



THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
P.O. BOX 6614 • ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16512
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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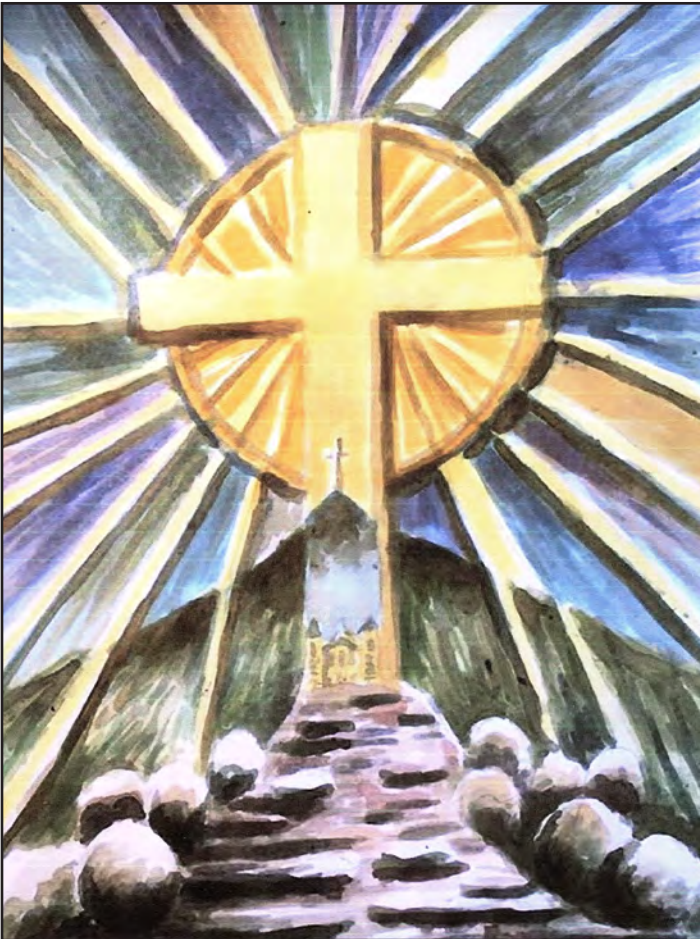
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The Vatican Has Granted a Nihil Obstat to Medjugorje!

MONTHLY MESSAGE OF AUGUST 25, 2025

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



We thank Mike Conti of Wales for the artwork above, depicting the Cross on Mt. Krizevac (Cross Mountain) in Medjugorje. On September 14, we commemorate the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Holy Mass will be celebrated on the mountain that day. You can read about the history of the Cross in our September 2022 issue which can be found in the archives on our website at spiritofmedjugorje.org. Over the years there have been many miracles, conversions, and blessings on this mountain. You can read about one of those blessings on page 6 of this issue.

“Dear children, my little children, my beloved ones: you are chosen because you have responded, you have put into practice my instructions and love God above all else. Therefore, little children, pray with all your heart that my words may be realized. Fast, sacrifice yourselves, love out of love for God Who created you, and be, little children, my extended hands to this world that has not come to know the God of love. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(With Ecclesiastical approval)



Fr. Ray

The Leaves are Leaving!

By Fr. Ray Donohue

Suddenly we are going into a new season, one that is awesome and so beautiful, and yet, one that can be quite a bit of work!

I am surrounded by all sorts of trees at my cabin, way in the woods. We have millions of trees surrounding us (Dublin, Sweet Pea, and myself), and they are all unique and beautiful, over 50 acres of woods way up in the hills.

In the springtime, new life surrounds us with the buds budding, hope of a new season, birds of all kinds returning home, and a LOT of cleaning up to do!

In the summer, the acres of lawn are going green, and beautiful, and guess who cuts all that lawn, and it isn't Dublin or Sweet Pea, but this little ol' priest, and I love it!

In winter, which seems to last forever, we have TONS of snow way up here on the hill, and guess who has to shovel and plow it to get in and out of my very, very long driveway, and it isn't Dublin or Sweet Pea. That also falls to me, but I don't mind. I like to get things done and keep busy! Dublin comes with me in the plow truck and he enjoys it.

Autumn is truly a wonderful season of color, beauty, and awe! The leaves turn beautiful colors – bright red, gold, brown, mixtures of all colors. It is like a wonderful colorful picture surrounding us as the temperatures get cooler from the high heat of summer, as the leaves get ready to die and fall off. We are surrounded with new life, as in all four seasons, each has its own uniqueness and character.

