



**THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE**  
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**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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## MONTHLY MESSAGE OF MARCH 25, 2024

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.



*The picture shown above was taken at the Divine Mercy Shrine in Medjugorje. (See our October 2023 issue in our archives.) For those who will receive this newsletter in time, we remind you that April 7 is Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus told St. Faustina, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion [on the first Sunday after Easter] shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." Be sure to take advantage of this great gift!*

"Dear children! In this time of grace, pray with me for the good to win in you and around you. In a special way, little children, pray united with Jesus on His Way of the Cross. Into your prayers put this humanity which wanders without God and without His love. Be prayer, be light, and be witnesses to all those whom you meet, little children, so that the merciful God may have mercy toward you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

# God Woke Me Up This Morning!

By Fr. Ray Donohue



Fr. Ray

I woke up this morning to the birds singing below my window, at the feeders I leave out for them with fresh seed each day! Their singing and tweeting, and knowing their little tummies were getting full made me very happy! So, I smiled!

I had my dog and best pal Dublin sleeping by my side, as he does every night, knowing I was awake, so he could come over and cuddle up to me and give me lots of his little kisses! The sun was

out, telling me it was a new and beautiful morning, with a very light breeze blowing the curtains ever so gently! It takes me a few minutes to get out of bed because of my rheumatoid arthritis and still some vertigo, but up and out we go!

I looked around in my bed and under my pillow for my “bed-rosary” that I take from the nightstand next to my bed, and that I pray with, and fall asleep with, each and every night. I find it, kiss it, and back it goes on the nightstand until nighttime comes again. (Dublin and I pray the Holy Rosary in the car, and in our “prayer-chair” and throughout the daytime as we take little breaks to stop and pray.)

A few months ago, when I was putting things away for the winter, I took a fall down some stairs off my porch as I was carrying my porch swing to its winter residence in one of my sheds. I landed on stones and hurt my right shoulder and arm. Two summers ago, I hurt it while cutting the grass and a limb from a tree I was cutting under caught on that same shoulder and dislocated it, and boy did that hurt! I had some tests and MRIs and it looks like I am probably going to have a shoulder replacement done this year. It still hurts a lot, but it could be much worse! I can still do most of the things I like, just a little bit slower and more carefully!

I get ready for a nice hot shower, and then Dublin and I sit in our “prayer-chair” which is also our “eating my breakfast chair”! ☺ It has windows all around it upstairs so I can see all of nature, the beautiful snow on the trees and grass and shrubs, on my little Chapel, “Our Lady of the Woods”, and the barn and lots of woods with various animals doing their daily work and activities!

After our bowl of cereal, (he gets little pieces of the cereal, even though he already had his breakfast, this is part of the morning ritual), we get ready for Morning Prayers from my Breviary, and lots of loose prayers I have in order, and my list of people to pray for each morning, noon and nighttime. Many of you readers who ask for prayers are on this list with

your name mentioned each day, and night, as well as the “crew” of *The Spirit of Medjugorje*, as we all need prayers, and we all need “pray-ers” to pray those prayers!

“...be filled with the Spirit,... singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts”  
(Eph 5: 18-19).

I get ready then to go to celebrate Holy Mass at Saint Columban’s on the Lake Retirement Center, which is just 10 minutes down the hill from me. I absolutely, positively, and most assuredly LOVE going there to celebrate the Holy Sacraments of The Holy Mass, anointing of the sick, playing the piano for them and singing with them, and just being there to see the joy in so many hearts, and help those who are going through some difficulties in some ways. They love Dublin, and Dublin loves them! That is for sure my second home. Each person there cares so much, and the Sisters couldn’t be nicer, funnier, and happier! Each day is an adventure! We are for sure one big cozy family with lots of LOVE and Christ Jesus dwelling among us!

