

**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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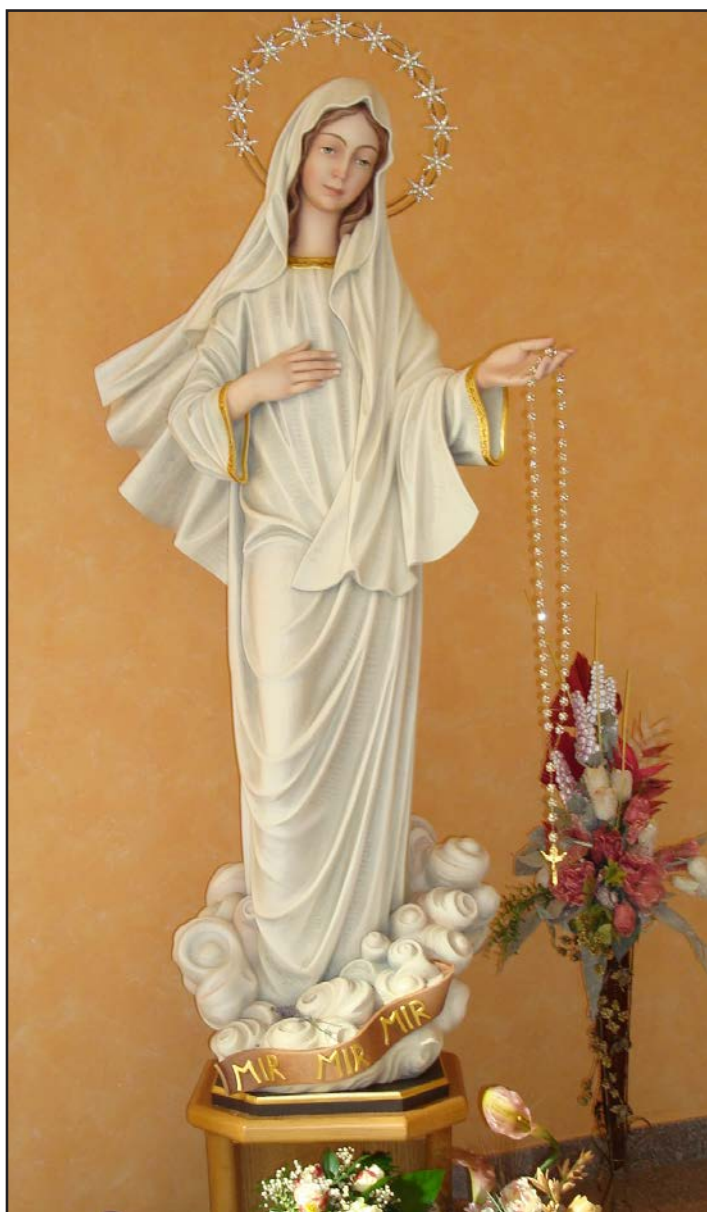
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## **CURRENT MONTHLY MESSAGE OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2016**

**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 month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary.  
The picture shown above was taken in Ivan's chapel.*

**"Dear children!**

Today, I am calling you to prayer. May prayer be life to you. Only in this way will your heart be filled with peace and joy. God will be near you and you will feel Him in your heart as a friend. You will speak with Him as with someone whom you know and, little children, you will have a need to witness, because Jesus will be in your heart and you, united in Him. I am with you and love all of you with my motherly love. Thank you for having responded to my call."



Fr. Bill Kiel

## "Be Firm in this Battle Against Evil"

By Fr. Bill Kiel

*"Pray during this month. God allows me every day to help you with graces to defend yourselves against evil. This month is my month. I want to give it to you. You just pray and God will give you the graces you are seeking. I will help you along with it" (10/25/84).*

*"... pray, pray, pray so as to comprehend the love which I have for you. My love is stronger than evil, little children, therefore draw closer to God so as to feel my joy in God. Without God, little children, you do not have a future, you do not have hope or salvation; therefore leave evil and choose good" (7/25/16).*

Most of us are aware of October being the month of Mary and the Rosary; this has been a long held Catholic tradition. During this month, we are also exposed to evil through the celebration of Halloween. The decorations for this day are placed in the stores a month ahead of time, which keeps the reminder of Halloween in front of us all month long. These decorations should remind us that we need to fight evil every time we are tempted; otherwise, it becomes a common occurrence in our lives. The subtleness of evil in the costumes and masks is often ignored, because "they are just a way to have fun for Halloween." Evil enters into our lives and takes up residence and we are not aware of the effect it can wreak in our lives. Did you ever wonder, "Why do I have so much bad luck in my life or in my family?" We are less likely to live our lives in accord with God's will if we dabble in the evil side of life, and that is when evil becomes more apparent.

