

THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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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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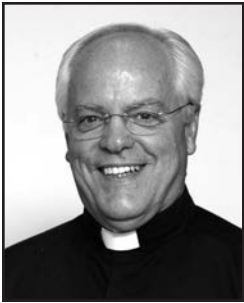
CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF JUNE 25, 2017

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.



The statue shown above, "Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom," was a gift left to our Medjugorje prayer group in Erie by Pat Weller, a former member of our mailing staff. May she rest in peace. "Seat of Wisdom" means Temple or Throne of Wisdom. This name is fitting for Our Lady, since Wisdom is a Scriptural name of Our Lord. To see this beautiful picture in color, go to our website and click on "current issue."

"Dear children! Today, I desire to thank you for your perseverance and call you to open yourselves to profound prayer. Prayer, little children, is the heart of faith and is hope in eternal life. Therefore, pray with the heart until your heart sings with thanksgiving to God the Creator who gave you life. I am with you, little children, and carry to you my motherly blessing of peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."



Fr. Bill Kiel

“I Pray – God Heals”

By Fr. Bill Kiel

At this writing, our spiritual advisor, Fr. Bill Kiel, is on his way to Medjugorje. We decided to give him a break from writing this month to give him more time to prepare for his pilgrimage. So this month, we decided to share with our readers how Father’s healing ministry started. Father gave his testimony on our June 2016 pilgrimage to

Medjugorje in conjunction with a talk our guide, Ana, gave about Fr. Jozo Zovko. Fr Bill’s whole story can be read on our website at www.spiritofmedjugorje.org/july2008.

My experience with Fr. Jozo was my first trip (back in 1994). We went to Siroki Brijeg to hear his talk. So we went there, and after his talk he invited the priests with groups to come up and concelebrate Mass. So three of us concelebrated Mass, and then after the Mass, he asked the people to sit down, and he started to talk without his translator. But I heard him very clearly say, “I’m going to bless the priests and then ask the priests to bless all people, beginning with the people in this church.” Then I caught myself in thinking, “I do not understand Croatian! Just sit back and listen.” Then the translator came out and said a few things, then said, “Father is going to bless the priests and ask that they share this blessing with all people, beginning with the people here in this church.”

So he [Fr. Jozo] blessed us and then he motioned us to different parts of the church. I was on the side aisle. I started in the back, and as I blessed people (lay hands on them), they started to rest in the Spirit, which shocked me, because I had blessed many people before, but never experienced resting in the Spirit.

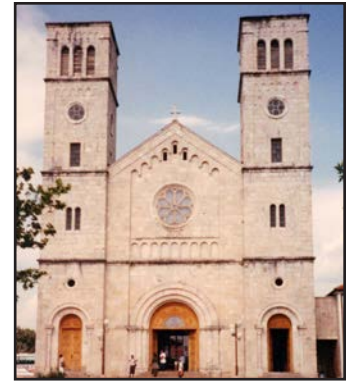
So after the blessings were completed, a number of people came up to me and thanked me for the blessings

that they felt they received, the healings they felt they received through the blessing. And my first thought with the first person was, “OK, Kiel, remember what they told you in seminary: ‘As a priest, you can do nothing. It’s God working through you.’” So my first response was, “Thank God. I pray – God heals.” And that was really the beginning of the healing ministry for me through the blessing through Fr. Jozo. And I know it was a gift because I had no idea what was happening.

I came home and talked to a few priests about it, and they just kind of brushed me off like I was a newly ordained guy that thought he was a “hotshot.” So I just didn’t talk to anybody about it, but read everything I could possibly read on the gift of healing and the power of the Holy Spirit, and the more I read, the more I blessed, the greater the healings took place. They all started with Fr. Jozo right there in Siroki Brijeg.

He [Fr. Jozo] was a powerful speaker. He could get a message across on deep theological issues in a way that people could understand – a very gifted priest (see page 7).

Editor’s note: After his experience in Medjugorje, Fr. Bill began celebrating Masses with healing blessings – a ministry that continues today to heal many spiritually, emotionally and physically. Father’s schedule can be found at www.spiritofmedjugorje.org/FrKiel.php. He will be the spiritual director for a pilgrimage to Medjugorje November 6-17. For more information, call Nancy at 724-244-8554.



