

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, 2022

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. Pictured above is the Cross on Mt. Krizevac. You can read about the history of this Cross on pages 6 and 7. "I wish to tell you that the Cross should be central these days. Pray especially before the Cross from which great graces are coming." (Our Lady 9/12/85)

“Dear children! God permits me to be with you and to lead you on the way of peace, so that through personal peace, you build peace in the world. I am with you and intercede for you before my Son Jesus, that He may give you a strong faith and hope in a better future, which I desire to build up with you. You be courageous and do not be afraid, because God is with you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”



Fr. Ray

How Can We Use a New Season?

By Fr. Ray Donohue

Well, Autumn, aka "Fall", is right on our doorsteps! Many of my trees are already turning colors and dropping leaves everywhere. The nights get a little cooler for sleeping, and the sun sets a lot earlier now.

Our Holy Catholic Faith will be celebrating our dear Blessed Mother's birthday this month. We want to make it special for Her, so

what can we give the Blessed Mother for Her birthday?

All around us we see change, and change can be very good.

People change their diets to eat healthier food, and they change their habits to get more exercise, to live better, healthier and happier lives. We not only need to change the outside, but especially we need to change the inside of ourselves!

Saint Paul reminds us to "Let the Word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In Wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns, and inspired songs." We can do this! By opening ourselves up to God, He will show us how and what we could and should be doing! It all starts by asking God in prayer and by opening ourselves up to God and God alone!

I think Saint John sums it all up perfectly when he tells us: "I ask you, how can God's love survive in one who has enough of this world's goods, yet closes his heart to his brother when he sees him in need? Little children, let us Love in Deed and in Truth, and not merely talk about it!"

We may not have everything, but we have enough to share – to share our faith with others, to share the Truth of God's love, to share not only in the beauty of the world God created us, but to act to keep it clean and wholesome and healthy! Parents and grandparents, don't let your children watch obscene things on the TV, or their cell phones, (which are loaded with liberal evils and perverted "values" of the 21st century)!

I have said before, that poor Walt Disney has rolled over in his grave so many times, he has to be in Buffalo, NY by now! He had purity and innocence in his cartoons and programs and theme park. It was built with family and wholesomeness in mind. But today as corporations take over to make money, morality is out the window, and immorality prevails. Today they promote men becoming women, women becoming men, people becoming "things", neither a man nor a woman, but a mix-up of whatever God created in HIS image, they now make abominations and take God's Holy Creation to create a "non-human being" into some kind of monster that is supposed to be both man and woman, or neither, or the other! They attack our young to make monsters out of them. Deuteronomy tells us: "This command which I enjoin on

you today is not too mysterious and remote for you. No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out."

What this is saying is GOD created life, ALL LIFE! Jesus made it clear to LOVE one another, but for humans to change a man into a so-called woman or vice versa is to distort God's plan, to make ourselves God. To turn the other cheek and say: "That is not my problem; I don't want to get involved," is in direct opposition to St. John, as he tells us, "Little Children, let us love in DEED and in TRUTH and not merely talk about it!" To love is to keep God's commandments! If God created them, male and female, then they are male and female! God does NOT make mistakes! We are what God created us to be.



Fall in Medjugorje

The world is in a new season, but not a good one! It is in the season of evil. It is a season to corrupt the world, the young people, to mess with their minds, bodies and souls. Our Blessed Mother has been warning us about this sinfulness for many years, begging us to turn to GOD and not the world. What we are is God's gift to us, and what we make of ourselves is our Gift to God! God doesn't want tattoos all over faces, arms, legs, and every inch of our young people's bodies so that they walk around looking like the Sunday funny papers! God wants innocence, wholesomeness, generosity with our time and talents, and holy prayer. Our Blessed Mother is a Mother who wants the best for Her children, as any good

mother would want, and to see evil as evil is, and to run away from the evil, and to run to God and our Mother who will direct us, protect us, and guide us all in prayer and the Holy Sacraments!

As Catholics, we ask God to help us in every decision we have to make. If we do not include God, we can be tempted or even obsessed to make the wrong choices in life.

