



**THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE**  
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VOL. 37, NO. 10

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

OCTOBER 2024

**The Vatican Has Granted a Nihil Obstat to Medjugorje!**  
(See page 3.)

## MONTHLY MESSAGE OF SEPTEMBER 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.



October is the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. "I invite you to call on everyone to pray the Rosary. With the Rosary you shall overcome all the adversities which satan is trying to inflict on the Catholic Church." (Our Lady, June 25, 1985) The rosary draped around Our Lady's neck in the above picture is a "ladder rosary" from Medjugorje. You can read about the ladder rosary on page 7. You can read about the statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje on page 6.

"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. (With Ecclesiastical approval)



Fr. Ray

# Every Season has its Beauty

By Fr. Ray Donohue

It is amazing how fast time goes by! I laugh at myself just thinking that I am 66 years old, when it was "only yesterday" I was at St. Teresa's Catholic school being taught by the Mercy Nuns, who were in full habit and all you could see were the nuns' faces and hands. We all thought nuns had no feet, but only floated across the floor, and that they had no hair, as

the veil and wimple surrounded their faces!

This year seems to be going by faster than any year I can remember. My mom and dad always said the days go by faster the older we get, and as usual, they were right! In this month of October, I ask myself: "Where did 2024 go?" Here we are, as I see only skeletons, pumpkins, ghosts, spiders and everything else animated to go with Halloween. But October is so much more than that.

The very word "Halloween" comes from the words of the Feast of "All Hallows," meaning the Holiness of the Saints, who we celebrate on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Halloween is the "Eve of all Hallows," the day before the Feast of All Saints, to celebrate the lives of those who showed us and helped us by their examples, their prayers, their holiness and devotion and actions, by living a holy life and devoting their lives to God, His teachings and His love. How goblins and spooky things came about was a secular thing, where first people would honor the souls of the saints by dressing up as a saint and celebrating their lives.

At St. Teresa's school, all the lower grades from kindergarten to second grade would dress up as their favorite saint. Of course, all the boys chose Saint Michael the Archangel, or one of the Apostles, and girls chose the Blessed Virgin Mary or Saint Thérèse, the little Flower, or Saint Elizabeth. Our pastor, Monsignor Toomey, would come to the school each day after early Mass and pray the Holy Rosary over the loud speaker so that the entire school would pray the Holy Rosary each day. On Halloween he would visit each classroom so that the children would parade around the desks and show Monsignor who we were. He was such a holy and devoted priest and we all loved him so much, like he was our Grandfather that we loved and cherished. Even one year, one little boy dressed up as Monsignor Toomey, and as honored as he was, he said to wait until God called him home and THEN he could dress up as him! ©



Johnny Rueda, grandson of mailing crew member Georgia Chludzinski, dressed as St. Joseph

fell to the ground leaving the tree, as a Holy Soul that we prayed for, that soul was telling us that God called that soul to Heaven, and it was thanking us for the prayers and love that brought that change so it could go to God.

As I have said many times, I live in a cabin in the woods, surrounded by more than thousands of trees, and it makes me all the more want to pray for the Holy Souls that need our prayers, fasting and Holy Masses, knowing that my mom was one of those beautiful leaves that went home to God. One day that will be you and me, and we prepare for ALL SAINTS DAY and ALL SOULS DAY now, in October, and in every month, to be bright and beautiful before God and all of humanity.

We are called not to mask ourselves, as in "Halloween," but to make our love known, to others and to God, by kind works, by forgiveness, by sharing what we have with others, our prayers, our food, our clothing we don't need or wear any more, and ourselves! Jesus and Mary show us that by action they helped everyone. Mary went in haste to the hill country to take care of Elizabeth. Mary said "YES" to God and trusted Him. Jesus, the very Son of God, came to earth to save us by pouring out His blood for us, by teaching us, by loving us, by giving us hope and prayer and the Holy Catholic Church.

This October, look around at the beauty of the trees and the colors and feel the change of season in our lives. Think and do positive things. You and I do not have to "dress-up" as one of the Saints, but we can most certainly begin now to imitate and emulate the Saints. We can give of ourselves to others, assist them, pray for them, for the world, for the people in war-torn countries who are innocent and caught in the middle of evil. Pray from our hearts, as Our Lady, our Holy Mother Mary, has been asking us for so very long. Saints are saints because they love. Saints are saints because they put that love into action. Many even gave their lives for others, and God saw the beauty of their lives, the beauty of their souls and who they were and are!