The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Siroki Brijeg

Our Lady’s Message to Mirjana Soldo on June 2, 2017

Dear children, as in the other places where I have come to you, also here I am calling you to prayer. Pray for those who do not know my Son, for those who have not come to know the love of God, against sin, for the consecrated – for those whom my Son called to have love and the spirit of strength for you, for the Church. Pray to my Son, and the love which you experience from His nearness will give you the strength to make you ready for the works of love which you will do in His name. My children, be ready. This time is a turning point. That is why I am calling you anew to faith and hope. I am showing you the way by which you need to go, and those are the words of the Gospel. Apostles of my love, the world is in such need of your arms raised towards Heaven, towards my Son, towards the Heavenly Father. Much humility and purity of heart are needed. Have trust in my Son and know that you can always be better. My motherly heart desires for you, apostles of my love, to be little lights of the world, to illuminate there where darkness wants to begin to reign, to show the true way by your prayer and love, to save souls. I am with you. Thank you.

Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for July

Lapsed Christians: That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.



Our thanks to Sue Taccone, Diane Niebauer, Shirley Mischler, Marge Spase, Cindy Bielamin, Joanne Warren, Georgia Chludzinski, Vickie DeCoursey, Julie Hansen, Dianne Yochim, Kathy Wayman, Pat Berrier, Kathy Luschini, Barb Sirianni, Marge Burchard, Louise Lotze, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the June mailing. We thank Helen Bell, Johannes Dittrich, Mike Golovich, and Josip Elez for their photos, We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, and our webmaster, Jason Klins.

As of June 25, 2017, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady’s intentions was 18,214. Remember that this year for our 30th anniversary, when you have a Mass said for Our Lady’s intentions we will renew your subscription. Let us know!

Ivanka

By Cathy Nolan

During the 30th Anniversary celebrations, some of the visionaries spoke from the open air altar to the vast crowds gathered in Medjugorje to give thanks to Our Lady for 30 years of Her presence with us. Ivanka spoke on a very hot afternoon. She stood so very quietly as she spoke. She never made a gesture, but quietly and serenely shared from her heart about the last 30 years and her experiences with Our Lady. Each visionary is so different. Vicka can hardly be contained; she is so filled with excitement and love for the pilgrims. Ivan is very steady and calm, with just a hint of humor gleaming through. Marija is very motherly, and warm. But Ivanka is like a very deep well, very deep. She is quiet, reserved, and full of grace. It was beautiful to see her so quietly but peacefully sharing about Our Lady.

I want to share the beginning and the end of her talk... Ivanka began with a prayer, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. "I greet you with the most beautiful greeting, 'Praised be Jesus and Mary!'

"God has been giving me a huge responsibility, in front of you people who are here now ... I can only say that I am only a simple regular mortal in the same way that you are, and I have accepted everything that has been given to me, and I only pray to Her and to Him to give me strength, to give me humility, that I may be able to be what He is asking of me.

"I can say to you that my prayer is exactly the same as yours. My relationship with God is the same as yours. Everything depends on me. I can say and witness to you that the living God is here with us. He did not go away from us. It is we who have gone away from Him. Our Lady has come here so that She can return us to the right way, that She may show us the right way, that we will not go on a side path. To see Our Lady with the eyes is a most beautiful experience. But to see Her with the eyes and not to feel Her in our hearts, that is as if nothing ever happened. Blessed are those who did not see, but believe....

"What I have to say is that Heaven opens every single day,

and Heaven speaks to us and says to us, **'Dear children, return to the path of penance, conversion, fasting, and prayer.'** We are free people and we can choose the way we



Ivanka and her husband with their two sons and grandson on his first birthday

want to go. Out of the six of us, each one has a mission. Some pray for priests, some pray for the youth, for the sick, for those who have not come to know the love of God yet. My mission is to pray for families. Our Lady is inviting us to respect the Sacrament of Marriage. Our Lady is inviting us to renew family prayer, to go to Sunday Mass, that we confess every single month, and most important, that in the center of our family, the Holy Bible will be there. Satan is so strong, and he wants to destroy our families. If the family is not strong, because everything comes from

the family, he will be able to destroy the whole world.

