



THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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www.spiritofmedjugorje.org

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - FREE WILL OFFERING - PLEASE SEE PAGE 8

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



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The Vatican Has Granted a Nihil Obstat to Medjugorje!

MONTHLY MESSAGE OF OCTOBER 25, 2024

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 painting above was purchased in a store in Medjugorje many years ago. We have much to be thankful for, especially that Our Lady continues to come to us on a regular basis. "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift" (2 Cor 9:15)! We hope you and your families have a blessed Thanksgiving.

“Dear children, At this time, when you are celebrating the day of All Saints, seek their intercession and prayers so that in union with them, you may find peace. May the Saints be your intercessors and example, that you imitate them and live holily. I am with you and intercede before God for each of you. Thank you for having responded to my call.”
(With Ecclesiastical approval)

Repetition is the Mother of Knowledge

By Fr. Ray Donohue



Fr. Ray

Repetitio est mater studiorum! If my Latin is still with me from my seminary days, this Latin phrase is translated: "Repetition is the mother of knowledge." If we say something over and over when we are studying or learning something, like a language, or customs, or even prayers, my instructor would tell me: "Say it or pray it three times with your heart, and it will become yours forever!"

That has stuck with me from my very early years and still with me today. Mothers teach their children in this way, so that they automatically, in time, wash their hands before eating, to know when bed time is, to know when their favorite show is on TV. This works also very truly with prayer, but with one other important part – prayer has to come from the heart!

Our Blessed Mother has been telling us over and over and over and over again since 1981 to "Pray from the heart," because that is where true prayer comes from. We don't want to recite things without feeling what we are saying, or praying, to be "put on," if you will, "automatic pilot." Our Holy Blessed Mother reminds us always to: "Pray from the heart!" This is where we find God, where we find our Blessed Mother's love and assistance, and where we find peace from both the Prince of Peace, and our dear Queen of Peace!

I am, and have always been, a huge fan of Archbishop Fulton Sheen, since my earliest years, watching him on TV as a young child. I think I have told you this before, but I would hurry to get my bath at night, so I could be there in time in my bathrobe like Archbishop Sheen's cape, and when he would "swish" around with his cape, I would do the same thing in my bathrobe! I couldn't have been more than 6 or 7 years old, but something very holy drew me to him!

Our Lady worked through him, as She works through us, but he had a special gift and used it. That gift was devotion, love and action in showing us the way to God, and living a real and true life here on earth. I remember many of his quotes, among them are some favorites: "Prayer begins by talking to God, but it ends by listening to Him." "In the face of Absolute Truth, silence is the soul's language." He also helped me through my Seminary years with the phrase: "Believe the incredible, and you can do the impossible!" These messages from the Archbishop came from his heart, and they have been embedded in my heart for almost all of my life! "Our Lord," the Archbishop said, "did not ask us to give up the things of earth, but to exchange them for better things!"

Our dear Blessed Mother, whom Archbishop Sheen loved with so much devotion, inspires us in ways to get to know God, and to Love Him and follow Him, as Jesus said just

before His ascension into Heaven. Jesus told them, as He did the first time He went into the public with His Holy ministry: "FOLLOW ME!" He wants us to follow Him in His ways, in His love and forgiveness, and to follow Him into Heaven.

Our Blessed Mother is showing us how to do this and has been for centuries, and especially in Medjugorje! Archbishop Sheen was a visionary, not unlike the visionaries in Medjugorje, or any of us!

This is the Month of All Saints and All Souls! We pray for those who have gone before us, we pray for those who gave us an example of how to live a good life, and we pray for those who did not take advantage of the Graces of God. We are all ONE! We are not perfect, but God calls us to perfection!

A survey was made among Catholics and Protestants a few years ago, of how much time is spent in prayer each day. This survey included Catholic priests and Protestant ministers. The average time was six and a half minutes per day! That is how long it takes to throw out the garbage! BUT, for people who are on their computers and phones and high-tech devices and watching TV, that was on average 18 hours a day on these material things! I do NOT own a cell phone, I don't want one and I don't need one. I have been bumped into many times from people looking at their cell phones, but not where they are going, and I have been called to accidents to anoint or do

what I can do, because people are on their cell phones while driving, and some were killed because of that! Akin to the Romans persecuting the Christians, today we put God in a file or something, and if we have the time, we may shoot off a quick prayer, or try to go to a church where the priest gives a very short homily, or no homily at all!