There is a beautiful little 9-month-old baby in the hospital here, named "Zora"; it is a Croatian name from her grandmother. This little baby couldn't breathe and was turning blue, and coughing up so much as her lungs were filled with fluids. I went up to the hospital yesterday to see her and pray over her, and to anoint her. I found out she was not baptized yet, and the parents wanted her to be, so I baptized this little angel of a human being right there, so beautiful and innocent, with IV's sticking out of her little arm. She was in a little "iron lung" to assist her breathing, and had oxygen in her nose, and yet she held my finger and smiled, and my heart just flowed with love and compassion for her, her parents, and all involved. I have prayed so many prayers, Holy Rosaries, Holy Masses, and I ask everyone to pray for Zora! Later, in the evening, I went to a Catholic nursing home near my cabin. A group of us went, and we

prayed the Holy Rosary with many of the residents, outside near the Blessed Mother statue, in a beautiful grotto with a waterfall and flowers. To talk with each of them before and after the Holy Rosary and to pray with them was so powerful and holy! Earlier last month, I anointed a lovely lady in her home with her family, prayed and laughed and talked with her as she prepared to meet the Lord, and just a few days ago, I did her funeral with all the wonderful family surrounding her. If you read last month's article, you know I was not able to do any of this for the whole past year! God and Our Lady have been making this up to me by these beautiful, prayerful and holy events, and bestowing countless blessings on everyone!

Why? Because each day is a new day, each season is a new season. I don't look back at evil, instead I look at *right now* and what God wants me to do, and I ask for the Grace to do it! Look around you and see what you can do to make a difference in the world around you! Involve God and our Mother in every decision you make. Ask God to be used by Him as an instrument of help and peace. We are the Hands of God and Our Lady in this world! God wants to use us for

GOOD and to end Evil. The weapons are Prayer, Fasting, Holy Mass, Holy Confession, The Holy Rosary, and the Holy Bible.

Change the world around you one small step at a time. Be a disciple of Jesus and Mary, and pray from your heart! Don't let the world discourage you. Fill your heart and soul with love and light! That light comes from within, through the Graces of our Loving Lord and our Loving Blessed Mother! What a perfect gift to give to our Blessed Mother for her Birthday – the gift of ourselves in holy prayer and conversion!

Things are changing; make sure they change for the better! You have the means and the holy weapons! Together, with Our Lady, things will change, our families will be strong again, and our faith even deeper! It all begins with the simple things!

God bless you always, and feel my love and prayers for you all in all I do!

In Jesus, Mary and Saint Joseph,
~Father Ray and my faithful little Dublin dog always by my side, with my Guardian Angel

Reply to a Question about Our Lady's Request for Fasting

Not long ago I received the following email from a subscriber. "June, where did I see or hear Our Mother say to deny myself on Wednesday and Friday? In Isaiah 58, Our Lord mentions differently, and I do as He says. Does this mean I can ease up some on the fasting? Ain't easy at my age of 84. Please help me if you can."

I was not sure how to answer him, so I sent his note to Fr. Ray, our spiritual advisor. Fr. Ray quickly replied. The person who sent the question was very grateful. I thought it was too good to just share with one person, so I thought I would share it with all of our readers. Here is Fr. Ray's reply:

Fasting is a deep form of prayer, one of the greatest forms of Holy Prayer, as Jesus fasted so very often. We pray from our hearts when it is inspired by the Holy Spirit and we cooperate with the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, the Most Holy Spirit.

Our Lady asks us to use this kind of Holy Prayer called "fasting" to help us surrender to God and not ourselves, to open ourselves to God in a very holy and different way, but to do it as we can and are able to fast. Some people cannot fast due to health problems, medicines, age, and so on, and Our Mother in Heaven would never ask us to do something we were not capable of, or in some way would hurt us.

Fasting, like all prayer, is voluntary, and never dictated to us. Prayer and fasting comes from our hearts to Our Mother's heart or God's heart, for a purpose of opening us up to receive many Graces and inner peace and direction in our lives. It is meant to help us, and indeed it does.