When I get back to my cabin way up in the hills and way back in the woods, I change my clothes. (I remember and many times watch the re-runs of “Green Acres” where Oliver Wendell Douglas is sitting on his old broken-down tractor turning over the dirt while wearing a suit and tie!) I take off my black shirt and collar and put on my old clothes and if it is sunny, I put on my “Bing Crosby” hat so I don’t burn up (my hair isn’t as thick as it was when I was younger), and I get on the mower and cut some grass, putter around doing this and that, and having fun with Dublin as he runs around all the woods and has so much fun, me with him, and he with me!

Often some friends let me know they would like to come to visit, and we have a great time just talking and enjoying the beautiful seasons God gives us! Dublin loves company, and the company loves Dublin and we all enjoy what we have! The little pine trees I planted years ago, about 4 inches high at the time my friends and I were building my cabin, are now easily 70, 80 and even 100 feet tall and so beautiful, next to my pond that during all seasons except winter, I can hear the 3 waterfalls gently falling into the pond where at night the pond and trees are lit up in red and green lights, simple, and beautiful! I hope you can visualize this and hear it softly making such a soothing sound!



Sitting area on Fr. Ray’s grounds

I bet you are wondering why my article is describing my life to you! Because I am not perfect, yet I see God in

His perfection, in the nighttime stars, full moons, the green grass and the beautiful hills, a holy little lighted Chapel at night with its steeple lit up in white lights, all kind of trees and woods surrounding me, deer coming up to eat from the feeders, birds of all sorts singing and making nests. I paint birdhouses as one of my many hobbies, like little cabins, or different scenes of all four seasons, each custom made and painted so no two are ever alike. I bet I have almost 25 of them, and they are all used as a residence by the birds



during the spring and summer. And when winter comes, I take them all down from all over, I repaint the ones that need it, and fix the ones needing fixing and repairing, so they are ready for the springtime!

I didn't say anything earth-shattering in this article! But I can truthfully say God is saying it for me! God gave me eyes, so I can see this beautiful little world I live in. Yes, I have to wear glasses and each few years as my vision gets worse, I have to get stronger lenses, but I can see. That is a gift from God!

I have problems hearing what people are saying, sometimes I say "yes" when I should have said "no," but I just couldn't hear them. I have rheumatoid arthritis, and I had three herniated discs in my back, but I can still walk with a cane, and use that to walk in the woods, sitting on my old rider lawn mower, cutting grass and smelling the neat smell of newly mowed lawn.

Happiest of all is to bring the Holy Mass and the Holy Eucharist to those at Saint Columban's on the Lake, and visit with so many wonderful people who encourage one another and live life to the very fullest! What a wonderful example of love and humility and goodness they give, and they don't even know they are giving it, but they are, and BIG TIME, too!

My shoulder is painful 24/7, but I try to forget my pain and thank God I can do little things that make me happy, (and the little birds happy too)! I have Dublin as my little companion and friend, and just love him to pieces, and if you ever met him, you'd know exactly what I am saying, as there is not a mean bone in his body, only love, and he knows how to give love and how to receive love!

I can't do a lot of the things I could do even a few years ago, but I can do everything I need to do and more. I thank God every day and our dear Blessed Mother for daily Mass, for my holy priesthood that I embrace with a love I cannot even begin to describe! Our faith will see all of us through anything and everything. Each day is a gift from God, whether we know it or refuse to believe it, and He is with us at every second. With Jesus and our Blessed Mother, and all



Fr. Ray wearing his "Dublin sweater"

the Saints, Who pray for us in our needs, and we put our faith and trust in Them!

If we look to each day as dark and gloomy, that is exactly what we will see, no matter how bright the sunshine! If we have a cross, or many crosses to carry, remember, Jesus picks out that cross for us. It will never be too heavy to carry, and one day we will realize why we got the cross or crosses we have: to save souls including our own by carrying that or those crosses with Jesus! If we look for darkness, we will find it. If we look for Light, we will live in it, and joyfully too! I tell you as a priest, and as a person, some of the happiest people I know have great crosses, crosses so heavy and strong, and yet they keep going ahead and with love! Thank God for what we have and for what

we don't have. Mostly, it is the simple things that make us the happiest!

