



THE SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE
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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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MONTHLY MESSAGE OF AUGUST 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.



On September 8, the Church celebrates the birthday of Our Lady. The best present we can give Her is to live Her messages. Are we doing our best to live "the 5 stones" – Prayer, Fasting, Bible reading, Confession, and Holy Mass? The picture above was taken at the John Paul II orphanage in Vionica, near Medjugorje. Happy birthday to Our Lady!

“Dear children! Today, my prayer with you is for peace. Good and evil are fighting and want to prevail in the world and in the hearts of people. You be people of hope and prayer and of great trust in God the Creator to Whom everything is possible. Little children, may peace prevail in you and around you. I am blessing you with my motherly blessing that you, little children, may be joy for all those whom you meet. Thank you for having responded to my call.”



Fr. Ray

And We Turn Another Page...

By Fr. Ray Donohue

Greetings from the little cabin in the woods, on the hill, near the Lake, from Father ray and Dublin and Sweet Pea!

After a LOT of rain and storms, and even a tornado that hit up here at our little home, we are all fine on a very sunny, less humid and beautiful day! I just got back from celebrating Holy Mass at St. Columban's on the Lake.

Dublin and Sweet Pea had me up at 4:30 a.m. because they wanted to play! It is getting lighter later in the morning, as it is getting darker in the evening earlier. Things are changing!

It reminds me so much of a song I remember so well, but never really understood, that is, until now. I bet many of you will remember this, but do we understand it?

"Oh, it's a long, long while, from May to December, but the days grow short, when you reach September! When the autumn weather turns the leaves to flame, and we haven't got time, for the waiting game! Oh, the days dwindle down, to a precious few, September, November! And these few precious days, I'll spend with you, these precious days, I'll spend, with you!"

The lyrics of "September Song" were actually written as a pop standard by Kurt Weill and Maxwell Anderson for a 1938 musical called: "Knickerbocker Holiday." It compares a whole lifetime to one year and details how we do not realize how little time we have in our lifetime until the lifetime is up!

As I get older, I have to say, time does go by faster! When I was a kid, summer vacation was awesome, but I missed my classmates, and got sick of watching TV, although my parents always made sure we would play outside. Sometimes the days just dragged on and we were bored, and by the end of summer, I was looking forward to school again!

Life is a gift from God, a very precious gift, a gift to be used and not put away someplace. Each day should be an adventure of some sort, experiencing life, not putting things off, but actually living life to the fullest! Yes, we need our leisure time too – that is also a part of life – but when I see people of all ages, especially young people, not going out swimming, or playing ball with the neighborhood kids, when I see parents working and working and spending little or no time with their children... I turn off the news because more and more people are getting shot and killed just because they were outside and did nothing wrong but sadly were a target of a random shooting!

Up here in my world, I see beautiful countless trees, beginning to change colors again! I see awesome animals – squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, even an occasional bear, tons of deer and their beautiful little babies, watching them eating off the many apple trees that just grew up wild. They are there like clockwork, and when they see me, they no longer run, but allow me to watch them eat and take care of

their babies! I have countless birds eating out of the many feeders I put outside for them! And my dog Dublin watches them with me. He used to bark at them, but now he just watches them with me, and cries because he wants to be friends with them!

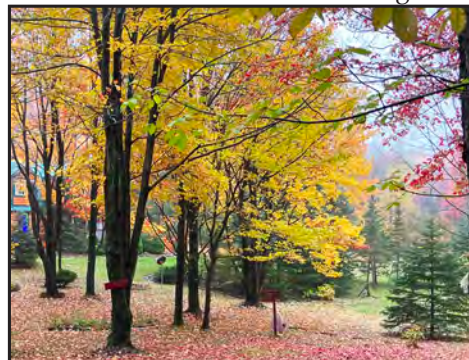
Then, I turn OFF the news from the TV because it is all about random shootings, politicians promising to bring back abortions by the millions, killing innocent and real live babies, from conception to even right up to delivery. And the politicians of one party in particular say it is the mother's right to kill her baby at any stage! Then people cheer and clap and yell with joy to know that if they are elected, they can do just that – kill innocent babies from conception to the very time they are coming forth from their mother into this world. But the baby's momma doesn't want a baby at that time, so the life of the child is ended instead of putting that precious child up for adoption, so that other parents will love and raise that child and make him or her, (NOT an "it") their own, and give the child a good loving life, as God intended that child for a reason! No child is an "accident!"