If we are incapable of fasting, we can pray in other ways,



Bread and water in Medjugorje

and give some things up, such as some TV, or certain foods or drink, to do so freely, and this is pleasing to our Blessed Mother and the Lord God.

If we are able to fast, we should do it and ask the Lord and our dear Blessed Mother to accept our fasting and assist us in our prayers and good works and daily life. Maybe you can skip desserts on Wednesdays and Fridays, or cut down on a portion of your meals, but the best thing I would think to do is ask the Blessed Mother in Holy

Prayer what SHE would want you to do, and to give up that for the greater glory of God and our Blessed Mother's intentions. Fasting in no way should include a guilt trip, and Our Lady would never do that. She accepts the best we can give Her, just as God in Holy Prayer accepts our best.

Remember in Genesis with Cain and Abel... Abel gave God the best he had, and his offering was accepted, but Cain offered God less than his best, as he wanted to keep the best for himself, and his offering was not accepted by God. All God wants from us is the best we can give Him and nothing more. God gave us His only Son, and that was the perfect gift. Ask God in Holy Prayer what He wants us to do, and He will tell us. Give Our Lady the best you can do, even if it may seem very little. If it is your best that you are capable of, it is a gift loved and accepted by Our Lady and the Lord God!

"Bacon is waiting there to set me a trap! Those who think that fasting is just a little something do not really know what they are talking about." ~ Blessed Ivan Merz (born in Bosnia in 1896, died in 1927, and beatified in 2003, called "pillar of the Church" in Croatia)

When the Fisherman Caught a Great Fish

The Miracle Detective

Book review by David Joseph Sheehan

From Holy Scripture, we sometimes see God as the Fisherman, searching the depths of the sea for a great catch. Sometimes, God goes far out to sea where belief is weak and the secular world is strong. His quarry here was a man named Randall Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan was gainfully employed as a journalist for that unique organization *Rolling Stone Magazine*. A quick glance at their website indicates their intrinsic belief system. I do not know what they are worshiping, but they are definitely worshiping something. Alas, poor Randall did not know that his time was up, and that God was going to catch him and bring him home.

Randall's initial interest in Marian apparitions started innocently enough when an apparition of sorts appeared to a family in northeastern Oregon. It was February 1994. When reports of this happening were sifted by the local media, Medjugorje (along with Fatima and Lourdes) was mentioned in passing. This was the first time that Randall heard about Medjugorje. God had baited the hook.

Wandering into a bookstore in Portland, Randall browsed his way where religious books were kept. He stumbled upon a book about the Virgin Mary, opened it up, and found himself smack dab in the Medjugorje tale. Reading about Our Lady and the secrets spooked him! He slammed the book shut and lit out of the bookstore. The fish had swallowed the hook!

Now, his innate curiosity was getting the better of him. Under the guise of being a war correspondent from *Rolling Stone*, he would travel to Europe in 1995. A short time in Rome yielded him a crash course on miracles and saints. Then, it was on to Medjugorje.

His first impressions of Medjugorje are a cross between comedic and catatonic. We must remember that he was a non-believer who was getting pinged by God at every turn. As he wanders into town through the fields, Mt. Krizevac (Cross Mountain) seems to take on the glow of a giant glaring down at him. He cannot make up his mind whether he is being blessed or cursed by the mountain, but he knows it definitely has its eye on him. And so, the struggle begins in his soul between the sterile, secular world that he has known and this strange, otherworldly place in a backwater of Europe. Nothing computes!

Randall begins his investigative work and at the same time, he begins collecting various characters and personalities that are drawn to Medjugorje. He also begins interviewing the visionaries. It is with Mirjana that the fireworks begin. He tried to play the modern American card of pretending to believe but not to really believe. Mirjana would have none of it. Mirjana tells him he must go, go to Mt. Krizevac and

sort himself out. Believe or not believe, that is the bloody question now.

So, our protagonist, in a bit of a huff, decides he is going to climb Mt. Krizevac. He is tired of that giant up there glaring down at him and like *Jack and the Beanstalk*, he is going to conquer the mountain; or so he thought.