"Many say there is not enough time for prayer. God has given us all the time in the world. It is up to us to make the best use of the time. Let us start our day with the Sign of the Cross and let us say to God, 'Stay with me, bless this day.' When you go to sleep, thank the Lord for the day He has given to you. Prayer needs to be like the air we are breathing, like the water we are drinking. We can have all the riches of this world, but without inner peace, we cannot have anything. That peace only comes from God, and comes through prayer. Every day I pray for all the families of this world. In the same way, I am asking you to pray for our families as well. I want to thank you because you want to hear Our Lady's messages. In the same way, bring those messages back to your homes, to your families, back to your churches, back to your countries. Please be apostles of Our Lady's peace. She has told us, **"Do not be afraid of anything."** I say to you in the same way, do not be afraid, because She is always with us" (*Ivanka Elez, 30th Anniversary talk, Medjugorje, June 2011*).

Ivanka is beautifully simple. Each statement comes from her deep experience with Our Lady. Thank you, Ivanka, for sharing with us your heart.

www.maryto.tv

Ivanka's Message on June 25, 2017

The visionary Ivanka Ivankovic-Elez had her regular annual apparition on June 25, 2017. At her last daily apparition on May 7, 1985, Our Lady confided to Ivanka the 10th secret and told her that she would have an apparition once a year on the anniversary of the apparitions. It was that way also this year. The apparition, which lasted four minutes, took place at Ivanka's family home. Only Ivanka's family was present at the apparition. After the apparition, Ivanka said that Our Lady was joyful and gave the following message: **"Little children, pray, pray, pray."**

Fasting Tip

I would like to share something I have found both practical and helpful with fasting (which can be difficult). After each bite of bread, after it is swallowed, pray, "Jesus, Mary, I love you. Save souls," before taking the next bite. Do the same with the water. In this way we can focus on *why* we are fasting (with love and cooperation for our Mother). It is also a wonderful way to practice the presence of God when eating normally. *Editor's note: This tip was shared by one of our international subscribers, who prefers to remain anonymous. We thank her for sharing this wonderful tip.*

My Special Rosary from Medjugorje

By Joe Kohler

Last fall, I received a special grace through the love and mercy of Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother that I feel I am supposed to share.

I was in a motorcycle accident on October 10, 2016 at 2:00 in the afternoon. I was hit by a Jeep Patriot, thrown in the air, and my head struck and destroyed the windshield. My head hit the windshield so hard that I was knocked out and unconscious for about 30 minutes. I did receive a mild concussion along with two cracked ribs and three fractured lumbar vertebrae. The only visible evidence was a contusion on my lower back and multiple bruises.

I was carrying my rosary that day. I always carry my very special rosary in my pocket. I have had it for over 10 years and it was a gift from Medjugorje. In addition, I also wear a Miraculous Medal and a Brown Scapular around my neck. I have a very strong devotion to Mary, our Blessed Mother.

I do not remember anything about the accident, but I was told my full face helmet saved my life. When I first came home from the hospital two days after my accident, I began to realize the miraculous nature of what had happened to me. My arms and legs were not broken and I sustained no crippling injuries. Although I had intense pain, I was alive and I could think clearly and reflect on the whole event. The nurses in the trauma unit at the hospital told me that they had never seen anyone walk out of the hospital two days after a motorcycle accident. This comment enabled me to reflect more. I could have easily died. If you ever doubt the power of Jesus Christ and His Blessed Mother, ask me! My survival and lack of serious injuries were truly miraculous. I walked out of the hospital unassisted in less than 48 hours! I am thankful, and overwhelmed by the love, mercy, and goodness of God.

As soon as I got home, I realized my special Medjugorje rosary was missing and I was depressed. My clothes had been cut off of me in the emergency room because they did not know if I was badly hurt. The rosary was in my pocket. I called the hospital immediately, and they told me they would look for it and call me back if they found it. This was Wednesday, October 12, 2016. They never called back. I began grieving for my rosary!