Some of my trees are changing now, and with it, comes raking and sweeping, but God couldn't have painted a more beautiful scenery for us. Many of my beautiful plants come in for the winter into my heated garage. I have geraniums and many other annuals that I bring into my heated garage for the winter, in their pots that are over 10-15 years old, and they only get bigger and healthier throughout the winter months of way below-freezing cold, but are nice and warm and comfortable, and get watered occasionally to keep them happy!

God created the seasons, the seasons of the earth, and the seasons of our lives. They are very closely related.

The seminary from 1976 to 1985 was one season for me, to learn, to pray better, to develop a very close relationship with God and my faith, to prepare for the rest of my life as a good and holy priest that I strive for – to see things more and more as God sees things – things that He created and cultivated by His grace and love.

Don't run away from the seasons. Live them, see the beauty in all of them. They help us through the seasons of

our lives. One day we are kids playing, the next thing we know, we are adults making decisions that will affect the rest of our lives and the lives of others!

At St. Columban's on the Lake, where I minister (and love every minute of it), I buried a very holy and wonderful Sister, Sr. Betty. She was well advanced in age, and had been sick for a while. I anointed her twice, sat with her, and I'm pretty sure she knew I was there. She hadn't been able to eat any solid food for at least four or five days, but she kept on going. She knew God was calling her home and was not at all afraid to go to Him. All the wonderful Sisters and the family of those who work there (as we are all family) prayed, visited her, and cared for her as best we could. But she was in God's hands and He was calling her to her most beautiful reward in Heaven, dying, and accepting a holy and long, good life. She is like this season, the autumn of her years, so ever beautiful and her love of God and her family at St. Columban's.

Her funeral was wonderful and holy and happy. Everyone had a deep part in it, and we celebrated her life of so much holiness and stamina, showing us this autumn is

an opportunity to give ourselves to God and surrender ourselves to Him who created us, as a servant of the servant of God! We have another loved one celebrating Eternal Life, after a life well lived – a life of giving, caring, loving, and patience.

Soon all the leaves will be bright red and yellow and golden this September. The leaves bring so much beauty, just as our lives and faith bring so much beauty on this earth. It is called Faith, Faith in God and His love.

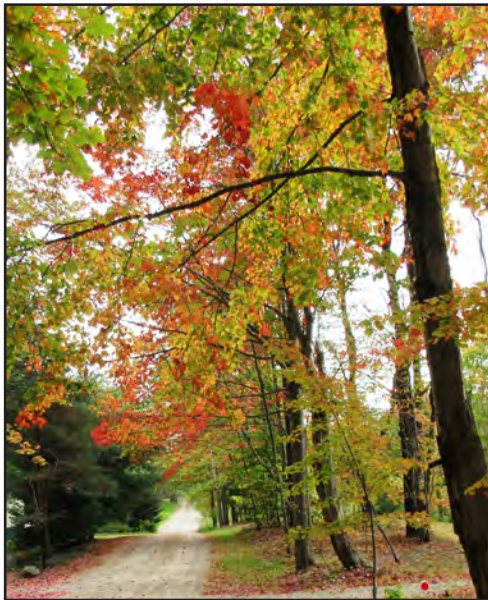
Then, the leaves begin to fall and get us ready for the cold and the snow. In this world, things go by fast! But we are all going into Eternity, with God and our dear Blessed Mother, and all the saints, and we must accept how much loved we all are by God.

God loves us, and has prepared a place in Heaven for us, in His way and

in His time – for life on this earth that God made for us so that we can get to know, through good times and bad times, that God and our Blessed Mother and all the angels and saints are with us, helping us, caring for us. But we need to ask Them in holy prayer for grace, help and peace!

St. Francis reminds us that in dying we are born to Eternal Life! That is a new season for us! We need spring to bring us new life. That is our newlyweds, their children, their joy and so many new things for us to be and do. We need the season of summer to grow in our faith and in love of God to understand we are not God, but God is in US and guides us, and we must listen with all our hearts to Him to move forward in this life.