Jesus and Mary and the disciples didn't take short cuts, they followed God in following their hearts, and put all things into action! We seem to go through a routine, that mostly disregards God for material things and pleasure for ourselves. SIX AND A HALF MINUTES A DAY to give to God when God gave us everything including Jesus and the Saints? The holy Catholic Church, the gift of prayer and the

Holy Eucharist, and we spend six and a half minutes a day in a quick, fast prayer while we are eating our cereal and watching TV or on a crazy cell phone?

There seems to be an evil principle in operation. For example, naturalists tell us the mole once had eyes to see, but chose to grovel down in the bowels of the earth. Nature, as if seated in judgment said: "Very well, if you will not use the talent that has been given to you, it will be taken away!" Jesus spoke such parables. There are penalties in neglecting our prayer-life, going to Holy Mass, going to a monthly confession to receive forgiveness and strength to avoid temptation and evil. We do not lose our souls simply by doing bad things, but we lose our souls by omission!

"So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Mt 5:48).



Archbishop Sheen

When was the last time you went to Holy Confession? In the Holy Gospel of Matthew 25:18 a person was given only one talent, and he buried it and said: "Well, it is no use to me," and we see how God reacted! God is Love, and He is a giver of good things and life! He gives us life Eternal, He promises all will go to Heaven, IF, (and that little two-letter word "IF" depends on our free will)... Will we pray or ignore it? Will we forgive as Jesus forgives us, or hold grudges? Will we gossip, ruin a person's reputation, when it is none of our business? Or, will we be like Jesus, tell the truth, spend great time in Holy Prayer, and pray? Pray! Not for just six and a half minutes a day, but really and truly PRAY and spend time with God! This is what the Saints did, and we are ALL called to be God's Saints!

In this special month of ALL SAINTS and ALL SOULS, do what Our Lady has been asking us for the past 43 years! PRAY, and PRAY FROM THE HEART! Don't rattle off a bunch of words and call it prayer. Pray for all the Holy Souls, fast for them any way you can, and Love! Love your neighbor. Forgive all others, no matter what. Ask God for strength and He will give it to you! "Pray, Pray, Pray" as our Blessed Mother asks us to do. Mary is our Mother; don't disobey Her. Love Her as She brings us to Jesus!

May the Souls of all the faithful departed rest in Peace! May the Angels and Saints watch over us and protect us,

and may we spend quality time in Holy Prayer and Holy Love! God loves you so much. Our Blessed Mother loves you so much. Your Guardian Angel loves you so much. Be an example of love in action, by simple kindness and spending quality time (not six and half minutes a day), but make time for prayer and, as the Holy Spirit inspires you, pray from your heart.

Lots of love, and prayers for all of you and all your intentions, and I promise I will celebrate a special Holy Mass for all of you in this month of All Saints and All souls, and lift up all your loved ones called from this world to Eternal life! Please, pray for Peace, and pray for all those in need and for an end to wars and hatred.

In Jesus, Mary, Saint Joseph, all the Holy Saints, and all our loved ones called Home to God,

~Father ray and my little family, Dublin and Sweet Pea

"Dear children! Also today I call you to pray from your whole heart and to love each other. Little children, you are chosen to witness peace and joy. If there is no peace, pray and you will receive it. Through you and your prayer, little children, peace will begin to flow through the world. That is why, little children, pray, pray, pray, because prayer works miracles in human hearts and in the world. I am with you and I thank God for each of you who has accepted and lives prayer with seriousness. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Our Lady, 9/25/01)

"You Obtain New Intercessors"

By Sr. Emmanuel

In Vicenza, Italy, Cardinal Baronio witnessed a surprising and instructive event: he had entered the room of a dying man to assist him and give him the sacraments of the Church. Suddenly, he saw a multitude of good spirits appear on the bed of this dying man. They comforted the man and scattered the groaning demons who were desperately attempting to bring about his perdition. The Cardinal asked them, "Who are you?" They replied that they were the 8,000 souls that this man had delivered from purgatory through his prayers and good works. They had been sent by God, they explained, to take him to Heaven without spending a single moment in purgatory.