Live in the moment, and see the Light, if we only see it in our hearts, or with our ears, or in our minds. The Light is there, and it is LOVE! This life on earth goes by so quickly, as I am finding that out, but make use of the time we have here, for God put us all here for a reason. Don't live in sour grapes, when God gives us a whole Vineyard to enjoy. I pray for all of you, and I say without hesitation, God loves you so much, so very, very much. Sometimes it has to rain on our parades, but only because it makes us grow, and things to grow around us, like Love, patience, gentleness and endurance.

Look to God and live for God. We'll see something very beautiful here, and something we couldn't even describe in words in the life to come! Yes, God woke me up this morning, in every way possible, and may He wake us all up to the things and gifts and people, and joy that is all around us!

With gentle love and prayers for one and all,  
~Father Ray, the country priest on the hill, and my little helper, Dublin, whose tail never stops wagging!

## A Beautiful Prayer Filled With Hope

By June Klins

Where I attend Daily Mass, the Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed after Mass. It is also prayed in the Perpetual Adoration Chapel here at 3:00 PM. The optional closing prayer (to the right) is usually prayed. It is so beautiful and I have had people ask me about it on occasion. I knew it was in St. Faustina's Diary, but not in relation to the Chaplet which Jesus asked St. Faustina to promote. In doing some research, I found that the prayer was actually written by St. Faustina and it appears in her Diary as entry #950, following not the Chaplet, but the Divine Mercy Praises, also very beautiful and composed by St. Faustina. I tried to find out whose idea it was to make it the closing prayer for the

Chaplet but was unsuccessful. I even asked one of the priests of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception and he did not know and said he wondered that himself! If anyone knows the answer, please let me know, but for now, just sink yourself into this prayer. It is so filled with hope.

*Eternal Father, in whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself.* (St. Faustina's Diary, #950)

Our condolences to the family of Vickie DeCoursey, who died on February 25 at the age of 99. Vickie was a member of our mailing crew for many years. She loved helping so much that even in her 90s, she drove 10 miles each way to help get Our Lady's newsletters delivered to you. Please pray for her soul and for the consolation of her family.

*Thank You.*

# Journey of Hope

By Maureen FitzGerald

This is written to give testimony to the love and mercy that God has for each of us, and to give all Glory to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and to give honor and thanksgiving to Our Lady of Medjugorje for intercession to Jesus for my healing.

In April 2022, I was surprisingly diagnosed with advanced cancer of the liver with too many tumors to count, and was offered no hope. They had no treatment, ruled out transplant surgery and I was given prognosis of only three months to live. It was then that my husband and I were inspired to call it our Journey of Hope since no hope was offered. We immediately called our Rosary group members and our family and friends to ask for prayers. It was Good Friday 2022.

One cancer center out of four offered me experimental immunotherapy. After two treatments, my body overreacted and multiple hospitalizations in June and July put me near death. In July, the cancer metastasized to my spine. Doctors again offered no hope though I reminded them of the Divine Physician being in charge. They told my husband to put me in a nursing home with hospice.

When I left the hospital in July, I went home. I could not walk other than on my heels using two canes. My nerves were damaged and I had massive edema, and was put into congestive heart failure and I was blind in my right eye. We were praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosaries daily. There were so many Rosary groups praying for me and my family, it had spread from USA to the Philippines, England, Ireland, and even underground China! It was overwhelming and so wonderful. It was like a giant blanket of prayers that covered us and strengthened us. One Rosary group sent me the Surrender Prayer Novena which I began to pray non-stop. It took me four times to pray the Novena before I surrendered my will to God's Divine Mercy.

In late August 2022, my Journey of Hope continued while going to confession. The priest listened and suggested to me that I had spent plenty of time with doctors, and maybe I needed to spend more time with God. I asked him to repeat it three times.

Two days later, my friend Julie Rasp asked us what was next. Doctors had no plans. She then asked us to go on her Medjugorje pilgrimage which was leaving in two weeks. It included Fr. Dan Powell, our pastor, who had been spiritually administering to us these past months with Communion, Confession and Anointing.