Autumn reminds us change is good and beautiful, but change takes work and trust. We rake the leaves only to have



Fr. Ray's long driveway in the fall

more in the morning to rake, life keeps going. We just don't sit back and expect God to bring us all of heaven on earth. We need to continue to grow in our faith and love for each other, to forgive as God forgives, to care for us and others and help in any way we can. As we pray to God: "Lord, please help me," we also need to pray: "Lord, help us, all of us, the poor, the sick, the people affected by wars and poverty and hate, those who are lonely and need companionship and love! Lord, guide us!" In our lives, we all have seasons. In holy prayer, God is walking with us to make each season more beautiful and to care for each other. Jesus did not think of Himself; He thought of all others. As we feed and take care of others, we do the same for ourselves. It is in giving that we receive and the more we give, the more peace we have!

So, when beautiful red and golden leaves fall at your feet, don't complain about raking. Take that leaf, bring it to

someone you know, housebound, going through a death of a loved one, or just a next-door neighbor, and share the beautiful gift of God! God will take it from there, and that little leaf will mean the world to the person you gave it to, so simple, yet it came from God! All God creates is beautiful! You are beautiful! The people in hospitals or nursing homes, or just lonely neighbors will cherish that gift from God to you, to share with others. That is what we call love! Don't look at the leaves as a chore. Look at them as a gift of beauty to others and ourselves from Heaven above. Our love and care for others are like those beautiful colored leaves, they make the trees so beautiful and fall from heaven.

With great love for you and all, from my heart to yours,
~ Father ray and my little leaf-playing pals, Dublin and Sweet Pea!

"Dear children! Also today I call you to give glory to God the Creator in the colors of nature. He speaks to you also through the smallest flower about His beauty and the depth of love with which He has created you. Little children, may prayer flow from your hearts like fresh water from a spring. May the wheat fields speak to you about the mercy of God towards every creature. That is why, renew prayer of thanksgiving for everything He gives you. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Our Lady, 8/25/99)

Joshua

Editor's introduction: I came across the following testimony and it was too special not to share. This interview of a young boy named Joshua was posted on July 17, 2025 on iMedjugorje on Facebook.

How old are you now?

Ten.

And is this your first time in Medjugorje?

Yes.

What were you thinking when your parents told you about this?

I was really scared. I didn't think it would be like this at all. I was watching this show about how a lot of planes crashed. I was scared about the plane trip. And I heard there were bears here so I got kind of scared.

What do you think now that you're here? Is it scary?

No.

What has been your favorite moment?

The hill, Apparition Hill. I liked how it wasn't very steep. Since I have a whole bunch of siblings, I am just used to being around a lot of kids. I kind of miss us being alone just me and mom and dad. I was excited that it was just us four. I always believed it was real. Our Blessed Mother is awesome!



Joshua and his baby sister

Did you have a special prayer you were praying here?

I've been praying the Rosary.

Who came on this trip with you?

My baby sister. She turned one two days ago.

Is there anything you want to share with other ten-year-olds out there?

They should come here.

What do you think that Jakov was ten years old when he saw Our Lady?

It's crazy.

Do you think that Our Lady would appear to you?

I don't know. I want it to happen. I don't know if it will.

On a scale of one to ten, how cool is Medjugorje?

Seven.

What can make it a ten?

Less bugs....And I really wanted a zip-line coming down the hill.

On my second visit to Medjugorje in '88, something happened to me. After praying all morning, I needed a walk in the country and climbed to where Mary first appeared in '81. I reached the site and sat down, taking pictures while everyone else was kneeling and praying. Then people came to my area and began kissing the rocks, black with candle soot and wax. I had never kissed a rock in my life, so, protecting my bad knee, I made the motion of stooping, when I heard a female voice saying: "Why do you kiss these rocks? Just because I set foot on them? I am no longer here. Instead, I want you to kneel before the Tabernacle and kiss the floor, for Jesus is always there, and you don't have to come this far to find Him." What an endorsement of Eucharistic Adoration as a means to grow in loving intimacy with Jesus!

~ Rev. August P. Bosio, SDB

The Most Holy Name of Mary

By Cathy Nolan

Editor's introduction: I found this gem in my files and can't believe we never used it. It is excerpted from a reflection by Cathy Nolan of Mary TV on September 12, 2014.

