our Mother asked us: To

Pray from our Hearts! Mass begins way before you leave for Church. It is your state of mind. Long to go to Holy Mass! Long to meet Jesus in your prayers, in the prayer of the Holy Mass! Put all the other thoughts aside and focus on Who you are coming to and Who is coming to you!

Don’t say: “I hope Father so-and-so isn’t going to say Mass today; he is so long-winded!” Or, “The church is so hot, I hope he skips the sermon today and makes this a quickie Mass.” Come to Holy Mass with your Heart! Come to meet Jesus – in the Holy Scriptures, in the hymns, in the reverence of the Holy Mass! We don’t need to be perfect; the Mass itself is perfect because the ONE Who IS Perfect is the One we are coming to see and be in HIS Holy Presence! The Mass is Holiness! It IS Emmanuel! God IS with us! We become One with God! Think of this!

We receive Him with reverence and awe. My Lord and my God! When you come to Holy Communion, come down the aisle reverently; don’t tap people on the shoulder; don’t talk. Come humbly and with reverence and awe; you are about to receive Jesus! YES! The actual Jesus Who lived on this earth, Who died for you and Who rose from death to Life for you! Focus! Focus on this. Make a very holy and loving Communion! Our Blessed Mother will be standing by Her Son, next to the priest, as you receive Him and become a living and holy Tabernacle yourself.

After you receive the Lord in Holy Communion, go back in silence, eyes lowered, and pray in thanksgiving to God for such a Grace! Such a Gift! Ask Him to stay with you forever and ever. Ask that you be in HIS Holy Presence forever and ever! Thank God over and over again. Ask for blessings for you and your family and the sick and the Holy Souls. Then, thank Him again!

This is Holiness!

Virtue comes from the Latin word VERITAS, or TRUTH. To be a virtuous person is to live the truth. There is no such thing as a “little white lie”. Oh, you can say that Miss Amy looks lovely instead of saying she looks like she is wearing a poorly fit potato sack with the potatoes still in it, but it IS a sin and untruthful

to make up a lie if someone, for instance, invites you to go somewhere and you simply do not want to go. A simple, “Thank you so much, but not today” will do. Little lies lead to bigger lies. “Oh, I just don’t feel like it today, thank you” is being honest. It is a truthful answer.

Virtue is doing the right thing, especially when it is hard to do. The Apostles did this after Jesus was Resurrected. They lived for Him, and all but one died for Him! They spoke of Him. Do you bring God into conversations with your friends and families? Do you ever have a conversation about God? I am not speaking about that Father Smith is always preaching money, or that the choir sounds like a



Confessionals on the right side of the church in Medjugorje

chorus of scorched cats, but about God. His love, what He has done for you and how you want to serve Him. Talk about God on occasions, about the Holy Catholic Faith with your family, with friends, and share the wealth of 2,000+ years of God's Graces. The world needs to hear this. The world needs to see your faith – in your face, your thoughts, and your actions!

When I was a young boy, I remember my mom and dad talking about priests and sisters they had throughout their lives, and how these men and women helped them in their lives. They told me about an old priest they knew in the parish they were married in (back in 1940), who was an old Irish priest with an alcohol problem. They never focused on that problem, but instead that he was always poor because he helped the people on the streets, bringing them into the rectory to feed them, taking them down to a store to clothe them, paying for doctor visits for them, and so many other things. He didn't drive, so he would get my father to drive him and these people to this place or that place, and my father saw the love and charity this lowly priest had. My mother would make him something to eat, and I remember her saying so many times he gave that food to the poor and hungry, and let me tell you something: my mom was the BEST cook ever! (But to this day I still can't stand liver!)

Holiness is about DOING! To be holy, we need to pray! To be holy, we need to do good works! To be holy, we need to ask God what to do and He will show us the many gifts He has given us so that we do good things with the good things He has given to us for others! God gave us ALL talents and gifts, and He expects nothing less than that we share what we have with others and allow them to share their gifts with us! To give is to receive! No matter how much we give, we will always receive back so much more than we gave!

“...as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct” (1Pt 1:15).

Remember the message from our dear Mother this past June: “Dear Children! My Heart is joyful because through these years I see your love and openness to my call. Today I am calling ALL of you: pray with me for peace and freedom, because satan is strong and by his deception, wants to



Autumn in Medjugorje

lead away all the more hearts from my motherly heart. That is why decide for God so that it may be good for you on the earth which God gave you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

To see our “love and openness” is to act, in holy prayer and in our actions, and our dear Mother from Heaven sees us responding and making a difference. Where there is love and charity, the devil cannot exist! To show virtues of kindness, holiness, truth, honesty, helpfulness, joyfulness, we extinguish the power of evil, and bring forth the Glory of God in innocent, holy love!