When we are young, we are more curious, that's the Spring time, April and May, when we learn, when we ask a lot of questions, when we start to realize our values and our opinions, when we see life so much lighter and happier, and have ambitions of what we want to be! We have mentors to help us: our parents, brothers and sisters, our Church community, how we practice our faith as we grow up and watching what our parents do and say and what kind of friends we hang out with.

As Spring goes into early summer, we start our career, we act out what we think is best for us, and the values we have formed and acquired are now put into action! We stand up for what we believe in, and try not to be, as is said, "Wishy-washy!" We act on what we feel and believe is true. We put our values and relationships and attitudes "out there" for others to see and stand up for what we know is right and true! This is where morals and ethics and Truth are put out there from our hearts and that God is a true part of our lives, God and HIS ways of right versus wrong.

Then we come into mid-life, the Septembers now that we are in our late 40's and 50's. We look back on things and contemplate. What are our opinions and goals now that we have lived a bit more of life? We are maybe 20 lbs. heavier than in the past, and an occasional evening of just sitting back and watching TV is just fine and more than enough.

Where is God in the picture of my life? Is He a real part of our lives, in how we react to situations? We are past midsummer now. We look back more often to re-think our decisions we have made. Are they good decisions or bad, or do they even matter? Am I living in truth, or fantasy? Am I a happy person or sad? Do I even know? Have we been good examples to others, our children, our family, and our friends and even to our



Fr. Ray's trees

congregations and faith-community? Can I truthfully say that I know who I am? We are entering now into September in our lives.

In October and November, we pause again to look back and sometimes are afraid of look forward. Maybe some health issues have arisen, or family members and friends are dying or getting slower and less healthy. We start to think about ourselves, as we are now taking pills and sometimes physical therapy. We look into the mirror, and still see ourselves, but we look a tad different than the wedding pictures we have around the house, or we just don't have the pep we did in gardening, or we take the car through an automatic car wash instead of washing it ourselves. Some of our friends have gone home to God, as well as some family and relatives. My exercising now consists of me getting up from a chair and walking to the refrigerator to get a snack, or ask someone else to fix me a sandwich!

Now we are in December. God, the same God we knew as a tiny child, is still with us and loves us. He is always listening to our prayers, just as He did all throughout our lives. We seem to pray to Him more and more. We still look back, but God wants us to live in the moment, not focusing on our mistakes, but focusing on how much we love God and He loves us. We look back! We look way back! Yes, we have made some mistakes, but we learn from them. We look back and wonder how did we become great-grandparents as we go to our great-grandchildren's weddings! Instead of water-skiing, we like a nice afternoon reading and talking with friends and family.

We cannot change the past, it is past. We can change the future only now in the present, by what we say, by what we do, by what we do not say or by what we do not do. In fact,

that is how our whole life is from start to finish!

This is where God comes in! In ALL our seasons, God is there to listen to us, guide us, help us, heal us, forgive us, and love us! Every season is beautiful; it has its ups and downs! A summer can be too hot and a winter too cold, Fall is beautiful to see all the beautiful colors, but we also rake the leaves that fall!

"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10).

We take the time with others, and we take the time for God. We also take the time for ourselves! It is never too early to talk to God and discuss with Him in prayer anything in our lives or hearts! (All seasons) As we live our lives, we can turn to God at any moment and ask for directions and guidance. (All seasons) We can look back and ask ourselves: "Why did I, or didn't I do this or that?" (All seasons)

Or we can be stubborn, and just float along in life, making no decisions, no friends, have no family, no faith, and put "ME" at the center of my world! That is simply closing the drapes, never looking outside ourselves, and not knowing any seasons at all. We miss out on the beauty of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. All have their beauty and ups and downs.

"And these few precious days, I'll spend with You. These precious days, I'll spend with You".

It is all up to you! Don't be afraid to include others, and to ask God!

Lots of love and prayers, and no regrets ever – it is what it is and was what it was,

~Father ray and Dublin and Sweet Pea, we all live life to the fullest as best we can!

A Sorrowful Mother

The following is an excerpt, used with permission, from visionary Mirjana Soldo's book My Heart Will Triumph.