On this beautiful Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary, I want to share an excerpt from Fr. Don Calloway's testimony of conversion. He lived a very sinful life as a young man, but received the gift of conversion through Our Lady of Medjugorje. He discovered Our Lady in a book about Medjugorje, and decided he needed to change his life. And right after this deep conversion, the devil came to take his soul before the conversion could be completed. Here is what happened:

"[After hours of kneeling, crying and praying] I got up from kneeling. Then, at a loss for what to do next, I made the decision to go to bed. What had happened to me was so unbelievable that I just wanted to sleep. Then I would get up the next day and tell Fr. Callahan what I had experienced.

"When I curled up on my couch – I didn't even have a bed in my room, only a couch – I was so at peace. But all of a sudden something below me and within me – this is very difficult to explain – knocked me out of my body. I literally felt as if I had left my body. My physical form remained on the couch, but my soul or spirit had left.

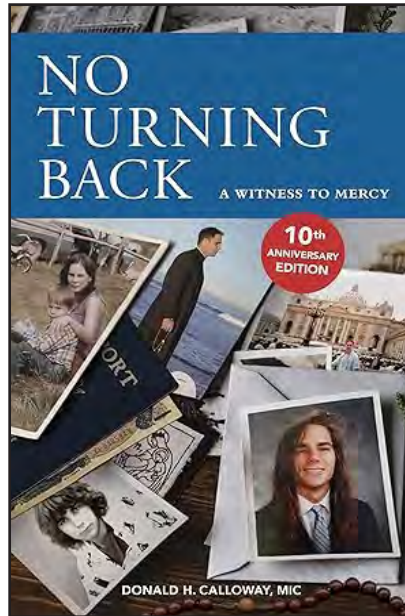
"I was paralyzed and in a state of shock. I couldn't move my hands or any part of my body. I tried to scream for my mother, but I couldn't make a sound.

"For a moment, I thought I might be going to hell – as if everything I had just come to know was suddenly being taken away from me; I had been such a bad person that I wasn't worthy of God's mercy. I was going to go to this place of eternal separation from everything I had just come to know as being true and beautiful and good. I had no idea what to do.

"Then, with every part of my being, I managed to interiorly scream. I spiritually cried out, 'Mary!' It was so strong and penetrating a cry, it seemed to echo throughout the cosmos. It was like a little boy screaming for his mother after he's fallen and been seriously injured.

"All of a sudden, I was violently slammed back into my body with what seemed like the force of the entire universe. It was so violent a thrust that I expected my mom to come running into my room to check on me. Yet nobody came because no one heard a sound.

"After I got over the shock of the impact, a feeling of peace overwhelmed me, a peace that was tangible. Then I heard a voice, the most feminine voice I have ever heard and ever will hear. It was within me, it was outside of me, it was like liquid love being poured over me. It was pure maternal love. It said, 'Donnie, I'm so happy.' That's all I heard but I knew who it was. Nobody called me Donnie but my mother. Nobody. I knew this was the voice of Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mary. I was so at peace that I felt like a little boy snuggled close to his mother's breast. I was so at peace, so loved, and so at rest that I went into a deep sleep. I hadn't slept like that since I was a young boy." (Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC. *No Turning Back*. Marian Press. Stockbridge.



p. 179-180)

The Most Holy Name of Mary!! The most powerful name – Mary!! Fr. Calloway knew instinctively to call on the name of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, she who had brought him to conversion. We, too, can call on her name. She will come and help us in all our difficulties. She drives the devil away simply by her presence. She can protect us.

To close, here is an excerpt from the Breviary for Sept. 12, Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary:

The Most Holy Name of Mary

O thou, whosoever thou art, that knowest thyself to be here not so much walking upon firm ground, as battered to and fro by the gales and storms of this life's ocean, if thou wouldest not be overwhelmed by the tempest, keep thine eyes fixed upon this star's clear shining. If the hurricanes of temptation rise against thee, or thou art running upon the rocks of trouble, look to the star, call on Mary. If the waves of pride, or ambition, or slander, or envy toss thee, look to the star, call on Mary. If the billows of anger or avarice, or the enticements of the flesh beat against thy soul's bark, look to Mary. If the enormity of thy sins trouble thee, if the foulness of thy conscience confound thee, if the dread of judgment appall thee, if thou begin to slip into the deep of despondency, into the pit of despair, think of Mary.