Randall attacks the mountain in full gear with his hiking boots. He pays little attention to the Stations of the Cross until he meets a group of French nuns at the Eighth Station. They are kneeling in song and prayer. There is something about them, clean and simple and pure. They are definitely NOT *Rolling Stone* material! A transformation begins in him that he details well in his book "The Miracle Detective".

What happens now for Randall is the death rattle of the "old man" inside of him. For any man who has been a nonbeliever and has lived worldly ways, it is hard to let the "old man" go. Yet, each morning when he looks in the mirror, he does not like what he sees. He is no longer that "man about town", but now the man drowning in his own sins, and he knows it.



Fr. Slavko memorial on Mt. Krizevac

The lifesaver for Randall comes in the person of Father Slavko Barbaric. Father Slavko, because of his intellect and his good humor, is able to connect the dots for Randall as he transitions from being a pagan to a believer. How close their relationship becomes can be measured by the tears that Randall sheds when he hears of the untimely death of his best friend. Father Slavko passes away on Mt. Krizevac on November 24, 2000, the same mountain where Randall had his conversion experience.

In earthly life, Father Slavko had helped him to embrace the Catholic Faith. No doubt,

Father Slavko still intercedes for his amusing and amazing American friend.

For some, after a Medjugorje conversion experience, they become beings in another world, losing themselves in a life of prayer and penance. Randall's calling was different. He was to remain in the mainstream of journalism and media, even producing a TV mini-series "Miracle Detectives" on the OWN network. Nevertheless, his testimony of what happened to him is there for all to see on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSY1CBX_XqA

When I think of him and all the other people whose lives have been changed by Our Lord and Our Lady at Medjugorje, I think of Isaiah 53:1, "Who hath believed our report? To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?"

When Randall returned to the States, his report was met by some with skepticism. What is he trying to do? Make believers out of us all? Maybe he is conning us so he can

write a new book and make some money out of the whole affair. These seeds fell on rocky soil and died.

However, other seeds were more successful. Many heard his report and believed. God is revealing Himself at Medjugorje. These seeds will bear much fruit; they just need us to do the planting and watering. Are you ready to work the field?

Editor's note: Dave is from Crowley, TX. He added this Reader

Advisory: Since the author of "The Miracle Detective" writes for mainstream media and is not a "religious" writer, some of the topics covered in "The Miracle Detective" are adult topics and are described as such in mainstream media terms. This is the strength of the book, as it speaks to people who would never darken the door of a church – in other words, the "lost sheep". This is not another religious book for those who have already accepted the Medjugorje phenomenon.

The Eyes of Our Lady

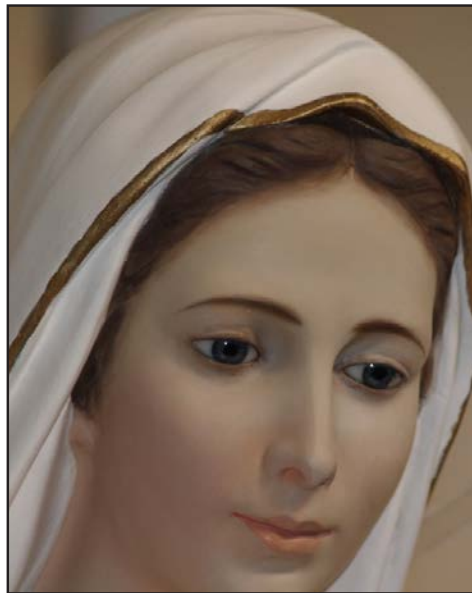
The following is an excerpt from an interview with Marija by Fr. Livio Fanzaga of Radio Maria on 7/25/22 regarding the Message of July 25, 2022. We thank a "shipmate" of Mary TV named Marina who translated the interview from Italian. The entire interview can be read at <https://files.constantcontact.com/e5550497001/27385b65-c91b-4ea1-b7ee-edabde39f36a.pdf>

F.L. *As you saw Our Lady tonight, you noticed Her eyes. Do you want to describe them? What feelings do they arouse in you? Tell me about the eyes of Our Lady.*

M. Paradise! We long for Heaven every time the apparition ends, we feel Heaven, remain astonished like a fish out of the water; Our Lady transmits that desire for Heaven to you – Her eyes...Her face....

