



The PILGRIM

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October 2004

The PILGRIM is a periodical from the **Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC)**. The **PFMC** is a ministry of lay Catholic evangelization and healing through the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

A PRAYER



My Jesus Mercy! Let us humbly come before You in the Blessed Sacrament with a spirit of gratification and praise upon our lips. When we are hurting and in worry, let us always turn to You for strength and endurance. Remove from all souls any pain and anxiety. Guide us in all our suffering to join it with Yours on the Cross.

Send us Your Holy Spirit, O Jesus in union with Your Father, that You may fill each of us with Your Healing Power and the Holy Spirit. Mend all that is wounded and broken in us, our families, our nation, the world. Let Your wisdom permeate every decision we make.

We ask these things in Your Name, Jesus, and through Our Lady, Mary, Mother of the Eucharist.

AMEN

(Kathleen prays from the heart for each issue.)

Teach young people the value of Eucharistic Adoration.

I urge priests, religious and lay people to continue and redouble their efforts to teach the younger generations the meaning and value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion. How will young people be able to know the Lord if they are not introduced to the mystery of His presence? Like the young Samuel, by learning the words of the prayer of the heart, they will be closer to the Lord, who will accompany them in their spiritual and human growth. The Eucharistic mystery is in fact the “summit of evangelization” (Lumen Gentium) for it is the most eminent testimony to Christ’s resurrection.

(Pope John Paul II)

EXPLANATIONS of EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Catholics believe that during the Mass which we attend each week (for some of us daily), the priest (during the consecration) speaks these words as he holds the communion host, “*He took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take this all of you, and eat it: this is my body which will be given up for you*”. When the priest says “*this my body*”, it is at that instant when, through the miracle of transubstantiation, the bread and wine which we offer as the bloodless sacrifice to our Lord truly become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. It is His true Presence in the form of bread and wine. It is Christ.

Perpetual Adoration is when the priest takes a consecrated host, such as the one described above, and places it in a monstrance. (monstrance comes from the Latin “*monstrare*” to show, to expose to

YEAR of the EUCHARIST

Our Holy Father, John Paul II declared a special Year of the Eucharist from October 2004 to October 2005. We have had many articles highlighting this Year of the Eucharist. In this issue we are addressing Eucharistic Adoration.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Encourage Christians regularly to visit Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament, for we are all called to abide in the presence of God. In contemplation, Christians will perceive ever more profoundly the mystery at the heart of Christian life.

The *September* MESSAGE, from *GOSPA, Our Lady, Queen of Peace*, to an alleged visionary from Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, is presented beginning on page 12 (centerfold page) with a REFLECTION and the PRESS BULLETIN.

“*The PILGRIM*” for October 2004 is dedicated to “*MARY, MOTHER of the EUCHARIST.*” See page 3 for an “*IN THIS ISSUE . . .*” listing.

view.) The monstrance is then placed in front of the tabernacle (an ornate box which holds the monstrance and any consecrated hosts) or on the altar of the church or chapel for adoration.

What do you actually do during adoration?

You may sign up to be an “*adorer*” which allows you to schedule yourself for one or more hours per week to pray before the very presence of Our Lord, exposed in the monstrance. It means that you can have some time alone with Jesus to recite your favorite prayers, read the bible, contemplate acts of faith, hope, charity, thanksgiving, reparation, pray a rosary or do whatever type of prayerful devotion that suits you before Our Lord. You can just sit and say nothing simply keeping Him company, just as you would with a dear friend.

(<http://www.medjugorje.org/adore.htm>)

PLEASE MARK YOUR 2004 CALENDAR for *PFMC* EVENTS

See **Conference Corner** on page 23 as well as **Bulletin Notices** on pages 22 through 23. Most *PFMC* events will be preceded by their own *PFMC* information sheets with reservation forms.

October 2004

3- 11 October 2004, Sunday through Monday: 12th Annual International Week of Prayer and Fasting For the Conversion of Nations, the End to Abortion, and for World Peace. **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.** *PFMC* is part of the **International Coalition for the Triumph**. Information sheet enclosed.

The *PFMC* Pilgrimage to **Medjugorje (PPM)** via **Rome for Doctor Bob and Anita Rice** of “*In His Omnipotent Presence (IHOP) Ministries*” has been cancelled due to lack of pilgrim registrations.

We are still looking for places where **Bob** can preach on the **Real Presence** of **Jesus** in the **Blessed Sacrament**. This is what brought about his conversion from **33 years** as a **Protestant Minister** to a **Catholic Evangelist**. His calendar is now open from **10 October 2004** through about **29 October 2004**. He will be evangelizing in the **Jacksonville, Florida** area in **November 2004**.

November 2004

19 November 2004, Friday: Father Bill Halbing plans to lead a **Day of Recollection** in the **Upper Room** of the *PFMC* and celebrate Holy Mass at **7 PM** in **Saint Mary’s Church, Williamstown, NJ**. See enclosed blue information sheet with maps.