In danger, in difficulty, or in doubt, think on Mary, call on Mary. Let her not be away from thy mouth or from thine heart, and that thou mayest not lack the succour of her prayers, turn not aside from the example of her conversation. If thou follow her, thou wilt never go astray. If thou pray to her, thou wilt never have need to despair. If thou keep her in mind, thou wilt never fall. If she lead thee, thou wilt never be weary. If she help thee, thou wilt reach home safe at the last – and so thou wilt prove in thyself how meetly it is said: And the Virgin's name was Mary. --Excerpts from the Breviary for the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary (Sept. 12)

Mother come, Mary come!!

www.marytv.tv

"O name of Mary! Joy in the heart, honey in the mouth, melody to the ear of Her devout clients!"

~ St. Anthony of Padua, our patron saint for 2025

Forgiving the Unforgivable

By Sr. Emmanuel

Pascual, a little Colombian boy, was very kind and very handsome. One day, while at school, a priest made an inappropriate proposal to him. This failed, because Pascual ran away from him and thus escaped from this predator. However, his little child's heart, was so disturbed by this that he rejected all priests, the Church and even God himself. He became a hardcore atheist that day. As he was growing up, he searched for meaning in his life. He immersed himself in Eastern philosophies and practices and became a Buddhist.

One day, his best friend suggested a trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina (Medjugorje), hoping to bring him back to Christ and reconcile him with the Church. He told him about the beauty of the landscape and about these six Croatian children who experienced extraordinary things with Heaven. Stung by curiosity, Pascual agreed. So he arrived in Medjugorje without suspecting for a second that the Blessed Mother was waiting for him there. Using her incomparable maternal skills, she managed to conquer his heart and bring him back to Jesus.

When he returned home to Colombia, Pascual was a different man. He became a true believer who exuded peace and joy. His soul was filled at last with that true light that he had been searching for. But the memory of this priest remained engraved in him. Through prayer and the sacraments, Pascual had the courage to forgive him from the bottom of his heart. He even went so far as to search for

him. When he was able to meet him, he found an old man who greeted him warmly without recognizing him. Pascual told him the story of an innocent little boy who had placed all his trust in a priest, but who on one dark day, betrayed him. This little boy had grown up.

The old priest listened to this whole story and very quickly understood, between the lines, what this was all about, and he began to tremble. But Pascual hastened to reassure him. "Be at peace! This is the same little boy who is talking to

you today! He has come to tell you that he has forgiven you with all his heart. Not only has he forgiven you, but Jesus has healed his wound, so that it no longer bears any trace of bitterness or rebellion."

At these words, the priest burst into tears, and sobbed deeply from the depths of his being. Then he whispered in a voice broken by emotion: "For 36 years, I have been haunted by what I did; for 36 years I have sought peace without finding it; for 36 years I have begged God to forgive the unforgivable.

And now, today, He has heard me! I will be able to die in peace because you came to visit me."

Pascual stood up and hugged the priest for a long time until the tremors of his sobs subsided. God's Mercy won a beautiful victory on that day!

Children of Medjugorje, sremmanuel.org, April 2023 report



Mural of the visionaries in Hotel Ruza in Medjugorje

An Unexpected Confession

By Msgr. Robert Reilly

A number of years ago, when I was preparing to visit Mexico City, an American priest informed me that it was against the law in Mexico for a Catholic priest to wear his Roman collar in public. I really didn't believe him.

When I arrived in Mexico, I was wearing my Roman collar as I left my hotel. A policeman began to walk toward me, raising his arm to get my attention. "I'm going to be arrested," I thought, remembering what the American priest had told me about wearing a Roman collar there. The police officer came over to me, grasped me by the arm, leaned over and spoke quietly into my ear: "Father, will you hear my Confession?"

We got into his patrol car and he went to Confession.

When we got out of his car, he grinned and very kindly said to me: "Father, go back to your room and change clothes... not all cops down here are Catholics."

Editor's note: I found the above anecdote in my files. It was originally published in a church bulletin from November 4, 2001. Msgr. Reilly died in 2012 at the age of 92. He was faithfully in his confessional every day before Mass. He was a trooper! I remember one time when I went to him for Confession, he kept saying he could not hear me, so I practically had to shout my sins. It was very humbling as everyone in the church could hear me, I am sure! I hope the law mentioned above has been repealed by now. Maybe one of our Mexican subscribers can let us know.

Facts About Fasting

Our Lady has spoken many times about fasting throughout the years. Here are a few things that She said. We hope to share more in future issues. It cannot be stressed enough how powerful fasting can be.