Our Blessed Mother is often portrayed crushing the head of the serpent, which represents evil. Our Mother is greatly concerned for Her children. We are reminded "... pray to the Holy Spirit that He may transform you and fill you

*with His strength of faith and hope, so that you may be firm in this battle against evil. I am with you and intercede for you before my Son Jesus" (4/25/15) and "... I am imploring you to give me the gift of your hearts, so I can present them to my Son and free you – free you from all the evil enslaving and distancing you all the more from the only Good – my Son – from everything which is leading you on the wrong way and is taking peace away from you" (7/2/13).*

Hopefully, our prayer life includes prayer for protection from evil. Many people pray the prayer of Saint Michael the Archangel, which is powerful when prayed from the heart and not just recited.

Another powerful prayer using the name of Jesus that can be prayed each time we are aware of evil in us or around us is: "In the name of Jesus, I command you, Satan, and all evil spirits out of me, out of this place, to be banished back to hell, immediately, quietly, and without incidence, and never to return to me or this place." There are other deliverance prayers that could be used. It is important to use the name of JESUS in rebuking evil.

According to Catholic tradition, Holy Water and Blessed Salt that have been exorcised are powerful sacramentals that are used to protect us and rid us of evil. "Only through prayer can we defeat evil and protect all that Satan wants to destroy in your lives" (2/25/94). "Be strong in prayer and with the Cross in your hands pray that evil may not use you and may not conquer in you" (5/2/15).

If we have God as the focus of our lives, we are much less likely to participate in the celebrations of Halloween rituals and permit evil to enter into our lives. Pray, pray, pray, especially the Rosary, during the month of Mary, and the month of the Rosary.

Mary Queen of Peace, pray for us.

## The Spirit of Medjugorje Prayer Group – Already Fruitful

It is official! *The Spirit of Medjugorje* online prayer group is now "live." You can visit our website to post prayer requests and then updates, and to sign up to pray for the requests. We hope you will take advantage of this new feature on our website. We thank Patti Millar for volunteering to be the administrator.

A fruit of the new prayer group is that while designing the webpage for the prayer requests, our webmaster, Jason Klins, decided to give the whole website a make-over. It looks great! He added a number of new features which we hope will prove helpful to our readers. All of Our Lady's messages from 1984 to present are listed with the ability to search for a particular word in these messages. Also, all of the featured articles which have graced our home page since Jason took over in 2014 are available. There is an icon to share these articles on Facebook. Fr. Kiel's schedule, our Beginner's Guide, and other features that were formerly listed on the left side are now listed under the tab that says, "More." There is also a "surprise" feature that I won't tell you about because it will ruin the surprise. When you explore the website, you will most likely find it. Have fun exploring!



*Our thanks to Susannah, Brian, and Lily Klins, Pat Weller, Dave and Kathy Wayman, Sue Taccone, Diane Niebauer, Chris Falk, Marge Spase, Mary Tirak, Dianne Yochim, Kathy Luschini, Joanne and Tom McIntire, Vickie DeCoursey, Cindy Bielamin, Diana and Nate Englund, Barb Sirianni, Stephanie Koshinskie, Darlene Wilkinson, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the August mailing. We thank Louise Lotze and Susannah Klins for their photos. We also thank our proofreader, Pat Berrier, and our webmaster, Jason Klins.*

**As of September 25, 2016, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 16,634.**

*Please pray a Hail Mary for all of our helpers. Thank you.*

### Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis for October:

**Centrality of the Human Journalists:** That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.

#### World Mission Day:

That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.





Father Gabriele Amorth, the famous Italian exorcist, who was the exorcist for the diocese of Rome since 1986, died on September 16, 2016 at the age of 91. The following is an excerpt from our July, 2003 newsletter.

## Don Gabriele Amorth (Famous Exorcist & Author) Visits Medjugorje

During his [Fr. Amorth's] stay at Medjugorje in July 2002, he gave an interview to Fr. Dario Dodig.