December 2004

1 and 2 December 2004, Wednesday and Thursday: Father Donald Calloway, MIC, will celebrate Holy Mass at **7 PM** and give a talk on his conversion, vocation, and **Divine Mercy**. The place for **12/1/04** is yet to be determined. On **12/2/04** he will be at **Saint Thomas More Church** in **Allentown, PA**. During the day of **2 December 2004** he will be with **Rosalie Turton** and **Raphael Villongco** at the **Fatima House** of the **101 Foundation**.

(The *PFMC* Volunteer Staff Members)

4-9 FEBRUARY 2005 EVENTS

The **2005 Retreat Conference (RC), 3-Day Extension (3DX), and Youth Track (YT)** events in the **HILTON HOTEL, Cherry Hill, NJ**, will take place from **Friday, 4 February 2005** through **Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005**.

Father Bill Halbing will speak on **Friday** and **Saturday**. **Linda Schubert** from **Miracles of the Heart Ministries** and author of “**Miracle Hour**” will be the keynote speaker for **Saturday night** and stay for the **3DX**. The enclosed orchid color information packet with registration forms is also available at: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf. Please consider registering with the *PFMC* as early as possible so we can make better plans to accommodate you. Pray that those called will register early.

Please call the **HILTON HOTEL** at **1-800-HILTONS (445-8667)** or **(856) 665-6666** with your reservation for hotel rooms within the *PFMC* room block. They will not charge your credit card for more than the first night until you arrive, check-in and are ready to check-out. Our room block is scheduled to close on **1/7/05** so we need reservations before **Christmas**. Consider giving a *PFMC* registration and the **HILTON HOTEL** reservations as **Christmas** gifts to your loved ones. Put these gifts as requests on your own **Christmas** gift lists.

The volunteer Board of Directors and Staff of the *PFMC* recognize and accept that the final authority regarding the alleged apparitions, locutions and related messages at, and to the recipients from, Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, as well as all other private revelations, rests with the Holy See, to whose judgment we willingly submit. We give total allegiance to our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and its Magisterium, particularly Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. See page 5 for additional *PFMC* information. While those presenters who work with the *PFMC* are selected for their personal qualifications and commitment to the Church, their comments and presentations are those of individual Catholics and no endorsement by ecclesiastical authority is to be presumed.

If you would like a group of information sheets for the 2005 RC/3DX/YT, please call (856) 768-9228.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

PILGRIMAGES for 2005

We hope to plan at least one pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** for 2005. Please let us know the times of the year you might want to go on pilgrimage and interim stopover points. We can go direct via a number of airports but have always preferred to spend at least a day visiting holy places around the airport.

We failed to get sufficient response on going through **Prague, Czech Republic**, and now have had to cancel a pilgrimage with extensive time in **Rome, Italy**. What would you like to do with regard to visiting **Medjugorje**? Please tell us.

If you would like us to set up a pilgrimage or a retreat cruise for your prayer group, parish, or school, with or without **PFMC** coordination, please call (856) 768-9228 for estimates on your ideas.

TWELVE BIBLICAL REASONS for WANTING to SPEND ONE HOUR with JESUS in the BLESSED SACRAMENT

1. He is really there!

“I myself Am the Living Bread come down from Heaven.” (Jn 6: 35)

2. Day and night Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament because of his Infinite love for you!

“Behold I will be with you always even to the end of the world,” because “I have loved you with an everlasting love, and constant is My affection for you.” (Mt 28: 20; Jer 31: 3)

3. The specific way that Jesus asks you to love Him in return is to spend one quiet hour with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. “Where your treasure is, there is your heart...” “Could you not watch one hour with Me?” (Mt 6: 21; 26: 40)

4. When you look upon the Sacred Host, you look upon Jesus, the Son of God.

“Indeed, this is the will of My Father, that everyone who looks upon the Son and believes in Him shall have eternal life. Him I will raise up on the last day.” (Jn 6: 40)

5. Each moment that you spend in His Eucharistic Presence will increase His Divine Life within you and deepen your personal relationship and friendship with Him

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“I have come that you may have life, and have it more abundantly.” “I am the Vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in Him shall bear much fruit because without Me, you can do nothing.” (Jn 15: 5)

6. Each hour you spend with Jesus will deepen His Divine Peace in your heart.

“Come to Me all of you who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you...” “Cast all of your anxieties upon the One who cares for you...” “My Peace is My Gift to you.” (Mt 11: 28; 5: 7; Jn 14: 17)

7. Jesus will give you all the Graces you need to be happy!

“The Lamb on the Throne will shepherd them. He will lead them to the springs of life-giving water.” (Rev 7: 17)

8. Jesus is infinitely deserving of our unceasing thanksgiving and adoration for all He has done for our salvation

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive honor, glory and praise.” (Rev. 5: 12)

9. For Peace in our country!

“When My people humble themselves and seek My Presence... I will revive their land.” (2Chr 7: 14)

10. Each hour you spend with Jesus on earth will leave your soul everlastingly more beautiful and glorious in heaven

“They who humble themselves shall be exalted...”
“All of us, gazing on the Lord’s glory with unveiled faces, are being transformed from glory to glory into His very image.” (Lk 18: 14; 2Cor 3: 18)

11. Jesus will bless you, your family and the whole world for this hour of faith you spend with Him in the Blessed Sacrament.