F.L. *Do you know why I am asking you this? Because today I was working on an interview I did with Jakov when he was a boy here on Radio Maria; well, he went on for ten minutes describing the eyes of Our Lady, and I was surprised by the description he made, and I said to myself: 'Tonight, I'll ask Marija the same question.' Don't tell me they're indescribable, tell me something more!*

M. They are sweet, they are beautiful, they are deep. Do you remember that Jakov once during an interview many years ago (I think he was eleven), well they asked him: "How do you feel when Our Lady looks at you?" He had replied, "I feel naked, because of such a deep gaze that I remain as 'naked' before Her." Naked in our heart, because Our Lady seems to read it, but above all Her eyes love us, and this cannot be described as She has this expression of



positivity, of the joy of Heaven, of sweetness, that tenderness that when She looks at you, you cannot remain indifferent. Many times, I have wondered if I will end up getting used to seeing Her as She appears to me every day. No. Many times I would like to cry for joy because Her eyes give me so much endearment. Deep down in my heart, I would like to leave everything here on earth and go to Heaven, not for three seconds, five minutes, but much, much longer. I would like to do as Martha and Mary did: where one dealt with material chores and the other one with the spiritual things she was learning from Her Lord.

F.L. *Is Her gaze sometimes severe?*

M. Her gaze is deep, beautiful and, at the same time, She can be sometimes rigorous, because there are moments when Our Lady has that seriousness, but She doesn't really mean that; She also has sweetness.

F.L. *When She talks about Satan, what kind of look does She have?*

M. She usually has a very stern look, very firm, even sad, we can say, but at the same time, She is the one who tells us: 'God is hope, God is love.' I believe that during all these years, She has delivered us Her positive nature. When people are worried about the coming secrets, the coming wars, I tell them: 'Heaven is coming,' not wars, because She told us that with prayer and fasting, even wars can be removed. She is calling us, She is inviting us to be prayer and fasting, and with that, to believe everything is possible to God.

www.marytv.tv

A Note From the Heart of the Editor

Thank you all for the prayers for my father, Richard, who passed away on August 17, 2022 at the age of 94. He lived way longer than ever expected. My father was diagnosed with cancer in December of 2015. I remember the doctor had said, on a scale of 1 to 10, "It was a 10." So in our January 2016 issue, I included a prayer request for him.

In our January 2017 issue, I wrote, "My father asked me to thank all of you for your prayers for him. On December 23, 2015, he was diagnosed with 'a very aggressive' form of prostate cancer. His PSA number was 81, which

people said was 'off the charts'. Because of all the prayers, and through hormone therapy alone, his PSA number is down to 0.25. The doctor is very happy and said his cancer is in remission now."

Until the end, when it eventually came back and got into his bones, my father was able to travel and enjoy life with our family. He was always grateful for your prayers and would want me to tell you that. Please pray for the repose of his soul. Thank you all. I love you!

This Cross Was in God's Plan When It Was Built

In [the] Jubilee Holy Year of [the] 1900th anniversary of the Death on the Cross of our Savior Jesus, that began in April 1933 and ended in April 1934, parishioners of [the] Medjugorje parish, together with their parish priest, Fr. Bernardin Smoljan, decided to do something that Holy Father Pius XI and local bishop Fr. Alojzije Mišić were advising them to do. It did not take them a lot to decide, and one evening, at the meeting of the parishioners held on January 21, 1934, they decided the following: We shall build the cross on the hill Šipovac. From that hill there is an open view to all parts of Herzegovina. We shall build the cross on the top to which there are no paths leading to, while those used by Illyrians two thousand years ago, at the time when our Savior walked on this earth, are no longer used, perhaps only by [a] few shepherds minding the lambs that wander away.