Yes, this is a month of transitions. Summer is gone, but Hope is very active and right here! Autumn is very much upon us, but remember, each season is beautiful. We may not like raking the leaves, or soon shoveling the snow, but each season is so much more than that! Be part of God's Love, as I am sure you are! We have the whole month of October ahead of us to prepare to emulate, to be just like our favorite Saints, and do the work of God. Put love into action! Don't hide who you are by a costume, but be yourself, and be yourself in action! Instead of a costume, let YOUR light shine as YOU. Be who you are and give that love, those prayers, the visits and phone calls to those in need, and accept the love of others through forgiveness and kindness. A smile goes a long, long way! A kind word or words can make a dark day so much brighter. Saints started off with simplicity and grace, and who is to say that you are not a saint in who you are and in what you do!

Lots of love and prayers and Grace and peace,

~Father ray and my little Dublin and Sweet Pea

"Then let all the trees of the forest rejoice" (Ps 96:12).

October is a time of great change. The leaves are not only colorful and beautiful, but it opens us to a new season. My mother would tell us as children that each leaf that changes color, beautiful red and orange, it was getting ready to go to Heaven. When it

# The Vatican Grants a Nihil Obstat to Medjugorje

On May 17, 2024, the Vatican issued new rules for judging apparitions. Under the new rules, the highest level of approval that could be granted to any such phenomenon is “nihil obstat,” that there is “nothing standing in the way,” or “nothing impeding” belief in the vision or apparition as an authentic encounter with the Heavenly.”

On September 19, 2024 the Vatican announced during a lengthy press conference in Rome, at the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, that the apparitions in Medjugorje received a nihil obstat!!!

Since the document is so long, it might be good to share a few excerpts. You can read the entire text of the document by going to the official site for Medjugorje, [www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr). At this writing (9/20) it is on their home page, and will most likely be there for a while. (The Vatican link is quite long.)

**Foreword: 1.** The time has come to conclude a long and complex history that has surrounded the spiritual phenomena of Medjugorje. It is a history in which bishops, theologians, commissions, and analysts have expressed a series of divergent opinions.

The conclusions expressed in this *Note* are presented in the context of what was established in the new *Norms for Proceeding in the Discernment of Alleged Supernatural Phenomena* (Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, 17 May 2024; henceforth, “*Norms*”). Consequently, the perspective of this analysis is quite different from that which was used in earlier studies.

It is important to clarify from the outset that the conclusions of this *Note* do not imply a judgment about the moral life of the alleged visionaries. Additionally, when recognizing an action of the Spirit for the good of the People of God “in the midst of” a spiritual experience, present from its beginnings until now, we should remember that the charismatic gifts (*gratiae gratis datae*) that may be connected to that experience do not necessarily require those involved to have moral perfection.

18. In this journey, prayer is fundamental. The exhortation to pray is both constant and insistent in the messages:

“I call on you once again to decide for prayer because, with prayer, you will be able to experience conversion. Each of you will become, in simplicity, similar to a child who is open to the Father’s love” (25 July 1996).

“I call on you to fill your day with short, ardent prayers. When you pray, your heart is open, and God loves you with a special love and gives you special graces. Therefore, make good use of this time of grace and dedicate it to God as never before” (25 July 2005).

19. Along with prayer, the call to *fast* appears frequently, but it is explained as a freely given offering in addition to sacrifices of a physical nature: “If you are in distress or in need, come to me. If you do not have the strength to fast on bread and water, you can give up other things. Besides food, it would be good to give up television because after watching television programs, you are distracted and cannot pray. You could also give up alcohol, cigarettes, and

other pleasures. You yourselves know what you must do” (8 December 1981).

20. For the faithful, prayer finds its culmination in the celebration of the Eucharist:

“The Mass is the highest form of prayer. You will never be able to understand its greatness” (13 January 1984). “Dear children, also today, in a special way, I wish to call you to the Eucharist. May the Mass be the center of your lives! In particular, dear children, may the Eucharist be in your families. The family must go to Holy Mass and celebrate Jesus. Jesus must be the center of your lives!” (15 June 2018).



*Outdoor Mass in Medjugorje*

“May Holy Mass not be a habit for you, but life. By living the Holy Mass every day, you will feel the need for holiness” (25 January 1998).