INT: In Her messages in Medjugorje, Our Lady says often that Satan is strong and She invites us to pray, to fast and to be converted.

DGA: Yes, this is true. In an Italian magazine, I had the occasion to comment on Our Lady's messages where She speaks about Satan. She often spoke about this. She underlined that Satan is powerful and that he wants to destroy Her plans. She invited us to pray, to pray, to pray.

INT: In Her messages, Our Lady spoke about the Rosary, about the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, about prayer before the Cross, and She said even that through prayer wars may be stopped.

DGA: Yes. Through prayer, we can even stop wars. I always understood Medjugorje as a continuation of Fatima. According to Our Lady's words in Fatima, if we had prayed and fasted, there would not have been World War II. We have not listened to Her, and therefore there was a war. Also here in Medjugorje, Our Lady often calls [us] to prayer for peace. In Her apparitions, Our Lady always presents Herself under another name to show the goal of Her apparitions. At Lourdes, She presented Herself as the Immaculate Conception, in Fatima as the Queen of the Holy Rosary. Here in Medjugorje, Our Lady presented herself as the Queen of Peace. We all remember the words "Mir, mir, mir" (peace, peace, peace) that were written in the sky at the very beginning of the apparitions. We see clearly that humanity is running the risk of war, and Our Lady insists on prayer and on Christian life to attain peace.

INT: In Her messages, the Queen of Peace also underlines fasting, which is a bit forgotten in the Church. She speaks about fasting according to what is written in the Gospels – that through fasting and prayer we can eliminate all influence of Satan.

DGA: This is true. First in Fatima and now here in Medjugorje, Our Lady speaks often about prayer and fasting. I think that this is very important, because contemporary men are following the spirit of consumerism.

Humanity searches how to avoid any kind of sacrifice, and so it exposes itself to sin. For Christian life...we need a certain austerity of life. If there is no austerity of life, there is no perseverance in Christian life. I will give you an example – today, families fall so easily apart. They celebrate the wedding, but the couples divorce quickly. It happens because we are not used to sacrifice any more. In order to live together, we have to be able to also accept the deficiencies of others. The lack of spirit of sacrifice leads to the fact that we do not live Christian life in fullness. We see with what facility abortion is being committed, because of the lack of readiness to make a sacrifice to educate children. This is how the first reason of marriage is being destroyed.

This is because there is no practice of making sacrifice. Only if we are used to sacrifice ourselves, we will be able to live Christian life.

INT: The fruits of Medjugorje are numerous. Conversions are numerous. A theologian says that here, Heaven came down on earth. Our Lady invites us to abandon ourselves totally to Her so that She may lead us to Jesus. Isn't this the essential for Christian life?

DGA: No doubt! Medjugorje is really a place where one learns

to pray, but also to sacrifice oneself, where people are converted and change their lives. The influence of Medjugorje is worldwide. It is enough to think about how many prayer groups came about thanks to the inspiration of Medjugorje. I also lead a prayer group, which was founded in 1984. This group is already 18 years old. We live one afternoon as it is lived in Medjugorje. There are always 700 or 750 people. We always meditate on Our Lady's message of the 25th of the month and I always read this message in relation to a sentence from the Gospel, because Our Lady does not say anything new. She invites us to do what Jesus thought us to do. Groups like mine exist all over the world.

INT: Is it true that Medjugorje is a "big mouthful" for Satan?

DGA: Surely. Medjugorje is a fortress against Satan. Satan hates Medjugorje because it is a place of conversion, of prayer, of transformation of life.

Information Centre "Mir" Medjugorje, [www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr)

## Our Lady's Message to Mirjana Soldo on September 2, 2016

Dear children, according to the will of my Son and my motherly love, I am coming to you, my children, but especially to those who have not yet come to know the love of my Son. I am coming to you who think of me and who invoke me. To you, I am giving my motherly love and I am carrying the blessing of my Son. Do you have pure and open hearts, and do you see the gifts, the signs of my presence and love? My children, in your earthly life, be led by my example. My life was pain, silence and immeasurable faith and trust in the Heavenly Father. Nothing is by chance: neither pain, nor joy, nor suffering, nor love. All of these are graces which my Son grants to you and which lead you to eternal life. Of you, my Son asks for love and prayer in Him. As a mother I will teach you: to love and to pray in Him means to pray in the silence of your soul and not only reciting with your lips; it is even the least beautiful gesture done in the name of my Son – it is patience, mercy, the acceptance of pain and sacrifice done for the sake of another. My children, my Son is looking at you. Pray that you also may see His face and that it may be revealed to you. My children, I am revealing to you the only and real truth. Pray that you may comprehend it and be able to spread love and hope; that you may be able to be apostles of my love. In a special way, my motherly heart loves the shepherds. Pray for their blessed hands. Thank you.