I always tell people who come to Medjugorje that a spiritual healing is infinitely more valuable than a physical one. Only one kind of healing leads to *eternal* life. A man can enter Heaven without an arm or a leg but not with sin in his soul. Still, Our Lady cannot heal people; Only God can. But she does intercede for us. She prays with us – and for us – if we ask her to. If you suffer physically, the most important step is to ask God to help you. Jesus showed by example that the person who tries to carry his cross alone will fall down under its weight.

I went to Saint James Church for Mass one morning and sat in a pew near the statue of the Blessed Mother. Moments later, an Italian woman came in and knelt in front of the statue. She started crying and I heard her whisper, "Why, God? Why me?" She cried throughout the entire Mass and kept repeating those words. I didn't know why she suffered so terribly, but I cried along with her.

As Mass ended, she suddenly stopped crying. Her look of sorrow changed to joy. "Why not me?" she said. "Yes! Why not me?"

I went to her after the final blessing. "Hello," I said.

The woman seemed embarrassed. "Pardon me," she said. "I hope I didn't disturb you during the Mass." "Don't worry. If anything, you made me pray harder."

She smiled and looked up at the ceiling of the church. "Oh, this place! I think this is the best day of my life. May I tell you?"

"You don't have to ask permission. Tell me."

"Well, I have three handicapped children back home. I came to Medjugorje to beg God to heal them, and I wanted to know why He gave me this cross. But now I understand! It hit me when I was praying. Why wouldn't God give me this cross? It means He sees that I can carry it! He trusts me and I have to trust Him. He'll help me when it gets too heavy. I can't wait to go home and kiss my children. I'm so blessed to have them."

I started crying again. "And they're blessed to have you."

The woman looked at the statue of the Blessed Mother. "You know, it's funny, I didn't even ask God to heal them like I planned on doing. And

guess what? I don't think I need anymore."



Statue in St. James

A Little History of Mt. Krizevac

By Ana Shawl

Here is some information and a little history about the Cross on Mt. Krizevac. Soon it will be the Triumph of the Cross. This happens one week after "Mala Gospa," Our Lady's Birthday, which is celebrated by the Church on September 8th.

One of the first times going to Medjugorje for me was on the Triumph of the Cross, more than 30 years ago, and I will never forget it. I still think about that time, and how if it weren't for the Blessed Mother calling me there, who knows what in the world I would have been doing now.

The first Sunday then, after September 8th, is the feast of the Triumph of the Cross. On this day, people come from miles around, from the villages all around Hercegovina and Croatia on foot to celebrate Holy Mass on the top of Mt. Krizevac. There are usually many priests. There have been more than 50 at certain times celebrating Mass on the top of Mt. Krizevac for this day. You see young and old people, walking bare-foot, with small children, whole families no matter what the weather is like. It used to be called Mt. Sipovac. Sipak is the Croatian word for pomegranate since it has so many pomegranate trees on there.

The village of Medjugorje and the surrounding hamlets used to get big hail storms which would ruin their crops of tobacco and grapes and anything else they had growing. The pastor of the parish at that time, Father Bernarding Smoljan, together with the parishioners of Medjugorje, decided to put a large cross on the top of Mt. Sipovac in honor of the 1900th anniversary of the Crucifixion of Jesus.

There was no water readily available and the men and women of the parish would carry buckets of water and cement on their back all the way to the top of the hill. The Cross was finished on March 15th, 1934 and is a little more than 28 feet (or 8 and a half meters) tall. In the middle of the Cross there is a true relic of Jesus' Cross from Rome. On the Cross is written, "To Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of the human race, as a sign of our faith, love and hope, in memory of the 1900th anniversary of the passion of Jesus."

Now, to this day, they do not have the large hail storms that came and destroyed everything, but on a real stormy day, they will still ring the bells as they used to when they would warn people of the hail.



Wording on the Cross

I sometimes feel that Mt. Krizevac is so much the same way life is and how we live it and how we help each other around us. I don't know, but when you climb it, with a group, or by yourself, nobody can ever take exactly the same steps to get to the top, nor the same pace. Some people end up making a mistake along the path and end up getting to the top via a path in the back. It's a lot steeper, and more jagged rocks are there, but they still get to the top. The others on the main path, go up and sometimes they will help others get up, sometimes, someone will be just about to fall, but someone will catch them.