“Do not forget that in the Eucharist, which is the heart of the faith, my Son is always with you.

He comes to you and breaks bread with you; because, my children, it was for your sake that he died, rose again, and comes anew” (2 May 2016).

21. The following message underscores the minor value of the apparitions themselves when compared with the immense spiritual treasure that is the Eucharist:

“I am closer to you during the Mass than during an apparition. Many pilgrims would like to be present in the small room of the apparitions, and so they crowd around the rectory. When they swarm in front of the tabernacle, as they now do in front of the rectory, then they will have understood everything; they will have understood the presence of Jesus, because receiving Holy Communion is greater than being a visionary” (12 November 1986).

38. Through the Nihil obstat about a spiritual event, the faithful “are authorized to give it their adherence in a prudent manner” (Norms, art. 22, §1; cf. Benedict XVI, *Verbum Domini*, par. 14). While this does not imply a declaration of the supernatural character of the phenomenon in question (cf. Norms, art. 22, §2)—and recalling that the faithful are not obliged to believe in it—the Nihil obstat indicates that the faithful can receive a positive encouragement for their Christian life through this spiritual proposal, and it authorizes public acts of devotion. Such a determination is possible insofar as many positive fruits have been noted in the midst of a spiritual experience, while negative and dangerous effects have not spread among the People of God.

Evaluating the abundant and widespread fruits, which are so beautiful and positive, does not imply that the alleged supernatural events are declared authentic. Instead, it only highlights that the Holy Spirit is acting fruitfully for the good of the faithful “in the midst” of this spiritual phenomenon of Medjugorje. For this reason, all are invited to appreciate and share the pastoral value of this spiritual proposal (cf. Norms, par. 17).

*As of September 25, 2024, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady’s intentions was 40,219. Thank you.*

# Fr. Michael Della Penna's Vocation Testimony

*The following is excerpted from a testimony by Fr. Michael Della Penna on Fruit of Medjugorje (Episode #571, aired on 8/4/24). We recommend you go to [Marytv.tv](https://www.marytv.tv) to hear the entire testimony (too long to include here).*

Hello everyone. My name is Fr. Michael Della Penna. I'm from Boston, and I'm really delighted that I get a chance to share a little bit of what happened to me through Medjugorje.

I can begin way back in 1989 when I was a college student and I was living next door to one of my best friends. In the middle of the night, he actually knocked on my door and felt that he was being called to Medjugorje. At that time, I had never even heard of the word, so my response really was "Medju-what?" I never thought of anything like that, and I saw in him a beautiful emotion. I saw him really feel that he had an encounter with God and, of course, having grown up with him, I immediately felt drawn, and I knew I was going to go. That was in April of 1989.

He convinced his entire family, six others, so there were eight of us altogether, and we wound up traveling there in September of 1989 – his family and myself. While we were there, I would say the first three days maybe, we didn't feel too much, but it was pretty impressive to see all of the different nationalities, all the different countries. You could definitely experience the universality of our faith and how it transcended country and language. That was pretty impressive. But for the first three days, we didn't feel much until my friend, Rick, and I decided that we were hungry. It was late at night, and we had thought we had read something about there being a pizza place open. We wound up looking for it with our flashlights. Of course there was nothing, especially at that time, so we decided to climb Mt. Krizevac. It was one of the first times I ever actually prayed the Stations of the Cross going up and we found it very prayerful. We were talking about life and God and different experiences.

When we got to the top of the mountain, that's where we were just looking at the sun, as the sun rose over the horizon. I remember being awed by the fact that you could stare directly at the sun. I always describe it as almost a little host sitting right in front of the sun, kind of just moving a little bit. But there was a certain mellow peacefulness about that experience. And as we looked at the sun, I looked at the sun – I saw the sun kind of just go like this (gesturing), move around like that. Of course I looked at Rick. I said, "Did you just see that?" And he had. At that moment, I always describe it, it wasn't as if I felt anything bad. It was the contrary. I felt that we were witnessing this beautiful miracle, if you will, solar phenomenon, and it really touched me.