## “The Bible on a String”

*When I was in Medjugorje, a priest named Fr. Ronan Murphy gave a beautiful homily in St. James Church on June 16 (2016) about the Rosary. I was happy to see that [www.marytv.tv](http://www.marytv.tv) had a recording of it. Due to space limitations, we cannot print the entire homily, and have just included some highlights, but you can listen to the entire homily if you visit the archives of [marytv.tv](http://marytv.tv).*

...Here in Medjugorje, Our Lady teaches us to pray, and to pray especially the prayer of the Holy Rosary. Lucia at Fatima, back in 1917, said the Blessed Virgin Mary said that the devil is in the mood of engaging in a decisive battle with Her in these times. And Our Lady at Medjugorje has spoken over and over again of the power and the strength of Satan in these times. ...St. Paul exhorts us to put on the armor of God in order to stand firm against the tactics of the devil, because... our battle is not with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against all the evil spirits. And Our Lady wishes us to put on the armor of the Holy Rosary in this epic battle that is being waged around us – a battle that is being waged on the level of the spirits. Because it's being waged on the level of the spirits, we should invoke often the holy angels, especially St. Michael the Archangel and our holy guardian angel.

Know that this year marks the centennial year of the Fatima apparitions (not the apparitions of Our Lady; that's next year), the apparitions of the Angel of Portugal, the Angel of Peace, to the three shepherd children back in 1916.

According to Lucia, the Angel of Portugal – was St. Michael the Archangel. St. Michael is traditionally depicted as wielding a great sword. In fact, many believe that it was St. Michael the Archangel that was seen by the three shepherd children in the third secret, wielding a flaming sword in his left hand, ready to chastise the earth unless the world did much penance, because with his right hand he was pointing to the earth and he cried out in a loud voice (not a soft voice), “penance, penance, penance.”

...This most powerful sword, the most powerful weapon of Our Lady, this most powerful prayer [the Rosary], has always been a great powerful weapon in the hands of Her spiritual children against the attacks of hell. And it also made the difference in many a battlefield in which Christian armies have been engaged in mortal conflict with Her enemies. It has proven itself, time and time again, to be a powerful weapon or sword of protection and victory. For example, back in 1986, the twenty-year dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines came to an abrupt end when Our Lady appeared to the soldiers on the streets of Manila, and Corazon Aquino, the widow of Ninoy Aquino (who was slain for his opposition to Marcos) won the presidential election by a landslide. And Marcos invalidly declared

himself the winner, so millions of people came and took to the streets of Manila in protest of Marcos. And Marcos, in reaction, sent his tanks down the streets of Manila and he was ready to massacre millions... just to keep his grip on the country. And when he gave the order to fire the tanks, there were a million people in front of the tanks praying the Holy

Rosary. When he gave the order to fire, a beautiful Lady appeared before all of the soldiers, dressed in blue with sparkling eyes. And She said, “Do not proceed, dear soldiers; stop. Do not harm any of my children.” And at that, all of the troops got out of the tanks and joined the people, and many went to the residence of Cardinal Sin and they declared that they saw a beautiful Lady appear before them. Some said it was Our Lady; others said it was a nun, a beautiful nun. And Cardinal Sin said, “I know all the nuns in Manila and none of them are beautiful. It must have been Our Lady!”

The Rosary will also defeat heresy. Today heresy is spreading like a terrible cancer. All it takes is [for one] one to embrace one heresy, to lose the supernatural gift of faith in the soul, for our eternal ruination. So Our Lady has equipped Her children with a double-edged sword to cut through and defeat any heresy and all heresies.