Children of Medjugorje, sremmanuel.com, October 2022 report

"Dear children! Today I wish to call you to pray daily for souls in purgatory. For every soul prayer and grace is necessary to reach God and the love of God. By doing this, dear children, you obtain new intercessors who will help you in life to realize that all the earthly things are not important for you, that only Heaven is that for which it is necessary to strive. Therefore, dear children, pray without ceasing that you may be able to help yourselves and the others to whom your prayers will bring joy. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Our Lady, 11/6/86)



Bits and "Peaces"

- In the October issue, we wrote about a traveling statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje in the Erie area. We would like to clarify that if you are not able to take the statue to the next person on the list, we have two people who have volunteered to do that for you. Please do not pass up this opportunity because you are concerned about moving the statue. Please call or email me (June) if you want to be on the list. (814-898-2143/ jklines1981@verizon.net)
- A big thank you to all of you who have changed your renewal date to your birthday month to relieve the overload for me in the months of December and January.
- If you do not want or need an acknowledgement for your donation, please make a note of that with your renewal.
- Reminder: if you are moving or will be away for more than one month, **PLEASE** send us your new or alternate address. It saves both time and money if we have it ahead. Thank you!
- As of October 25, 2024, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 40,231. It would be great to have a Mass said for Our Lady's intentions for a Christmas gift for Her Son. If you do, let us know so we can add it to the tally. Thank you.
- Don't forget to tune in to Mary tv.tv for the prayer meetings with Ivan to pray for peace as Our Lady asks, and to be present for the apparition. She needs our prayers for Her peace plan. Ivan is back in Boston now, so the time will be 5:00 PM Eastern time, usually on Saturdays. But it is best to check with Mary TV for the date.

How the Queen of Peace Prepared Us For A Serious Illness – And How She Can Help You Too

By Michelle Laque Johnson

“How did you do it?”

That’s the question I’m often asked when people hear that my husband suffered through three bouts of cancer over eight years, had his leg amputated up to the hip, and became a quadriplegic. Until the last few months of his life, when I had to have help because I couldn’t lift him, I was his sole caregiver even as I held down a full-time job.

The answer to the above question is that I didn’t do this by leaning on myself, and neither did my husband. Everything we did was simply a response to the grace that my husband and I received as a result of our call to conversion in Medjugorje. I share our story in my book, “Walking the Way of the Cross for Caregivers: How To Cope Practically, Emotionally, and Spiritually When a Loved One Has a Serious Illness,” because our conversion was the key to our handling the suffering that came our way. To understand the enormity of that conversion, you have to know a little about who we were before Medjugorje and what happened while we were there. Below are a few excerpts from the book:

For more than 16 years, I have been working as the Director of Communications for EWTN, so it may be hard for people who know me now to believe, but even though I had a wonderful Catholic upbringing, I ended up going to a very progressive “Catholic” college. My family had moved to Spain during my high school years, so when it came time to go to college, I opted to go to my mother’s alma mater in Baltimore. I had family there. I knew if I needed help, I wouldn’t be alone.

Unfortunately, my mother’s college had changed drastically since she had graduated. At the time I attended, we were given no real religious formation. The “religion” books they had us read were all about some amorphous being called God who was floating around “out there” in the cosmos. It’s a miracle I kept my faith. There was no teaching about the immorality of abortion. In fact, I remember telling my mother that we didn’t have to believe what the Pope said about contraception because he didn’t deliver his pronouncement from the Chair of Peter. Where in the world did my 18-year-old self get that? During my time there, I was also taught about the women’s movement with no Catholic filter. Equal Rights was all I heard – and that made all the sense in the world to me!