We ended up going down the mountain and while we were there, I always describe it as each one of us experienced something that awakened in our heart the truth. It came affirming in me the reality that God is real, the Eucharist is real, Mary is real. One person described it as you almost go from black and white to color. It was a good analogy I think in a sense. It's a metaphor that, all of a sudden, everything comes alive. You look at your life in a different way through

a different lens. You see a new paradigm of reality. So that conversion experience really awakened me to the truth of what I suspected. I thought God was real, and I used to go to church once in a while, but I wound up going to Confession here, and it was a beautiful emptying, if you will, and I'll never forget the priest asking me afterwards if I had a spiritual director. At that time, I didn't even know what a spiritual director was, and I told him I didn't. He said to me, "When you go back to Boston, get one."

In other experiences here, I would say there was a profound sense of – I'm sure everyone's been saying for the last 43 years – there's a supernatural, beautiful deep peace, indescribable. That's something I think I've felt – it's been kind of like a thread of continuity through all of the visits when I come back here. There's a stillness, sort of like existential I would describe it, as if everything is OK, like you're supposed to be here, everything's the way it is supposed to be, that sense of perduring reality of this is where God wants you and it fits well in your soul, if you will.

I also often describe it as you're walking or you're sitting and you feel like right around the corner you can see or meet Jesus – that "Heaven on earth" experience. And that, of course, keeps me coming back, I guess, besides the fact that you get to experience so many others, so many other people get re-awakened to that truth. They see God for the first time or they experience God in that transformation. For me, it never gets old – seeing someone awake to that truth is remarkable.

Right now, we're in a group. We have about 41, and my cousin – to watch her experience God and try to integrate that into her life is life-changing for me because I see the joy that she's discovering, as I did back in 1989.

So all of those experiences, so-called "coincidences" – as we open up the Scriptures and it will be speaking to our hearts – all of that, I brought back with me to Boston. But I was in a situation where I had been – I had just recently broken up with my girlfriend and I was confused...I really wanted to go back with my girlfriend. I know that what I experienced was real. I didn't really know how to integrate that into my life. I didn't know what that meant – that I saw the sun, that I was awakened to this new truth. Matter of fact, I couldn't reconcile that with all of my friends and college life. So one day I'd be partying and hanging out with everybody and doing my old things, and then the next day, I'd be like, "I want to give myself to God," and it was going back and forth.

So I did take the advice of that confessor. I got a spiritual director, and I was working it out with him. He was very good and kind of slowing me down. One of the analogies he gave me on a retreat was that we are all like diamonds in the rough. I always took that to heart, meaning that at one and the same time, it was a way to kind of affirm our knowledge that we are these precious gems to God, and yet at the same time, when you find a diamond in the rough, it has probably dirt and rock stuck to it, and it's necessary that there has to



*Fr. Michael motioning about the sun miracle, photo credit marytv.tv*

be a process of purification. So that became a nice metaphor for me in my life as I continued on that last year, senior year, in school.

I was slowly trying to make sense of everything that happens. I graduated and wound up working for the church at St. Leonard's, and I was doing odd jobs – painting, stripping the floors...all these kinds of things. But what it gave me the opportunity to do is, at 12:00, I'd go to Mass. And that's where I really felt that peace. That's where everything felt right. I kept on getting fed by the Word over that course of time. Then I began to speak to another priest about the possibility of thinking about a vocation and he wound up inviting me to discern for the month of December. So what I did, during that month, I just focused, I opened myself, I read Scripture, I tried to listen. I tried to be open to wherever God was calling.

I had a few experiences, one of which was very formative...I just thought of becoming a Eucharistic Minister at that time and we'd bring it to the shut-ins. I was in rehab...I'll never forget this moment where I came in this room and there was an elderly gentleman and he was dying...he had a beautiful spirit about him. He shared his life with me...and we had so many things in common...There were so many similarities, commonalities, and then towards the end of the conversation, after I'd given him Communion, he shared with me that when he was young, he had discerned a vocation. He had thought about becoming a priest, but never did. He kind of regretted that he did not give himself to God. I remember going home and letting that really interiorize, digest, ponder that experience. I realized that could be me when I was older, regretting this invitation from God to follow Him more intimately...

So that's when I joined the Franciscans in 1991, and I kind of put it in my head I would give it like 2 years... I would say that after the first four months, I knew this was exactly what I wanted to do. Everything just fit for me and I loved it and I still love it! I love being a Franciscan. I love the experience of always being able to learn about God. I love the opportunity to deep-dive into His Word. It's a never-ending richness where He has unfathomable mysteries that are always awaiting us. He invites us to explore it...So for me it was a doorway in a sense, to be invited to journey into God and to explore all of the depths of His love and to receive that at the same time, ministering in such a beautiful way to serve Our Lord, where I've found I always receive much more than I gave. In giving of yourself, you really do receive so much more back. It's such a fulfilling, beautiful vocation...