So, it just seems that we are all on the same path, not in the same footsteps. And like Mt. Krizevac, when we are changing and converting our lives, learning to follow Jesus, we can't always take the same path. Some can be about to fall, but get up, some are helped up, and yes, some complain the whole way up too, but, we are all trying to get to the same place, to be with God and in Heaven at the end of this life.

"Come, let us climb the LORD'S mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways, and we may walk in his paths" (Is 2:3).

I pray that we are all there for each other, to help each other get to Heaven and with our heavenly family, not to condemn when someone is not exactly step-by-step there on that path, but to have patience, and understanding, perseverance, offer assistance, help carry someone's burden, like you would help carry their backpack up that hill, or to take their hand when the rocks, just like life gets a little bit too much for us to handle, like Simon of Cyrene. Then, we will all eventually get to meet each other together with Jesus and Our Lady. And then, can you imagine hearing those words in your ears when She would say, "Thank you for having responded to my call."

Ahhhhhh what a day that would be!

Editor's note: Ana leads the IIPG (International Internet Prayer Group, Queen of Peace). She and her husband Steve lead pilgrimages to Medjugorje. You can visit the website for more information, www.medjugorje.org. The link to join the prayer group is on the home page.

The Early Days in Medjugorje and Climbing Krizevac

By Marie Leman

Concerning the early days of Medjugorje, what I remember is this. There was a time when the apparitions took place in the choir loft of St. James Parish. The visionaries would kneel facing the wall on the right side of the church. Outside of that wall was a tree that was always filled with birds.

The children would enter the choir loft, and at the time that Our Lady would appear, they would fall on their knees and their visit with Our Lady would begin. However,

just as Our Lady was approaching, the birds seemed to sense Her presence, and it seemed that hundreds of them would suddenly fly out of the tree. They seemed to know that Heaven was coming to Earth, that Our Lady was approaching. I witnessed this every day that the apparitions took place in the choir loft.

I also witnessed the spinning of the sun on many occasions. There were always thousands of people there from all over

the world. We would hear people yell, “Look at the sun,” and point up. What I always saw was what looked like a white disk covering the sun, except for the outer rim which appeared to be spinning. It was possible to look at the sun with no harm to the eyes.

In 1985, my first trip, I saw only a huge church surrounded by tobacco fields and little houses – no hotels, no restaurants, no stores. We had to stay at a hotel in neighboring Neum [a seaside town on the Bosnia and Herzegovina coastline], and were bused into Medjugorje every morning. I remember being shocked to see such a huge church in such a small, remote village. But Heaven knew that someday that large church would be needed to accommodate millions of pilgrims from every corner of the world. I remember hearing that Our Lady had told the visionaries this when the apparitions began.

In the beginning, Our Lady told the visionaries that many people would be coming to their little village, and that the villagers should be willing to open their homes to these pilgrims. And they did. The Croatian people are loving, and generous with whatever little they have. There was a reason that Our Lady chose to appear to these poor people whose faith is so strong and whose hearts are so big.



Confessions with Mt. Krizevac in the background

During that first visit in 1985, I was fortunate to have made contact with Sr. Janja. She was a great help and comfort to the young visionaries, in those early days. I was blessed to have met all six of the visionaries, as well as some of the early priests – Fr. Jozo Zovko, Fr. Svetozar Kraljevic, and Fr. Slavko Barbaric.

During Confession in those early days, priests would sit on little stools outside of the Church, against the wall, to the left side of Saint James Church. The pilgrims would form long lines. As we approached the priests, we knelt on the ground and made our confession. Thank you to all our priests who hear our confessions. May Jesus and Our Lady keep you safe in Their Hearts.

Besides the huge church, the little houses and tobacco fields, the other thing which was hard to miss was Cross Mountain (Mt. Krizevac). It seemed to reach all the way up to Heaven. I'd seen pictures of Mt. Krizevac, but I was not prepared for what was before my eyes. Well, Fr. Bertolucci, our spiritual director, had said we'd be climbing the mountain – it shouldn't be a problem for me – I was in my mid-forties and in good health. “Nema Problema.”