We left September 12, 2022 on our Journey of Hope which took us to Medjugorje. My husband's prayer petition was for a miracle and mine was to Our Lady for peace in my heart concerning our daughters. I asked her to take care of their hearts if God's will be to take me.

After a couple of days, I went alone to early evening Confession walking with my two canes, knowing that if I fell, a kind person from the village or pilgrim would help me

get back up. The Irish priest I had for Confession listened and told me to find Father Leon and he would know what to do. I responded, "Who is Fr. Leon and how do I find him?" He told me not to worry and that I would find him. I informed Fr. Dan of my Confession and asked him about Fr. Leon. He was surprised I did not know him, but realized I was staying outside for Mass and would not have seen him. He concelebrated Mass the next day with Fr. Leon and would talk to Fr. Leon about me.

I met Fr. Leon after his talk outside the yellow hall. Fr. Dan introduced me and Fr. Leon (who was a physician before he became a priest) asked about my cancer. I told him, "An Irish priest sent me to you, and he also told me you would know what to do." Fr. Leon realized it was Fr. Mike who sent me. Fr. Leon asked if he could pray over me and I said, "Yes."

As Fr. Leon prayed with his hands on my head, I immediately felt this intense heat from my head going down to my spine. I closed my eyes and knew the Lord was doing something and began thanking him for what was happening. Fr. Leon blessed me and we parted. Walking with my two canes I leaned against the yellow building waiting for my husband. With my mask on, I began to smell a beautiful fragrance of roses which overpowered to the point that I took my mask off. Breathing fresh air, I looked around and saw no plants or bushes, just concrete. I put my mask back on, and the intense beautiful fragrance of roses returned. I started crying and thanking Our Lady of Medjugorje for Her intercession to Her Son.

The next morning, I felt very strong in my legs upon waking and the severe edema was completely gone. My husband helped me up in the room, and I could walk without my canes! We thanked God for this tremendous change, I could now walk and had peace in my heart.

When we got home to America, I had an appointment with my family doctor. The doctor was shocked to see me with no leg edema and no canes. He asked me what happened. I reminded him I went on pilgrimage and believed God had healed me through the intercession of His Mother Mary. He then went to see my lab work which was just done when I had returned from my pilgrimage. His jaw dropped and he started telling me my tumor marker was 1.3 (less than 3 is normal).

When I was diagnosed it was 8,000. He also told me the rest of my liver enzymes were perfectly normal. I was pleasantly stunned and amazed at God's mercy and love. He turned to me and said something happened to my body and I needed to get MRIs. He sent me to the Oncologist who ordered an MRI of my abdomen and spine. The resulting abdominal

"Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him" (Jms 5:14)



Maureen and Michael on their pilgrimage of thanksgiving in 2023



MRI showed all tumors gone except for one which was 3cm, but had been 8cm before. The resulting spinal MRI showed no tumors. We were overjoyed and amazed. The Oncologist had the cancer surgeon come to evaluate the 3cm tumor. The surgeon said he would order a surveillance scan in three months, as he could not understand the results of the recent scans and lab work.

At the three-month MRI, the scans showed all tumors were gone!!! We were so happy, and amazed at the results which cannot be explained by medical science. But as we know, nothing is impossible with God. Jesus is our Hope, Our Lady is the Mother of Hope. All thanksgiving to His Divine Mercy and Our Lady's loving answer to all the prayers that went up for our family.

My husband and I were praying and both of us felt that God's plan for us would be to promote the Divine Mercy devotion as well as give thanks to Our Lady of Medjugorje's intervention by sharing our Journey of Hope. The Divine

Mercy Chaplet and Surrender Novena teach us to trust in Him and His plan for us all. We returned in September 2023 to Medjugorje as a Thanksgiving pilgrimage to Our Lord and Our Lady. We ask all who hear about our Journey of Hope to thank God and Our Lady, for we cannot thank Jesus and Our Lady enough for this healing. Along with the Rosary please pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for all those in need of Hope.

Jesus I trust in you!!!