We are now in September! How fast time goes by! A new season is here – that of the beauty of Autumn.

We are also in different seasons in our lives. We are now in the season to really put into practice all our Heavenly Mother has asked of us these past 40 years of Her Presence. Pure love in action. Joyful charity in action. Holy prayer from our hearts in action. Respect and kindness and honesty in action. Humility and monthly confessions, and receiving Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist, being reverent and respectful and completely open to God in the Holy Masses we attend in action! Fighters against all evil, and promoters of all that is Good and Holy! We are the Holy Church on earth. We need to be clean, wholesome, generous, loving, truthful, and glowing in the Love of God and our dear Blessed Mother, Mary!

Love God with all your heart and being! Don't just read the messages of Our Lady, LIVE THEM, by putting them daily into action.

If we fall, get back up, receive Grace we need through the Sacraments and the Holy Catholic Church, and keep moving forward and never look back.

God bless you, one and all. You are always in my prayers. Please know that! Feel them! And pray for your priests and holy religious. Stand firm in your Catholic faith. Pray, Fast and be Converted, as our dear Mother asks us to do, and gives the grace abundantly so we can do just that!

Enjoy the beauty and colors of Fall, God's creation in such splendor! The very Hand of God is upon you, so never be afraid to do and say what is right!

In Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph,

~Father Ray and his colorful little pal, Dublin ☺

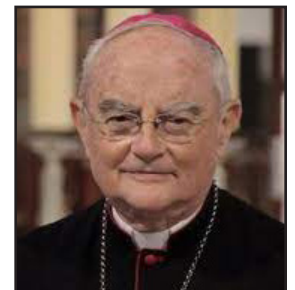
## Youth Festival 2021

Totally Yours Pilgrimages reports: The Youth Fest in Medjugorje [August 1-6] was awesome! 50,000 youths from 80 countries were excited about God. 350 priests concelebrated the Mass. Cardinal Robert Sarah and several bishops came. Pope Francis wrote a nice letter to the Youth, “Follow Christ with courage and joy”. To read it visit [www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-08/pope-to-youth-in-medjugorje-follow-christ-with-courage-and-joy.html](http://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2021-08/pope-to-youth-in-medjugorje-follow-christ-with-courage-and-joy.html)

## Let us Pray for Him and with Him

By Sr. Emmanuel

A great friend of Medjugorje has left us. On August 13th, at the Hospital of the Ministry of the Interior in Warsaw, the Apostolic Visitor for the parish of Medjugorje, Bishop Henryk Hoser, departed for the Father's House, at the age of 78. He had been unwell for several months. Let us pray for him and with him! What he did not have time to complete for the pastoral care of Medjugorje, he will certainly finish in another way, in direct communion with the Queen of Peace whom he loved so much and whom he served with all his heart! His funeral will take [took] place on Friday, August 20. <https://www.vaticannews.va/fr/eglise/news/2021-08/decès-mgr-hoser-pologne-medjugorje.html>



Archbishop Hoser

Children of Medjugorje, [sremmanuel.org](http://sremmanuel.org), August 2021 report

# Korea and Medjugorje, A Special Connection

By Luellen Hoffman

In 1981, during the first days of the apparitions, on the second day, June 25, 1981, Our Lady appeared on Apparition Hill and the visionaries asked Our Lady if She could leave a sign here – a sign to show everyone She was really present there. She promised to leave a sign when the time comes. She said that She would leave a permanent, an indestructible sign when the time comes.

The visionaries asked Mary if they could mark that place, where She first appeared to them. They piled up rocks and put a cross on top to mark the place where Our Lady appeared.

In St. James Parish, the priest, Father Slavko Barbaric, wanted to mark this place in a special way for the 20-year anniversary of the apparitions in June 2001. He wanted to put a statue of Our Lady in that place, and the year before, in 2000, he ordered a marble statue from Italy to be placed there. But God had other plans, and Father Slavko died suddenly from a heart attack on November 24, 2000, on Cross Mountain. After he died, everyone in the parish forgot he had ordered the statue. In the meantime, there was a person from the United States who purchased the Italian sculpture that Father Slavko had ordered, and no one in Medjugorje saw it or knows where it is.

