

**THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE**  
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[www.spiritofmedjugorje.org](http://www.spiritofmedjugorje.org)

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE - FREE WILL OFFERING - PLEASE SEE PAGE 8**

*If this is the first time you have received this newsletter, and you would like a "Beginner's Guide," please contact us for one.*



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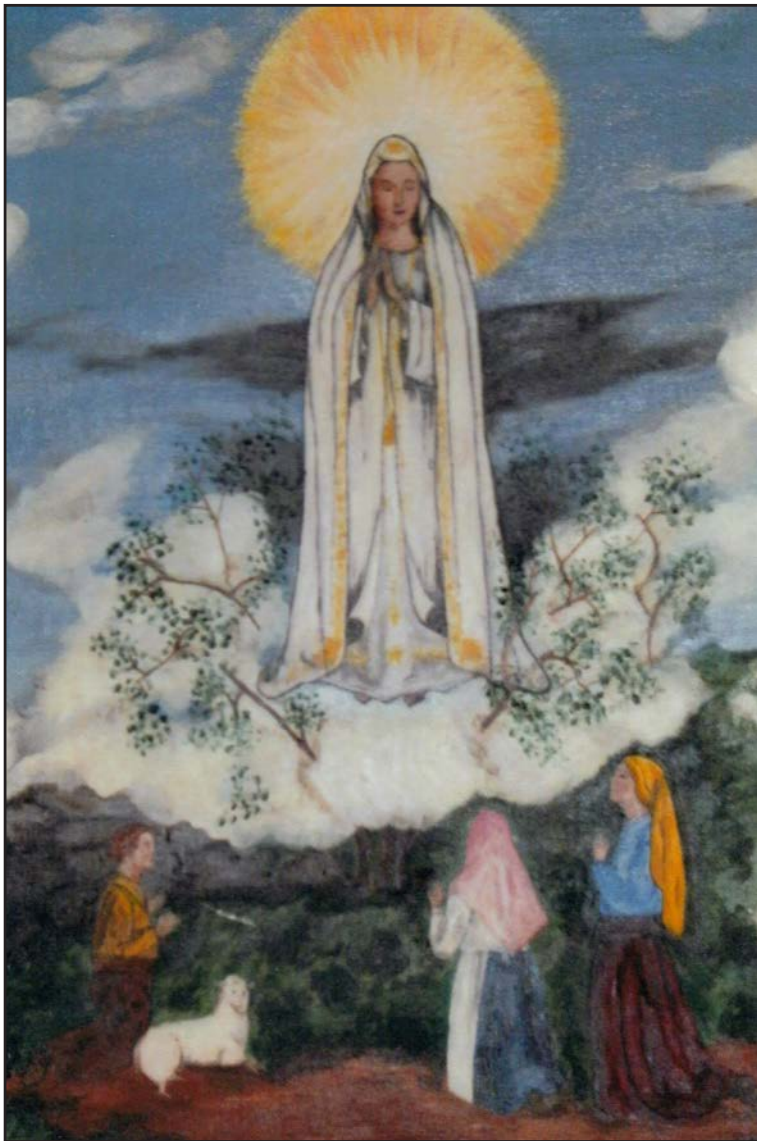
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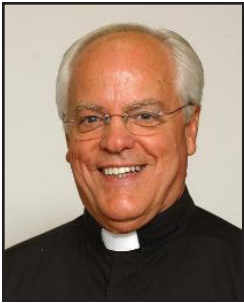
May 2017

**CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF APRIL 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.



May 13, 2017 marks 100 years since the first apparition of Our Lady to the children in Fatima. Lou Ann Nowosielski painted the picture above after her trip to Fatima in 1950. Her story is on page 7.

“Dear children! Love, pray and witness my presence to all those who are far away. By your witness and example you can draw closer the hearts that are far from God and His grace. I am with you and intercede for each of you so that, with love and resoluteness, you may witness and encourage all those who are far from my Immaculate Heart. Thank you for having responded to my call.”



Fr. Bill Kiel

# Fatima and Medjugorje

By Fr. Bill Kiel

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima. Many individuals did not believe the Blessed Mother appeared to the three children and presented them with highly important messages pertaining to prayers and peace. Although the Catholic Church approved of

the apparitions and messages, still many Catholics did not accept them. Apparitions and messages are not required to be accepted, since they are not given to be a teaching of the Catholic Church. Messages are given to bring people to a greater awareness of need for prayers for special intentions personally, locally, or internationally.

