



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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CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF DECEMBER 25, 2017

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.



"Dear children! Today I am bringing to you my Son Jesus for Him to give you His peace and blessing. I am calling all of you, little children, to live and witness the graces and the gifts which you have received. Do not be afraid. Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the strength to be joyful witnesses and people of peace and hope. Thank you for having responded to my call."

January 22 is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn. According to the UCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), "As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms." On July 2, 2006, Our Lady said, "Dear children, God created you with free will to comprehend and to choose: Life or Death. I as a Mother, with motherly love, desire to help you to comprehend and to choose life." See several related stories in this issue. The artwork above was done by subscriber, Jeff Tiner, a prisoner on death row.

Medjugorje Pilgrimages

By Fr. Bill Kiel

Recently an article appeared in *Aleteia* in regards to Archbishop Henryk Hoser's words about pilgrimages to Medjugorje. [See page 5.] Archbishop Hoser was sent to Medjugorje by Pope Francis to evaluate the pastoral care of the pilgrims visiting the village of Medjugorje. There has been a change, in that pilgrimages may be organized by Church groups. In the past, pilgrims could make private visits or be a part of a group not officially organized by a Church. This new action will, hopefully, open more pilgrim groups from parishes to visit Medjugorje. Many people were apprehensive about traveling without the "official" permission of a parish. During his visit to Medjugorje, Archbishop Hoser found the work of the Franciscans serving the pilgrims to be outstanding. He mentioned the number of confessions, celebration of the Eucharist, conferences and catechesis as phenomenal experiences available for the pilgrims. The final decision on the apparitions of Medjugorje will come from the Pope, and indications seem to be favorable.

In November 2017, our pilgrimage included nine pilgrims visiting Medjugorje for the first time. There was intense excitement as we approached the village. When we left, the pilgrims went home with a deep inner peace, spiritual enhancement, and greater appreciation for prayer in their daily life, praying the Rosary and participation in the Eucharist.

The eight days in Medjugorje, devoted to placing their focus on Jesus through the encouragement and intercession of our Blessed Mother, was life-changing for the pilgrims. When we are open to the words of encouragement of our Blessed Mother leading us to Her Son, beautiful and blessed events take place in our hearts and in our daily lives. Ask anyone who has been to Medjugorje.

You may have thought, "I do not need to go to Medjugorje to experience what one does on a pilgrimage." Have you thought about how to spend dedicated time in your life for several days focusing on your relationship with Mary and Her Son? Have you spent a day or weekend retreat with people with a common intention for growing closer to Jesus, appreciating the power of prayer, the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist? If you are unable to make a pilgrimage, seriously consider a weekend or week-long retreat. What a change it could make in your spiritual life and in your daily living.

We all seek to have the peace beyond all understanding. What have we done to attain that peace, the Peace of Christ? As we make resolutions for the new calendar year, we should be considering and praying for the grace to move closer to our Lord! Pray for the discernment to make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje or a retreat weekend near home. Remember – **the only evidence of life is growth**. Am I growing spiritually? Is my faith life stagnant, or is it being enriched and nourished through the sacraments, prayer and Scripture? What changes am I open to make in my life according to God's will? Am I afraid of change? Afraid of knowing God's will for me? As our Blessed Mother lived the will of God, let us follow Her example. Pray, pray, pray to know God's will and say YES!

Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

Mirjana's Message on December 2, 2017

Dear children, I turn to you as your mother, the mother of the just, the mother of those who love and suffer, the mother of those who are holy. My children, you too can be holy – this depends on you. Those who are holy are those who immeasurably love the Heavenly Father, those who love Him above all. Therefore, my children, always strive to be better. If you strive to be good you can be holy even though you may not think so of yourselves. If you think that you are good, you are not humble, and arrogance distances you from holiness. In this peaceful world full of threats, your hands, apostles of my love, should be extended in prayer and mercy. And to me, my children, give the gift of the rosary, the roses which I love so much. My roses are your prayers pronounced with the heart and not only recited with the lips. My roses are your acts of prayer, faith and love. When my Son was little, he said to me that my children would be numerous and that they would bring me many roses. I did not comprehend Him. Now I know that you are those children who are bringing me roses when, above all, you love my Son, when you pray with the heart, when you help the poorest. Those are my roses. That is the faith which makes everything in life be done through love, not knowing arrogance, and always ready to forgive; never judging, always striving to understand one's brother. Therefore, apostles of my love, pray for those who do not know how to love, for those who do not love you, for those who have done evil to you, for those who have not come to know the love of my Son. My children, I ask this of you because, remember, to pray means to love and to forgive. Thank you.