What does it mean that She keeps coming? I've been contemplating that actually, I think like all pilgrims. There's a few things that come to mind. Like a good mother, She repeats what She's been saying, probably because we're not listening. She can see that those messages...the very last one [6/25/24] I found so penetrating. She said again that peace is being threatened and She said there's an attack on the family and She's saying put God in the first place. Those three alone I think are life changing in the sense that when you do put God in the first place, everything else lines up. That's when you have peace in your heart, that's when your family is grounded in the truth...

What is it about our time that is so perilous? ... I remember

*"God has called you to peace" (1Cor 7:15).*

there's a beautiful homily that a bishop gave when I was in Assisi right after the earthquake, when they had a huge statue of Mary over the Basilica of the Portiuncula. It was gold-leaf colored and they took it down because they were afraid it was going to fall. The bishop took that opportunity to say, "In the time of trouble, our Mother comes down from Heaven to be with Her children." I do see all of this in the context that She wants to guide us in a special way. It really is a school of prayer...When She speaks about conversion and She talks about putting Scripture in a visible place, She's telling us what we know intuitively, but we probably haven't applied. How many of us really read the Bible every day? Everybody can, but we don't. That's the key. It's putting habits into concrete action so that we can get His Word inside of us. She knows that's what's going to give us the grounding, that's what's going to open our heart, that's what's going to bring healing, that's what's going to bring peace...We might see them as very simplified or even basic.

It reminds me of Naaman when he was told to wash himself in the water seven times and he rebelled. He thought it was too silly...he thought it was too easy. I think the messages that Our Lady gives us are often, maybe even 80% of the



*Fr. Michael in Medjugorje*

time, they kind of brush aside – too simple, too easy, and we don't put them into practice. But there's an infinite depth to doing so. It reminds me that you can't see the beauty of a church and its stained glass windows unless you're inside... if the sun's out, the vibrancy, the dynamism of those colors from within can be just unimaginably beautiful... When you're in that prayer, when you enrich yourself with the Word, when you submerge yourself into that beauty, then all of a sudden, life becomes transformed.

We had a beautiful homily today by an Irish priest. He said, "Cleanse yourself." There's an experience, a depth of intimacy that we can all have access to by simply divulging, cleansing, emptying, that comes through the Sacrament [of Reconciliation]. That's why She's saying it...They're the Sacraments of the Church offered to us the last 2,000 years, that I think some of us take for granted...We see them as too simple a solution for such a complicated problem...I'm always really blown away by the analogy that the most sophisticated computer in the world...it's all based on two things: zero and one. It comes down to such a basic simplicity. I think for us, our spiritual lives can be very much reduced. It's simple – avoid evil and do good. Take that message into our heart and apply it...

# Look Who Can Arrive at Your House

By June Klins

On September 13, my friend Pat texted me the picture that graces the cover this month. The text said, "Look who arrived at our house today!" Pat then explained that the statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje, which is two feet tall, was a birthday gift from her husband. Although it took two months to arrive from Europe, Pat said it arrived right on time because they had done the "Swap" with Our Lady (see our May 2024 issue) several months prior for four big intentions, and "just found within one day that all four received tremendous – maybe miraculous blessings." Pat believes that the timing of the delivery was a confirmation of Our Lady's intercession. She wrote, "I can't stop crying!!! She brings me such Peace."

The next morning, as I was praying the Rosary before Mass, I suddenly got a very strong prompting to order a statue like Pat's to be a traveling statue to visit people in their homes. To borrow a quote from a story we used in the June (2024) issue about a traveling statue, "She [Our Lady] recognizes that not everybody can afford to come to Medjugorje, so She really wants Medjugorje to come to them. This is one way that can happen."