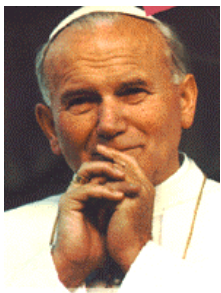
“Blessed are they who do not see and yet believe...”
“Faith can move mountains...” “What is needed is trust...” “Behold I come to make all things new.” (Jn 20: 29; Mk 11: 23; Mk 5: 36; Rev 21: 5)

12. Each moment you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament brings joy, pleasure, and delight to His Sacred Heart!

“My joy, My pleasure, My delight is to be with you.” (Prov 8: 31)

<http://www.medjugorje.org/adore.htm>

AT THE ROOT of the EUCHARIST is the VIRGINAL and MATERNAL LIFE of MARY



On *Sunday, 5 June 1983*, the **Solemnity of Corpus Christi**, the **Holy Father Pope John Paul II** offered the following reflections to the faithful gathered in *Saint Peter’s Square* for the weekly recitation of the Angelus.

“Ave verum Corpus natum de Maria Virgine!”

“Hail, true Body born of the Virgin Mary!”

On the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, our grateful thanks is raised to the Father, Who has given us the Divine Word, the living Bread come down from heaven, and our thanks is joyfully raised to the Virgin, Who offered the Lord his innocent Flesh and precious Blood which we receive

at the altar. “Ave verum Corpus”: true Body, truly conceived through the work of the Holy Spirit, borne in the womb with ineffable love (Preface II of Advent), born for us of the Virgin Mary: “Natum de Maria Virgine”.

That divine Body and Blood, which after the consecration is present on the altar, is offered to the Father, and becomes Communion of love for everyone, by consolidating us in the unity of the Spirit in order to found the Church, preserves its maternal origin from Mary. She prepared the Body and Blood before offering them to the Word as a gift from the whole human family that he might be clothed in them in becoming our Redeemer, High Priest and Victim.

At the root of the Eucharist, therefore, there is the virginal and maternal life of Mary, her overflowing experience of God, her journey of faith and love, which through the work of the Holy Spirit made her flesh a temple and her heart an altar: because she conceived not according to nature, but through faith, with a free and a conscious act: an act of obedience. And if the Body that we eat and the Blood that we drink is the inestimable gift of the Risen Lord to us travellers, it still has in itself, as fragrant Bread, the taste and aroma of the Virgin Mother.

“Vere passum, immolatum in Cruce pro homine”. That Body truly suffered and was immolated on the Cross for man.

Born of the Virgin to be a pure, holy and immaculate oblation. Christ offered on the Cross the one perfect Sacrifice which every Mass in an unbloody manner, renews and makes present. In that one Sacrifice, Mary, the first redeemed, the Mother of the Church, had an active part. She stood near the Crucified, suffering deeply with her Firstborn; with a motherly heart she associated herself with his Sacrifice; with love she consented to his immolation (cf. “Lumen Gentium”, 58; “Marialis Cultus”, 20): she offered him and she offered herself to the Father. Every Eucharist is a memorial of that Sacrifice and that Passover that restored life to the world; every Mass puts us in intimate communion with her, the Mother, whose sacrifice “becomes present” just as the Sacrifice of her Son “becomes present” at the words of consecration of the bread and wine pronounced by the priest (cf. Discourse at the Celebration of the Word, 2 June 1983, n° 2).

(“L’ Osservatore Romano”, N. 24 (788) - 13 June 1983, page 2, Weekly edition in English.)

TWELVE REASONS from the TEACHINGS of the CHURCH for WANTING to SPEND ONE HOUR with JESUS in the BLESSED SACRAMENT

1. You are greatly needed!

“The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic Adoration.” (Pope John Paul II, *Dominicae Cena*)

2. This is a personal invitation to you from Jesus

“Jesus waits for us in this Sacrament of Love.” (Pope John Paul II, *Dominicae Canae*)

3. Jesus is counting on you because the Eucharist is the center of life.

“Every member of the Church must be vigilant in seeing that the sacrament of Love shall be at the center of the life of the people of God so that through all the manifestations of worship due Him shall be given back ‘love for love’ and truly become the life of our souls.” (Pope John Paul II, *Redeemer of Man*)

4. Your hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament will repair for evils of the world and bring about peace on earth.

“Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Jesus and ready to make reparation for the great evils of the world. Let your adoration never cease.” (Pope John Paul II, *Dominicae Cena*)

5. Day and night Jesus dwells in the Blessed Sacrament because you are the most important person in the world to Him!

“Christ is reserved in our churches as the spiritual center of the heart of the community, the universal Church and all humanity, since within the veil of the species, Christ is contained, the Invisible Heart of the Church, the Redeemer of the world, the center of all hearts, by Him all things are and of whom we exist.” (Pope Paul IV, *Mysterium Fidei*)

6. Jesus wants you to do more than to go to Mass on Sunday. “Our communal worship at Mass must go together with our personal worship of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration in order that our love may be complete.” (Pope John Paul II, *Redeemer of Man*)

7. You grow spiritually with each moment you spend with Jesus!

“Our essential commitment in life is to preserve and advance constantly in Eucharistic life and Eucharistic piety and to grow spiritually in the climate of the

Holy Eucharist.” (Pope John Paul II, *Redeemer of Man*)

8. The best time you spend on earth is with Jesus, your Best Friend, in the Blessed Sacrament!

“How great is the value of conversation with Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, for there is nothing more consoling on earth, nothing more efficacious for advancing along the road of holiness!” (Pope Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei*)

9. Just as you can’t be exposed to the sun without receiving its rays, neither can you come to Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament without receiving the Divine Rays of His Grace, His Love, His Peace.

“Christ is truly the Emmanuel, that is, God with us, day and night, His is in our midst. He dwells with us full of grace and truth. He restores morality, nourishes virtue, consoles the afflicted, strengthens the weak.” (Pope Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei*)

10. If Jesus were actually visible in church, everyone would run to welcome Him, but He remains hidden in the Sacred Host under the appearance of Bread, because He is calling us to faith, that we many come to Him in humility.” The Blessed Sacrament is the ‘Living Heart’ of each of our churches and it is our very sweet duty to honor and adore the Blessed Host, which our eyes see, the Incarnate Word, Whom they cannot see.” (Pope Paul VI, *Credo of the People of God*)

11. With transforming mercy, Jesus makes our heart

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OFFICE HELP, ASSEMBLY, LABELS and MAILING: Too many wonderful pilgrims and volunteers to mention them all by name.

one with His.

“He proposes His own example to those who come to Him, that all may learn to be like Himself, gentle and humble of heart, and to seek not their own interest but those of God.” (Pope Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei*)

12. If the Pope himself would give you a special invitation to visit him in the Vatican, this honor would be nothing in comparison to the honor and dignity that Jesus Himself bestows upon you with the Invitation of spending one hour with Him in the Blessed Sacrament. “The Divine Eucharist bestows upon the Christian people the incomparable dignity.” (Pope Paul VI, *Mysterium Fidei*)

<http://www.medjugorje.org/adore.htm>)

ACT of LOVE - CURE D'ARS

I love you, O my God.

My only desire is to love you, until the last breath of my life.

I love you O infinitely lovable God, and I prefer to die loving you, rather than to live for an instant without you.

I love you, O my God, and I desire only to go to Heaven, to have the happiness of loving you perfectly.

I love you, O my God, and my only fear is to go to hell, because one will never have the sweet solace of loving you there.

O my God, if my tongue cannot say at all times that I love you, at least I want my heart to repeat it to you as many times as I breathe.

Ah! Do me the grace: to suffer while loving you, To love you while suffering, And that when I die I not only will love you, but experience it in my heart.

I beg you that: the closer I come to my final end, You will increase and perfect my love for you.

AMEN

(Prayer of the Holy Cure D'Ars)

EUCHARISTIC REFLECTIONS



Read, pause, and reflect!

INVITATION “I am thirsty!”

May you hear the cry which I hurled from the top of the cross as if it came from the tabernacle. “I am thirsty. “

If I wished to live forever among

men, I did so to quench this thirst which never abandons me.

It is the cry of My open heart which has spilled the last drops of blood and which aspires to spread their redemptive benefits throughout the whole of humanity more and more.

I thirst for souls, an insatiable thirst for all the souls and for each in particular.

I thirst for them, not for My satisfaction but because I wish to make them happy and they cannot find happiness by following me.

Do not suffocate My cry, do not forget My vibrant and unceasingly repeated call; come and quench My thirst!

May My thirst never be greeted by your refusal or intention to flee, but may it make your generosity gush like a spring which can calm it!

And may My Eucharistic presence, reminding you of My thirst, invite you to bring other souls to Me that they too might abandon themselves to My love!

Oh! If you know the gift of God and He it is who says to you “Give me to drink,” you too would ask Him for it and He would give you living water.

“Come to Me!”

Come to Me, just as I have come to you with my Eucharistic presence.

Come to My tabernacle, all of you who are tired and seek refuge and comfort.

Come to Me, all of you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest.

I will let you forget the weariness of life, the oppression of the day and will restore your strength.

I will tear you away from your worries, from your anxieties, and from your obsessions and will allow you to savor the peace of total abandonment.

I will free you from bitterness, from the sadness which the day’s sufferings and trials have left on your soul and I will let you find happiness again.

I will grant you peace of mind, dispel your doubts and fears, allowing you to understand My teaching.

I will grant you peace in your heart with My own peace, allowing you into My intimacy, fulfilling your deepest aspirations.

I will share My rest with you, divine rest which is the supreme satisfaction of love.

“Peace be with you!”

Peace be with you, the peace which My presence wishes to disperse!

That peace which I assured you with the offering of My sacrifice, regaining for you the Father’s friendship.

May this peace, symbolized by the calm which reigns around the tabernacle, penetrate in all those who approach it.