Construction of the Cross in the extremely difficult economical circumstances

It was not easy to undertake such a big task. Not just because there were no trails on the hill, it was steep and dangerous, but there were more serious circumstances involved. Let us recall: it was in that time that the whole world was going through [a] major economical crisis, but surely those areas that were poor before it, had [an] even more difficult time during that. Tobacco, the only product that could earn few pennies for them, was not paid enough, there were hardly any employed people, and homes were full of children and it was very difficult to feed them all...

Young people undertook this job seriously and began to clear the trails to the top, to take bags of cement, sand, iron, wood and all other equipment necessary for such a major project. The parish priest wrote their names in the construction diary they kept, as well as the names of all men who contributed financially [to] this project, but also names of the parish priests from the area who helped in this project. Self-taught mason Ante Dugandžić Redžo was building the cross, young men prepared the cement, and there were records how one young woman, Jela Vasilj, took a bag of cement on her back all the way to the top, and no one knows anymore, as all of the witnesses died long ago, how many women took water for the cement and food and drinks to the workers in their hands all the way to the top. Construction was not obstructed even with the weather circumstances, often and heavy rain in February, strong wind or poverty. Construction began on February 12, and everything was finished on March 10. The Cross was blessed and the first Holy Mass was celebrated on March 16. The night before, all of the parish and people in Brotnjo and even distant villages were able to see [an] amazing scene: a huge fire in the shape of the cross was lightning each heart. It was on the grounds and on rocks along the hill, that a huge sign was made, a cross of ashes and fire that burnt the whole night.

Blessing of the Cross and the first Holy Mass held on the top

[A] procession from the church to Cross Mountain, as that was when the name of the hill was changed, was held



by the Fraternity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, whose mission was prayer against slandering and cursing. All people, young and old, priests and parishioners of other parishes were there, too. It would be good, now when we mention this Fraternity, that we take their path now: To pray again against slandering and cursing, for purity of our hearts and tongues, as it is hard to understand the messages of Our Lady when there are so many ugly words on our lips and so much slandering and curses! Isn't speech, a beautiful gift of God, something given to men to praise God and not to curse Him?!

The fire in the shape of the cross, lit on Cross Mountain, never stopped burning in the hearts of the parishioners, not even in the difficult years of the war that followed, not in the years of the communist regime who wanted to pull the cross out of the hearts of all those faithful. It was in the first years after the World War II, that they even forbid Holy Mass to be held on the first Sunday after the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, something that was held since 1934. This Cross became a place where many were coming to pray, to seek for protection and intercession from God, particularly women who prayed for their children and husbands who were in the war and all over the world. Sometimes, throughout the whole Lent and especially on Good Friday, women used to go around the cross on their bare knees.

Place of prayer of parishioners and pilgrims

[This] place of prayer and many votive pilgrimages of parishioners, suddenly becomes a place of prayer of the pilgrims from all over the world. It was in 1981 that there were more than 50,000 pilgrims, from the parish and from the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Europe as well as other over-seas countries. Everyone was rushing to go to the top and many were praying the Way of the Cross on that rugged, steep, pathway. That is when parishioners expressed their hospitality and love to their guests: they offered water and wine to those who were thirsty, bread to those who were hungry, fruits and simple treats as if they were their own family.

"Dear children! The cross was also in God's plan when you built it. These days, especially, go on [the] mountain and pray before the cross. I need your prayers. Thank you for having responded to my call!" Gospa said in the message of August 30, 1984.

Križevac, Cross Mountain, is one of the three most important prayer places in Medjugorje, along with the church and Apparition Hill. Many experienced their conversions and healings there, and there are so many moving testimonies on being cured from addictions, illnesses, on forgiveness, beginning of a new life...How many pilgrims felt in their hearts [the] urge to climb this mountain after [a] good confession and Holy Mass, something they never did before!

Križevac is a place of prayer of parishioners and pilgrims: Holy Mass is celebrated there for 83 [now 88] years and the Way of the Cross is prayed for 36 [now 41] years. Young

people from the whole world have their day, too, on this mountain, as for the last 28 [now 33] years they take part in the Holy Mass celebrated on the top of Križevac, on the Feast of Transfiguration of the Lord, celebrated on August 6, at 5 AM! Dozens of thousands of those who stepped into a new life, return from Križevac being transformed, strengthened and encouraged.

