



THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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SUBSCRIPTION RATE - FREE WILL OFFERING - PLEASE SEE PAGE 8

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



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The Vatican Has Granted a Nihil Obstat to Medjugorje!

MONTHLY MESSAGE OF JANUARY 25, 2025

ON THE 25TH DAY OF EACH MONTH, THE BLESSED VIRGIN GIVES A MESSAGE TO THE VISIONARY, MARIJA, THAT IS TO BE GIVEN TO THE WORLD.



"Dear children, In this year of grace, I am calling you to conversion. Put God, dear children, in the center of your living and the fruits will be love towards neighbor and joy of witnessing; and the holiness of your life will become a true witness of faith. Thank you for having responded to my call."

(With Ecclesiastical approval)

If you look closely at the statue shown above, you will notice the hand is missing. This statue was found in a closet in the room where we do our mailing – no hand in sight. Ironically, we were looking for glue to fix the hand of another statue of Our Lady! Although we did not find glue that would work, we found something better! Fr. Ray blessed this statue that we will display each month at our mailing to remind us that, as we prepare the mailing for you, we are Her hands. We hope that with this issue you will be inspired to live the messages so "...you will be my extended hands in this lost world." (Our Lady, 5/25/21)

In With the Old, In With the New!

By Fr. Ray Donohue



Fr. Ray

It seems like Christmas was just here and now we are in February already! It may be the shortest month of the year, but in no way is it insignificant!

There are many very good and holy Feast Days and events that happened and happen in our Church today in this short month.

On February 2nd, we celebrate, as the Family of the Holy Catholic Church, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple. The Church has

been celebrating this Feast since the 4th Century! Centuries ago, it was known as the "Feast of the Meeting," and later became "Candlemas Day." We used to bless all the candles that were to be used in our church for the year ahead of us as a sign of the Light of Christ Jesus coming to us, and to light our way out of the darkness of sin. I still bless the candles on this day that will be used throughout the year, and any candles the parishioners want to be blessed. I give each person at Holy Mass that day, a blessed candle to take home with them.

On February 3rd, we celebrate the Feast of St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr. We get our throats blessed, as tradition says Saint Blaise saved a baby's life who was choking with his blessing and faith! I pray this prayer every single morning in my prayers: "O glorious St. Blaise, who by thy martyrdom did leave to the Church a precious witness to the faith, obtain for us the grace to preserve within ourselves this divine gift, and to defend, without human respect, both by word and example, the Truth of that same faith, which is so wickedly attacked and slandered in these our times. Thou who didst miraculously restore a little child when it was at the point of death by reason of an affliction of the throat, grant us thy mighty protection in like misfortunes; and, above all, obtain for us the grace of Christian mortification together with a faithful observance of the precepts of the Church, which may keep us from offending Almighty God. Amen." I find that prayer to be very powerful and helpful to me in so many ways!

On the 5th, we celebrate Saint Agatha, a virgin and martyr and we pray to her to protect us from fires. She was burned alive by Decius in Sicily in the year 251 AD. When my dad was a child, around the year 1923, they lived out in the country area of a little town called "Springbrook," and two of his brothers were smoking in the barn, and the barn and then their house caught on fire and burned everything to the ground! My dad and his 8 brothers and sisters and my grandmother and grandfather had to stay in neighbors' and relatives' homes until they could build another home from

scratch. The family was split all over the place, and after they were reunited again, my grandmother always had a prayer to Saint Agatha in the kitchen, bedrooms, parlor, and even one in the outhouse (they had no indoor plumbing until the late 1950s), to protect them from any future fires!

On the 10th of February, we celebrate the Feast of St. Scholastica, patron against storms and hurricanes and strong winds. I have had two tornados up here on the hill at my cabin, and I pray to her always. Even with the hurricane winds, we were always safe, and have had no real damage to the cabin. The saints look out for us! God gave the saints great power of intercession for us, and it is a pity so many of us never call upon them!

The feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes is February 11th. I have been to Lourdes twice and it is so holy and uplifting. I have witnessed so many cures, and I often anoint the sick with Lourdes water, asking the intercession of our dear Blessed Mother!

On the 14th of February we celebrate the feast day of Saint Cyril, a Monk, and Saint Methodius, a Bishop. They were brothers, and were a true "spiritual bridge" between Eastern and Western traditions. They are patron saints of many Slavic countries, and Croatia is one of them as well as Bosnia-Herzegovina, which should sound very familiar to you, as this is where Medjugorje is. The residents have great devotions to these two saintly brothers! It is also Saint Valentine's Day. When he wrote his letters, he would always sign: "Love, Your Valentine."