The next day, October 13, 2016 was the 99th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun in Fatima. Although I did not realize the significance of that day then, a woman who I had been seeing for a couple of months broke off the relationship with a text message that day. The hurt, and pain from my accident and the fact that I was home alone recovering from injuries was only compounded, and I was getting depressed. I now realize that Mary through Jesus was ending a relationship that was comforting and seemed significant to me. As

Paul Harvey used to say, "The rest of the story" was about to unfold.

On Sunday, October 16, 2016, I felt like washing some clothes. By this time, only six days after the accident, I had already mastered the stairs again in my home. Another miracle! I went to the laundry room downstairs, loaded the machine and went back upstairs. I had several loads to do. With the first load done, I went downstairs, opened the washing machine and to my utter amazement, there was my Medjugorje rosary lying on top of the spun clothes! As anyone knows, spun clothes cling to the sides of the washer. My rosary was lying in an open position, like you would see with a deceased person holding a rosary in a casket. It was clearly visible on top of all of my clothes. I did not have to separate my clothes to retrieve it.

Tears welled up in my eyes! My thoughts were all over the place. I knew immediately that Mary through Jesus had saved my life on October 10, 2016. She also returned my rosary to me even after it was lost in the hospital's emergency room. I was immediately inspired that I was not to keep this miracle to myself, but to share it with others. Praise God and our Blessed Mother! Our God is an awesome God and HE can do the impossible!

Today, I am back to work, and I am 100% recovered from my injuries. I have no physical limitations and I can do anything I did before my accident. I share this story because the blessings I have received for having gone to Medjugorje in June, 2016 are ongoing. I wake up every day and I am thankful for another day.

I will close with these thoughts. If you have never been to Medjugorje, GO! It is a place of miracles, and not all of them happen while you are there. Go to Mass daily, if possible, and receive the Eucharist. Carry a blessed rosary with you at all times and pray it daily. Wear the Brown Scapular and the Miraculous Medal around your neck. Go to Confession monthly. Live a life being thankful to God, and love others in your daily walk. Finally, listen to the monthly messages from Medjugorje and live them. Miracles can and will happen in your life when you have the eyes of faith. When you need Our Lady's protection the most, She will love and guide you to Jesus when you are in most need of His grace and mercy.

Editor's note: Joe is a local dentist who lives in Erie, PA. His injuries did not impair his ability to practice dentistry. He shared his story with me back when it happened, and I had asked him to write it up when he had time. One morning, Joe told me he could not sleep, so he got up, wrote the story and emailed it to me. We realized while talking that the day he wrote and sent it was a Marian feast day – the Feast of the Visitation!



Joe's rosary

Every day there is something, or a message for us... You see, the general message is not peace; it is *Our Lady's presence*. If She has not said anything, if, for example, She has only appeared for a second, it is the general message, "I am with you." And from Her presence everything receives a special force. ~ Fr. Slavko Barbaric on February 21, 1985

Be Ready

By June Klins

Our Lady asks us to read Scripture daily, and in my quest to live Her messages, I have been working my way through the Book of Hebrews. I have read this Book many times before, but this time one passage that particularly struck me was Hebrews 12:14: “Strive for peace with everyone, and for that holiness without which no one will see the Lord [my emphasis].” Oh my gosh! Do you understand what that means? If we are not holy, we will not enter Heaven. Of course, I already knew that, but when I read it that day, it was like someone hit me with a two by four!

How many people do you know who are truly, truly HOLY? I remember years ago I heard a priest speak about this. He said that it is not good enough to be a “nice person” or a “good person,” but it was necessary to be a “holy” person to enter Heaven. This seems rather counter-cultural in a day and age where almost every funeral is a “canonization.”

So what is holiness and how do we attain it? Mother Angelica, foundress of EWTN, wrote a number of beautiful reflections on holiness (which can be found in the EWTN online library). In one, she wrote, “Holiness is for ordinary people who accomplish God’s Will with joy, in faith and in trust.” She wrote in another one, “The concept of the perfect, faultless saint is unrealistic. We have only to look at the gospels to see how imperfect the Apostles and first Christians were. There was a point in their lives when they

changed. We call that point the time of their ‘conversion,’ their encounter with the Sanctifying Spirit.” Conversion is one of Our Lady’s main messages.