The words engraved in this cement cross are carried in the hearts of the millions of pilgrims, young and old, sick and healthy, those who visited this hill after the calling of the Queen of Peace for so many years now. Let us repeat

those words now as we are preparing for the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on Cross Mountain:

IHS
 TO JESUS CHRIST
 THE REDEEMER OF THE HUMAN KIND
 AS A SIGN OF OUR FAITH, LOVE AND HOPE
 RAISED BY FR. BERNARDIN SMOLJAN, PARISH PRIEST
 AND PARISH OF MEDJUGORJE
 FROM EVERY EVIL DELIVER US ALL, JESUS!
Medjugorje.hr (9/9/17) (originally from *Glasnik Mira* 2006)

The Mountains

By June Klins

Where I live is pretty flat, no mountains, so when I visit areas graced by mountains, particularly Medjugorje, I am awed by the beautiful terrain. There is something about the mountains...

Recently I came across in Fr. Svetozar Kraljević's book, *Pilgrimage: Reflections of a Medjugorje Priest*, some beautiful reflections about the mountains of Medjugorje (and all mountains, as well). Father wrote, "In the mountains we see the power of God... He put these rock formations together

in an incredibly beautiful way. All who see them are awed. Those who know Him are inspired." He continued, "For the pilgrim, the mountains symbolize both the hardship of life and the beauty of God's creation... For those of us who live here, the mountains have another role. Man comes in to this world basically selfish. The mountains break that selfishness. They teach him patience and humility. They will not give him what he demands, but they will give him what he needs. And they will teach him to be content with that."

The Four-Way Medal

By Louise Lotze

Pilgrimages to Medjugorje are an excellent way to bring back meaningful gifts for friends. One of the simplest gifts are small bags of religious medals. Many of the shops there have excellent choices of medals from which to choose. The greatest gift though is to have a priest bless them there as well as Our Lady who gives them Her Motherly Blessing.

Recently I purchased a small bag of Four-Way Medals which I believe is one of the most popular types of religious medals. This one medal combines the bulk of 4 or 5 medals into one convenient piece. Arranged in the shape of a cross, the 4-Way medal can vary in appearance. The most popular form includes a Sacred Heart of Jesus medal, St. Christopher medal, St. Joseph medal, and the Miraculous Medal. Some 4-Way medals that are designed for First Communion or Confirmation gifts may have a chalice or dove at the center of



Front

Back

the cross. The Sacred Heart medal is also called a "Scapular Medal" when the image of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel is on the reverse.

Sometimes the 4 medals are not in a cross shape at all, but are instead inside an oval or circle. I had given one like this to my husband when we were engaged to be married (over 53 years ago). Usually a medal that is found in this shape will have a cross engraved in its center. I have also

seen St. Anthony and the Child Jesus on the reverse side of St. Joseph and the Child Jesus image, and the Infant of Prague on the reverse side of St. Christopher and the Child Jesus. It is a delightful adventure to seek the 4-Way Medal and find the design you prefer by visiting several shops. It will become a treasure beyond measure for the friends to whom you will offer this magnificent gift.

Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Carol Bleck, Dorothy Bennett, Diane Niebauer, Sue Taccone, Susannah and Molly Klins, Laura DiBacco, Georgia Chludzinski, Chris Falk, Barb Cesare, Rose Heintzel, Betsy Truran, Louise Lotze, Cindy Bielanin, Darleen Wilkinson, Irene and Dan Zuba, Peggy Chludzinski, Joan Peterson, Elaine Brady, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the August mailing. We thank Susannah Klins and Wendy Ripple for the use of their photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

As of August 25, 2022, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 39,209. Thank you.

**Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for September:
 Abolition of the Death Penalty** – We pray that the death penalty, which attacks the dignity of the human person, may be legally abolished in every country.



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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 \$.84 postage on it.



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