Our thanks to Sue Taccone, Diane Niebauer, Cassandra Dragone, Joanne Warren, Julie Hansen, Elaine Brady, Mary Jo Jaglowski, Marge Burchard, Barb Cesare, Marge Spase, Joan Peterson, Kathy Wayman, Peggy Smith, Darlene Wilkinson, Cindy Bielanin, Barb Sirianni, Estrella Igras, Louise Lotze, Georgia Chludzinski, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the December mailing. We thank Johannes Dittrich and Susannah Klins for their photos. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

As of December 25, 2017, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 20,372.



Fr. Bill with visionary Vicka on his November pilgrimage

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for January Religious Minorities in Asia:

That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practice their faith in full freedom.



Patron Saint for 2018

By June Klins

For many years, we have been randomly choosing the name of a saint to be our "holy protector" for the year. St. Faustina's community used to do this every year on New Year's Day. This can be a fun and educational thing to do with your family, friends, prayer group, or parish. Almost always, there is a connection between the saint and the person or group who randomly picked it. What is especially heartening is the fact that the saint does not leave you at the end of the year. So, if you do this every year, you will eventually have a whole army of holy helpers protecting you!

Although any list of saints can be used, there is a good one on this site: martytv.tv/?page_id=1001. You can also use the saint generator on jenniferfulwiler.com/saints/. However you choose, it is important to pray to the Holy Spirit first! The tradition goes that it is the saint who chooses you, not the other way around. The saint wishes to help you. As you pray with the saint every day, that saint will pray for you and help you.

On August 25, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI recommended choosing a special saint as a model. The Pope encouraged everyone to have a devotion to a particular saint, so that the saint can intercede, but also be a model to imitate. On October 25, 2017, Our Lady said, "May saints be models to you and an encouragement for holiness."

This year, my granddaughter, Lily, picked the saint for *The Spirit of Medjugorje*. When three year-old Lily picked St. Charbel Makhlouf (or alternate spelling, St. Sharbel Maklouf), I was excited, as I remember

seeing paintings of him in Medjugorje. A contact in Medjugorje told me that the reason there are paintings of him in the stores is because many Lebanese pilgrims come to Medjugorje in the summer and that, St. Charbel Makhlouf, who was from Lebanon, is especially venerated by them.

St. Charbel, who was born in 1828, had a great devotion to the Mother of God. The quote on the little paper Lily picked said, "Through Mary we are born not to this world, but to the next."

At the age of 23, Charbel (the name he chose when entering Novitiate) entered a Lebanese-Maronite Monastery. He was ordained in 1859. For the next seven years, Charbel lived in a mountainous community. After that, he spent the next twenty-three as a hermit. Charbel had a reputation for his life rooted in the Scriptures, his love for the Eucharist, his penances, obedience, and his love for the Mother of God. He died on December 24, 1898. His feast day is July 17.

A few months after his death, a bright light was seen surrounding his tomb. The superiors opened it to find his body still intact. Experts and doctors are unable to give medical explanations for the incorruptibility and flexibility. Since his death, thousands of recorded miracles have been attributed to his intercession – so many, in fact, that he is known as the "Wonderworker of the East."

We pray that St. Charbel will be a "wonderworker" for us and help us throughout this year to have a greater devotion to Our Lady, to Jesus in the Eucharist, to Scripture reading, and to lives of prayer, penance and fasting. St. Charbel, pray for us!



The tomb of St. Charbel

Snippets from a Talk by Jakov

The following was excerpted from a talk given to pilgrims in Medjugorje by visionary Jakov Colo on July 21, 2014.

Many pilgrims ask, "Why?" They ask, "Why so long?" Pilgrims ask, "Why so many messages?" Medjugorje is God's plan, and we have to thank God for all of this. We need to listen to the words of Our Lady. We need to open our hearts to Her. Why has Our Lady appeared so long? Our Lady is our Mother and loves Her children. **Our Lady wants to bring Her children to grace, joy and salvation** [editor emphasis]. This is the only reason why Our Lady has appeared for so long.

The messages from Our Lady consist of conversion, peace, fasting, Holy Mass, and prayer. Some of Mary's messages only say to pray, pray, pray. Our Lady says to pray with the heart. Our Lady says that our prayers should be our daily nourishment. Prayer is a gift from God. We need to remain in silence and talk to God and ask God for that gift. We need to open our heart to Our Lady and God.