In Her recent message to Mirjana on June 2, Our Lady said, “...**be ready. This time is a turning point.**” Does this mean to stock up on food and water, silver and gold? Visionary Ivan was asked the following during a question and answer session in July of 2012: “Many people are stocking up on food, and investing in gold and silver, due to the economic and world situation. Is this practical, foolish, or unnecessary?” Ivan’s immediate answer was: “Foolish!” Visionary Mirjana has answered similarly.

We become “ready” by becoming more holy. Our Lady has been coming to us for over 36 years now to lead us to conversion and to teach us how to be holy. She has used the word “holiness” in Her public messages 64 times since 1984. Living the “5 stones” with your heart can lead to holiness: **Prayer** (especially the Rosary), **fasting** on Wednesdays and Fridays, daily **Bible** reading, monthly **Confession**, and making the **Eucharist** the center of your life.

Over 30 years ago, Our Lady said, “...this long time that I am with you is a sign that I love you immeasurably, and what I desire of each individual is to become holy.” (10/9/86) She sure is patient with us! Let us not disappoint Her any longer.

St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Conversion of Sinners

By June Klins

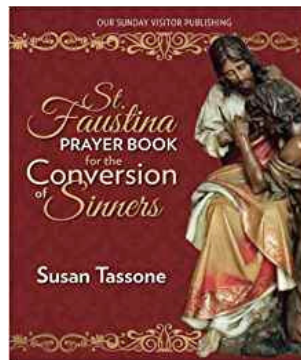
With the way the world is going, it is probably not a big surprise to hear that the number-one prayer request, worldwide, received by EWTN, Catholic radio stations, and other organizations is for CONVERSION. Conversion was a main message in Fatima and continues to be in Medjugorje. “I call you to pray for conversion of sinners,” Our Lady of Medjugorje said on March 25, 1999 (as well as other times).

A great prayer companion to use in praying for the conversion of sinners (and our own conversion) is Susan Tassone’s newest book, *St. Faustina Prayer Book for the Conversion of Sinners*. Susan was definitely inspired by the Holy Spirit as she wrote this book. It is jam-packed not only with prayers from St. Faustina’s Diary, but also with prayers for conversion through invocation of different saints and angels. Did you know that St. Alban is the patron saint of converts?

Susan begins by defining conversion: “...A soul that seeks holiness by, day after day, seeking God’s will and striving to live it.” There are chapters on penance, Confession, intercessory suffering, and more. Susan quotes St. Faustina who wrote, “We do not know the number of souls that is ours to save through our prayers and sacrifices; therefore, let us always pray for sinners.” (#1783)

In this centenary year of Our Lady of Fatima,

Susan also quoted Sr. Lucia of Fatima who, when asked when world peace would be restored, answered, “When a sufficient number of people respond to the Blessed Virgin Mary’s call to pray the Rosary and offer sacrifices for the conversion of sinners.”



One unique chapter that I particularly liked was the chapter in which Susan lists the conversion experiences of the early Christians in the Acts of the Apostles. I also really liked the “Litany of the Saints for Growth in Holiness.” There were some saints invoked I had never heard of, such as St. Olaf the Viking. This prompted me to learn about them.

Towards the end of the book, Susan included a Litany of Praise. She wrote, “Thanksgiving was a key way St. Faustina praised Jesus. She thanked Him in everything because she trusted Him.” She quoted the words of Jesus to St. Faustina: “Be grateful for the smallest of My graces, because your gratitude compels Me to grant you new graces...” (#1701)

Susan really put a lot of research into this book! Congratulations, Susan, on another best-seller!

*Editor’s note: Susan is the author of many books dealing with the Holy Souls in Purgatory. This book, as well as her others, can be ordered from any bookstore. You can visit her website at www.susantassone.com, where you can also find links to watch her enlightening interviews on EWTN. You can hear Susan’s Medjugorje testimony on *Fruit of Medjugorje* (#212) on www.marytv.to or read it at www.spiritofmedjugorje.org/nov2009.htm.*

“Where the Souls of Poor Sinners Go”

By June Klins

Like visionary Jakov, I really do not like talking about Hell. Actually, who does??? But after having watched the Fatima movie, *The Thirteenth Day*, on May 13, I felt a prompting to write about it. I ignored the prompting, but in the 11th hour, before we went to print, the prompting went from a whisper to a shout that I could not ignore. I scrambled to put this article together in the midst of several family events, including my granddaughter’s Baptism. It was my own fault for not paying attention in the first place! Perhaps there is a message within the message here – do not delay Our Lady’s promptings!