The next day, our group headed for the mountain. I was well prepared, dressed in light clothing, as it was very hot. I also wore sneakers, good for climbing. I had water and my Rosary – I can do this. About fifteen minutes into the climb, I wasn't so sure. I was sweating and tired, so I stepped to the side and sat on a rock.

As I sat there, our group continued the climb. I heard a “clunk-clunk-clunk,” and passing right by me was a woman with a cane. She was quite tall, slender had white hair and was wearing a lovely cotton summer dress. I was impressed. Clearly, she was quite a bit older than me – yet she seemed to be having no problem with the climb. OK, Lord, if she can do this, so can I! I got up, feeling new energy, and again started to climb. I was doing quite well for a while, but again started to slow down. Hot, tired, my clothes were so wet that they were sticking to me. Again, I felt, “I can't do this.” To make matters worse, my size 5 sneaker had gotten wedged between two rocks, but one of my fellow climbers had managed to free me. As I, once again, sat on a rock, I had a heart-to-heart talk with Jesus. “Look, Lord, You know my intentions were good, but I just can't do this. I'm sorry, but You made me 4 foot 11 inches and 93 pounds – I wasn't built for this.”

Just as I finished my talk with Jesus, I again heard that “clunk-clunk-clunk” – I looked up, and once again saw that tall, slender woman walking right past me as she continued her climb – every hair in place, lovely cotton dress looking like it had just been pressed. She looked very cool and comfortable – not a drop of sweat on her. Yet there I was, sweating so much that my clothes and my hair were soaking wet. This woman looked like she had just stepped out of an air-conditioned room.

Once again, I felt new energy and determination. I got up and continued the climb. I was OK for a while, but eventually felt the extreme heat and exhaustion. Once again, I felt forced to move over to the side to rest. As I sat there on a rock, I thought, “I'll just wait here until I feel I can start walking back down.” There was just no way I could make it to the top. I was very disappointed and upset with myself. For the third time, I again heard the familiar “clunk-clunk-clunk.” I looked up, and there she was again, still looking crisp, cool and comfortable. “Who is this woman? Is she from our group?” (Since we were a group of 154, assigned to four buses, it was impossible to know everyone.) Once again, I felt renewed energy – determined to make it to the top.

It wasn't easy but I continued the climb, finally reaching the top of that mountain. I was exhausted, but elated. We stayed up there for quite a while. We sang and prayed. I had no trouble on the trip down the mountain. I looked for the tall, slender, white-haired lady with the cane, to thank her for being my inspiration during the climb. However, I could not find her. To this day I don't know if she was part of our group or not.

Have you ever had an experience that made you wonder?

Editor's note: Marie is from Buffalo, NY. Her story about how she was led to spread the messages through Western New York was in our August issue. She shared with me on the phone that she thought the lady who led her up Mt. Krizevac might have been Our Lady or an angel.

Father Tom's Testimony

The following testimony was taken with permission from the website, imedjugorje.com. This testimony was given by a priest named Father Tom from Omaha, Nebraska, during his July 2022 pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

I heard about Medjugorje from the first day. I was living in Houston, Texas in 1981, and the *Houston Chronicle* had a little blurb in the paper about this place in Yugoslavia, it started with an 'M,' but I knew I couldn't pronounce it. There were six kids who said they saw Mary. The second day, it was further back in the paper. They say they saw Her a second time. I was really intrigued.

Then I didn't hear about it again until 1988. The bishop of San Angelo, Texas went there and had quite the experience. He put it in his diocesan paper.

Six months later, I was transferred to Turkey. I worked as a geophysicist. I got offered a job in Turkey. I wasn't excited about it, but I moved to Turkey. I got there Easter Sunday, 1989. In Turkey it's against the law to have churches on Turkish soil. It's a Muslim country. I went to the Vatican Embassy. They had a bulletin they handed out, and there was an advertisement to go to Medjugorje. I didn't want to fly across the ocean, but flying across the Aegean is pretty easy.

The day I called, everyone had cancelled. The guy said, "If you want to go, let's go." I had a personal guide. It turned out he became a priest also. God works in mysterious ways.

The first trip was just he and I. We were living at the base of Cross Mountain. There was a family there with a couple rooms that they let people stay in. We were walking across the fields down to the church, it was tobacco fields back then. It was just a whole different experience.