- Fasting can stop wars. (7/21/82)
- Fasting can suspend the laws of nature. (7/21/82)
- Bread and water is the best fast. (7/21/82)
- Fasting, to be powerful, must be done with the heart. (9/20/84)
- Fasting is one element that keeps Satan from conquering us. Faith and prayer are the other two. (11/16/81)
- Fasting makes Our Lady happy. (8/5/84)



A Blessing in Disguise

By June Klins

On my last pilgrimage to Medjugorje, which was in 2018, I had two intentions that lay heavy on my heart as I climbed Cross Mountain. One of those intentions was for my husband Tom to be healed of the PTSD (Post-traumatic stress disorder) which had plagued him since his return from the horrors of the war in Vietnam.

Tom tried dealing with the PTSD in various ways throughout the years. One of those ways was to go back into the military to get a better feeling. He joined the Army Reserves and that worked to some extent. He was on the security team for a lot of high-ranking officers such as generals and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He traveled the world and even went to the Holy Land three times, courtesy of the military! He loved this work, but it did not erase the memories of the war. A brain injury he sustained while serving in Iraq compelled him to retire from his full-time job, as well as the military, earlier than planned, and things seemed to get worse. I had read that after retirement, PTSD often gets worse because the person has less to keep his/her mind occupied. The frustrations that the brain injury brought amplified things for Tom.

So when I reached the top of Cross Mountain that fall of 2018, I went over to the large Cross, and laid my hands on the Cross and prayed. When I took my hands off the Cross, I could not believe what I saw. Right before my eyes was the word "Vietnam!" (There is graffiti on the lower part of the cross, probably prayer intentions.) I began to cry like a baby, as I knew that God was telling me my intention would be answered. I just did not know how or when.

The following year, Tom's brain injury seemed to be getting worse, and after many tests over the next few years, he was diagnosed with a rare form of dementia. For a few years the dementia and PTSD were a toxic combination. (It was no less than a miracle that I was able to keep up with this newsletter at the time.) Last year, after he fell and could not walk, he was placed in the VA (Veteran Affairs) community living center for rehabilitation, and within weeks was walking

again. But because of the advanced dementia, he has been there ever since.

Although we feel that the care at the VA is second to none, they cannot watch Tom every minute and he has had a number of falls recently. So, last month I went to a charismatic healing Mass, planning to take the healing blessing for Tom to stop falling. We all lined up in front of the sanctuary, and as I was waiting for my turn to have the priest lay hands on me, I heard the Lord speak to my heart. He reminded me of all the times I had been praying and taking this blessing for Tom to be healed of the PTSD, and that now HE IS HEALED! Because he has dementia, the bad memories are gone. The sign I got on Cross Mountain was now a reality! I can't believe I was so blind as not to see that.

It sounds kind of crazy to say that dementia could be a blessing – a blessing in disguise, but IN THIS CASE, it is! Given the choice of PTSD and dementia, I would choose for Tom to have dementia. He is finally at peace. He is happy almost all the time. He makes the staff and other residents laugh and they all say he is such a joy. And when he is difficult because he does not understand instructions, he serves as a vehicle for grace for all who lovingly and patiently take care of him.

Of course, I would prefer Tom not have dementia or PTSD, but God works in mysterious ways and it is not up to me to question

His ways. On January 2, 2017, Our Lady said to the visionary Marija, "My children, do not waste time posing questions to which you never receive an answer. At the end of your journey on earth, the Heavenly Father will give them to you. Always know that God knows everything; God sees, God loves."

When I shared this story with my friend Pat, she wrote, "I've often thought Tom's dementia might be a balm from God through Our Lady's intercession." Praise be to God and thanks to the Queen of PEACE!

"Those who sow in tears will reap with cries of joy" (Ps 126:5).



"Every illness and every trial is permitted by God as the means whereby we can best ensure our salvation."

~ Bl. Sebastian Valfré

Notes from Ivan's Testimony in Ohio

Editor's introduction: On March 24, 2025, about 50 people in the Erie area traveled by bus to hear Medjugorje visionary Ivan Dragicevic speak in a church in Olmsted Falls, Ohio. They were blessed to have been present for Ivan's apparition as well. Several people took notes and sent them to me since I was unable to go. I felt prompted to share the notes of Barb Sirianni this month. Barb is a faithful member of our mailing staff, but has been helping "behind the scenes" with her prayers the last few months because of cancer treatments for her husband and herself. Please pray for them. Thank you.