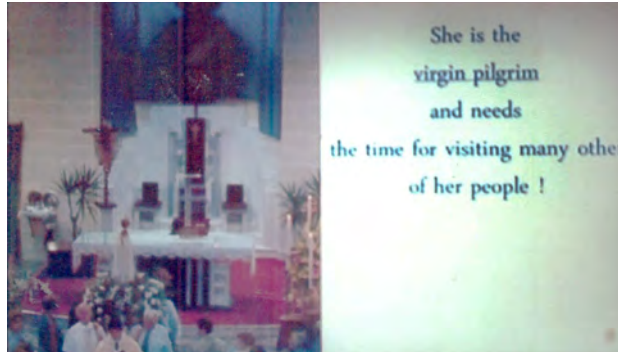
When I got home, I told Pat about this and added that I wanted to make sure this is what Our Lady and Her Son wanted. She replied, "Well, I don't know, but when my sister, Mary, saw the statue's picture, her first reaction was 'This is wonderful...it is the traveling Madonna?...Tell me, how long do you keep her?'" I was flabbergasted! I asked for the link to order the statue and thanked Our Lady for the signal grace (see below).

When I looked at the website, it said, "It is light and easily transportable. The statue is made and hand painted by a Bosnian company in Medjugorje." Next thing I knew, Pat was telling me that her husband ordered another statue as a gift for *The Spirit of Medjugorje*.

The more I thought about it, the more I wanted one for myself as well, because the traveling one would always be with someone else and not at my home. So I decided to order one for myself using money I was getting from a rebate. I had received a letter that the money was on its way, but the

check had not arrived yet. That night it dawned on me that maybe the money had been direct-deposited to my account. When I checked, I was pleasantly surprised to find out it had been deposited on August 5, which is Our Lady's birthday (according to the visionaries)!!! Another signal grace!

When I sat down to my computer to write about this, my eyes fixated on a picture on a large bulletin board I have filled with pictures, inspirational notes, and letters from subscribers. The picture was one we had used in our October 2012 issue. It was from a video that had mysteriously popped up on my computer when I only had a Word program opened and pop-ups blocked. At the time it was another signal grace for the article I was writing. It said, "She is the virgin pilgrim and needs the time for visiting many other of her people!" Could it be any clearer that Our Lady wants the statue to travel and visit many homes???



When the statue arrives, I will have her blessed by a priest and by Our Lady during one of Ivan's apparitions. Then she will start traveling in the Erie area. We will ask that whoever borrows her will keep her no longer than a week and be responsible for taking her to the next person on the list. If you are interested, email me at [jklins1981@verizon.net](mailto:jklins1981@verizon.net) (preferred) with your name and phone number or call me at 814-898-2143 and leave a message. If you are not in the Erie area and would like to order a statue to travel in your area, you can visit <https://11nq.com/OurLadyofMedjugorje>.

It seems that Our Lady wants to be in our homes as we pray for Her intentions. Last month we reported how you can pray with people from around the world for Our Lady's intentions and then be present for an apparition in your home. And now She wants to visit you through this statue. She wants to be up close and personal with you! She says, "If you knew how much I love you, you'd cry of joy."

*Epilogue: When I ordered the statue for myself on September 14, the delivery date was to be 3 or 4 weeks. What a blessing that she would arrive 5 days later on September 19, the exact day that the Vatican announced the nihil obstat for the apparitions!!!*

## What is a Signal Grace?

Signal graces are signs sent by God to help us make the right decisions in life. Moses saw a burning bush as a sign from God, and other people receive signs from God daily. Signal graces usually come about as subtle hints to help keep us moving in the right direction – these signs are truly

gifts from God.

Remember – there is no such thing as a coincidence; everything happens for a reason! By praying the Rosary, you will be more conscious of the way that God tries to help you and speak to you every day.

## Miracle at the Carmel in Quito!

By Sr. Emmanuel

For this month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary, I would like to recall one of Mary's most beautiful missions in Latin America, that has saved many Christian communities

over many years: In 1984, the Quito Carmel "Carmen Alto" was withering away. The novitiate had to be closed. Not a single vocation to be seen! However, the Prioress, Mother

Maria Helena del Corazón de Jesús, regained hope when an Italian nun, Sister Luicela, told her that she was going on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. She immediately asked her to pray for vocations while she was there, and she even entrusted her with a letter to give to one of the visionaries for the Blessed Virgin.

In Medjugorje, Sister Luicela was able to attend a public apparition. When the visionary shared Mary's words during the apparition, the sister was deeply moved! The message was indeed timely: "I will take care of the communities that will pray together the three Mysteries of the Rosary [Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious] every day, for the intentions of my Immaculate Heart, and I will choose their vocations myself."