I wish to calm your anxieties, guaranteeing you the presence of infinite goodness; to pacify your desires, presenting you with the only Desirable who can satisfy them.

I wish to calm your worries, lavishing at every moment the help of My omnipotence; to mitigate your terrors, showing you the intimacy of the God of Love, opened to you.

I wish to placate your agitation, inviting you to the only thing necessary, to a gaze of union and of contemplation;

I wish to harness your passions, subjecting them to a greater love, capable of overcoming them.

May peace be with you, the peace of God throughout your human existence!

RESPONSE

“I will be with you forever”

O Lord, You demand my presence as a response to Yours:

a presence of complete simplicity which is content to be there, just as You are there;

a silent presence, without eloquence, happy to give everything, looking only on You;

a pacific presence, satisfied by the intimacy so generously offered to it;

the presence of the poor man, who comes to show You his poverty, his profound misery;

the presence of the trustful sick man, who comes to uncover his secret sores to You;

a presence prolonged as long as possible, which is pleased to dwell by Your side,

a presence immersed in love, a love which always aspires to be sincere and ardent,

a presence full of hope, which aspires to the definitive possession of Heaven and is heartened to begin here below.

How beautiful to behold you!

Lord my God and friend, how beautiful it is to behold You under the appearance of the Host!

What a blessed certainty to know that You are there, seeing me and listening to me.

How beautiful it is to be so close to You! I wish to immerse myself in your presence: may this presence take possession of my soul, transform it and sanctify it!

Here I am before You, poor and naked, unable to give You anything other than my gaze.

How beautiful to put myself under the radiation of Your splendor, under the action of Your superabundant life, beneath Your loving gaze!

I look at You without seeing you, but You look at me with such force that You make the richness of Your being pass into me.

I do not encounter Your man’s gaze, but You encounter my heart and fill it with Your divine grace.

Without me being aware of it You change me, You penetrate me with Your thoughts and with Your feelings. You raise me up to the level of your holiness.

How beautiful it is to contemplate You, abandon myself in You, allow myself to be invaded by Your presence and be modeled entirely by You.

Thank you!

Thank You, Lord, for the immense generosity of Your presence!

Thank You for still staying close to us forever in Your tabernacle after the brevity of Your human life with us!

Thank You for putting yourself at our disposal, for offering Yourself to our gaze;

Waiting for us, welcoming us without rejecting us, listening to us and answering our prayers!

Thank You for establishing a priesthood to extend Your own, to render Yourself present among men; for having desired to renew the sacrifice of the Mass daily, giving us Your presence perpetually!

Thank You for the humility of such a hidden presence, for Your goodness open to everyone; for the invitation to come so close to you, as a foretaste of celestial contemplation, for the serene hours of contemplation and adoration!

Thank You for all the good, for all the comfort and for all the joy which Your coming into our midst brings to mankind!

Thank You for having thrust Your love to the extreme, for having multiplied the gift of Your person throughout all the places of the earth!

QUESTIONS

Remember!

Remember, Lord, those who wish to come and adore you and are unable to.

Remember the ill and infirm, those who work and cannot come because of their jobs.

Remember those who have already come to kneel here before Your tabernacle and who have a pressing need for help at this moment.

Remember those who once implored you with fervor, but who have now strayed from you and live in the way of sin and of perdition.

Remember those who have never come to pray to You, through negligence, through forgetfulness of their religious

(The Forty Hours, Capuchin Minor Friary, "Our Lady of Graces" 71013 San Giovanni Rotondo (Foggia)

FIRST NATIONAL MEETING of EXORCISTS in MEXICO

The first Mexican National Meeting of Exorcists and Assistants of Liberation, an initiative of the Archdiocese of Mexico, had an attendance of 500 participants.

The meeting took place from Aug. 31-Sept. 2 and was held at the headquarters of the Mexican Episcopal conference. Participants included Bishops, exorcist priests (appointed or authorized), as well as a number of other priests, women religious, lay assistants to exorcists, persons with experience in prayer of liberation, doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists interested in being part of liberation teams.

At the opening Mass, Cardinal Norberto Rivera, archbishop of Mexico, said that "we are in a crucial time for the Church. We must use the Word to denounce all that is not of God: witchcraft, spiritualism, magic folk medicine, religion of African origin, esotericism, horoscopes, fortune-telling, tarot cards, alleged occult sciences, Gnosticism, freemasonry, Rosicrucianism, materialist and animist philosophies, etc.

"However, something even more relevant is that, in certain cities of the world, there are practices of Satan worship," he said.

"We are also faced with satanic actions such as New Age, which tries to attract people to false ways of thinking and living, and to believe not in the personal God who has revealed himself to us, but in an impersonal god that is identified with this material world of which we are a part and, for the same reason, wish to make us believe that we ourselves are God."

"There are those who wish to solve their problems, illnesses, pains, and sufferings by following an apparent and superficial path without establishing a personal relationship with God," he indicated.

The cardinal invited the participants to put Christ at the center of their lives, "who with his passion, death, and resurrection, through the cross, defeated Satan."