*Editor's note: Maureen is from Lancaster, PA. For the complete testimony as well as Fr. Leon's testimony go to [www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv), Fruit of Medjugorje #538. I would like to thank Thomas Fleming, who sent me the link to Maureen's testimony after he read a prayer request I wrote for a member of our mailing crew who has liver cancer. Please keep our friend Georgia in your prayers. It is because of Georgia's liver cancer that you are reading this beautiful story of hope.*

## Fr. Leon's Commentary on Maureen's Healing

I'm Fr. Leon Pereira. I'm the chaplain here in Medjugorje for the English-speaking pilgrims. I met Maureen FitzGerald here a year ago, September 2022. I was giving a talk in the hall. When I came out, I was being mobbed by people, and suddenly they parted and Maureen came up with her husband, Michael. She was very emaciated. She didn't look great, she looked a bit yellow, she looked cachectic, and she didn't look like she was very long for this world. When you have cancer and you're riddled with it – she obviously had that look.

She told me about...what the cancer was, and also said that two priests had told her to come and find me. So after a short conversation, I worked it out. She meant Fr. Michael Fitzgerald [same name as Maureen's husband, but no relation], who is a lovely priest from Cork who has been living here in Medjugorje for the past couple of years. And Fr. Dan Powell, her pastor, as well, directed her to me. So when she came up and she said she had been asked to find me, my first thought was, "I don't know why." So I prayed over her. I asked her if she wanted to be prayed over. I laid my hands on her and I prayed, and when I prayed, the first thing is, I started to imagine all the tumors, where she told me the tumors were, sort of evaporating from her body. But at the same time, I thought – I actually did think – "Oh no, what will happen if she's cured? Because that'll be the end of my life!" So I said *explicitly* to the Lord, "Please, through the intercession of Our Lady of Medjugorje, let Maureen be cured as a proof to them that Our Lady is truly appearing here in Medjugorje." I said that *explicitly*. So I prayed over her.

Then a couple of days later, I was back towards the house where I live with the Franciscans, and Maureen just appeared with her husband and she looked better. She was walking a lot better and I said, "Shall I pray with you again?" And so I

did. And I said the same thing again *explicitly*. "As a proof to them that Our Lady is truly appearing here in Medjugorje..." I've never seen Maureen before in my life before that visit last year. And after that, I didn't think I would hear from her. I do remember the look in her husband's eyes – Michael's eyes – I do remember feeling very moved, seeing what he was carrying, the burden he was carrying...



Fr. Leon

A few months later, I got an email from Fr. Dan Powell, saying, "Do you remember this lady, Maureen?" And, of course, I did. He told me that she was well, she was cured, that her blood results were normal, and the tumors had shrunk or disappeared. And then shortly after, I had an e-mail from Maureen herself, with a lot more details. And I encouraged her to send all this medical data to the Bishop here, the Apostolic Visitor, Archbishop Aldo Cavalli. So she told me this morning that she did that yesterday. I think she had a meeting with the Bishop and handed over all the medical documentation to him and told him the story as well.

It is wonderful, it is absolutely wonderful to see her well, on her feet! I have to admit when I saw [her] this year, I didn't actually recognize her. When she said, "Do you know who I am, Father?", I only knew because her pastor was standing nearby. But I didn't recognize her; the contrast was so complete, so different. It's all God's work. He's healed her, but through the intercession of Our Lady of Medjugorje, because that's explicitly what I asked for, that it should be a proof to them that Our Lady truly is here.

And I think that Maureen also feels that motherly presence of Our Lady, motherly love and care over her and her family. So we praise God for this. It's a wonderful gift. Praise God!

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As of March 25, 2024, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 40,034. Thank you.

# The Blessed Mother Has Come to the World in Love and Mercy

The following is excerpted with permission from the book, *Twilight of Marxism: Medjugorje, The Downfall of Systematic Evil, and the Fulfillment of the Secret of Fatima* by Dr. Thomas Petrisko.

Mirjana Dragicevic's role in the visions is unique.