Conversion is a main theme of apparitions and messages. Fatima and Medjugorje messages have called for conversion. Conversion calls for a deepening of faith, in an ongoing relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For those who have weakened or no relationships with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we must help them to conversion, meaning to return to living a Catholic life.

At Fatima, Mary called for people to stop offending God. The request went unanswered, and World War II took place as foretold in a message at Fatima. At Medjugorje, prayers for peace were requested. Not many people heeded the request, and ten years after the messages began, war broke out in Yugoslavia.

Conversion and peace are themes of many messages at Medjugorje. Mary, Queen of Peace, is guiding us to conversion and peace within ourselves first, then peace within our families, churches and the world. Our peace is found in God, not in the things we think would bring peace to us. If we follow the guidelines of conversion – reading Scripture, monthly Confession, prayers from the heart, Holy Eucharist more often than Sunday, and fasting – we will develop a deeper relationship with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Our Lady of Fatima

Throughout the public messages given in Medjugorje, nearly 275 messages contain the word “conversion” or “peace”. As we read the messages, do we take them to heart and try to live the messages for our individual conversion and to help others, or do we just read them and let them go? Has our prayer life changed? Is the Rosary a part of our daily prayers? Do we pray for the conversion of family, friends and strangers?

The messages given at Fatima and Medjugorje ask for special recognition and prayers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Heart of Jesus. Do we go to the Heart of Jesus? Do we pray through the intercession of Mary? There are many beautiful ways to pray for our own conversion and peace and in the world.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us.  
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.  
Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us.

## Mirjana’s Message of April 2, 2017

“Dear children, apostles of my love, it is up to you to spread the love of my Son to all those who have not come to know it; you, the little lights of the world, whom I am teaching with motherly love to shine clearly with full brilliance. Prayer will help you, because prayer saves you, prayer saves the world. Therefore, my children, pray with words, feelings, merciful love and sacrifice. My Son has shown you the way – He who became incarnate and made of me the first chalice, with His exalted sacrifice He has shown you how you need to love. Therefore, my children, do not be afraid to speak the truth. Do not be afraid to change yourself and the world by spreading love, by doing everything for my Son to be known and loved by loving others in Him. As a mother I am always with you. I am imploring my Son to help you for love to reign in your life – love that lives, love that draws, love which gives life. I am teaching you such love – pure love. It is up to you, my apostles, to recognize it, live it and spread it. Pray with feeling for your shepherds so that they can witness my Son with love. Thank you.”

### Prayer Intention of Pope Francis for May

#### Christians in Africa:

That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.



*Our thanks to Joanne Warren, Sue Taccone, Diane Niebauer, Marge Spase, Vickie DeCoursey, Julie Hansen, Georgia Chludzinski, Kathy Luschini, Dianne Yochim, Sue Kirby, Barb Cesare, Kathy Wayman, Diana Englund, Pat Berrier, Darlene Wilkinson, Louise Lotze, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the April mailing. Our belated thanks to Thais Fernando for the translation of the prayer to St. Joseph in the April issue. We thank Helen Bell for her photo. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, and our webmaster, Jason Klins.*

“All true children of God have God for their father and Mary for thier mother; anyone who does not have Mary for his mother, does not have God for his father.”

~ St. Louis Marie de Montfort



## Queen of Peace, Pray for Us

The following is an excerpt, used with permission, from the book by visionary Mirjana entitled *My Heart Will Triumph*.

When the apparitions began in Fatima, Europe was engulfed in the First World War...By the spring of 1917, Pope Benedict XV had failed in every attempt at diplomacy and was dismayed by the bleak outlook. He realized there was only one person left to turn to.

On May 5, 1917, he sent out a pastoral letter imploring every person of faith to ask the Blessed Mother to intercede.

[The excerpt from the pastoral letter is too long to include here.] The Pope also mandated that the invocation "Queen of Peace, pray for us" be added to the Litany of Loreto – a series of Marian prayers often recited during processions.

The Blessed Mother appeared in Fatima just days after the

Pope's letter went out. During the first apparition, She asked Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco if they were willing to do acts of penance and make personal sacrifices to save sinners, to which they all said yes.

"Pray the Rosary every day," Our Lady said, "to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." Then She rose to the sky and disappeared.