There is also the Feast of the Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order on the 17th of February. These holy Monks are known as the Order of the Friar Servants of Mary, or also are called the Servites (O.S.M.), founded by seven Florentine cloth merchants way back in the year of 1223. They have very special devotions to Our Lady of Sorrows (the seven sorrows of the Blessed Mother, whose Feast Day is in September).

The 22nd is the Feast of the "Chair of Saint Peter, the Apostle," our first Pope. We can pray to Saint Peter in so many ways and pray for the guidance and Grace our Pope needs to assist us in the stead of Saint Peter!

It is good for us to reflect on the days we celebrate the different saints and occasions and to see God's love in the hearts and actions of human beings just like us, putting their faith into action! What good is buying a car if you never drive it? Or, having a pet and just tying him or her out in the yard and only feeding them? There is a reason and purpose for everyone and everything! Faith is so important! We need to have faith in God, in the saints and angels, and in each other. To have faith in anything, we have to get to know it, or them.

Prayer is so important. Putting our faith into action is what we need to do. What good is praying if we just ramble the words, and say them so fast that it means little or nothing? To pray a Rosary is much different



St. Agatha

than to *say* a Rosary. I have been in churches when it sounds like an auctioneer is going a mile a minute or like a race to see who gets to the "AMEN" the fastest! We need to take our time, pray at a good time when we are not tired, set a time for our daily prayers when we can pray and focus on the words or the Holy Rosary, the prayers, and be in the Holy Presence of God! If we say: "I don't have time to pray," then we are too busy with earthly things. God takes HIS time to be with us always, and to hear and answer the prayers. We are not praying to just air!! We are praying to God, Who loves us, and we love God. But sometimes God gets put off because of other things we want to do. It happens, but we can change that in this New Year! As the Blessed Mother told us from the start of Medjugorje: "My dear, dear Children, Pray with the heart." Pray from the heart.

In this new year of 2025, mend a quarrel and make peace. Forgive the ones who made you angry or hurt you. Give

soft answers, even if you are frustrated and tired. Find the time when you need it or others need you. Apologize if you were wrong. Be gentle. Laugh a little, and then laugh a little more! Express your gratitude; welcome a stranger or someone who looks like they need help in some way. Make a child happy, showing love and kindness, the same with the elderly (of which I am also just about there).

Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth or the beauty around you, as fresh snow that falls, the buds of trees as Spring springs! Be kind to animals, and the family and friends and others around you. Make them smile, be kind and forgive. Don't forget to forgive yourself when you mess up! Go to monthly confession and spill out your heart and feelings to God! Speak your love, and speak it again, and speak it still once again!

With great love, and praying for you, one and all,
~Father ray and Dublin and Sweet Pea, my happy family who, all three of us, are so greatly blessed!

Prayer to St. Agatha for Protection Against Fire

Heavenly Father, we humbly come before you and ask for the intercession of Saint Agatha, your faithful servant who endured many sufferings and martyrdom for her consecrated virginity. We seek her guidance and protection against the devastating effects of fire. May the example of Saint Agatha inspire us to remain steadfast in our faith, even in the face of great adversity. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We Are Called to Confession

By Fr. Jozo Zovko, OFM



Fr. Jozo in 1987

The following is an excerpt from a reflection by Fr. Jozo Zovko written in February of 2009.

We are called to Confession, to give up our sin forever.

Once I visited one of the largest Buddhist temples. There are 12,000 Buddha statues in it. At the temple entrance there is a dragon. Its paw is so bright that the question poses itself: "Why?" A teacher of Buddhism explained to me that Buddhists leave their sins under the paws of the dragon for it to keep them while they are in the temple. And when they leave the temple, their sins again follow them like a shadow. That dragon is some kind of a "cloakroom for sins." But only for a short while the dragon keeps the sins, lest they disturb one while he is in the temple.

I wonder whether you are aware of how exalted is our faith and our God – how our God gives us grace and response to our needs, how He redeems our sins. No man can take sins upon himself. Nobody can destroy them, to burn them like paper. Neither a psychologist

nor a psychiatrist can say to you: "Have No Fear! You have confessed your sin and it is no more in your conscience, in your life." A thing like that surpasses human power.