Pray for our own family. Nothing can unite a family like family prayer. Father Slavko said to find time for prayer with your family. Lock the door and do not open the door for anyone while you are in family prayer. If there is no God in our families, then our families cannot survive. Every child is a gift from God. Parents need to be an example for children.

One of Mary's messages is to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays on bread and water. Another message is [that] through prayer and fasting, you can stop wars. You can pray to fast, and you will be able to do it. Pilgrims ask about the secrets. I would like to say what Our Lady said, and that is to *pray*. Everyone who has completely surrendered to God should not be afraid of God. Be ready for God at each moment to be a better person that day.

Editor's note: To read the entire summary of Jakov's talk, go to <http://themirgroup.org/medj-star-8-2014.pdf>.

Jakov's Message on December 25, 2017

"Dear children, Today, on this day of grace, I am calling you to ask the Lord for the gift of faith. My children, decide for God and begin to live and to believe in that what God is calling you to. To believe, my children, means to surrender your lives into God's hands - the hands of the Lord who created you and who loves you immeasurably. Do not be believers only in words but live and witness your faith through works and through your personal example. Speak with God as with your Father. Open and surrender your hearts to Him and you will see how your hearts are changing and how your life will marvel at God's works in your life. My children, there is no life without God and that is why, as your mother, I intercede before, and pray to, my Son to renew your hearts and to fill your life with immeasurable love. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Kelly's Two Questions

The following testimony of Kelly Shoaff aired 11/20/17, on *Fruit of Medjugorje*. It is episode #291 on *Marytv.tv*.

My name is Kelly Shoaff, from Spring, Texas. I grew up in Chicago, Illinois. In 1983, I saw a full-page ad in the *Chicago Tribune* of Our Lady of Medjugorje, and from that moment I was hooked. I planned to get here [Medjugorje] – it took me some time though. I arrived here in November of 1996, and by that time, I had two questions for Our Lady. One was: "Could I please have a baby?" And the other was my question about Jesus' Real Presence in the Eucharist. Although I'd been raised Catholic my whole life (cradle Catholic), I suddenly needed to understand that better.

A friend of mine, Nancy, invited me to come along with them to Medjugorje with Wayne Weible's tour group. I had the last seat. I was so excited to get here! And so we got here, and I was here for three days, and during these three days, I heard about all these miracles – the miracle of the sun, the miracle of the cross spinning. Some people said they saw Our Lady on the mountain. Other people said they saw a big glowing triangle. And in those first three days I saw nothing. Frankly, I was just a little bit disappointed, and suddenly it occurred to me – I've got to go to Confession. I've got to do the things that Our Lady has asked us to do – the "five stones," one of them being Confession. So I sought out a Franciscan priest by the name of Fr. Ivan, and I made a wonderful Confession. He helped me so much. By the time my Confession was over, I felt so free!

I went into the Adoration Chapel to say my penance and to pray to Jesus, and there was the Eucharist – the Blessed Sacrament right there before me. I was praying to Him and talking to Him, and suddenly the Eucharist changed from the color it normally is... to deep red. And I looked at it and I said, "Lord, how do I explain this?" And I never heard Him speak to me audibly, but it was a thought in my head. He said, "When you tell people about this, explain it the way ketchup runs out of a bottle." And I burst out laughing. That was the first time I ever knew what a great sense of humor Jesus has. Later, when I explained that to my cousin, who is a physician (a surgeon), she said that's the way blood separates, the same way.

I left the chapel and I was walking toward the tents. (At the time there were tents. There weren't all these buildings.) Fr. Slavko was giving a talk. I looked up at the cross on Krizevac, and I said, "Lord, I love You so much. I know it's not going to change. My faith isn't going to change, but would You just give it a spin one time for me? And right when I prayed and I asked Him, the cross raised up in the air and it slowly, slowly spun around one time and then it lowered back into its base. And right then I knew that God hears our prayers right when we pray them... He did it *one* time. That just cracked me up.

I walked into the tent and Fr. Slavko was giving a talk. His whole talk was about taking personal responsibility for yourself. It's not always Satan; it's not always somebody else's fault. We have to learn to take personal responsibility for the things that we do. It was wonderful. After that experience, I saw the miracle of the sun, which is incredible.