*Editor's note: We still have a limited number of copies of both Mirjana's book and our book, I Have Come to Tell the World that God Exists, that we are offering for free to subscribers who cannot afford the books. We ask that in return you pray a Rosary for Our Lady's intentions. We are thankful to the woman whose donation made this possible.*

## Life of the Virgin Mary Bracelet

Last summer, when I was in Medjugorje, I was thrilled to find a bracelet that depicts the life of Our Lady, similar to the Jesus Story bracelet we featured in our July 2016 issue.

The card that came with the bracelet reads:

*This bracelet illustrates and reminds us of the life of Mary, recounting the memory of Her life on every bead.*

An angel (angel) appeared to Joachim and Anne (two big beads), an elderly married couple, to announce to them the birth of a daughter.

They called her Mary, which means "Loved by God", (blue bead).

Mary's childhood was like a beautiful rose garden of virtues, kindness and holiness (three roses).

When Mary (rose) was 14, she was given in marriage to Joseph (rose), a carpenter from Nazareth.

Through the Angel Gabriel, Mary received the announcement (bell) that She would become the Mother of the Son of God, Jesus (hand).

Mary gave birth to her Son in a cold and miserable stable

in Bethlehem (wood bead).

We find Mary at the wedding feast at Cana, where She obtains from Jesus His first miracle for the married couple, transforming water into wine (purple bead).

Mary agonized at the foot of the cross as Her Son hung crucified and dying (cross).

Only a few things are known about Mary's life; the truth is that She lived a life of Poverty, Hard work, Tenderness and Devotion (four colored beads).

After Jesus's Ascension, Mary was with the Apostles (12 silver-plated beads [rings]) gathered in prayer and waiting for [the] Holy Spirit.

Mary was assumed into Heaven (blue bead), body and soul, by God, where She was crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth with the Holy Trinity (3 white beads).

*Editor's note: These bracelets are available online from a contact we have in Medjugorje. If you are interested, you can contact me at [jklins1981@verizon.net](mailto:jklins1981@verizon.net) for the information. Visit our website to see this beautiful bracelet in color.*



## Thank You, Fr. Stan

Our condolences to the family of Fr. Stan Widomski, who died on April 2, 2017. Fr. Stan was a Franciscan priest who spent most of his priesthood stationed in Japan. If it were not for Fr. Stan, you might not be reading this newsletter every month. Fr. Stan went to Medjugorje in the 1980s and later shared a video about the apparitions with his cousin, Joan Wieszczyk. As a result of watching this video, Joan decided to make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. After her return, she and two others founded *The Spirit of Medjugorje*. Joan edited it until her heart attack in 2002. We are grateful to Fr. Stan for sharing his Medjugorje video with Joan and for all his support through the years. May he rest in peace and pray for us.

As of April 25, 2017, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 17,697. As one priest recently wrote: "When one demonstrates an interest in the concerns of our Blessed Mother by offering a Mass for Her intentions, She takes a special interest in the person who makes the offering. She is like a mother of 12 children. She loves them all, but especially the one that helps her the most in caring for the others." What an awesome gift it would be to give Our Lady a Mass for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fatima this year!

# God's Language of Love

By Dianne Yochim

Recently someone gave me several audiotapes from Medjugorje conferences held in the U.S. in the 1990s. Even though I had attended a couple of the conferences, I found it inspiring to listen once again to the stories of the various speakers. Some knew nothing about Medjugorje before they went, some didn't believe in the apparitions, and some were leading lives far from God. Nevertheless, through the intercession of Our Lady of Medjugorje, God had miraculously changed their lives forever. And now they were able to share their stories with hundreds of people at these conferences. Amazing!

One priest's experience particularly touched me. He unabashedly admitted he didn't want to go to Medjugorje. He refused to watch videos people had given him. He even burned a stack of Wayne Weible's newsletters he was supposed to hand out to his parishioners. But when some of his teenagers came back from Medjugorje, they wanted to go into the church after school and pray the Rosary. They also were sharing the message of Medjugorje with other teens. This disturbed him so much that he decided he needed to learn about this "cult" that was brainwashing his teenagers in faraway Yugoslavia. So he went.