Fortunately, all of this didn’t stop me from meeting and marrying the love of my life, Stuart “Stu” Johnson. He was not only smart, he was quite an athlete. But I could not have cared less about his athletic prowess! As I said to my mother before we married: “He makes me laugh; he can admit when he’s wrong, and he’s always willing to try new things.” Those traits turned out to be the key to a happy marriage – at least for me!

Stu, of course, went into the Navy upon graduation from the Naval Academy. After 10 years, he left the Service and went into specialty gas sales, a job that took him around

the world. He stayed there until his conversion. My first job was as a Personnel Assistant for a large hotel chain. After 10 years of climbing the corporate ladder, I left to get a master’s degree in Journalism from Northwestern University in Chicago, and I worked at a regional newspaper, a national newspaper, and a trade journal.

I loved being married to Stu. He called himself a “Northern Baptist,” meaning there was none of that charismatic singing and shouting, but he didn’t go to church. I decided that if I was going to call myself a Catholic, I should go weekly. But, except for Christmas and Easter, I went to church by myself. I prayed, but mostly when I wanted something. I prayed that God would bless *my* decisions, not that I would know His will for me. I didn’t know any other way.

The only time my husband ever got angry at me over my faith was after his mother died. His mother was cremated, and her ashes scattered. There was no service.

I said to Stu, “You know, we really should pray for your Mom.” He got indignant. “Look,” he said, “I know you believe in that purgatory stuff, but I don’t. My mother suffered from cancer for years. She’s in heaven.”

I threw up my hands in mock surrender. “Okay, sorry.”

We went along like this for years, just enjoying life, working, traveling, and dreaming about the future, but our faith lives, such as they were, were separate.

One day, a package arrived from my sister Marian. It was a stack of books about a place called Medjugorje. I had heard that Our Lady was appearing there to six children, but I didn’t know much more about it.

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves” (Mt 7:15).



Michelle and Stu on Cross Mountain

My sister knew I was a voracious reader, but at the time I was busy, so I put the books aside. One day, I picked one up out of curiosity – and, after that, nothing was ever the same. I believed what I was reading, probably because what I was reading reinforced all I had been taught growing up. It’s just that now Our Lady was saying it! I felt like St. Paul when he was struck off his horse.

Overnight, I started going to daily Mass, praying the Rosary, fasting, and going to confession weekly. I cried – a lot – but they were tears of joy because I knew – to use a Protestant expression – that I was being saved.

My husband, meanwhile, was observing all of this and

wondering what was happening with his wife. Fortunately, this man truly loved me. He listened, he learned, and one day he said: "Do you want to go to Medjugorje?" Did I? Of course, I did!

"Then, we'll go," he said.

"WE'LL go?"

Years later, I asked Stu why he wanted to go with me on that fateful trip. He said it was because he knew something important was happening to me, and he wanted to be part of it. He didn't want me to change without him. Such a good man. Our Lady would honor that big time.

The first night we were there, just before Mass at St. James Church, I showed Stu how to say a Rosary. The next night, I was saying my own prayers when I happened to glance over at my husband. He was crying. My husband was kind of a macho guy. He didn't cry.

I looked away and kept praying. I looked back. Now, he was a complete mess. I looked over at him and mouthed, "Do you want to go outside?" He nodded.

As we sat on a bench outside the church, I asked him what had happened. If I would have had to guess what he was about to say, we'd still be sitting there. This man, this Protestant, looked at me and said, "There is a purgatory," he paused and looked at me with great sorrow, "and my mother is there."

To say I was flabbergasted is an understatement. In my head, I was saying to the Blessed Mother, "What are you doing?" To him, I said: "How...how do you know?"

He said while he was sitting in the church, he was holding photos of people our friends had asked us to pray for. He had his eyes closed. Suddenly, he said he felt as if someone had come up behind him and taken him by the shoulders and he felt something like electricity running up and down his arms. He opened his eyes to see who it was and what was happening, but no one was there.

Instead, he suddenly had this crushing sense of – he didn't know how to describe it – not really despair? sadness? – in his chest – and he was just given to know that this was how his mother was feeling.

"Okay," I said, desperately trying to make everything right. "It's okay. Your mother isn't in hell. She's in purgatory. That's where most of us go. We'll talk to a priest."