The last night that I was here, I had received Holy Communion, and I felt the Eucharist from the top of my head to the bottom of my feet. It was electric. I became so

overwhelmed with emotion and I felt so deeply how much God loves me, I cried and cried and cried. When we left to go back home, I felt like Our Lady said to me, "Don't you want to go home to John (who is my husband)?" I said, "No, I want to stay here with you." I got to the bus and we went on our way.

Those moments prove to me how real Jesus is in the Eucharist – the Eucharist changing into that blood-red color, that He showed me how His blood separated as He was dying. And then when I felt Him and I received Communion, I felt it. I felt the power of God and I felt how much He loved me. And the thing is – what I know is – even though we don't always feel that (and it's the only time it's ever happened to me), it's actually happening to us *every single time* we receive Communion. Jesus Christ is real and present in the Eucharist and we can never forget that!

I also asked Him, "Could I please have a baby?" One day as I was walking toward the tent and I was looking at the cross, I just said, "Lord, You know this. I've been married for 10 years and we can't seem to have a baby." Now, I come from a big Irish Catholic family in Chicago (there's nine of us). So I figured something had to be wrong. So when I got home – it was June 24 – I discovered I was pregnant!!! And that's, of course, the first day Our Lady appeared to the visionaries. When I went to the doctor's, the doctor told me my due date was St. Patrick's Day. Now that's a huge holiday in my family, and I knew that was a confirmation that this was an answer to my prayers!

I went to the doctor, like we do, and had the tests, like we are supposed to, and they came back and they said, "Kelly, it's really bad news. Your baby has Down Syndrome and Spina Bifida." Then she rattled off a litany of other diseases that I can't even remember now. I was so terrified at those first two things I couldn't even breathe... The doctor said, "We encourage you really to terminate this pregnancy. It's not a good idea to go forward." I said, "I can't. I can't do

that. This was my gift from Medjugorje. This is my gift from God. And I'm Catholic. We can't end a life of another human being." The doctor was so angry with me for not cooperating, she actually called my husband at his office and told him that I was not cooperating. Of course, he told her never to call him again, I'm a grown woman, and I can make up my own mind.

Long story, long, I changed doctors. We went on with the pregnancy and my little girl was born – of course, she was a week late, like her mother. She was born on March 24, and when the doctor looked up, she said to me, "Kelly, your baby is perfect and she's normal and she's healthy." Everybody in the delivery room just burst into tears. I had held my breath for nine months and I prayed and prayed and prayed to Our Lady to help me accept this, if this was God's will for me, that I would raise this little baby who obviously would need me. But my little girl was born. Come here, Em [beckoning to her daughter]. I want you to see the perfect beautiful baby that I had on March 24, 1998. This is my Emily Rose. She's perfect and she's beautiful and she's completely normal. And the doctors and all the tests said it wasn't true. I just think it's so important to remember



Kelly and Emily Rose

that. Remember that those tests aren't always true. We have to value life, value our children because they matter. And this is my baby [hugging her]. There she is.

Something else I just want to say, too. It was years later I heard about Mary TV and this is the most wonderful gift that we have – to be able to spread Our Lady's messages, to be able to spread the news that Jesus and God want us

to come back, come back to the Father. And we have to not only do that, but we have to share this with our friends... This is important that this succeeds...

Editor's note: Kelly is right about MaryTV. Their ministry is awesome. Please pray for their success, and if you wish to send them a donation, you can visit their website, Marytv.tv, for more information. When you help them, you help us!

Emily's Experience in Medjugorje

On the October 27, 2017 episode of "Tea with Rosie" on Marytv.tv, Rosie Zubac interviewed members of Mike Nolan's pilgrimage group. Kelly Shoaff (previous story) and her daughter, Emily, were among those interviewed. After interviewing Kelly, Rosie asked Emily about her own pilgrimage. Emily responded, "I didn't really know exactly what to expect, and I know I was going to be one of the younger ones, so I was nervous about that. But I got to experience my own miracle. I got to experience a lot, and I've learned that the love of Jesus and Mary is really good."

Rosie then asked Emily if she could share her miracle. Emily said that her mother wanted her to meet Fr. Mike, a priest who had heard her confession. As Emily was talking to Fr. Mike, he began to tell her things that she had never told anyone in her life. "That was amazing," she exclaimed. Then Father said to her, "I want to give you something." He reached over and he gave her some flowers. "They were flowers I had picked hours earlier and thrown out," Emily continued, "and then he was giving them to me!!!" She said she burst into tears in amazement.