When I was back in America, one time I was wearing my collar in the mall. So when I was in the shopping

center in the mall, two Baptists cried out, “...Where's that thing you call the Rosary in the Bible?” And so I got out my rosary beads and said, “Our Father... I think you'll find that in all four Gospels. Hail Mary... You'll find that in St. Luke's Gospel... First Joyful Mystery, the Annunciation – St. Luke's Gospel; Second Joyful Mystery, the Visitation – St. Luke's Gospel; Third Joyful Mystery, the Birth of Jesus – St. Luke's Gospel.” I went through all 20 Mysteries. I said, “Now do you want to know where it is in the Bible?” You see, the Rosary is a biblical prayer. Anything that's authentically Marian is authentically Christo-centric.

I remember googling “the Rosary” and saw quotes from Mother Teresa; I saw quotes from St. Louis De Montfort, St. Padre Pio and a host of other saints. Then I saw my own name! I am up there with the best, but I'm not as holy as the best. But I'm up there with the best with my quote. I said, “The Rosary is a Bible on a string.” It is a catechesis on a string. And every time you pray the Rosary – meditate on the Mysteries – you contemplate the Face of Jesus, Who is the Truth, in union with Mary, according to St. John Paul II. And so the Rosary will consecrate you in the Truth. And so... Mary is the perfect orans – according to the catechism – the perfect prayer.

One time someone asked me, “Is Mary the fourth person of the Holy Trinity?” I'm scratching my head saying, “How



*Painting of St. Michael on a building in Medjugorje*



can it be a Trinity and longer? That's a "quaternity." I said, "Mary is not God, but ...She's all-powerful at prayer." And so, when we pray the Rosary in union with Her, the Rosary becomes pure power, capable of dealing a great blow to the head of Satan, which is the very seat of his pride. He is the sworn enemy of the Holy Rosary because he knows that's the prayer that will defeat him and finally bind him, according to the book of Revelation.

Brothers and sisters of Medjugorje, Our Lady has asked

## Fighting Violence, 'One Rosary at a Time'

By Anita B. Cugini

October 31, 2007 marked the beginning of one of the most violent periods in the history of the Police Department in the City of Philadelphia, with the fatal wounding of Officer Chuck Cassidy. Between that date and the senseless murder of 25 year-old John Pawlowski on February 13, 2009, eight courageous officers lost their lives as a result of gunshot wounds while defending the way of life that Philadelphians take for granted.

Decent citizens in every section of our city were outraged and horrified at these violent killings and most felt that there was little or nothing they could do that would matter.

One of the members of the prayer group at St. Jerome's told me of a woman, Kathy Perpetua, who for many years, taught the 8<sup>th</sup> grade children at St. Jerome's to make one decade cord rosaries from lowly fishing twine. In the past, they were given to soldiers going to Iraq and Afghanistan and sent to recovering wounded at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. My friend from the prayer group told me that Kathy needed help and had tried to teach several people how to make the rosaries. Unfortunately, none of them could do it.

I met Kathy and she showed me how to make the rosaries. As I watched her, I found that I could make them, but not using the same method that she used. Nevertheless, Kathy said it was a message from Our Lady that I was to help her do this!

Each of us heard the awful news of the death of our fellow parishioner, Officer Chuck Cassidy, as we watched TV. Then, our Blessed Mother planted an idea in each of our minds, as to how we could use our God-given rosary-making ability to take a stand against the violence being directed at the Philadelphia Police – to focus the children's rosary-making ability to supply each member of the Philadelphia Police Department with a "Rosary of Protection" – a one-decade rosary in blue, to be carried on their person while on duty.

Since November 2007, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students of St. Jerome have made an astonishing 6,940 "rosaries of protection" – one for each and every member of the Philadelphia Police Department. Full rosaries were given to family members, significant others and anyone grieving the loss of these fine men. When the new school year begins, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class

us to pray the Rosary and to have the Rosary in our hands now more than ever. A Rosary a day, my dear brothers and sisters, keeps the devil at bay.

*Editor's note: We left out one story that Fr. Murphy related because it was in our June, 2015 issue. In that account, Jesus appeared to Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Nigeria in 2014. As Jesus handed the bishop a sword, the sword turned into a rosary, and Jesus said three times, "Boko Haram is gone." This story can be found in our archives, [www.spiritofmedjugorje.org/issues/June2015pdf.pdf](http://www.spiritofmedjugorje.org/issues/June2015pdf.pdf).*



One-decade rosary

will be taught how to make these rosaries to be given to protect every member of the Philadelphia Fire Department.