A short time later, the priest we spoke to told us: "This is a great grace. Your mother needs prayers."

As you can imagine, she got them! However, my husband made me promise I wouldn't tell anyone in our tour group – yes, we were on a tour – that this had happened to him. He didn't want them to think he was crazy.

We were in Medjugorje several days when Stu walked up to me and said another thing I never expected to hear from him: "If I was wrong about purgatory, what else have I been wrong about? I want to become a Catholic." I was stunned, but I also realized Our Lady knew what she was doing, even if I didn't!

Stu would indeed become a Catholic, and we would return to Medjugorje the following year so that he could receive Communion in St. James Church.

As a result of our conversion, I left secular journalism for religious journalism and eventually Catholic communications. I would also become a fully professed secular Carmelite. Stu left the corporate world to become a high school physics teacher where he changed the lives

of many of his students. Stu was making such a difference I thought the Lord would want him to continue with a job that my husband clearly saw as a vocation. But the Lord had other plans for us – "plans for welfare and not for evil" (Jeremiah 29:11) – just as He does for you.

Those plans would result in a time of great spiritual growth, but they would not be easy. If we had not had our conversions, I don't know how we would have handled Stu's cancer, amputation, and resulting quadriplegia. Nor do I believe I would have been given the understanding, as I stood in a church praying the Stations of the Cross eight years after my husband's death, that during our eight year journey through cancer, my husband and I really were walking the Way of the Cross.

I probably would have prayed during that time, but not the way I learned to pray in the face of Stu's illness. Like many, I came to realize that if we keep turning to God when we are suffering, deeper prayer is one of the fruits. And by that, I don't mean that we suddenly start spending hours on our knees. How would we even have the time? God doesn't expect that of us. What He does expect, what He does beg of us, is prayer from the heart and that can, and often does, happen on the fly.

Thanks to Jesus and Mary and Medjugorje, I was able to



Stu praying the Rosary

write a book for caregivers, which outlines both the practical and the spiritual things we did, things that worked and things that didn't, mistakes made and obstacles surmounted. I pray the book will help others who are going through a serious illness learn that they are not alone; that Jesus is never closer to us than when we are going through great suffering; that the good times are not over; and that suffering gives us an amazing opportunity to get closer to our loved ones in a way we probably never imagined possible.

If you get only one lesson from this article or my book, I pray it is this: Whatever trouble you are facing, especially when there appears to be no way forward, take Our Lady's hand. Make the choice to walk with God. I promise you will never be sorry.

Editor's note: I highly recommend Michelle's book. My only regret is that I should have bought it 6 months earlier when I first heard about it. It is available from Amazon (<https://amzn.to/4efsG22>), EWTN Religious Catalogue (<https://bit.ly/ERC91400>), and wherever books are sold.

An Interview with a German Exorcist

The following is an excerpt from the book Fast with the Heart, by the late Fr. Slavko Barbaric. This was part of an interview Fr. Slavko did with a German exorcist named Fr. Martin Ramoser. Fr. Slavko died on November 24, 2000. The following day Our Lady said in Her public message to Marija that Fr. Slavko was with Her in Heaven.

Fr. Ramoser: Today there are many channels, through which evil forces can creep into man. According to my experience, one of them is rock music. Certainly, the powers of darkness find "open windows" also through such music to influence man. I recall a well-known group AC/DC. One of their best-known songs gives glory to Satan and is called "Highway to Hell." The refrain says, "hey Satan, paid my due, playin' in a rockin' band. Hey mama look at me, I'm on my way to the promised land and I'm going down, all the way down. I'm on the highway to hell, on the highway to hell..." When a person repeats this or similar text, his soul is opened to dark forces. This is why it is important for all of us, especially the young, to pray the Rosary, because in the Rosary we repeat the "Hail Mary" many times. In this way, we slowly open ourselves to Salvation just as we open ourselves to evil when we repeat negative things. I especially recommend to the young who listen to similar such music to pray the Rosary often or to repeat, "Father, Your kingdom come, Hallowed be Your Name." The shortest prayer of deliverance is found in the prayer of [the] Our Father: "Deliver us from evil."