I went to Medjugorje from Turkey once a year for three years. The second year, we drove. The next year, I organized a pilgrimage. This was after the Gulf War. We had bug out plans [military term to leave in a hurry in an emergency] because it was within missile range at that time. We had people cancel except four of us.

The third trip, I was interested in the priesthood. I asked the Blessed Mother, "Where do you want me to go?" The third day here, a priest from Omaha, Nebraska was saying Mass. He grew up within two blocks of where I grew up in Omaha. After Mass, there's usually a gaggle of people that want to talk to Father, but I was the only one. He had no plans that day so we walked the village. We promised we would keep in touch, but we didn't have any paper to exchange addresses. I had a Turkish note worth about ten cents. I just ripped that in half. He said, "When you get ordained, we'll put that back together." We've done that several times. We actually just recently got together.

I was never really interested in the priesthood before Medjugorje. My natural ability is science. I knew I was going to be a scientist from when I was about five years old. I was always fascinated by nature. My confirmation saint was St. Francis of Assisi. I got a degree in geology. I came to Medjugorje and saw all these rocks. They're all carbonates and kind of boring, but there's things that you can see there. That's one of the things about God, you can meet Him in nature in many ways. That's beautiful and wonderful, but meet Him personally in the Eucharist.

In Medjugorje, you can feel the presence. If you really believe in this, you've got to take this seriously. Jesus is here.



Adoration in Medjugorje

Medjugorje is one of the deepest Adoration experiences.

The doors opened, and here I am. I've been a priest now for almost 26 years. No regrets. I loved being a geophysicist. I made lots of money. But is that what life is about? That's the million-dollar question that we all need to ask ourselves. What is life about? Is it to get rich, traveling the world, getting famous, making lots of friends? That's not what it's about.

As far as what happened to me, I always went to Mass on Sunday, even when I went to Turkey, even in college. But Medjugorje was going deeper. She's still with us to feel Her presence, to get to know Her love, and to go deeper into our faith.

I came back shortly after I was ordained in 1996. It was a totally different experience coming back as a priest. We came with 216 people and two priests. I heard confessions for an average of three hours a day. This is "the Super Bowl of confessions." The first night I heard confessions for three hours, I literally could not sleep. I was on fire with the Holy Spirit. I saw sparks. Everything that had happened in my life, good and bad, had prepared me to be here for this penitent. I was able to help them in ways I could not have ever imagined. It was so exciting. I was on fire.

I've seen so many miracles from the Rosary. I pray at least two a day. I have a continuous Rosary Novena. When you ask for something that's impossible and you see it granted, you just say, "There's something going on here." Try it. And try to go deeper into it. Pray from the heart. Bring your needs, wants, and desires to Our Lady to intercede for us and watch what happens. She loves to help people.

Medjugorje is not approved by the Church, but it also hasn't been condemned by the Church. It's open because it's ongoing.

But to encounter Our Lady in a special way, the faith of the people here, the faith of the pilgrims, is affecting. This is alive.

I go to Rome about four times a year. I've been to the Holy Land twice. But this is alive. That's history. You're looking at monuments and churches, which is wonderful. Even in the Holy Land, walk where Jesus walked, but He's not there like He is in the Eucharist, like Mary is here in Medjugorje. Her messages are guides. I really got affected by the last one, February 25th, "...if you do not return to God and His Commandments, you do not have a future."

"Dear children! I am with you and we pray together. Help me with prayer, little children, that Satan may not prevail. His power of death, hatred, and fear has visited the earth. Therefore,

little children, return to God and to prayer, to fasting and to renunciation, for all those who are downtrodden, poor, and have no voice in this world without God. Little children, if you do not return to God and His Commandments, you do not have a future. That is why He sent me to you to guide you. Thank you for having responded to my call." (February 25th, 2022 message from Our Lady's)

Our Lady is coming here. She's been very kind and gentle, a good mother, but She's preparing us. A good mom, if she knows something's coming up in your life, she's going to prepare you for it. This is not a game. This is serious business, and whatever we can do to help Her plan come to fruition is our glory. What can I do to help change this world?

"Continue" – Go for It!