On Friday night, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Officer John Pawlowski, was gunned down; and once again, we saw the news bulletin scroll across our TV screens. The details of this brave young officer's life were so ever so sad...he and his wife of only five months, Kimme, expected a child in early summer. An ultrasound taken at her prenatal visit on the morning he died, confirmed they would have a son. They spent the rest of the day shopping for "little boy clothes". After reporting for work that afternoon, he was gunned down.

Again, Our Lady prompted us – to reach out to Kimme and their unborn son. We began selling rosaries that we made at local craft shows and fundraisers. With Mary's help, the outpouring of support was overwhelming. We presented Officer Pawlowski's widow with a check for \$2,500, from the sale of our rosaries – \$100 for every year of John's life. Little Johnny was born on 6-11-09, a healthy 6 lbs, 11 ounces!

Each of us must do what we can to combat evil in our society. Our God-given gift of rosary-making ability carries with it a responsibility – to spread His Mother's favorite devotion and to help others.

We called ourselves "Mary's Hands – Our Lady's Rainbow Rosaries," and the logo we chose was a picture of Mary Queen of Heaven which lists our mission:

Protecting Those Who Serve;  
Comforting Those Who Suffer;  
Standing up to Satan,  
One Rosary at a time!

**"Pray and let the rosary always be in your hand as a sign to satan that you belong to me"** (Our Lady, 2/25/88).

*Editor's note: How the Holy Spirit works! Anita originally wrote this article in 2009, and it has been in our files since this time. What a better time than now to publish this story after the many police killings this past year. Anita said that in her research, it appeared that since they gave out the rosaries, there have only been three police officers killed in Philadelphia, and all of them were off-duty at the time. Anita has since relocated to Florida from Philadelphia. She continues to make rosaries.*



**Please Note** – if you are moving south (or any other place) for the winter, **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE** send us your alternate address. The same applies if you are moving permanently to a new location. It will save us both money and time! Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.



# The Real St. Francis

*The following is excerpted from a homily at English Mass in Medjugorje on October 4, 2015 by Fr. Leon Pereira, OP. We thank Cathy Nolan for transcribing it. To read the entire homily, go to [marytv.tv](http://marytv.tv) and click on Cathy's reflection for October 6, 2015. We include this homily because St. Francis is our patron this year. His feast day is October 4.*

When I first came to Medjugorje in 1991, I do believe that the beginnings of my vocation were there, when I was about 19. And the thing I wanted to be was a Franciscan. That was the thing I was most attracted to...And then the years of humility and truth [came] when God made me a Dominican.

Now it is an old Franciscan and Dominican custom that on the feast days of each other's founders, for instance on the feast day of the holy founder, St. Francis, a Dominican will preach in Franciscan churches; and the other way around – on the feast day of the apostolic founder, St. Dominic, a Franciscan will preach in Dominican churches.

Now our holy father, St. Francis, is much better known than St. Dominic. Everyone is attracted to St. Francis; he is a charismatic personality. But the image of St. Francis is often like a Disney cartoon. Francis is surrounded by bunny rabbits at his feet and birds on his shoulders. Or it is the image of someone appealing but slightly mad, like Francis rolling naked in the snow. Now we don't encourage any of you to try that, because you don't want to get frost bite on certain bits of your anatomy.

You all know that hymn, "Make me a Channel of your Peace." Isn't it beautiful? Do you know when Saint Francis wrote that? In 1911, for a French magazine. It has nothing to do with Saint Francis. But it is a nice hymn. The thing we know he wrote is the "Canticle of the Creatures," i.e. Brother Sun, Sister Moon.

Now I am talking about this because the images we have of St. Francis have very little to do with reality. The real Francis began as a headstrong man. And it is true that he was very proud to dress well. And he was very proud to go to war. He thought war was a great adventure – an opportunity for glory! But after he was captured and spent one year in a rat-infested prison, his father, Pietro, ransomed him. After that, Francis was always deeply traumatized by war and his experiences of war. He fell into a deep depression.

You all know the story of the cross of San Damiano, the one that spoke to St. Francis. There is a copy of that cross hanging in the pavilion of the rotunda at the back of church. And that crucifix said to St. Francis, "Go and repair my Church, for it sways."