The first evening his group attended a Croatian Mass. He went as a lay person, not as a priest. And since he didn't know Croatian, he sat outside the church on a bench, reading a book by Thomas Merton. He could hear the readings for the Mass as they were being piped outside on loudspeakers. He could also hear the priest when he began his homily. He found him to be so dynamic and sincere that he closed his book and began to listen to the Croatian homily. As he listened, he realized he was understanding every word of the entire length of the homily. He kept saying to himself, "This can't be happening." And then he realized this was what happened at Pentecost. With the gift of tongues, Peter spoke in Aramaic, and people from all different countries understood what he was saying in their own languages. Then it dawned on the priest what Medjugorje was about – people from all over the world coming to understand God's language of love.

This priest's story brought back memories of a similar experience I had in 1984 in Fatima, Portugal. My husband had surprised me with a trip there for our 10th anniversary. We went with Fr. Luke Zimmer, who had given missions at our parish church. We spent 12 days at the shrine in Fatima where Our Lady had appeared in 1917 to three small shepherd children: Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta. She appeared on the 13th day of each month from May through October [except in August when it was on the 19<sup>th</sup>] requesting them to pray the Rosary and offer sacrifices to end the war (World War I) and for the conversion of sinners. These small children fulfilled Our Lady's requests to a heroic degree.

In fact, on March 23, 2017, Pope Francis approved the final miracle needed to canonize Francisco and Jacinta.

Millions of pilgrims come each year to pray at the Fatima shrine. On the 13th of each month, people from a different region in Portugal come to thank Our Lady for appearing in their country. But on May 13, people from the whole country of Portugal come, to honor Our Lady. Some walk 100 miles or more with just the clothes on their backs and carrying the food they will eat. As they enter Fatima, some fall to their knees and walk the rest of the way on their knees. The Army sets up huge tents for them, and some sleep in the open fields. My husband and I witnessed this.



*Basilica in Fatima*

On May 13, 1984, a three-hour Mass was celebrated outside the Basilica. We found ourselves in the middle of a million people packed into the square. An elderly Portuguese couple standing behind us offered us their folding stools to sit on. Thinking of the many miles they must have traveled, we declined, but a friend who spoke Portuguese said we would insult them if we didn't accept their offer. It was an honor for them to share their seats with Americans. Humbly we thanked them and sat down. I will always remember their gracious smiles.

At Communion time, I wondered if there would be enough Sacred Hosts for that many people. There was! In later years, I came to learn that all year the Portuguese bring sacks of grain to the shrine that they have grown themselves to be made into hosts just for this special Mass! After Communion, I joined in the songs of thanksgiving. To my amazement, I realized I was singing the tune and the words in Portuguese. How could this be coming out of my mouth when I didn't know the language or the songs? It seemed impossible, but it was happening. I felt such a love and oneness with those people! A million people and all were one in song and Spirit.

The next morning, I related all this to Fr. Luke. He told me that's what it is to be one in the Mystical Body of Christ. In God's eyes, we are all one in Christ – and not just with those at Mass, but with all the saints, the angels, the souls in Purgatory, the Church on earth, the entire body of Christ and family of God. No wonder the Mass is the most powerful prayer!

In 1990, my husband and I and our two children went on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. While there, I was impressed again by the people coming together as one, to honor Our Lady. They were from different countries, speaking different languages. Nevertheless, they were one Body in Christ as they came to pray together as the children of the Mother of God and to be in Her holy presence. This was evident at the Masses, during the Rosaries, and on Mt. Podbrdo [Apparition Hill] and Mt. Krizevac [Cross Mountain].



I personally experienced this oneness with a complete stranger the day our pilgrim group climbed Mt. Krizevac. The mountain was steep. The climb was slow and arduous. The path was filled with large and small sharp rocks. One had to be careful not to slip and fall. I was having a bad day. I was not experiencing the peace and joy that everyone else seemed to have. I was hot, tired from not sleeping the night before, and frustrated. I couldn't seem to pray at all; I just couldn't get past the words, "Hail Mary." And yet, I heard several pilgrims saying, "I wish I could pray this easily back home." When we got to the top of the mountain, I had had it. My husband asked me if I wanted to say the family Rosary. I snapped at him, "No!" My son said he had already said several Rosaries that day. Really??? And I couldn't even say one Hail Mary! I finally sat down on a rock alone and cried. Eventually I decided to forget myself and talk to God about it. What did He want? My answer was "Penance." I felt He wanted me to take off my shoes and socks and walk down the mountain barefoot as a penance. My husband thought it was too dangerous. But I didn't think twice about it; I just knew I had to do it if it was what God wanted.