Then something extraordinary took place! A Korean couple who was childless had a baby and visited Medjugorje in 2001 because the child was sick. The wife was a devout woman with a deep faith, and she prayed a lot. Her husband was a Buddhist, but really a non-believer, who did not think that God even existed, and he only went on the pilgrimage to Medjugorje because of his wife and their only child, a son who was very sick since birth.

They were a wealthy family and they had sought out all the best doctors to help their son, but kept getting the same response, that medicine could help control it but not cure the boy. The child was deaf and mute and epileptic and had many other illnesses. The sickness made the father angry and caused him to reject everything about God because he could not understand how a God who loved us would let children get sick and suffer.

The father accepted the diagnoses from the doctors, but the mother never gave up hope and she prayed all the harder, asking Our Lady, asking Our Lord to heal her son.

On this first pilgrimage to Medjugorje, they had originally planned to stay for 15 days, but as their tour group was leaving, the mother waved them goodbye, and stayed for another two weeks, to pray more for her son's healing. The boy's father hated being in Medjugorje every single day of the trip, and he would mock his wife saying, "See, I told you nothing would happen, and you are wasting your time, and look at your Catholic God – He is not powerful!" On the last day, the wife left her son in their room with a caretaker and started to climb Cross Mountain alone, praying the Stations of the Cross.

At the Fourth Station, Jesus meets His Mother, she prayed and cried and was trying to find an answer as to why this was happening to them. She said for the first time she really felt that Mary was her Mother. She said to Mary, "Blessed Mother, if it is God's will for my son to suffer and carry his cross of sickness, I accept it and will help him to carry it just as



*The 4<sup>th</sup> Station of the Cross*

You did with Your son."

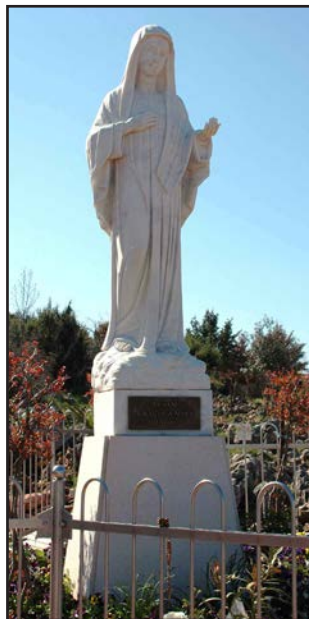
She went all the way up Cross Mountain and at the Twelfth Station, she saw where Jesus died on the Cross and His Mother is right there embracing Him on the Cross. The Korean mother knew then what she must do. She needed to follow Our Lady and embrace the Cross and offer it up to God for His glory. "Yes, my son is sick," she said, "but I have to help him to carry his cross." Feeling at peace, she returned to their room and found that her son was totally healed. Her heart was healed, too. The visionary Jakov tells us, "To ask for healing, we need to first pray for healing of the heart, and if it is God's will, then the physical healing will happen."

The husband was so amazed by this miracle that he converted to the Catholic faith. The couple spread the devotion to Our Lady Queen of Peace throughout Korea, and they donated the statue on top of Apparition Hill to show their gratitude for their son's healing.

Now the statue was large and heavy and the logistics to get it up the rocky path to the spot located on Apparition Hill (where Our Lady first appeared) wasn't easy. At first a helicopter had been rented by the Korean couple to pick the statue up and then hover above the place and lower it on the location, but the weather was too bad that day and the helicopter could not fly. Now they seemed stuck with an impossible challenge of moving the statue up the hill.

Now the men in the Cenacolo Community in Medjugorje know there is nothing impossible with God, and they stepped up and made a makeshift scaffold and, along with the men in the village, carried the marble statue up the rocky hill on their shoulders and carefully put it in place.

We know this statue is a place where Our Lady said She would leave a permanent sign, but many do not know the story about the statue and its amazing connection with



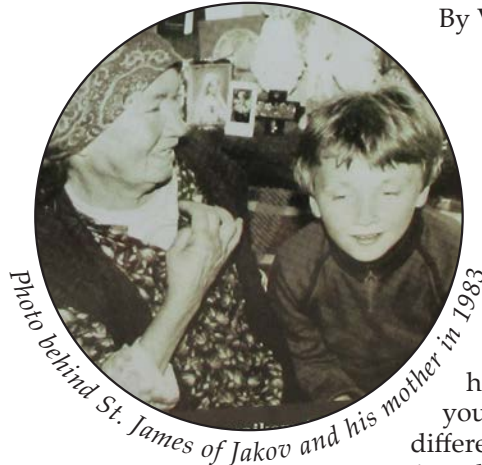
*Statue on Apparition Hill*

Korea. The world has been praying for peace between North and South Korea and clearly, through divine intervention, there has been clear progress and prayer to create this pathway to peace between the two countries. We see now that Our Lady Queen of Peace has been part of this process for the past 17 years and, according to these two stories, miracles do happen.