But this experience is not what converted St. Francis. What brought him out of depression and converted him also was his encounter with lepers. In his own words, our holy father, St. Francis, says, "God allowed me to begin my repentance in this way, when I lived in sin, seeing lepers was a very bitter experience for me. God Himself, guided me into their midst, and among them I performed acts of charity. What appeared bitter to me became sweetness of the soul and body." In the lepers that St. Francis embraced and kissed, Francis saw that the more that one is despised, the more one comes to resemble Jesus in His last agony, when He was abandoned by practically everyone that He had come to save. To embrace Jesus, Francis saw that you have to embrace those who are abandoned, to join those that no one else wants.

Our holy father, St. Francis, was a man of discipline. He fasted, but he forbade his followers from fasting excessively. During his time there were lots of groups performing penance, but Francis insisted that his brothers should eat meat. He was not a vegetarian; he was not an eco-warrior before his time – not at all. And above all, he enjoined his brothers, as a duty, to be cheerful. In all this, he himself set the example.

Now ten years later, the Pope authorized St. Francis and his brothers to preach penance. He sent his brothers to France, Germany, Hungary, the Middle-east, and Spain...and their preparation was not very much. Francis was a bit chaotic. He accepted practically anyone into his order. In fact the early Dominicans used to say that the early Franciscans were a bunch of odd balls and weirdos. Maybe they were right, I don't know!!

In Germany they went with practically no preparation, and all they could say in German was "Yah". So they went around Germany saying, "Yah, yah, yah..." to every question they were asked. The result was that they were eventually thrown in prison and then beaten up. So this is good advice, if you are ever going to Germany make sure you know more than "Yah!"

Francis himself went to seek an audience with the Sultan of Egypt, Syria, and Palestine – Al Kamil. Francis succeeded in speaking to him, but the Sultan did not convert, because he said that if he did convert (and he was sorely tempted), his followers would slay him as an apostate. Now Francis made a deep impression on the Sultan.

For Francis, the preparation for receiving the Gospel is penance. By penance, what Francis meant was love for neighbor. He held the deepest veneration for Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament. And he insisted that the chalices, patens and tabernacles should be both worthy and beautiful. In fact, he insisted on this more than on love for the poor. Why? Because he said if we do not truly have love for Jesus, then we can never truly love Him in the poor. Even his dying words were to reverence Him in the Blessed Sacrament. Because of this, he venerated priests. He also insisted that his brothers genuflect and kneel before the Blessed Sacrament. You see, up until that time, the majority of the people just bowed before the Blessed Sacrament in the West. It was Francis who changed this practice through his own devotion...

The last great event of his life happened two years before he died. Francis had a vision of a Seraph above him holding a Crucifix. And from the body of Our Lord, these beams came down and penetrated Francis' body. When the vision finished, he discovered he had a gash on his right side, and on his palms and on the top of his feet... we call them the stigmata, but they are not the kind of stigmata that you are all familiar with. They were not holes in his hands and feet... What he had were fleshy black outgrowths; and on the palm, they were like the head of a nail, and on the back of his hand, they were like a nail bent over. The same on his feet. These caused him great pain. Now he was marked with the same wounds as our



*Statue of St. Francis in Tihaljina, not too far from Medjugorje*



Savior. The servant had come to resemble the Master...

In 1226, Sister Death of Flesh came for him. What made St. Francis different is that he linked his life of poverty, his freedom to follow Christ, to one of obedience to the Pope. Obedience to the Pope grounded the Franciscan order to the heart of the Church, and more than that, it allowed the

Franciscan Order to be present in every part of the Church, dispersed throughout the world. The reason St. Francis did this is simple. Without the Pope there is no Church to speak of. And as Pope Francis loves to repeat, "Without the Church, there is no Christ. Without Him we have nothing. But with Him, we have everything we could ever imagine."

## Expect a Miracle

By June Klins

It was a big leap of faith to bring a movie to our city, sight unseen, but I could not say "no" to the inspiration I got on my June 2016 pilgrimage to Medjugorje. Sr. Claire Marie, who has a special gift of knowledge, told us to bring *Apparition Hill*, and I felt this was a confirmation of something that had already been laid on my heart. It was already in the works when I arrived home, thanks to one of my friends who volunteered to take this on. The date was set for September 15, the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

I expected a surge of ticket orders after I wrote about it in our August newsletter. But that did not happen. Most days there were no orders or, at most, one. I truly thought that at least our local subscribers would show more interest.