By June Klins

In our July issue, we shared with you about the novena Our Lady requested before the 43rd anniversary of the apparitions on June 25. On the last night of the novena, Marija and Ivan were both present and had their apparition together. After the apparition, Marija said, "At the time of the apparition when Gospa came, Ivan and I offered up this novena. Gospa smiled and She was very joyful, and She thanked us for our prayers and sacrifices and She said, 'Continue!' Gospa came dressed in a golden dress, standing on a cloud with a crown of stars on Her head! We recommended to Gospa all of us, all of our intentions, and everything we have in our hearts. Also today Gospa prayed in Her motherly language Aramaic [as She did every night of the novena]. She prayed for a longer time and blessed us all."

On the evening of August 24, I was going through my emails and found one Cathy Nolan from Mary TV (marytv.tv) had sent the night before that I had not yet read. Cathy repeated Marija's words above and then extended an exciting invitation. She wrote, "Our Lady has opened up another possibility to pray with one of our visionaries. Ivan Dragicevic, who has zoom meetings regularly to pray with people from around the world, has agreed to let Mary TV also stream those prayer meetings on our website

on the live channel, whenever he is able to have the meeting. This will again set up the possibility for thousands of Our Lady's children to gather together with Ivan and pray, pray, pray!!" She added, "This is a response to Our Lady's call to 'Continue.'"

Ivan's zoom meeting was earlier that day and I was blessed to have been able to be present for it. We prayed the Joyful and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary and then Ivan had his apparition. Ivan spoke briefly about the apparition before he left for the evening Croatian Mass. There was no message because Marija's public message would be the next day. Those who were watching the apparition live received the same blessings as if they were physically present. How awesome is that??? And now that can be YOU!

Ivan's next prayer meeting to be live-streamed will be on September 7, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. Eastern time and you are invited!!! He will announce the next one at the end of the prayer meeting. Mary TV will have the prayer meetings on their website (marytv.tv), so if you miss one, you can check on the date for the next one by watching the latest one.

If you do not have internet, it would be worth your while to go to a library or ask a family member who has internet if you could join them to watch the livestream and pray. **This is like no other time in history – to be able**

to pray with people from all over the world and be present for an apparition of Our Lady right in your own home! This is truly a time of grace.

I was so excited and made a note to myself to share it in our October issue, because the September one was done. Our Lady had other plans though...

On August 25, when I was at Adoration, sitting next to the statue of Our Lady and praying the Rosary, I felt a very, very strong prompting to put this in the September issue. This would have involved redoing a whole page. I was unsure if there would be time since it had to be at the printer by the morning. After I left Adoration and got in my car, I laughed when I noticed the license plate of the car in front of me – GO4IT



Our Lady could not have been more clear.

"Public prayer is more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down his mercy, and the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, has always advocated it in times of disasters and general distress."
~ St. Louis de Montfort

Our thanks to Fr. Ray Donohue, Dorothy and Kirk Bennett, Carol Bleck, Diane Niebauer, Sue Taccone, Laura and Kevin DiBacco, Peggy Chludzinski, Gina Adams, Stephanie Koshinski, Ronalee Curtis, Kandace Lyons, Pat Heinlein, Darleen Wilkinson, Judy Johns, Jane Culmer, Carrie Conley, Marlene Figurski, Tom McIntire, Louise Lotze, Tom Kennedy, Barb Cesare, Barb Sirianni, Betsy Truran, Joan Peterson, Peggy Smith, Sue Verga, and those who want to remain anonymous for their help with the August mailing. We thank Louise Lotze for the use of her photos in this issue. We also thank our proofreader, Don Spaeder, our webmaster, Jason Klins, and our prayer group administrator, Patti Millar.



Please note: From now on, if your newsletter comes back to us because you have moved or are temporarily away, I will not re-send it UNLESS you contact me. It has gotten too costly and my time is very limited, due to my husband's condition. I'll be more than happy to re-send IF you contact me by phone, letter or email. If you will be away for more than a month, please send your alternate address. It is very easy to change your address, and costly for us if you don't! And thank you for your patience with the acknowledgements for your donations. If you do not want or need an acknowledgement, please note this with your renewal. Thank you for understanding.



As of August 25, 2024, the number of Masses reported for Our Lady's intentions was 40,184. Thank you.

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.

The publisher recognizes and accepts that the final authority regarding the apparitions at Medjugorje rests with the Holy See.

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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