Perhaps more than the others, she will play a critical part in the unfolding of the prophetic events to come. Her personal relationship with the Virgin, in lieu of this role, has been somewhat shaped with this reality in mind.

Mirjana has great compassion for the unbelievers who face terrible consequences down the road because of their estrangement from God. They are choosing, she says, things that are passing away and, consequently, wasting their lives.

Mirjana tells people that the Blessed Mother has come to the world in love and mercy. She comes to help people realize there is a life after death. Heaven, therefore, is worth any price.

God, Mirjana informs, knew each person before He made the world, breathing His love into them in their mother's womb. She says that prayers to God have special meaning and are all that really matter, because they strengthen a person's faith. Not surprisingly, Mirjana believes the whole world needs to experience God's love through their faith. One does this, she adds, by preparing their heart so that it longs for God.

And, while Mirjana stresses that prayers for unbelievers are vital, she also emphasizes that each person, even those with faith, have parts of them that do not believe. This is why we all sin and why some people go to church only out of custom or tradition. Every day, therefore, we all need to pray for faith, for hope, for love – so we can be better believers.

The Virgin has taught Mirjana that nothing matters in this life but faithfulness to God's will. Today, many people, she says, have "goals" that sadly do not include the things that will bring them Heaven. Life on Earth, Mary has told Mirjana, can be compared to the life of a flower. It is beautiful while it lasts; but it is very short.

The apparition at Medjugorje is the most important of



its kind in the history of the world, Mirjana says Mary has also told her. Thus, it makes the Virgin sad that people are not receiving all that she is bringing to the world. Each of Mary's children is special to her, and she loves each the same – no less than the visionaries. Therefore, she wants all her children to know she is here on Earth for *them*.

As she emphasizes in her book, Mirjana understands that people should not force others to believe, or tell others how to live. Instead, their lives should be an example to those people – an example of God's existence and God's love.

In interviews, Mirjana has stressed the following:

- Those who know Mary should try to pray fervently, intensely, and frequently for those who do not believe.
- Mary will never forsake anyone who calls to her. She will pray *with* and *for* any child who invites her.
- The Virgin said that Jesus, her Son, redeemed every person by His passion and death on the Cross. And, He gave all people on Earth to His mother before He died on Calvary.
- The way to God is laid out in the Sacred Scriptures. The truth is in the Scriptures and in the Church's teaching. Mary is always desiring her faithful to read the Bible.
- Mary said that if Catholics lived their faith, the whole world would be Catholic.
- God makes all things well for those who trust in Him.
- Mary said that many people today choose things that are of no eternal value. Many are unaware of divine truth, drunk on the pleasures of the world, blinded by intellect, and crippled by selfishness.
- Mary is in Medjugorje to call the entire world back to God.
- The Virgin says that we should never judge one another. She herself judges no one. She loves. She teaches and guides. God alone judges.
- Mirjana says that Mary told her that people go to Heaven in full conscience; that which we have now. At the moment of death, we are conscious of the separation of body and soul. It is false, therefore, to teach people that we are reborn many times and that we pass through different bodies. One is born only once. The body, drawn from the earth, decomposes after death. It never comes back to life again. Man receives a transfigured body. Whoever has done very much evil during his life can go to Heaven if he confesses, is truly sorry for what he has done, and receives Communion at the end of his life.

## Annual Message to Mirjana on March 18, 2024

The visionary Mirjana Dragicevic-Soldo had daily apparitions from June 24, 1981 to December 25, 1982. During the last daily apparition, Our Lady gave her the 10th secret, and told her that she would appear to her once a year, on the 18th of March. It has been this way through the years. The apparition lasted from 1:23 PM to 1:27 PM.