Overjoyed by these heavenly words, Sister Luicela communicated them to the Prioress of the Carmel who did not delay in gathering the sisters and offered to pray the three parts of the Rosary every day, together. The sisters all gladly accepted Mary's request. They changed their daily schedule in order to fit in this new practice. And that is how a period of great Marian fervor began in this Carmel.

A few months later, the first vocation arrived, Sr. Maria de los Angeles, followed by other young sisters. There were so many vocations that after a few years, the prioress had

to establish another Carmel, in Santo Domingo, Ecuador. When this new Carmel also reached a number of sisters greater than 21 (the maximum allowed), it became necessary to establish another Carmel, this time in Panama. It goes without saying that in these new Carmelite convents, the tradition of praying the three Mysteries of the Rosary every day together, remains very much alive!

During my mission in Galilee in 2017, a sister of the Carmel of Haifa confided to me: "I am a fruit of this message and of this prayer that Mary gave us, because I entered the Carmel of Santo Domingo." Then she told me the whole story.

A few years ago, faced with such blessings, the Poor Clares of Quito decided to adopt this prayer, according to Mary's message in Medjugorje, in order to obtain vocations. Needless to say, they were well answered!

Why does Our Lady so often repeat "Dear children, live my messages"? Today more than ever, the Rosary, as a weapon, is necessary, given the stakes involved in the raging spiritual battle. We cannot neglect any track to victory. May this golden key, offered by the Queen of the Rosary, inspire many of Her children who are struggling and becoming discouraged! *Children of Medjugorje, sremmanuel.com, October 2022 report.*

### **Sister Lucia, the last visionary of Fatima, said the following on December 26, 1957:**

"The Most Holy Virgin, in these last times that we are living, has given a new power to the recitation of the Rosary, in such a way that there is not a single problem, no matter how difficult, temporal or above all spiritual, referring to the personal life of each of us, of our families, of the world or of religious communities, or of the life of peoples and nations; there is no problem – I am saying – no matter how difficult, that we cannot solve by praying the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary, we will save ourselves, sanctify ourselves, console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls."

*Children of Medjugorje, sremmanuel.com, October 2022 report*

## **Consecration of the Election to the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Mary Immaculate, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the eternal Wisdom lies hidden to be adored and served by angels and men, Queen of heaven and of earth, beneath whose sway are subject all things that are lower than God, Patroness of the United States of America, sorrowful and mindful of our own sinfulness and the sins of our nation, we come to thee, our refuge and hope.

Knowing that our country cannot be saved by our own works and mindful of how much our nation has departed

from the ways of thy Son, we humbly ask that thou wouldst turn thine eyes upon our country to bring about its conversion.

We consecrate to thee the integrity of the upcoming election and its outcome, so that what is spiritually and morally best for the citizens of our country may be accomplished, and that all of those who are elected would govern according to the spiritual and moral principles which will bring our nation into conformity with the teachings of thy Son.

Give grace to the citizens of this land so that they will choose leaders according to the Sacred Heart of thy Son, that His glory may be made manifest, lest we be given the leaders we deserve.

Trusting in the providential care of God the Father and thy maternal care, we have perfect confidence that thou wilt take care of us and will not leave us forsaken. O Mary Immaculate, pray for us. Amen.

Pilgrims sometimes return from Medjugorje with a "ladder rosary." It is so called because the beads are turned sideways and linked into chains on either side, making the beads look like rungs on a ladder. Some trace the first ladder rosary to the vision of St. Dominic in which he saw souls climbing to Heaven on the rosary. Others point to the vision of St. Francis deSales who saw two ladders to Heaven, a rather steep one leading directly to Jesus, and another far less steep one leading toward Mary. Jesus told St. Francis, "Tell your sons to come by the other ladder," meaning the easiest way to Jesus is through His Mother.



*Our thanks to Elaine Brady and family, Don and Mary Spaeder, Dorothy and Kirk Bennett, Laura and Kevin DiBacco, Diane Niebauer, Sue Taccone, Peggy Chludzinski, Kathy Wayman, Ronalee Curtis, Kathy Luschini, Corky Young, Pat Heinlein, Jane Culmer, Christine Guarnieri, OFS, Jennie McKee, Marlene Figurski, Louise Lotze, Tom Kennedy, Barb Cesare, Barb Sirianni, Betsy Truran, Joan and Deacon Jerry Peterson, Sue Verga, Annette Fuhrman, Irene and Dan Zuba, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the September mailing. 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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VOL. 37, NO. 10