*Editor's note: Luellen originally wrote this for "Medjugorje Magazine" in 2018, and then sent it to us to use. In April of 2018, North and South Korea signed the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula, and a majority of South Koreans approved the new relationship.*

## The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By Veronica Raymonda (Founder of *Friends of Mary's Hands*)



It was such an amazing honor to be in Medjugorje for the 40th anniversary of our Blessed Mary's first visitation. I could never adequately convey the depth of my feelings and the immense gratitude that I could see firsthand all of the work Jakov has done and how much your donations have made a difference. I thank you for your continued support, and I am so

you couldn't say we believed, but we weren't afraid and we accepted everything with joy because we knew God and Our Lady were watching over us. We were one, and full of that power and love of God. We were ready to give our lives for Our Lady and even today, as when I was 10, I am personally ready to say: 'Now that I have seen Our Lady, I am ready to die.'

"How can I thank God for everything? For the gift that I had the grace to see with my own eyes the most beautiful woman and recognize a Mother in Her, to make my heart feel love for that Mother and to feel loved like any child who a mother loves, and loves immensely.

"Thank You, Mary, for being my Mother, and God, my Father, through my childhood when I was left without my parents, and for feeling at all times Your presence and the love.

"You, Mary, wiped my tears in my most difficult moments and comforted me, showing that I was not alone, and my heart felt that I had You as a Mother and God as Father and that You were always with me and that my words of crying for help were not needed because who knows better my life and what is best for me?! I can only say, 'Jesus, think of me,' and let my life be according to Your will.

"Jesus, You know that I am only a man and a sinner, so please, Jesus, forgive me for all my failings and all my failures in life. I know that whoever is given a lot is asked to do more and has a great responsibility. I am aware that I have not always responded to that responsibility, and I have not always been a good example, but, Lord, Your mercy is stronger than anything, and please grant me grace so that at all times I can witness through my life all those gifts You have given me, and that everyone through me can recognize Your presence in my life."

*Editor's note: If you are interested in donating to Jakov's charity, Mary's Hands, visit [friendsofmaryshands.org](http://friendsofmaryshands.org). You can read more about Jakov's charity in our January and February 2021 issues, which are available on our website.*

"I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart; I will declare all your wondrous deeds" (Ps 9:1).

grateful for Jakov in sharing his thoughts on the occasion.

I look forward to sharing with you...all of the good work that has been done. For now, though, let's just bask in the wonder that is Mary.

### Jakov's Thoughts on this Beautiful 40th Anniversary

In his own words, Jakov speaks from his heart and soul on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance.

"Forty years where the sky embraces Medjugorje and the whole world across Medjugorje. We are all so happy on this anniversary and wonder, 'Will anything special happen? Will some miracle happen?' And I wonder what more needs to happen after all these years where Jesus has been showing us His immeasurable love by sending us His Mother to be our Mother.

"Through Her and Her messages, we realize that God loves us immensely. Your very words, Mary, when You called us 'dear children' and when You told us how much You loved us, made us cry with joy. The very thought of those words shows us how much You love us and care for each one of Your children. And Mary, we have to ask ourselves, 'Did we really cry with joy and accept You as our Mother?' We all talk with so much joy about this anniversary, but I firmly believe that we should talk with that same joy and witness its arrival as we did from Her first arrival here.

"I remember the very beginnings, with how much joy we welcomed Her arrival as a gift from God. I remember making a path on stone and thorns barefoot to come to the Apparition Hill to be closer to the Heavenly Mother. I remember our village walking on foot to our church, praying and singing to come before Jesus. I also remember a time we lived in that was hard, and where

**Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for September: An Environmentally Sustainable Lifestyle** – We pray that we all will make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.



As of August 25, 2021, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 36,740. Thank you.

# Sorrowful Mother

By Cathy Nolan

*I want to share with you the transcript of Fr. Leon Pereira's homily given on September 15, 2020 in Medjugorje, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. I can't resist!! It is such a good homily! And our shipmate, Stephanie, transcribed it for us! So, even though it is long, I think reading it will be very helpful. Thank you, Fr. Leon! Thank you, Stephanie!*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

When I was going through a particularly bad period of my life back in London, one of the things I used to do was... one of the good things I used to do was to go round The National Gallery – because it's free, and also because I know very little about art, and arty things, and music, and all that; and I thought I should learn a bit more. And there's a painting there which really captivated me. It's by Giovanni Bellini and it's called "Madonna of the Meadow".