The meeting was organized in particular by the General Coordination of Exorcists of the Archdiocese of Mexico.

Father Pedro Mendoza Pantoja coordinates the work of eight exorcists, one for each territorial vicariate of the archdiocese.

(MEXICO CITY, SEPT. 2, 2004, ZE04090321 http://www.zenit.org/english/send_friend/index.phtml?sid=58343)

FORREST GUMP DIES!

The day finally arrived; Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates, met by Saint Peter himself.

However, the gates are closed and Forrest approaches the Gatekeeper.

Saint Peter says, "Well, Forrest, it's certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you, though, that the place is filling up fast, and we've been administering an entrance examination for everyone.

The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven."

Forrest responds, "It shore is good to be here , Saint Peter, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. Shore hope the test ain't too hard; life was a big enough test as it was."

Saint Peter goes on, "Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions.

First: What two days of the week begin with the letter T?

Second: How many seconds are there in a year?

Third: What is God's first name?"

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees Saint Peter, who waves him up

and says, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers."

Forrest says, "Well, the first one -- which two days in the week begin with the letter "T"? Shucks, that one's easy. That'd be Today and Tomorrow.

The Saint's eyes open wide and he exclaims, "Forrest, that's not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I didn't specify, so I'll give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?" asks Saint Peter. "How many seconds in a year?"

"Now that one's harder," says Forrest, "but I think and think about that and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, Saint Peter says, "Twelve? Twelve!?"

Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

Forrest says "Shucks, there's gotta be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd . . ."

"Hold it," interrupts Saint Peter. "I see where you're going with this, and see your point, though that wasn't quite what I had in mind but I'll have to give you credit for that one, too. Let's go on with the third and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?" "Sure", Forrest replied, "its Andy."

"Andy?!" exclaimed an exasperated and frustrated Saint Peter. "Ok, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?"

"Shucks, that was the easiest one of all," Forrest replied. "I learnt it from the song. . . "ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN . . ."

Saint Peter opened the Pearly Gates and said: "Run Forrest, run."

(A friend at Terzmaster2@aol.com)

A DAILY VISIT to the BLESSED SACRAMENT

GUARDIAN ANGEL

Jesus is very lonely. He is weary waiting for those whom He loves, but who forget Him. Let us visit Him. Walk, gently, the church is a holy place. God is here. Kneel and adore Him. It delights the heart of Jesus to have you near Him; listen to His sweet voice.

JESUS

My child, you need not know much in order to please Me, only love Me dearly. Speak to Me as you would your Mother if she had taken you in her arms. Have you no one to recommend to Me? Tell Me the names of your relatives, your friends; after each name add what you wish Me to do for its bearer. Ask a great deal; I love generous hearts that forget themselves for others.

Tell Me about the poor whom you wish to help, the sick whom you have seen suffer, the sinner whom you would convert, the persons who are alienated from you and those affections you wish to win back. For all recite a fervent prayer. Remind Me that I have promised to grant every prayer that comes from the heart; and surely those prayers are heartfelt which we say for those whom we love.

Have you no favors to ask for yourself? Recall all the needs of your soul and tell them to Me. Tell Me simply how self-indulgent you are, how proud, sensitive, selfish, cowardly, idle. Ask Me to help you to improve. Poor child, do not repine! There are in heaven many saints who had the same faults as you; they prayed to Me and little by little they were cured. Do not hesitate to ask Me for gifts of body and mind - for health, memory, success. I can give you everything, and I always grant requests for gifts that will make souls more holy. What do you want today, My child? Oh, if you knew how I long to do you good!

Have you no plans to interest you? Tell Me about them. Do they concern your vocation? What do you think of it? What would you like? Are you planning

PLEASE RESPOND to THIS NOTICE and STAY ON the BULK MAILING LIST

We do need to hear from you in writing at least once a year in order to keep you on our mailing list. Bulk Mail is not required to be returned if the delivery address is incorrect. Please respond now for 2004.

In Christian charity we do not want delivery to incorrect addresses and wasting of God's precious resources. There is no "subscription" fee. We do ask for free will donations to support "*The PILGRIM*" and the operations of the *PFMC*.

If you know someone who would enjoy the "*The PILGRIM*," please ask them to contact us at the address printed in the box on page 5 or near the mailing label on the last page.

Please re-read the canary information sheet enclosed in the July issue of "*The PILGRIM*" and consider responding to what it says.

some pleasures for one dear to you? What do you wish to do?

And have you no thoughts of zeal for Me? Do you not care to do a little good for the souls of those whom you love, and who, perhaps forget Me? Tell Me of those who interest you, what motive urges you, what means you wish to take to do them good.

Confide in Me you failures. I will show you the cause. Whom do you wish to see interested in your works? I am the Master of all hearts, and I lead them gently where I please. I will place about you those who are necessary to you, never fear!

Have you nothing to trouble you? My child, tell Me of all your little crosses. Who has pained you? Who has wounded your self-love? Who has treated you contemptuously? Tell Me all, and then say you forgive and forget, and I will give you My blessing.