Good News Regarding Pilgrimages to Medjugorje

On December 7, 2017, Jesús Colina reported the following for *Aleteia* (an online Catholic News Agency which has the approval of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications):

"The devotion of Medjugorje is allowed. It's not prohibited, and need not be done in secret," confirmed Archbishop Henryk Hoser of Warsaw-Praga, Poland, now some months after being sent to Medjugorje by Pope Francis to evaluate not the veracity of the apparitions, but the state of the pastoral care being provided to the thousands of pilgrims who flock to the site every year.

Formerly, pilgrimages to the site were not to be organized by official Church groups, though the faithful could make them privately or through other organizations. Now, the stance on officially-organized pilgrimages will open.

"My mission is precisely to analyze the pastoral situation and propose improvements," the archbishop told *Aleteia*, about his assignment at the shrine in Bosnia & Herzegovina, which has attracted millions of people since Marian apparitions reportedly began there in 1981.

"Today, dioceses and other institutions can organize official pilgrimages. It's no longer a problem," explained the archbishop, speaking from his residence in Warsaw. "Pope Francis recently asked an Albanian cardinal to give his blessing to the faithful present in Medjugorje," he added.

"I am full of admiration for the work the Franciscans are doing there," the Polish prelate reported. "With a relatively small team—there is only a dozen of them—they do a huge job of welcoming pilgrims. Every summer they organize a youth festival. This year, there were 50,000 young people from around the world, with more than 700 priests."

"There is a massive number of confessions. They have about 50 confessional, which are not enough. These are very deep confessions," he said.

"This is a phenomenon. And what confirms the authenticity of the place is the large amount of charitable institutions that exist around the sanctuary. And another aspect as well: the great effort that is being made at the level of Christian formation. Each year, they organize conferences



A pilgrimage bus in Medjugorje

at different levels, for various audiences (priests, doctors, parents, young people, couples ...)"

"The decree of the former episcopal conference of what used to be Yugoslavia, which, before the Balkan war, advised against pilgrimages in Medjugorje organized by bishops, is no longer relevant," he said.

There are other cases of locations of apparitions, like Kibeho, in Rwanda, where the diocesan bishop agreed to allow the devotion, and then continued the analysis for the recognition of the apparitions.

The archbishop revealed that the conclusion of the Commission for the analysis of the apparitions of Medjugorje, which Benedict XVI had entrusted to Cardinal Camillo Ruini, appears to be favorable.

"What I find touching is that all the seers have turned to family life," Archbishop Hoser reflected. "In our day and age, the family is of enormous importance. All of them have a family. Those who were teenagers at the time, are already grandmothers; 37 years have passed!"

"But this decision will have to be made by the Pope. The file is now at the Secretariat of State. I believe the final decision will be made," concluded Archbishop Hoser."

Clarification

On December 10, 2017, a clarification of the *Aleteia* article was published by the Italian news outlet *Il Giornale*. The interviewer asked, "Monsignor, can you explain to us better?" Archbishop Hoser replied, "It is true what I said, although perhaps it was a bit exaggerated in tone [when reported], but it is absolutely authentic that pilgrimages of prayer can be organized in Medjugorje without any problem, provided they are spiritual and do not concern the apparitions of Our Lady to the seers...We need to distinguish between worship and apparitions. If a bishop wants to organize a prayer pilgrimage to Medjugorje to pray to Our Lady, he can do it without problem. But if it is organized pilgrimages to go there for the apparitions, we cannot, there is no authorization to do it."

"You are Her Physician"

By June Klins

A while ago, three different people told me that I should watch a Medjugorje film called *Mary's Land* on Netflix. I did not even know what Netflix is, but I later discovered the film is available on YouTube. One person wrote, "The film is based on the love of God and His Mother – how several people transformed their lives through Our Lady of Medjugorje." I was warned that the beginning does not look like a Medjugorje movie, but to stick with it. I did and I am glad I did.

One of the people interviewed in this movie was Dr. John Bruchalski. I recognized his name and face right away. I heard him speak at the Notre Dame Medjugorje Conference in 2001. I found many videos of his story on YouTube.

Dr. Bruchalski said that he became an OB/GYN to help women, but early in his career, his heart had become hardened. He had been taught to treat women as objects, to abort babies and to encourage sexual engagements. But no one was getting better. "They were becoming actually sicker – more infections, more broken families, depression, sadness, hopelessness, cynicism." He added, "Not only did I see it in my patients, but I saw it in myself and in many of my peers – other doctors. I think it is a common experience."