July 13, 2017 will mark 100 years since Our Lady appeared for the third time to the children of Fatima (ages 7, 9, and 10). At that apparition, when Lucia asked for the conversion of some people, Our Lady’s answer was to pray the Rosary. Then Our Lady said, “Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say often especially when you make some sacrifice: ‘My Jesus, it is for love of You, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.’”

Lucia (who later became Sr. Lucia) recounted in a 1954 book called *Mother of Christ Crusade*, “As Our Lady said these words, She opened Her hands again as She had done the two previous months. The light reflecting from them seemed to penetrate into the earth, and we saw as if into a sea of fire, and immersed in that fire were devils and souls with human form, as if they were transparent black or bronze embers floating in the fire and swayed by the flames that issued from them along with clouds of smoke, falling upon every side just like the falling of sparks in great fires, without weight or equilibrium, amidst wailing and cries of pain and despair that horrified and shook us with terror. We could tell the devils by their horrible and nauseous figures of baleful and unknown animals, but transparent as the black coals in a fire.” Our Lady explained, “You have seen Hell – where the souls of poor sinners go.”

Nineteen years later, Sr. Faustina Kowalska (now St. Faustina) also had a vision of Hell. She wrote in her *Diary*:

“Today, I was led by an angel to the chasms of Hell. It is a place of great torture; how awesomely large and extensive it is! The kinds of tortures I saw: the first torture that constitutes Hell is the loss of God; the second is perpetual remorse of conscience; the third is that one’s condition will never change; the fourth is the fire that will penetrate the soul without destroying it – a terrible suffering, since it is a purely spiritual fire, lit by God’s anger; the fifth torture is continual darkness and a terrible suffocating smell, and, despite the darkness, the devils and the souls of the damned

see each other and all the evil, both of others and their own; the sixth torture is the constant company of Satan; the seventh torture is horrible despair, hatred of God, vile words, curses and blasphemies. These are the tortures suffered by all the damned together, but that is not the end of the sufferings. There are special tortures destined for particular souls. These are the torments of the senses. Each soul undergoes terrible and indescribable sufferings related to the manner in which it has sinned. There are caverns and pits of torture where one form of agony differs from another. I would have died at the very sight of these tortures if the omnipotence of God had not supported me. Let the sinner know that he

will be tortured throughout all eternity, in those senses which he made use of to sin. I am writing this at the command of God, so that no soul may find an excuse by saying there is no Hell, or that nobody has ever been there, and so no one can say what it is like.

[...] What I have written is but a pale shadow of the things I saw. **But I noticed one thing: that most of the souls there are those who disbelieved that there is a Hell [author emphasis].** How terribly souls suffer there! Consequently, I

pray even more fervently for the conversion of sinners.” (*Diary*, 741)

Forty-six years later, in November of 1982, Our Lady of Medjugorje took visionaries Jakov and Vicka to see Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell. In her book, *Salvation of Mankind*, Medjugorje guide and friend of the visionaries, Draga Vidovic, quoted Vicka’s description of her experience in seeing Hell: “We saw something like a sea of fire. We could see people who appeared to be normal, but the deeper they were falling into that fire, they screamed, yelled and cursed. At the moment they were leaving the fire, they looked like beasts and were transformed into monsters, devils. Our Lady told us: ‘People who are in Hell are here because of their own choice. God did not send them here. God gave freedom to every human being and each one of us is a master of his own freedom. Many people think that their lives end at the moment they die on earth. Those people do everything against the will of God. They already live Hell on earth and simply continue to the real Hell once they die. Dear children, we are only passing through this life on earth.’”

Fr. Livio Fanzaga, director of Radio Maria, interviewed Vicka on April 20, 2006, regarding her “trip in the afterlife.”