Do you dread something painful? Is there in your soul a vague fear which seems unreasonable, and yet torments you? Trust fully in My providence. I am here; I see everything; I will not abandon you.

Are there about you friends who seem less kind than formerly - who neglect you through indifference or forgetfulness without having consciously done anything to wound them? Pray for them and I will restore them to you if their companionship be good for you.

Have you no joys to tell Me? Why not confide to me your pleasures? Tell Me what has happened since yesterday to console you, to make you happy, to give you joy. An unexpected visit has done you good; a fear was suddenly dispelled; you have met with unlooked for success; you have received some mark of affection, some trial has left you stronger than you supposed. All these things, My child, I obtained for you. Why are you not grateful? Why do you not say "I thank You"? Gratitude insures further benefits, and the benefactor loves to be reminded of His bounty.

Have you no promise to make Me? You know I search in hearts. Men are deceived but not I. be frank.

Are you resolved to avoid that occasion of sin, to give up the object which leads you astray, to withdraw your friendship from the person who is irreligious and whose presence disturbs the peace of your soul? Will you go at once and be kind to the companion who offended you?

Well, My Child, go now and resume your daily work. Be silent, modest, patient," charitable, prayerful; love the Blessed Virgin dearly; and tomorrow bring Me a heart even more devoted and loving. Tomorrow I will have new favors for you.

"Act, Love, Suffer!" should be our motto. Let us add to it Fidelity and Repentance. We should have but one desire - that of loving God and doing His will.

Will you promise to visit Me daily?

LOVING SOUL

Sweet Jesus, since Thy will ordains
These daily cares of mine

And since I may not break the chains
That keep me from Thy shrine,

Oh, grant that this may be my part:
A torch of charity

To kindle in each selfish heart,
A tender love for Thee.

(Prayer Pamphlet - IMPRIMATUR: William Turner,
Bishop of Buffalo)

VOCATIONS DEPARTMENT

DOMINICAN SISTERS of MARY, MOTHER of the EUCHARIST

Our Community was formed in response to the call of Pope John Paul II in the Post-Synodal Exhortation, *Vita Consecrata*, regarding his belief that today it is opportune to establish new foundations which "bear witness to the constant attraction which the total gift of self to the Lord ... continues to exert even on the present generation." (VC, 12)

The Lord has blessed us abundantly in this endeavor.

(Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist
4597 Warren Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105
Phone: (734) 994-7437, To contact the community,
please email sjab@rc.net For more vocation
information, please email smmevocations@rc.net)

ON THE OCCASION of the 5TH ANNIVERSARY of the SISTERS of MARY, MOTHER of the EUCHARIST



The Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist celebrate, in February of 2002, their fifth anniversary since their establishment at Ann Arbor, Michigan in the Diocese of Lansing. The diocese and I are grateful for their presence and their precious gifts of witness and service and join them in thanks to Our Lord.

It has been a remarkable and inspiring five year journey characterized and enlivened by boundless FAITH, enthusiastic HOPE, generous LOVE and resolute COURAGE! It has been a bold journey of love radiating an abundance of divine blessings for them, our diocese, all they serve and especially women discerning the call to the *Vita Consecrata*. During this sometimes arduous five year journey in the steps of Jesus and in the company of Our Lady with Saint Dominic and his family, the Sisters were sustained by the abundant blessings of our Eucharistic Lord Who is the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation. In complete solidarity with the Church, they have laid a solid foundation on the ROCK which is Christ. Building on this ROCK in the years ahead will assure their authenticity as daughters of the Church in the *Vita Consecrata*.

Ask me “What made it happen?” “What’s their secret?” I’ll answer, of course, God’s grace. Yes, God’s grace made these five years happen, but grace freely accepted in total cooperation marked by HOPE and JOY. Matthew devotes Chapter 13 to the Day of Parables. Several stories are about tiny seeds and grand results. Sowers of seeds are people of hope. The tiny mustard seed is always valid for anything for the Kingdom. They remind us that everything begins in humility and complete trust in a higher power. So our Sisters dared five years ago, with the humility of the mustard seed, to leave up to the Lord the ways in which their community would grow. In confident HOPE they surrendered to the Lord Who chose, called and consecrated them. For people of hope, from small beginnings came great results because with God all things are possible. The two “one liner” parables of the treasure and the pearl are profound in their simplicity. Both emphasize the great value of finding the Kingdom of God. Both stress the finders overwhelming response to the discovery. The high point of Jesus’ teachings is that out of joy the discoverer forgets everything else. The joy of the Kingdom eclipses what is given up. With joy the discoverer gladly gives all to seize the Kingdom. HOPE and JOY accompany HUMILITY.

Our Holy Father’s conclusion of his *Vita Consecrata* “looking to the future” speaks to the celebrants of this Fifth Jubilee. “You have not only a glorious history to remember and recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished. Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things. Make your lives a fervent expectation of Christ; go forth to meet him like the wise virgins setting out to meet the Bridegroom. Be always ready, faithful to Christ, the Church, to your Institute and to the men and women of our time.”