Now, Bellini had a lot of practice painting Our Lady. And this is a particularly fine example – so we're told on the blurb below the painting; a fine example of his work. In the foreground is Our Lady adoring the Infant Christ who is asleep in Her lap. And around them there's cattle and humans resting from the heat of the day. Beyond them, there's a walled city on a hilltop gleaming in the sunlight, and the trees sprout vertically, calm against a pale blue sky. And it looks simply like a beautiful day in the meadows – a summer's day.

But there's more hidden in the painting. Near Our Lady, there's a clump of bare trees, their limbs forking out in the shape of a cross. And on one of them, a vulture is perched – a symbol of death. And at the base of that tree, a pelican. Now the pelican is fighting a snake. Remember, the pelican is an image of Jesus. You know, the ancients believed that the pelican fed its own blood to its offspring. So, pelican naturally became an image of Jesus, Who gives His own blood to us to drink. So, this pelican fights a snake; so, it's Christ fighting satan and death.

But, closer in the foreground, it's even more unsettling. Our Lady's eyes are downcast, not in adoration, but because She's weeping. And the child on Her lap is not sleeping, but He's dead. This is like an infant Pietà – you know that famous sculpture in Saint Peter's – Our Lady holding the dead body of Jesus, clutching the cold corpse – but here it's portrayed as though it's the Baby Jesus that's dead and She's holding Him like this, and weeping.

Now this juxtaposition of happiness and sorrow – it's a beautiful summer's day, and all these wonderful things going on in the background; an infant child with a dead man. This juxtaposition may strike us as odd, but it is in the Bible. When Mary and Joseph present the Infant Christ in the temple, Simeon prophesies both good and bad things about this child. And he adds cryptically to Mary, "A sword shall pierce Your own soul, too." Mary's life, in other words, will

be sometimes happy and sometimes sad; which is the sort of life that all of us have. But Her life is caught up intimately with Christ's. Her life will ultimately be glorious and glorified. In other words, Mary's life is like the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious.

In his letter on the Rosary, St. John Paul II said, "The Rosary is meditating on the Face of Christ through the Eyes of Mary." And he encouraged us all to pray the Rosary for peace and to safeguard families. He encouraged families to pray this Rosary, and for all of us to spread this devotion. To help meditate on the Life of Christ, he even introduced five new mysteries: the Luminous Mysteries that focus on events in Christ's ministry.

Now, when we pray the Rosary, we begin to grasp the mysteries of our faith. It is in the Fourth Joyful Mystery that we hear the Gospel that we heard today, where Simeon tells Our Lady, "A sword will pierce Your own soul, too." And then, in the Second Luminous Mystery – the Wedding Feast at Cana – when the Mother of Jesus tells Him that the wine has run out, Jesus says, "Woman, what is that to You and to Me? My hour has not yet come." The hour which has not yet come is the hour when the Lord will be glorified by the Father; that is, when He is lifted up on the Cross dying in agony – when He will draw all things to Himself.

So, at Cana, Mary is the cause – the occasion – of Jesus' first sign – His first miracle. The signs of the Kingdom break through because of Her. But because of this, She also knows that She is sending him to his "hour." In other words, at Cana, Jesus is saying, "Do You consent to My hour? Are You sending Me to die? Are You saying You will stand at the foot of My Cross and watch Me die, and have a sword pierce Your own soul as well?"

Remember what I said yesterday, "There is no Christ without the Cross. There is no Kingdom, there is no Heaven, without the Cross; except through the Cross." And it's on Calvary that this "hour" is finally fulfilled. And we pondered this in the Fifth Sorrowful Mystery. Here, Jesus and Mary are associated with each other, just as They were at Cana. As the Second Vatican Council put it; it says that, "Mary faithfully persevered in Her union with Her Son unto the Cross, where in keeping with the Divine Plan, She stood enduring with Her only begotten the intensity of His suffering."

There are few griefs in this world greater than a mother's grief. And few griefs greater than the grief of the Mother of God. Mary stands at the foot of the cross, and just as Moses struck the rock in the desert and out flowed water for all the people of Israel, Christ is struck in death with a lance, and from His side flows out water and blood. And in this moment, Simeon's prophecy is fulfilled, "A sword will pierce Your own soul, too, just as Your Son shall be pierced."