When a friend invited Dr. Bruchalski on a trip to Mexico City, they went as part of the tour to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At this point, Dr. Bruchalski had been away from his Catholic faith. As he stood in the packed church, he heard an audible English-speaking voice say, "Why are you hurting me?" It caught him by surprise, and he thought maybe it was the heat getting to him or that he drank too many beers. He looked around and there were no English-speaking people nearby. "It was feminine. It was direct. It was to me. It was penetrating." He put this out of his head, however, because he was busy and did not want to deal with it. And he went back to aborting.

Then one day, as Dr. Bruchalski was in the midst of aborting a baby, they had miscalculated the age, and the baby was born live at over 500 grams. In this case, he had to call for the nursery doctor. When she arrived, she looked him in the eye and said, "You are better than this. Stop treating babies as tumors, cancerous tumors." When he questioned her about what she meant, she repeated, "You're better than this. You know why you went into medicine – to help people. This is not helping." She then told him about a retreat she had recently made in Medjugorje and suggested he go there.

Two days later, his mother called him and invited him to go with her to Medjugorje!

Dr. Bruchalski testified that when he went to Medjugorje, "I found love. I found the love of God, the peace of Christ. I found the love of my Heavenly Mother."

One day on his pilgrimage, a young Belgian woman he had never seen before, came up to him and said, "Excuse me. You are the doctor." Although she was speaking in French, the doctor heard her speaking in English. "I need



Dr. Bruchalski

a few moments of your time. The Mother of God has some messages for you." She then proceeded to tell him to be the best doctor he can be, to always serve the poor and the under-served, and to follow the teachings of Her Son's Church.

"You are Her physician; you can help renew medicine... You can find joy and happiness in your daily life if you practice excellent medicine."

It was then that Dr. Bruchalski realized that "when I engaged and performed the abortions and took the life of an innocent fetus – the baby – it went through my hand and into my heart and it hardened me. It also hardened the mother."

He started crying. "The Mother of God came back into my life and loved me as a child once again." He went to Confession and began practicing his Catholic faith again. He was now praying with his heart.

When Dr. Bruchalski returned from Medjugorje, he went back to the professors and told them he could no longer perform abortions. He and his wife opened their own practice in the basement of their home and called it "Tepeyac Family Center" after Tepeyac Hill, where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego in 1531. Eight months later, they were able to move their practice into a "real" office. "When you give your life to Christ, things begin to happen that you have no control over. His mercy lasts forever, and He is more generous than you can imagine." They have grown to the point of 20,000 patient visits and 700 baby deliveries a year. "We want to help people become healthier, happier, and holier," Dr. Bruchalski proclaimed.

The film producer of *Mary's Land*, Juan Platas, asked Dr. Bruchalski, "Why is it so difficult to accept God's recommendations? We need to ask always, 'Why? Why? Why?'" The doctor replied, "It's a very good question. I believe it's because of pride. We want to do our own way on our time. 'I'm OK. I'm fine.' And yet all of us are searching in our hearts for something more.... We've removed Christ from the equation." He continued, "I firmly believe that there's going to be a spiritual reawakening in our lifetime. Because I don't see any other answer across the world that has the capacity to transform our hearts from hearts of stone to hearts of flesh – to love more. The only answer is God's Mercy."

Juan Platas asked, "What if I have done terrible things? Am I also a candidate for this Mercy?" The doctor replied, "You're speaking to someone who has killed many, many human lives – absolutely... He's there especially for people who have led horrific lives, no matter what – because His love is unconditional. He would have died on the cross for one person. He loves us that much... it's about changing your heart. It's about loving. It's about allowing yourself to be loved."

Editor's note: The Tepeyac Family Center is located in Fairfax, VA. Their website is <http://tepeyacobgyn.com>.

The Tepeyac Family Center

By Rachael Kibbe

Imagine... everyone living the messages of Medjugorje; we would truly be living Heaven on earth. We would be saints living among saints. What a joy to be living with Peters and Pauls, Marthas and Marys. Imagine finding a St. Paul within your doctor – a prescription of prayer and fasting or one that involves sitting before the tabernacle and listening to the Lord. The latter was a prescription I received from my new OB/GYN, Dr. John Bruchalski.