Fr. Slavko: Do you see Mary's call to fasting and prayer as connected with the service of deliverance?

Fr. Ramoser: Absolutely! The prayer of the Rosary is a good preparation and by all means, so are fasting and regular

Confession. If we are not pure, then evil forces can say to us, "What can you do to me when I partake in your life?" The powers of darkness fear the Eucharist and the Word of God. It is clear why the message of Medjugorje, in its entirety, is most efficacious in the fight against evil.

Fr. Slavko: How many times have you been to Medjugorje and why do you come?

Fr. Ramoser: This is already the sixth summer that I have spent my entire vacation in Medjugorje. I have also come with my parishioners. I feel that this spirituality is the most suitable for the service of deliverance: the Holy Mass, Confession, the Rosary and the Sacred Scripture. It is also the most suitable help to those who have experienced deliverance. Such a spiritual environment must be experienced by those in the service of deliverance and those in need of deliverance.

Fr. Slavko: According to your experience, what role does Mary have in the service of deliverance?

Fr. Ramoser: So many times, I have experienced Mary to be the best helper in the fight against the powers of darkness. Whenever I have invoked Mary, giving glory to Her Immaculate Conception and Her Divine Motherhood during the prayer of deliverance, the powers of darkness had to flee. A French exorcist, a member of the Association of Exorcists, said that many times his experience confirmed that the evil spirits fear Mary even more than they fear Jesus. Somehow, this can be understood on a human level. The evil spirits must submit to Jesus, but to submit to a humble Woman is their greatest shame...I am grateful to God for Mary's messages and for everything that is happening in Medjugorje. I am convinced that God decided to create conditions through Mary to deliver us from the evil one.

The Statue of Fr. Slavko

By June Klins

If you have been to Mother's Village in Medjugorje, you have surely been greeted by a large bronze statue of Fr. Slavko Barbaric. In my quest to know more about this statue, I learned that it is the work of the Italian artist Carmelo Puzzolo, the same artist who sculpted the Rosary Stations on Apparition Hill and the Stations of the Cross on Cross Mountain, as well as other works of art in Medjugorje.

Reporting about the first anniversary of Fr. Slavko's death (on November 24, 2000), the official Medjugorje website (www.medjugorje.hr) wrote: "In Mother's Village, considered to be Fr. Slavko's masterpiece, a monument in his memory was unveiled. It is a work of the Italian sculptor Carmelo Puzzolo, in homage of his personal and dear friend. This beautiful bronze statue for Mother's Village was realized thanks to the generosity of Princess Marie of Liechtenstein, who wanted to express her gratitude for Fr. Slavko's spiritual help and friendship towards her family."

Last year, a frequent pilgrim to Medjugorje wrote, "Today, the statue has become a bit of a trademark of Mother's Village and a nice place of encounter and prayer for many of Fr. Slavko's friends and pilgrims."

He added a little history about the statue, which appeared to have been translated from another language. I took the liberty to clean up the English so it would read easier. "During one visit to Mother's Village, Fr. Slavko asked Carmelo

to design some artistic motifs for a promenade through the village. Shortly thereafter, Fr. Slavko died and spontaneously, Carmelo got the idea for a promenade to make his character as a visible reminder of his invisible presence. The problem was how to create a three-dimensional statue of Fr. Slavko, because on the few images that he was eventually able to obtain, there was always only Fr. Slavko's face. At the end – said Carmelo – he realized that he must fully immerse himself and carve out from his memories that warm-hearted figure.

"Particularly in Carmelo's memories remained one scene where during a Mass for blessing of the fields, Fr. Slavko blessed the villagers who were present with a small crucifix in his hands. So he decided to show Fr. Slavko blessing, a little bit hidden behind the crucifix, which he held in his hand. In that way he wanted to show Fr. Slavko's humility and modesty, for he always put himself behind Jesus. The uplifted crucifix symbolizes Fr. Slavko's great faith in God and God's strength."