Rocks on Mt. Krizevac

The group of pilgrims went ahead down the mountain. I had to pick my way much more slowly because it seemed even more treacherous going down than it had been going up. I got about halfway down and I didn't think I could

go any farther. Out of nowhere, a young woman appeared who was making her way slowly, wearing only socks on her feet. She sat down on a rock opposite me. She didn't speak English, but we communicated with each other by using our hands and by facial expressions. She confirmed that it was easier to go up the mountain in your bare feet or socks, but to come down was much more difficult. I wondered how often she had done it. I was ready to put my shoes on, but she persuaded me not to. She took my hand and started helping me descend once again. When I would stop, she would encourage me to continue on. We made it to the bottom of the mountain together. We smiled at one another and hugged. Then she walked away. I never knew her name or where she was from, but it didn't matter. She spoke God's language of love by her kindness to me. I knew I'd never see her again, but in the time we spent climbing down the mountain we were one in heart and Spirit

Thinking back on these experiences, I can only marvel at the power and goodness of God in bringing together people from all over the world to understand His language of love. May we all continue to strive ever more earnestly to be one in mind and heart and Spirit as we respond to Our Lady's call. For we are one Body in Christ. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us. Our Lady of Medjugorje, pray for us.

*Editor's note: Dianne lives in Erie, PA and is a faithful member of our mailing crew.*

## Plenary Indulgence

Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence opportunity for the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions throughout the centennial year, until November 26, 2017. Besides the following, to obtain the plenary indulgence, the faithful must also fulfill the ordinary conditions: go to Confession and Communion, be interiorly detached from sin, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

**1. Make a pilgrimage to the Shrine in Fatima, Portugal:** To the faithful who make a pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine in Portugal and participate in a celebration of prayer dedicated to the Virgin. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke the Mother of God.

**2. Pray before any statue of Our Lady of Fatima:** To the faithful who visit with devotion a statue of Our Lady

of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory or proper place during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October 2017, and there devoutly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary. In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.

**3. The elderly and infirm:** To the faithful who, because of age, illness or other serious cause, are unable to get around, may pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and must spiritually unite themselves to the jubilee celebrations on the days of the apparitions, the 13th of each month, between May and October 2017. They must also "offer to merciful God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers and sufferings or the sacrifices they make in their own lives."

## An Alternative to Bread and Water

In our April issue, we featured two articles on fasting. Shortly after publication, I was led to a passage in St. Faustina's Diary that I thought might be helpful to people who are unable to fast on bread and water for health or other reasons. I hope this will be beneficial. Our Lady really needs our fasting and mortification for Her peace plan for the world.

St. Faustina wrote: "At the beginning of Lent, I asked my confessor for some mortification for this time of fast. I was told not to cut down on my food but, while eating,

to meditate on how the Lord Jesus, on the Cross, accepted vinegar and gall. This would be my mortification. I did not know that this would be so beneficial to my soul. The benefit is that I am meditating constantly on His sorrowful Passion and so, while I am eating, I am not preoccupied with what I am eating, but am reflecting on my Lord's death." (Diary, #618) She further wrote, "All hardships and fatigue are as nothing when I think that they reconcile sinful souls to God." (Diary #619)

## Press Conference of Papal Envoy, Archbishop Henryk Hoser

*The following is a transcription (from the official Medjugorje website, [www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr)) of the first half of the Press Conference of Archbishop Henryk Hoser in Medjugorje on 4/5/2017.*

Ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon to you all. At the very beginning, I ought to give you some explanations and I owe you a few apologies too. The scope of my mission was defined by the Holy See. As we have heard, it is about determining the pastoral situation of the pilgrims in Medjugorje. This is my first visit to Medjugorje, I came here without knowing the exact situation here, but I knew this was an international pilgrimage destination. I will speak in French, as this language has been the official language for diplomacy for many years, even up to today. Certainly, you all expect to hear my impressions and my conclusions. First of all, I would like to emphasize a very important fact, that Medjugorje once was not known in the world at all. It was a small place, lost in the hills, which is what its name actually means. Today, Medjugorje is known all over the world, and it should be pointed out that pilgrims come from eighty different countries. When it comes to the importance of this place of pilgrimage, it could be compared to others too. For instance, two and a half million pilgrims come to Medjugorje each year, while six million go to Lourdes. Nevertheless, Lourdes exists for 150 years, while Medjugorje is hardly 36 years old. This is a time to make a first balance, a first estimate that could be highly important for the future development of this place.