After my two miscarriages and a still-born child, the women within my church urged me to see Dr. Bruchalski at the Tepeyac Family Center in Fairfax, Virginia. They told me how he has helped many other women and they mentioned the pictures of Mary and statues and crucifixes he has in his office and waiting room. Though it took me a while to be convinced about him, I finally went to see him.

Dr. Bruchalski describes his conversion using the prodigal son story. In the winter of 1990, he found himself in the "slop." He was performing abortions and sterilizing and contracepting. He credits his parents' intercessory prayers and a call from his mother that spurred him to travel to Medjugorje. While sitting in St. James Church in Medjugorje, a woman told him that she had a message for him from Our Lady. "She wants to give you the gift of healing in medicine so you can build a center to translate the healing message of Our Lord to the people who will come."

In 1994, Dr. John opened the Tepeyac Family Center, a Catholic OB/GYN practice which upholds the Catholic Church's beliefs of life, that is to say, a non-contraceptive, pro-life and pro-family center. The Tepeyac Family Center also serves the needs of the poor and crisis pregnancy center patients. Dr. John believes that "healing is about becoming whole: body, soul and spirit." "All of us have wounds and these wounds go deep." These wounds, he believes, especially the ones he refers to as "soul-ties," prevent us from living out the messages of Medjugorje. "It is the love of Jesus Christ that heals the sin and shame of these wounds."



Theology of the Body at Tepeyac Family Center

Some healings happen instantly, some must take place in the heart and some in the memory.

It isn't a wonder then, that after telling Dr. Bruchalski about my two miscarriages, he asked me the names of these children. I told him that I never named them, thinking it wasn't necessary. He told me that I needed some healing regarding the miscarriages. He told me he could not heal the heart, only Jesus can. He prescribed

a visit before the tabernacle to ask Christ the names of these children. Like many stubborn people, I denied the fact that I needed "healing." But, once I humbled myself before the Lord, I learned that I had two angels in Heaven named Clare and Paul.

Imagine living among saints. I have found many at the Tepeyac Family Center. Maybe someday I will be able to tell you about a family center of lawyers, or pharmacists, or computer consultants, or salesmen, or auto mechanics.

Editor's note: This is a reprint from our September 2001 issue. Rachael gave birth to a baby girl, Jessica, in July of 2001, and then another girl, Veronica, in August of 2002. When I asked Rachael for permission to reprint this, she wrote back to me, "Now let me tell you what has happened to me. The Lord has placed this very idea back into my heart only just a few months ago. I thought, 'Wow! I should make my business just like Dr. Bruchalski's by praying daily for my clients.' So I try very hard to pray every day for our past, present and future real estate clients. It doesn't mean we sell the houses faster but many clients like the fact that we pray for them. I even take our clients spiritually to Mass with me and offer them to God during Consecration. Just like the people who opened the roof and lowered the lame man before Christ to heal, I set them before God. Wouldn't that be incredible if every business did this for their customers? We would all be praying for one another!!! What a marvelous world this would be. Your timing is incredible. I take it as a confirmation from the Lord that He approves of what I am doing for our clients!"

Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

To help stop the anti-life push around the world, the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn child.

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."

- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

Thank you in advance for your patience with me in sending your acknowledgements for your donations and for answers to your emails and phone calls. *"May your weapon be patience and boundless love, a love that knows to wait."* (Our Lady, October 2, 2010) My 89 year-old father continues to need my help following his surgery in December. Please continue to pray for his recovery. Thank you very much. We really appreciate it.

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MARY IS CALLING YOU

On June 24, 1981 in Medjugorje, Our Lady appeared to six children. She identified Herself as the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace, and has continued to appear daily. Her message is PEACE, peace with God and man. 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, all but three of the visionaries have daily apparitions of the Blessed Mother. 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. All the visionaries declare to see the Blessed Virgin as they see other people - in three dimension. They pray and speak with Her.

The Blessed Mother is confiding ten secrets to each visionary (some are chastisements for the world) and promises to leave a visible sign at the place of the apparitions in Medjugorje for all humanity. This time, this period of grace, is for CONVERSION

and a DEEPENING OF FAITH. After the visible sign, those still living will have little time for conversion.

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. They are: prayer with the heart, especially the Rosary; Eucharist; Holy Bible; monthly Confession; and fasting.

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

To borrow an original prayer cloth from Medjugorje for a week, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the address below. You must include your phone number. 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 \$.71 postage on it.



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