Only God forgives sins. In Jesus and through Jesus, He forgives our sins. Jesus left this gift and this grace to the Church through His priests. Our sin has not been deposited in some darkness, in a space of oblivion. No! Our sin has been forgiven in a sacramental Confession. In the Confession, it disappeared in the ocean of God's mercy and love. Have No Fear. After Confession, your sin will no longer weigh down upon you. Therefore, the man whose sins have been forgiven knows to whom he should go and to thank for the immense and divine peace in his heart, conscience and soul. Confession is medicine. Confession is a gift that only God gives to His children. This grace, this sacramental grace opens my heart and changes it, and I wish only one thing – never more to offend my God and spurn His love!

Exciting Announcement

- The Medjugorje Festival Mladifest USA is coming to Chicago, Illinois July 18-20, 2025! Registration is Now Open!
- This event is authorized directly from Medjugorje and has been designed to provide the same experience as the annual Mladifest Youth Festival in Medjugorje. Register now for this one-of-a-kind opportunity for ages 18 to 35 where you could experience Medjugorje in the USA. Early Bird Admission is available with a \$25 discount ONLY until 2/28/25. (We will ONLY accept the Early Bird Admission if you have paid in FULL before 2/28.) Visit www.centermirmedjugorje.com to register and for more information.

Maybe That Was His Miracle!

By June Klins

I originally wrote the following story for our May, 2000 newsletter. I said at the time it was my favorite story (of my experiences since my first trip to Medjugorje). Twenty-five years later, there would be many contenders, but this would be one of them. I have felt a nudging for months to re-print this story since the majority of our subscribers were not on our mailing list at the time. This story is in our Volume II book. If you have that book, you may notice I have fine-tuned it.

When I slid into a pew of our church on the first Friday of Lent in the year 2000, the woman in front of me spun around and exclaimed, "Jean, I have to give you a big hug." I realized who she was as soon as she wrapped her arms around me. It made no difference that she got my name wrong!

My mind flashed to another Friday of Lent one year earlier (1999). During the daily Mass at this church, the assembly had the opportunity to voice their petitions aloud during the Prayers of the Faithful. This particular day, a man who was a stranger to me called out, "For Paul Rosenthal, who has cancer." For some reason, which I did not understand at the time, I felt prompted to offer this man a medal of Our Lady of Medjugorje for his friend, even though I had very few medals left from the package of 100 that I had brought back from my 1998 pilgrimage to Medjugorje. The medals had been blessed there by a priest and by Our Lady during an apparition.

After Mass, I approached this man and his wife, and asked if they thought their friend Paul would like a medal. They responded that their friend was not Catholic, but that his wife was, and that she would probably appreciate the medal. They explained that Paul was not doing well at all, and that he felt very badly about leaving his wife behind, because she was so dependent upon him. I said I would pray for him as we parted company. The next day when I saw them again, they said they were on their way to the hospital to deliver the medal.

Two months after that encounter, I was reading the obituaries in the newspaper when a name struck a bell. The name was "Paul Rosenthal." It took me a minute to figure out why that name was familiar, and then it hit me. Tears filled my eyes as I realized who he was. I felt so badly because I really had hoped for a miracle for him.

I decided I would send his wife, Norma, a sympathy card, and suggest that she keep the medal for herself to give her strength through her grief. The next day, as I re-read the obituary, I noticed that Norma's maiden name was

Wellington. I recognized that name. I called my mother to ask her about it. "Don't you have relatives named Wellington?" I asked my mother. "Yes," she replied, "that's my cousin, and her husband just died." I almost dropped the phone as I burst into tears. I had given a medal to a complete stranger to give to another complete stranger, and it turned out to be my second cousin! (Now one might think that subconsciously I would have recognized the names, but that side of the family never had family reunions, and my grandfather who was the link, had passed away many years previous to this. I really had no opportunity to meet or even hear about the Rosenths.) This is not the end of the story, though.

After I composed myself, I wrote a note in the sympathy card explaining to Norma my relationship to her. About a week later, I got a thank you note from Norma. She wrote, "Dear June, thank you for the lovely card and most of all for the medal. Paul was wearing it when he died. He had just become Catholic a month before he died. Maybe that was his miracle!!" My eyes flooded with tears.

I remembered that when I read the obituary the first time, I noticed that Paul was having a funeral Mass. I was surprised at that, since I had remembered that he was not Catholic. I had secretly hoped that he had converted. So when I got the note from Norma confirming it, I was thrilled! I was simply in awe of how God had worked.