How come so many pilgrims come here? On one hand, they have surely heard about the Medjugorje apparitions that began in 1981. On the other hand, those who come here, discover something extraordinary. The first aspect is the environment, the atmosphere of peace and of reconciliation. It is also an atmosphere of inner peace, peace of the heart. They also discover a huge range of profound spirituality. They re-discover or discover for the first time in their lives the meaning of the sacred reality. In Medjugorje, they can have an experience with sacred time and sacred space. Sacred means it is something withheld in a special way in relation to God.

Usually we hear that Medjugorje is a place of Marian devotion, and that is the truth, however, if we enter into the depth of it, we can see that devotion in Medjugorje is very Christ-centred, as the center of devotion is the celebration of the Eucharist, the transmitting of the Word of God, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, when man discovers that the Blessed Sacrament is the real presence of Jesus in His divinity and in His human nature. Some discover here the prayer of the Rosary, which is meditative prayer on the mysteries of our faith. Finally, as they pray the Way of the Cross, they enter into the Easter mystery, meaning the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Christ. I shall conclude this overview, with the strongest point on the sacrament of forgiveness, personal and personalised confession.

Medjugorje is a very fertile land from a religious perspective. In these years we can count 610 religious and priesthood vocations born in Medjugorje. Most of them come from Italy, the United States and Germany. When we

are aware of the crisis of vocations, particularly in the old Christian countries, and in Western Europe, it is clear that there is something new here, something remarkable.

If we calculate the number of the ministered Holy Communion, as this is the only way to establish the number of pilgrims, of course including the margin of error, there have been 37 million Holy Communion ministered in the period from 1986-2016. However, the number of pilgrims is even bigger, as not all of them receive Holy Communion.

When it comes to the estimate of the situation in Medjugorje, there are three different areas to differentiate.

The first area is the parish that exists for a long time, which serves the parishioners who are here, who live here and whose number has increased in the past ten years by a thousand of those who came to live here, perhaps even more than that. This parish, that has its own history, built a cross on a hill in Medjugorje in the thirties of the past century, and has accepted today's phenomenon of Medjugorje. Part of the history of this parish is also special, the personal history of those whom we call the visionaries.

The second area: pilgrims. As I already said, up to 2 500 000 of them per year. This number tends to grow, too. Surely, this is a huge challenge for the priests who are here. This phenomenon has caused development of the existing infrastructure that needs to respond to the needs of pilgrims, and part of that is this Hall, the Adoration chapel, the open area for the celebration of Holy Mass outdoors. Those were some of the elements added according to the needs of pilgrims who were coming here. On the other hand, we can see how this place is developing. There are more and more hotels, restaurants, shops and this already reminds

me of little Lourdes. It is not known that Lourdes is second in France, after Paris, according to the number of hotels in it. Perhaps this is the future of Medjugorje in relation to Sarajevo. So, the number of the inhabitants is increasing, as well as the capacity of accommodation of pilgrims.

However, we can see the third area, too. There are the communities that came here, associations, social and charity activities, we think there are around thirty of them. Some of them received their inspiration from Medjugorje, their roots are from here. There are also those who arrived from the other countries, they were founded somewhere else, but they came here so they would live this atmosphere, this phenomenon of Medjugorje.

There are some originally created works here; in a particular way I am mentioning a work created by Franciscan fathers, the charitable institution, the Mother's Village. It is worth visiting this place if you are interested in that, as it is about life in its various stages, especially life in a difficulty: orphans, young people with troubles, addicts on drugs, alcohol and other additions, those who are disabled. This is an expression of active love tightly related to the Christian faith. There is another work called the House of Peace, also established by the Franciscan fathers, it is a house for a closed type of spiritual retreats in silence. More than 1200 groups were in this House up to this day, with more than 42000 participants. This type of spiritual exercises, these seminars are transforming people from the inside.



Archbishop Henryk Hoser

There are also seminars – another pastoral invention of the parish of Medjugorje. The seminars are annual, they take place once a year. For the past 23 years there has been one open for all, for the past 21 years there is a seminar specifically for priests, it is for further formation of priests, for the past 17 years there have been seminars for married couples, and for the last four years, seminars for doctors and medical staff. Last year the first seminar for life took place, for the protection of human life. There is also a seminar for people with disabilities. So, all this shows an intensity of Christian life here in Medjugorje and this is a type of model that could be applied to other places.