Fr. Slavko statue in Mother's Village

“Out Of Love Towards You”

By June Klins

On the evening of September 30, I got an email from the editor of another Medjugorje newsletter asking me which version of the September 25, 2024 message was correct. What???? I did not even know there were two versions. I quickly went to the official website for Medjugorje (www.medjugorje.hr) to compare the version there with the one that we had on the front cover of our newsletter, and I saw they were different. Yikes!!!

I wondered how that happened because I got the message right from the official website. Every month on the 25th, I go to that site around 1:30 p.m. and wait for the message to be published. I thought it might be late this time because the Vatican had said that from now on, new messages could not be published without ecclesiastic approval. I was pleasantly surprised when it was posted around 2:00 p.m. So I quickly posted the message on Facebook and sent it to my friend who does the graphics for the newsletter and my son who is our webmaster.

Our newsletters were “hot off the press” when I found out the message on the cover was missing five words. The new version began with the words, “*Out of love towards you.*” So it now reads, “*Dear children! Out of love towards you, God has sent me among you, to love you and encourage you to prayer and conversion, for peace in you and in your families and in the world. Little children, do not forget that true peace comes only through prayer, from God Who is your peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.*”

The message was easily corrected on Facebook and our website. BUT the over 4,100 paper copies could not be corrected. Although most people probably would not

notice, it still upset me that it was incomplete. (As of this writing, October 9, some Medjugorje websites still have the incomplete message posted.) I had a hunch that the “master of confusion” was behind all of this because of the recent positive ruling by the Vatican. He used innocent people, humans who can make mistakes, to cause confusion and doubt, and to upset people like me. I later found out that the missing words were in the other language translations of the message, but somehow were left out in the English translation when first posted. Plain human error. It was out of my control at this point, but it was still upsetting to me.

The next morning, when I opened the book, *The Wisdom of the Saints*, I smiled when I read the saint quote for the day. The saint quote was from St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who is patron saint for *The Spirit of Medjugorje* this year! The quote said, “Cling to God and leave all the rest to Him.” Wow! What a great message for me and hopefully all of you who are reading this as well.

That day was the feast of St. Thérèse the Little Flower. In our January issue, I had written how St. Thérèse (our patron saint in 2021) had guided my hand to pick the name of St. Margaret Mary out of my saint bag. I had written that I could just picture these two French saints giggling in Heaven. Well, here they were, at it again! And it gets even better...

The priest at Mass that morning (who had no idea about any of this) told me to come to the sacristy after Mass. He handed me his first class relic of St. Thérèse and said I could keep the relic for a month! I don’t know how I did it, but I managed to hold back the tears! St. Thérèse and St. Margaret Mary, thank you for helping me to have peace in my heart with the missing five words from our dear Blessed Mother on our October cover, “Out of love towards you.”



St. Thérèse statue in the Yellow Building in Medjugorje

Editor’s introduction: I heard the following poem in a homily on All Saints Day many years ago and really liked it, so I asked the priest for a copy. I thought I’d share it with you. (The priest did not know the author.)

Sinner’s Story - It Could Be Verse

Peter thrice denied the Lord; Zachaeus was a cheat;
and then there was the prostitute who wept at Jesus’ feet.
Simon was an anarchist, Matthew plundered taxes;
The “sons of thunder,” James and John, were angry battle axes.
Paul, a rabid terrorist, and Dismas was a thief;
Magdalene was demon-filled, and Thomas lacked belief.
But there they are in heaven, smiling down upon us now;
Each wears a brilliant halo tilted on a battered brow.
So things for us are looking up, in the salvation business –
No matter what our “was-ness” was, what truly counts is “is-ness.”

Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Dorothy and Kirk Bennett, Carol Bleck, Tom McIntire, Laura and Kevin DiBacco, Diane Niebauer, Sue Taccone, Peggy Chludzinski, Kathy Wayman, Corky Young, Jane Culmer, Louise Lotze, Tom Kennedy, Barb Cesare, Betsy Truran, Joan and Deacon Jerry Peterson, Sue Verga, Irene and Dan Zuba, Darleen Wilkinson, Peggy Smith, Chris Falk, Cindy Bielani, Kandace Lyons, Stephanie Koshinski, Gina Adams, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the October mailing. We thank Louise Lotze for her photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Don Spaeder, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.

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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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