As I mentioned earlier, I never knew the names of the people at church to whom I originally gave the medal, and I never saw them again until that first Friday of Lent a year later. The woman told me her name was Therese, that she and Norma were very close, and that Norma wanted her to give me a big hug when she saw me. (It's odd that we didn't see each other for a whole year since we belonged to the same parish.) Therese related to me that during the time that Paul was in the hospital dying of cancer, he kept praying to be healed, but after having received the medal, he completely changed. She said that after he got the medal, his only prayers were for a peaceful death. And his prayers were answered!

And this is still not the end of this incredible story. When I sat down to write this story, I found yet another surprise in Paul's obituary, which I had saved. I could not believe my eyes when I read his date of death. It was May 13. Not only was it one of Our Lady's feast days (Our Lady of Fatima), but that year, it was also the feast of the Ascension! Thank you, Mary and Jesus!



Medjugorje medal of the same style given to Paul

A Love That is Stronger Than All the Evil in the World



Vicka

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

The Virgin Mary has been dictating the story of her life to Vicka. Thus, to say the visionary knows Mary and her message is probably an understatement.

Like Mirjana and Ivanka, it's clear: it all comes down to doing God's will – and according to Vicka – that comes down to the Commandments, the Bible, and prayer.

Mary has been teaching Vicka especially about God's love – a love that is stronger than all the evil in the world, all the temptation in the world. God's love, she says, is what will lead the world to peace and joy, even in the midst of great suffering and temptation. And the Virgin Mary, adds Vicka, is the perfect example of *living* this love. Mary is the perfect mother, sister, and servant of God, she is able to teach us about Him.

Vicka says Mary wants all people on Earth to have faith in God. She wants them to know that He is with His children day and night, cares for them, longs for them. God calls to us in the wind, says Vicka, and in the words of Jesus.... He is calling the world now in a special way at Medjugorje.

Vicka has told many that to experience God's gifts is to experience God. Through prayer, she has learned that every person on Earth lives their whole life right before the face of God Our Father, surrounded by His angels and Saints. Everything that comes upon her path every day,

Vicka now knows, comes from the Father. He wills it. He allows it. Her only choice is to accept it. She must trust, she says, that God is her Father and that He loves her no matter what.

Vicka wants everyone to know that at Medjugorje, Mary is especially asking for the family Rosary. It will renew the family; the Virgin has told her. Moreover, parents must pray the Rosary for their children, she says, and children must pray it for their parents. This is because the Rosary is the chain that binds generations to eternal life. When families pray the Rosary, Satan is helpless.

Most significantly, Mary told Vicka that people who are serious about their prayer will change *through* prayer. This is because prayer and fasting is the one sure way to God, who can bring the desired change no matter what.

In interviews, Vicka has revealed the following:

- Prayer and fasting open our eyes to truth. Suffering also opens our eyes to truth, but often by the time the suffering comes, it is too late to eliminate the cause.
- Some people's lives and choices expose them to more sin. They need to go to confession often and, for them, the way is harder.
- Prayer is the key to the Heart of God.
- When God permits a great suffering, we need to accept it with love. The Virgin says God has a reason He has given a person a suffering and knows when He will take it away. He only asks patience. That is why we should never say, "Why me?" The suffering is a gift, and out of love, we should ask God if there is something more we can do for Him.
- The Virgin told Vicka that priests must protect the faith. They need to pray the Rosary with their people.
- Faith is a precious gift but it takes work to protect this gift.
- Prayer, fasting, and penances, like suffering, are like a mantle that covers those with no faith. It is what the Blessed Mother wants from her followers. It is a total surrender to God's will. The Virgin seeks those who will pray and fast and do penance for those who can't or won't.
- If we voluntarily break the Commandments through ignorance or weakness, it gives Satan power over our lives. It then takes God's grace, and our cooperation, to rescue us.
- The Virgin Mary says the Mass needs to take first place in a person's life. At Mass, Jesus comes to us in [a] physical way. It's the most sacred, holy moment...

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“Since I Cannot Receive You Now Physically...”

By June Klins

Our Lady asks that we make the Eucharist the center of our lives. I try my best to do that, but a number of times this winter, I was not able to get out of my driveway to go to daily Mass because of the snow. I don't like missing Mass. I could not juggle my personal life and this newsletter without daily Mass. The next best thing is to watch Mass online or on TV.

During the COVID shut-down five years ago, I discovered a website that had a list of live-streamed Masses from all around the world. I also used this list for daily Mass when I was homebound as a caregiver. It is nice to see the variety of beautiful churches and hear the inspirational homilies from around the world and to experience how UNIVERSAL our Catholic Church is. No matter which Mass you watch, the readings are the same.