The interview was quite interesting. (The English translation of the entire interview can be found on www.medjugorje.ws.) Fr. Livio questioned Vicka if she felt warm from the fire and she replied, “Yes.” Fr. Livio asked if the people who have turned into beasts have horns like



Scene from the wax museum in Fatima

devils, and Vicka answered, "Yes." Vicka also confirmed that they have tails like demons. At the end of this part of the interview, Vicka maintained that it is fruitless to pray for those who are in Hell. Fr. Livio then asked Vicka if those in Hell desired our prayers, to which Vicka replied, "They don't want them and they aren't necessary."

By now, some of you may be thinking that you do not believe any of this. And actually, that is all right. Even though St. Faustina's *Diary* and the Fatima apparitions are approved by the Church as worthy of belief, they are "private" revelation. But what about what Jesus said? Do we have to believe what Jesus said? YES!!!

The morning after I wrote the above, I was surprised to read in the Gospel reading for that day (June 25th, the anniversary of Medjugorje) what I believed to be a confirmation. In that reading from Matthew, Jesus said, "And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna [most translations say 'hell']" (Mt 10:28).

"My motherly heart desires for you, apostles of my love, to be little lights of the world, to illuminate there where darkness wants to begin to reign, to show the true way by your prayer and love, to save souls." (Our Lady, 6/2/17)

The Feast of St. James

The following is an excerpt from "Tea with Rosie" on 7/27/16. You can visit Marytv.tv to see the whole episode.

On the 25th of July, this parish [St. James in Medjugorje] celebrates their patron saint, St. James. In 1892, this parish was dedicated to St. James, and he happens to be the patron saint of pilgrims! So, 124 years ago, when they decided to have St. James as their patron saint, they must have been truly inspired by the Holy Spirit because this last 35 years [now 36], there have been millions and millions of pilgrims arriving here from all over the world.

This is the only parish of St. James in the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and on the 25th of July, there is a procession led by the statue of St. James from the main church into the



gardens. The priests will invoke the Litany of the Saints, and there's song and prayer.

The statue here is depicted with St. James holding the Bible and a staff, and also has a shell, which are all symbols of the pilgrim. But particular to this area, St. James also has a pumpkin. In this area of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the pumpkin, which is called a "TbIKBA", is hollowed and water is put in. Water stays cool in there, and is also quenching the thirst of many. A local saying is that on the feast of St. James, he always

sprinkles some of the water from his pumpkin down onto the fields here, which really need it because of the extreme heat and dryness. This year, on the feast of St. James, the 25th of July, again we had a lovely shower of rain!

This is the Time for My Soul

The following is an excerpt from a reflection written by Fr. Jozo Zovko in April of 2007.

This time of grace and with Our Lady is a time that the Mother has given as a gift to us to teach us to love, to pray, and to be obedient to God. We are overjoyed that we immediately responded to Her call. Yes, this truly is the time for my soul.

When you climb the Hill of Apparitions and when [you] gaze at the opened Heaven and listen to the voice of the Mother as a prophet does, it is time for your soul.

When you have a headache and feel the stress of fasting, say to your heart: "Fear not. This is the time for my soul."



Fr. Jozo in 2007

When you turn off the television or put away the magazine that disturbs you, say to your heart: "This is the time for my soul."

When you open the Bible, listening to the Lord as Samuel did, say to your heart: "This is the time for my soul."

In this way, continue to go through Our Lady's messages one by one. Accept them resolutely and say to your heart: "This is the time for my soul."

We are happy that the Mother is with us. We are happy that She is waiting for us whenever we set out to meet Her. We know that She loves us immeasurably. This immeasurable love of Our Lady heals our immaturity and helps us to become more mature in our love for Her, for God, for the Church and for our neighbor. "Mother, I know how great your love is. I am ashamed to try to compare it with what is visible and measurable because it is immeasurable. Thank you for so great a love."

Our patron saint this year, St. Martin de Porres, had the gift of healing, and also the gift of bi-location (being in two places at once). He was seen in Mexico, Central America, and even Japan, by people who knew him well, but he had never been out of Lima, Peru since entering the Order! My daughter-in-law suggested that perhaps the reason St. Martin chose us was to help spread Our Lady's messages to other places in the world. That could be! If you know someone outside of the USA who would like to receive the newsletter and share it with others, please let us know and we will hopefully find them a sponsor to pay the postage.

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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 "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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