Ivan began his talk by describing the apparition that evening. Our Lady appeared saying, "Praise be Jesus, dear children of mine." He said that She came with a smile on Her lips and in Her eyes, and that She prayed over everyone in Arabic. She blessed us and all our petitions, and the religious

items we had. Then Ivan spoke about the messages.

She is leading us to salvation.

The one who prays will not fear the future. Praying *more* is a chore;



to pray *better* is a grace. Love finds time. The world is in a spiritual coma. Persevere in prayer. Our Lady says, "I am the Mother of Hope."

Our Lady is calling us to Mass and the Eucharist. Mass is the center as we encounter with Christ. Jesus is healing us in the Mass.

Mary is an intercessor for each one of us. Forgive yourself; forgive others. Be open to the Spirit. You cannot heal without forgiveness. To receive grace, we must pray with the heart.

Mary prays for our conversions. Families need to pray together. Mary said social media today is like cancer destroying today's families and youth. She's shedding tears for abortions. Married couples have no time for their spouse and forgiveness is necessary.

Only Jesus can give us Divine Hope. Peace must reign in everyone's heart. God does exist. He hears our cries.

There are no words to describe how much She loves us. There can be no outward beauty if you do not love.

Mary is leading us to holiness. Do not be afraid to persevere in prayer. Today's families are in need of spiritual healing. Heal wounds with love. The biggest crisis in the world today is no God. Youth is lost in materialism. No one has shown them love.

Mary is drawing the whole world to Her Son. She calls us, "dear children." She is a mother. We are Her children. She expects from us to be "love" to all who do not love. She is the Mother of Hope, bringing hope to the Church and to the whole world.

Peace comes through Jesus, Her Son. Make God number one in your lives. She's leading our Church quietly and gently to live and to accept the messages with love. Her messages are simple – to live the Gospel. For 44 years it is an act of mercy from God to allow Mary to come to us every day.

When Our Lady left, She said, "Go in peace, dear children of mine," and left in the light of the cross.

Rosary Mysteries of the Angels

By Deacon Jerome Peterson

1. God sends angels among us.

For he commands his angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone. (Psalm 91:11-12)

2. Raphael the Archangel.

"I am Raphael, one of the seven angels who stand and serve before the Glory of the Lord." (Tobit 12:15)

Blessed Saint Raphael, the Archangel, we beseech you to help us in all our needs and trials of this life, as you, through the power of God, restored Tobit's sight and gave guidance to young Tobiah. We humbly seek your aid and intercession, that our souls may be healed, our bodies protected from all ills and through divine grace we may become fit to dwell in the eternal Glory of God in Heaven. Amen

3. Gabriel the Archangel.

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." (Luke 1:26-28)

4. Michael the Archangel.

At that time there shall arise Michael the great prince. (Daniel 1:1) St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

5. Prayer to our Guardian Angel.

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." (Mt 18:10)

Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard and rule and guide. Amen.

Editor's note: It seemed the perfect time to share these as the Feast of the Archangels is September 29 and the Guardian Angels is around the corner on October 2. Deacon Jerome is a deacon of the Diocese of Erie and a nephew of our late spiritual advisor, Msgr. James Peterson. He and his



Artwork by Peggy Angstadt

Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Carol Bleck, Kathy Powenski, Joanne Hoffmna, Christine Beauchemin, Louise Lotze, Carrie Conley, Angie Felicetty, Laura and Kevin DiBacco, Pat Heinlein, Kay Kujan, Kandace Lyons, Tom McIntire, Diane Niebauer, Sue Taccone, Joan and Deacon Jerry Peterson, Kathy Wayman, Marlene Figurski, Ronalee Curtis, Kathy Luschini, Corky Young, Betsy Truran, Chris Falk, Darleen Wilkinson, Sue Verga, Judy Johns, Stephanie Koshinskier, Annette and Chris Fuhrman, Barb Cesare, Peggy Chludzinski, and Dan and Irene Zuba, for their help with the August mailing. We thank Jean Heid for the use of her photo in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Don Spaeder, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

As of August 25, 2025, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 40,491. Thank you.

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MARY IS CALLING YOU

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

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

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

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

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

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

If you want a prayer cloth we made, send a self-addressed stamped business size (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with \$1.07 postage on it. This offer is available while supplies last.



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