*"Dear children, by the merciful love of God, I am with you. That is why, as a mother, I am calling you to believe in love – the love that is union with my Son. With love you help others to open their hearts to come to know my Son and to come to love Him. My children, love makes it for my Son to illuminate your hearts with His grace, to grow in you and to give you peace. My children, if you live love, if you live my Son, you will have peace and you will be happy. In love is victory. Thank you."*

# A Time of Grace

By Cathy Nolan

In this time of suffering and social upheaval, we need to keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus! We need to focus on what God is doing, not on what humans are doing. This is a time of grace!! Our Lady said to us: *"Little children, believe, pray and love, and God will be near you. He will give you the gift of all the graces you seek from Him. I am a gift to you, because, from day to day, God permits me to be with you and to love each of you with immeasurable love. Therefore, little children, in prayer and humility, open your hearts and be witnesses of my presence. Thank you for having responded to my call."* (10/25/2005)

Our Lady's simple words are powerful! She is with us because God permits her to be with us. She is a gift from the Father for these days.

I received a beautiful witness from one of our shipmates that I think will be a blessing for us all. This account of unexpected graces through Our Lady will strengthen all of us for the days ahead!

GINNA WROTE TO US:

"Today (February 1, 2021) I talked to an attorney I had employed in the 1980s in a city in which I lived. We hadn't talked for 25 years!

"When I went to Medjugorje in 1987 I thought I remembered that this attorney had told me that she prayed the Rosary at night. So when I got home, I brought over a bunch of Wayne Weible newspapers and a blessed medal and put it all in her mailbox! I wrote a note and told her I had been in Medjugorje and that I prayed for her.

"I didn't know until today when we talked, that on the

day I dropped off those Medjugorje materials, my friend had been planning to kill herself. When she saw the Medjugorje materials in her mailbox, something happened in her heart. The next day she started fasting and called a priest and went to confession for the first time in 30 years. She said her life changed that day and she felt she was saved from hell.

"When we talked today, I told her that I thought she had told me that she prayed the Rosary at night. That is why I shared about Medjugorje with her when I returned from my first trip. Then she told me, 'Ginna, all I did was hold the Rosary. I didn't know how to pray it!' When I dropped off the Medjugorje materials she said she began to really pray it instead of holding it.

"We went to Medjugorje together in August 1987. She told me today that that trip changed her life even more! We reminisced about our pilgrimage quite a bit and it was such a blessing.

*"Ponder how much you have received."* [Our Lady, 1/25/21] Next pilgrimage we make together will be to heaven! What a joy to share what Our Lady has done for both of us in the 34 years since! It just gives me such joy to think of how Our Lady has changed so many lives."

Wow! All I can say is WOW! God's timing is perfect! And Our Lady's presence is indeed a life saving grace!! Be encouraged, everyone!! We have a job to do in these days. It is the job of being witnesses of Our Lady's presence!

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## Let Us Listen to Our Mother

*The following is an excerpt of a reflection written by Fr. Jozo Zovko in March of 2006.*

We know how the blind man, Bartimaeus, was healed in Jericho. He cried and prayed. He called Jesus; "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus heard his prayer. He stopped before him and asked; "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man asked for his eyes to be opened, that he may see. Once healed, he remained with Jesus. Today we encounter so many negative examples – those who are addicted, violent, and immoral. We encounter broken families, suicides and the like. How did they lose the light, the strength, the goal, and the grace? The Queen of Peace clearly states that it is by serving things, by being enslaved to pleasure and by putting everything before God...

Among us live the addicts and the blind who do not see God and His grace. In their daily life they do not see the way of peace,

love, inner freedom, holiness or goodness. The sick alcoholic with his blindness, the one who curses with his arrogance, and the addict all say: "Help me." Who are the blind today? The Mother tells us, it is we, who have not made a resolute step towards the eternal and immortal life.

Our hearts have become weighed down with accumulated sins evidenced in our little children who have no sensitivity or inspiration to do something beautiful or good for their neighbor. We are tired of daily reports of violence and murder of even the closest in the family. All of this is only a sign that we have become glued to earthly pleasure. We have become insensitive to grace and God's gifts. Our Lady however is not tired of teaching us and leading us to complete conversion. This is now a time of grace, a time of our renewal. Let us listen to our Mother.



Fr. Jozo in his younger days

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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.

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, send a self-addressed stamped business size (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with \$.92 postage on it. This offer is available while supplies last.



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