Surely there are many people reading this newsletter who are homebound or cannot get to Mass because of work schedules, so I thought it would be good to share this link. Although the list is not exhaustive (for instance, none of the Masses in our diocese are listed), it is a great resource. There are many times because of the different time zones, so you can take your pick. You can even watch Mass in the middle of the night! Here is the link: <https://mass-online.org/daily-holy-mass-live-online/>.

When you watch these Masses, sometimes they will pray an Act of Spiritual Communion, which you can follow along with. But sometimes, they do not. So, I thought it would be good to share a version that my pastor, Fr. Larry Richards, uses. It is a bit longer than the one traditionally used, but I think it is very beautiful.

An Act of Faith and an Act of Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, I believe that You are God, and I believe that You became a man and that You died on the Cross to take away our sins. Thank You, Jesus, for dying for me.

Jesus, I believe that You are truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, and since I cannot receive You now physically, I beg You, come into my heart. Take control of my life. Be my Lord, my God, my Savior. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and make me Your disciple. I love You, Lord Jesus Christ, and I surrender my life to You forever, as You have surrendered Your life for me.

Thank You, Jesus, for loving me.

Then Fr. Larry adds, “Now just close your eyes and ask the Lord to embrace you. Feel Jesus put his arms around you. Put your hand on His chest. Listen to His heart beat. Every time His heart beats, He says, ‘I love you. I love you.’ Just let Jesus Christ love you.”

As of January 25, 2025, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 40,319. Thank you.

Finding the Bible

By June Klins



This year I decided to do a variation of that. I have a Christmas ornament that is a miniature Bible (1 ¼" square) – a real Bible, complete with all the words. (With my old eyes I cannot read it, but I suspect it is not a Catholic Bible because I received it as a parting gift when

I visited a live Nativity scene at a Baptist church about 25 years ago.) My grandchildren find it fascinating, and so do I. So before the kids came over to bake Christmas cookies, I hid this little Bible on the tree. They had fun looking for it, and then they took turns hiding it. This will probably become an annual tradition.

When I was putting away the Christmas decorations, it came to me to keep the little Bible out and hang it from the hand of my statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje. I want it to be a reminder of Our Lady's call for us to read the Bible daily.

I don't know if I have ever seen a statue of Our Lady holding a Bible. I thought perhaps some of you may want a little Bible like this to put on your statue, so I searched the internet with the words “miniature Bible” and found many links for it.

Although most of us would not be able to read that little Bible, we can read a “regular size” one, or a large-print one for those of us who are older! A good Lenten resolution might be to read the Bible every day if you don't already do that. I highly recommend “The Bible in a Year” podcast from Ascension Press. It can be found on ascensionpress.com – click on Free Media, and then podcasts. You can also find all the episodes on youtube.com or Hallow.com. The short commentaries by Fr. Mike Schmitz really help us understand the whole picture and to help us apply the lessons to our own lives. At this point, I am about a third of the way done, but I can't wait for each day to learn more.

St. Anthony at Work in Medjugorje

By Marie Leman

On one of my trips to Medjugorje, we drove to St. James Church with Fr. Chris Coric [a priest from the Medjugorje area assigned in Buffalo, NY at the time]. As we approached the church, Father said to me, "You have to find Paul M. today because he's leaving tomorrow to return to the United States, and I have something he has to bring back for his father." (His father was a doctor and good Catholic.) Paul was a young man who lived about an hour and a half from me. I had never met him, nor seen him. However, I'd spoken to him many times on the phone, as he was very interested in Medjugorje and called often for information.

So, as Father stressed how important it was that I find Paul, I repeatedly said that it would be impossible for me to find Paul because I didn't know what he looked like. I had never seen him. Father then began to describe him – dark hair, his height, dark eyes, etc. I said, "Father, you just described every Italian guy here. It would be easier for me to find a needle in a haystack because at least I know what a needle looks like. I've never seen Paul." Father seemed not to hear me. He just kept repeating, "Find Paul. It's important." I was still repeating, "I don't know what he looks like," as Father rushed off to the church and pointed upwards and said, "St. Anthony." So, I looked up and said, "OK, St. Anthony, I hope you know what Paul M. looks like, because I don't." I put it out of my mind because it was an impossibility. Even if I knew what he looked like, it would be impossible, since there were thousands of people there.