The story doesn't end here though. It is not yet finished.



"Madonna of the Meadow"

This is a spoiler alert. Spoilers! We are caught up in this “mystery,” because the Rosary is not completed. The Fifth Glorious Mystery, the full title of the Fifth Glorious Mystery in the Dominican Tradition – and we all know the Dominican Tradition is the right one [jesting] – is, “The Coronation of Our Lady in Heaven and the Glory of All the Saints.”

The reason for this is... actually, in the Middle Ages, the Coronation was the Fourth Glorious Mystery. We used to pray The Assumption and Coronation of Our Lady as the Fourth. And the Fifth one was The Glory of All the Saints, Judgment Day – that was the Fifth Glorious Mystery.

But now that Our Lady’s Coronation is moved to the Fifth, it is still associated with this idea of Judgment Day and The Glory of All the Saints. Sometimes you’ll see in books people say, “Oh, it’s The Glory of All the Saints that Mary is crowned in Heaven.” That is true. But that glory is not complete until all of us here are in Heaven. In other words, when we pray the Fifth Glorious Mystery, that’s the mystery that all of us are caught up in now. We are all living the Fifth Glorious Mystery, right now. From now until you die – this is the Fifth Glorious Mystery for every single one of us here.

So, the Holy Father, St. John Paul, reminded us that the Rosary accompanies us in moments of joy and in moments of difficulty. So, when we meditate on these mysteries – there’s no simpler way than the Rosary – we come to imbibe, assimilate these mysteries into our own lives. We are caught up in the mysteries of Christ’s life and of Mary’s life. With Him, we have died and risen again, through Baptism. And we look in hope for His Second Coming. Our lives, like the lives of Jesus and Mary, they’re sometimes happy, sometimes sad, sometimes terribly sad. But ultimately, glorious. They are sometimes also luminous, especially on Thursdays! Okay. But because we are caught up in the Rosary; the Rosary is our life.

It is a mystery and a wonder that Our Lady gave the Rosary to St. Dominic a little over 800 years ago. Such a



beautiful and simple way for us to match our lives to Jesus and Mary; to know that we are never alone. This is a great, great consolation.

I often think about that Korean woman [see story on page 3] – you know, whose husband paid for the statues of Our Lady: the one on Apparition Hill and the one in the front of the church – and how she was agonizing because of her child who was dying. And when she went up Cross Mountain and she saw – well, this is not a Mystery of the Rosary; well, it’s part of the Mystery of the Rosary – she saw one of the Stations, the Station where Jesus meets His agonizing Mother. You know, basically the sequence that you heard today: The Stabat Mater. At the

cross, Her station keeping. When the Mother and the Child meet, and they are unable to even embrace because He’s so covered in wounds, that She would hurt Him and all His wounds would bleed again. She can’t even touch Him.

Remember the Stations of the Cross, the Meditations of St. Alphonsus Liguori? You all know – the older ones among you – you all know it by heart. Remember?

“I love Thee, Jesus, My love above all things. I repent with my whole heart for ever having offended Thee. Never permit me to separate myself from Thee again! And grant that I may love Thee always, and then, do with me what Thou wilt.”

Okay. Thank you for proving your age. You’re as old as I am at least. But, remember what it says for that mystery: Two souls kiss, that is all. They can’t even touch because of that agony.

Today, on this memorial day of Our Lady of Sorrows, this is what we are looking at: The Agony of Jesus and Mary, and Mary not even being able to touch Her Child. This is not telling us, “Look, you know, your own sorrows are nothing in comparison.” But it is saying our own sorrows are caught up in this sorrow; and through this, our own sorrows also have their healing.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

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## Prayer to the Majestic Queen of Heaven

Majestic Queen of Heaven and Mistress of the Angels, thou didst receive from God the power and commission to crush the head of Satan; wherefore we humbly beseech thee, send forth the legions of heaven, that, under thy command, they may seek out all evil spirits, engage them everywhere in battle, curb their insolence, and hurl them back into the pit

of hell. “Who is like unto God?” O good and tender Mother, thou shalt ever be our hope and the object of our love. O Mother of God, send forth the holy Angels to defend me and drive far from me the cruel foe. Holy Angels and Archangels, defend us and keep us.

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*The last words penned by the hand of Thérèse of Lisieux (our patron saint for 2021) were: “O Mary, were I Queen of Heaven, and wert thou Thérèse, I should wish to be Thérèse, that I might see thee Queen of Heaven!”*

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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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