What shrines have to offer in this world today is of such a kind, that Pope Francis has transferred the issue from the Congregation for the Clergy, to the Congregation for the New Evangelization. People there receive what they cannot find at home. In many of our old Christian countries, individual confession no longer exists. In many countries there is no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, many countries do not know about the Way of the Cross, there is no prayer of the Rosary. In French Brittany, I was once told that the last time they prayed the Way of the Cross was thirty years ago. Surely, such dryness in the areas of the spiritual and the sacred is causing a crisis in faith in general.

People here come to the source; this is where they discern a thirst for the sacred, a thirst for God, a thirst for prayer which they discover to be an immediate contact with God.



House of Peace in Medjugorje

They feel, I would say the Divinity, thanks to the care of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In Medjugorje, the emphasis is on Mary as Queen of Peace. One could say this is nothing new, as there are churches throughout the world consecrated to the Queen of Peace, but if we observe the world context of our lives today, we can see something that Pope Francis refers to as the third world war in pieces. This means in fragments. Civil wars are the cruellest form, the one that destroys and hurts the most.

You, who live here in the Balkans, have recently lived one such war. I lived in Rwanda during the genocide. Now you can see that Syria, in the Middle East, the country of the oldest Christian identity is being destroyed even with the use of chemical weapons. This is our landscape today. There are so many political conflicts in each country. So, in my opinion, it is important to pray to Our Lady of Peace. The specific role of Medjugorje is extremely important here.

You, my dear friends, should be the carriers of the joyful news. Say to the whole world that in Medjugorje we can find the light again. We need those special places of light in the world that is sinking into darkness. I would also like to say to you that you can register for a seminar here, whatever the theme, you might discover things that you cannot even imagine. Thank you!

*Editor's note: The second half of the press conference was an opportunity for questions. You can view the entire press conference on [www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv).*

## “Learn How God Loves His People”

By June Klins

Of all the messages of Our Lady, Her request to read the Bible is one of the easiest to do, but the one least talked about and heeded. One summer, I went to two different novenas in which both priests lamented the fact that so few of us read the Bible. Both of them asked for a show of hands of how many people read the Bible daily. Both times you could count on two hands how many people, out of hundreds, read the Bible daily. And these were daily Communicants! Can you imagine how sad this must make Jesus and Mary feel? Mary “treasured these words in Her heart.”

One of the priests related that after his sister-in-law died,

her husband (his brother) found all the love letters he had written to her years before. They were all creased and covered with greasy fingerprints. She had read and re-read those love letters over the years even while cooking and cleaning. She had “treasured those words in her heart.” The Bible is a series of love letters from God to us. Do we treasure those words in our hearts like this woman did with her love letters? “Put Holy Scripture in a visible place in your families, read it, reflect on it, and learn how God loves His people.” (Our Lady, 1/25/99)

## Remembering Our Pilgrimage to Europe

By Lou Ann Nowosielski

It was 1950 and my sister, Mary, myself, and about five hundred Sodality members journeyed to Marian Shrines for the Holy Year. We sailed from New York City by the S.S. Roma for ten days across the Atlantic, and landed in Lisbon, Portugal.

In Portugal, we followed winding roads by bus to Fatima, to a huge field where the apparitions of the Blessed Mother occurred. The huge Basilica was being constructed while we were there.

From Portugal, we travelled to Lourdes, France, where we participated in a candlelight procession and sang “Immaculate Mary.” My sister went into the Lourdes healing water bath, praying to be cured of a skin ailment.

Next on our journey was Montserrat, France. The Black Virgin is honored there. Following Montserrat, we traveled to Rome, visiting jubilee Churches (St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Walls). We had an

audience with Pope Pius XII. This was the highlight of our Rome trip. We left Rome to travel to Lisieux, France and the Shrine of the Little Flower before returning to our ship, and a nine-day voyage to New York.

In 1990, my sister, Mary, and I returned to Europe. We traveled to Medjugorje and climbed Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain, following the Stations of the Cross. We attended beautiful English Masses at St. James, and saw the sun spinning. A man near my sister regained his sight! Forty years later, it was an emotional experience for my sister and I to be able to visit the places where St. Mary appeared. This made us closer to each other and to the Blessed Mother.

Thank you, Mary!

*Editor's note: Lou Ann is from Erie, PA. She has a post office in her store, Kraus Department Store, and mails many of the newsletters for us every month. She also makes our newsletter available to her customers. Thank you, Lou Ann!*



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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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