I was more concerned with finding a place to sit. The church was already packed and the area surrounding the church was filled with thousands of people. I saw a space on the ground and sat down. It was very hot, but I was grateful for even that little patch of ground. There were two small trees in front of the church with a small half-wall, like a bench, built around each one, where people would sit. You were lucky if you had a small space on that wall. The Rosary started. It was getting hotter and I was uncomfortable on the ground. During a break in the Rosary, I noticed a man who had been sitting on that little wall had gotten up and walked away.

I kept looking at that little space and thinking someone will surely notice and go sit there. But no one seemed to notice. It was like they just didn't see that empty space. So, I got up and walked over and sat down thinking that if the man returns, I'll give him his space back. It felt so good sitting there and having a little bit of shade under that small tree.

Then the next Rosary began. As is typical in Medjugorje, you could hear every language as people responded in prayer. I heard a man on my left responding in what sounded like German. The young man to my right responded in English. When the Rosary ended, the young man introduced himself. I think his name was Tom. He asked where I was from. I said, "Buffalo, New York." He said he was from the Rochester, New York area. He asked me, "Are you here with a group?" I said, "No. Actually, we're here with a Croatian priest from Lackawanna."

He stopped dead in his tracks, and looked at me and said, "Are you Marie Leman?" I said, "Yeah." I was wondering how he knew my name. He jumped up and said, "Don't move. I'll be right back." He rushed off, and returned a few minutes later with another young man and a girl. He excitedly kept saying to them, "This is Marie Leman," and to me, "This is Paul M." I was in shock. I jumped up and gave him a hug and told him how Father had insisted that I would find him! Here he was in front of me, an absolutely impossible feat that only Heaven could have accomplished. Thank you, St. Anthony!

We all walked to the car to wait for Father after Mass. We were certain that he would be shocked that we actually had found each other. As Father came walking towards the car and saw that I had found Paul M., he wasn't the least bit surprised. He expected it; he knew it would happen! How could he have been so sure?!

Editor's note: Marie is from Buffalo, NY. Her story about how she was led to spread Our Lady's messages through Western New York was in our August, 2024 issue. We thank her son Patrick for transcribing and sending us her story. Perfect timing since St. Anthony is our patron saint this year!



Marie Leman

Back by Demand – Fasting Bread Recipe

In our January issue, we featured an article about the joy of fasting and included a picture of a loaf of Medjugorje fasting bread. I should have included information on how to get the recipe, which was in our August, 2023 issue, and available on our website. According to Ana Shawl, who shared the recipe, this one is the closest to the bread they make in Medjugorje.

- 1 Pkg dry yeast
- 1 1/2 cups warmed milk
- 3 Tablespoons softened butter
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 Tablespoon sugar
- 3 cups all-purpose flour

Put the yeast into the warm milk and butter in large mixing bowl. Let this dissolve for 1 minute. Add salt, sugar, and flour and beat or mix for about 1 minute. Pour batter into greased loaf pan. Slash the top, cover and let rise for about 35 minutes. Bake at 375 degrees for about 45 minutes. Take out of pan and let cool.

Editor's note: Fr. Leon Pereira, the chaplain for the English-speaking people in Medjugorje, says any kind of bread can be used for fasting, as long as it is not cake (like banana bread, zucchini bread, etc.).

The Spirit of Medjugorje
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MARY IS CALLING YOU

On June 24, 1981 in Medjugorje, Our Lady began appearing to six children. She identified Herself as the Blessed Virgin, Queen of Peace. Her words to the visionaries: *"I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and obtain peace, you must return to God."*

Today, the Blessed Mother still appears daily to three of the visionaries, and annually to the others. They are all now adults. During the apparitions, the visionaries do not react to light, don't hear any sound, or react to being touched; they feel that they are outside of time and space. They declare to see the Blessed Virgin as they see other people — three dimensional. They pray and speak with Her.

The Blessed Mother granted to confide ten secrets to each visionary (some are chastisements for the world). Some of the visionaries have received all ten secrets. Our Lady promised

to leave a visible sign at the original site of the apparitions in Medjugorje, for all humanity. In the meantime, this period of grace is for conversion and a deepening of faith.

Father Jozo Zovko, who was the pastor of St. James when the apparitions began, has spoken about what he calls "the weapons" or "the five stones" of Our Lady (as in the story of Goliath). They are PRAYER with the heart, especially the Rosary; EUCHARIST; BIBLE; monthly CONFESSION; and FASTING.

On September 19, 2024 the Vatican announced that the apparitions in Medjugorje received a nihil obstat.

If you want a prayer cloth we made, send a self-addressed stamped business size (4 1/8" x 9 1/2") envelope with \$1.01 postage on it. This offer is available while supplies last.



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