On August 11th, I attended a Mass for healing, and I was granted permission to bring flyers for the movie. I promised to pick up the extras before I went home. When I went to retrieve the remaining flyers, there was a pile of pennies sitting on the flyers. It is no secret that I find pennies often. I call them "pennies from Heaven." Sometimes they seem to be a "kiss" from Heaven, and sometimes they are a sign to trust – "In God we trust." I usually find one at a time, maybe two, but never a pile like this one. I took them with me to show some of my friends and they agreed they were meant for me. (I always donate them to charity when I get enough to cash them in.)

As a retired math teacher, I am attuned to numbers, so when I got home, I counted the coins. There were 30 pennies + 2 nickels + 1 coin that I thought was a Chuck E. Cheese token. So the number of "coins" was 33 – a number which is associated with Jesus. The pennies and nickels added up to 40 cents – a number associated with a time of waiting. So the message I got from the coins was to wait and Jesus would help us fill the theater for our movie.

A couple of days later, something made me look at the coin which I thought was a Chuck E. Cheese token. Imagine my surprise when I saw the word "Cinemark" on it! It was a game token from the movie theater where our movie would be playing! What are the odds of that????!!

As expected from my sign about "waiting," tickets sales continued to trickle in a little at a time. Four days before the showing, we still had 65 seats left out of 314. Not bad, but we were hoping to fill more seats. I was in awe, therefore, during the few days left before our movie, when God suddenly put people in my life I had not seen in years – people who wanted to see this movie once I invited them!

We were not allowed to sell tickets at the door, so we took orders on the phone and trusted them to send the money in later. Hours before the movie was to be shown, when I grabbed what I thought was an empty envelope to put a last-minute ticket in for someone, I found in it a little cloth that said, "Expect a Miracle." There was a hand-written note with it that said the cloth had been touched to a relic of the True Cross.

I had picked up these envelopes at church where people leave items for people to take for free, but I thought all the envelopes were empty. I love how God speaks to us in these unique ways!

My Bible calendar verse for that day read: 'It will come to pass in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions...' (Acts 2:17). How appropriate was that for a movie about apparitions????!!

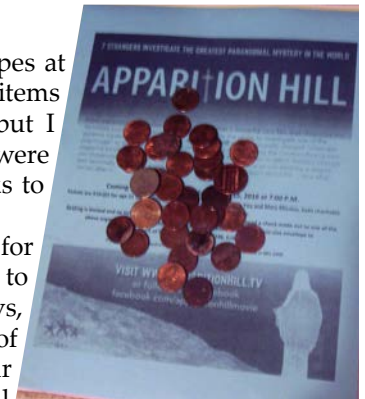
As predicted on August 11th, our movie showing turned out to be very successful. Based on leftover tickets, we had 300 attendees! The comments I heard from those exiting the theater were all very affirming. They loved the movie and were deeply moved. Whether that was the "miracle" I was to expect, or there is more to come, remains to be seen.

The next day, I continued to receive positive messages about the movie. A teacher wrote: "That movie was absolutely phenomenal." A man wrote: "That was an awesome movie. I never cried so much during one movie." One lady, who drove 1 ½ hours to see it, is going to bring it to her city now! This film was more than I ever expected!

We were blessed to have one of the cast members, Jill Mazowiecki, at our screening. She shared with us that it's possible this movie could be nominated for an Academy Award! That would help spread Our Lady's messages to a lot more people, so please pray and fast for this. Also financial help is needed. You can read more about this exciting news at [www.indiegogo.com/projects/help-apparition-hill-get-seen-by-millions-films-religion#/](http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/help-apparition-hill-get-seen-by-millions-films-religion#/).

A few days after the movie, another person who was bringing the movie to his area shared with me his concern about his slow tickets sales. When I was writing to him about our experience, it dawned on me that there were exactly 40 days in between the day our August newsletters containing information about the movie were delivered locally and the day of the movie!

Another little God-incidence was that the ticket number printed (purposely) on all movie tickets was M05131917, which represents the date for the first apparition at Fatima on 5/13/1917. What is interesting is that we originally were scheduled to have Theater #5, but because the seating capacity was decreased when they remodeled that theater, they had to move us to the larger theater – Theater #13! Our Lady said that what She started in Fatima She would complete in Medjugorje! Let's help this to happen and soon!



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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 \$.68 postage on it.



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