I entrust this community to our Mother of the Eucharist with the prayer of John Paul II at the end of *Vita Consecrata*: “To you, our Mother, who desire the spiritual and apostolic renewal of your sons and daughters in a response of love and complete dedication to Christ, we address our confident prayer. You who did the will of the Father, ever ready in obedience, courageous in poverty and receptive in fruitful virginity, obtain from your divine Son that all who receive the gift of following him in the consecrated life may be enabled to bear witness to that gift by their transfigured lives, as they joyfully make their way together towards our heavenly homeland and the light which will never grow dim. We ask you this, that in everyone and in everything glory, adoration and love be given to the Most High Lord of all things, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Rejoicing in five years of faith, fidelity and fortitude, I gladly reaffirm my initial welcome: “With spiritual joy and optimism, I warmly welcome the religious of The Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist into the family of the Diocese of Lansing. What a blessing for so many, that these religious are committed to the teaching mission of the Church. I thank Our Lord for these Sisters and pray that their presence, witness and service bring holiness and happiness to them and all they serve for many years to come!”

+ Carl F. Mengeling, Bishop of Lansing

(This appeared in “Mater Eucharistiae” Vol. 5, No. 1)

A THANK YOU to an ANONYMOUS DONOR

The following note was left in our door with a donation. We want to thank whomever sent this to us as it was truly needed since donations are always down in the summer time. We are very very grateful, and thank you.

“Dear Kathleen, I wanted to thank you for all you did to help me. I am so grateful for your healing ministry. I am so free now, and pray to God that I never go into that darkness again. Never stop helping people please. I know you now go to NY to pray. May God Bless your work. May the Holy Spirit keep working in you – I see God in your face and heart Kathleen – please keep praying with others. I pray for you. I have thought of doing this all week, so please now that I feel Our Lady wants this please use this for your ministry. I will give more soon.”

(Anonymous)

MESSAGE of 9/25/2004 via Maria Pavlovic Lunetti

Dear Children! Also today, I call you to be love where there is hatred and food where there is hunger. Open your hearts, little children, and let your hands be extended and generous so that, through you, every creature may thank God the Creator. Pray, little children, and open your heart to God's love, but you cannot if you do not pray. Therefore, pray, pray, pray. Thank you for having responded to my call.

(The **PFMC** upholds the final decision of the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church led by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, as to the authenticity of messages to alleged visionaries from Medjugorje.)

REFLECTION on the MESSAGE of 9/25/2004

It is late on *10/1/04* in **America** and way past midnight in **Medjugorje**. The reflection has not yet been posted and is usually not posted on the weekend.

You will find below a very excellent reflection on this month's message from **Father Ed Chalmers**. His reflections have been so good that we have used them in addition to those from **Medjugorje** in past issues.

A REFLECTION on OUR LADY'S MESSAGE of SEPTEMBER 25, 2004

"Dear children! Also today, I call you to be love where there is hatred and food where there is hunger." Our Lady begins this message of September 25, 2004 by speaking directly to our hearts. As one reads these words he or she should reflect upon the fact that there is a definite lack of love in our world. In our own personal environment: within our families, friends and workplaces, we are being called to create situations of love. Being Christian disciples we are called to bring the mercy and love of Jesus to others. This is our calling from God and Our Lady. At times it can be a "burden" but doing God's work can bring much satisfaction to us. Also, as we attempt to feed the hungry in a physical sense, let us be aware of those who are spiritually hungry.

As we attempt *"to be love where there is hatred and food where there is hunger"* we can determine quite quickly that this is a serious challenge to undertake living in our country, and a world so filled with hatred and hunger. However, as we continue to read Our Lady's message of September 25, 2004, as usual She shows us the way to accomplish Her request.

"Open your hearts, little children, and let your hands be extended and generous so that, through you, every creature may thank God the Creator."

These beautiful words of Our Lady speak to the essence of Christian discipleship. We must be prepared to bring the love and mercy of Jesus to all of those folks that we encounter each day. Again, we have to be loving, kind, gentle, merciful, compassionate, and filled with faith. This can only happen when we find the strength to reject sin, selfishness and that personal indifference that leads us away from God. Then we can become Christ-like, generous, and inspiring, *"so that, through you, every creature may thank God the Creator."*

"Pray, little children, and open your heart to God's love, but you cannot if you do not pray. Therefore, pray, pray, pray." Again, through these next two sentences of Her message of September 25, 2004, Our Lady speaks to the need that we have to pray and be people of prayer. For a person of Faith, prayer is always the key to developing a profound relationship with God. Thus, as we listen to Our dear Blessed Mother say, *"therefore, pray, pray, pray,"* we must understand the urgency of this request. The time is now, not next week, next month, or next year. As we come to the month of October, the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary by the Church, may we be filled with joy at the opportunity that we have to be a prayer warrior for Our Lady. We have been called to do God's work, and have been encouraged by the Mother of God that we are capable of accomplishing this task.

As we contemplate the reality of being a devoted person of faith, we must remember that for Our Triune God, the focus is always on the salvation of souls. We have to become more aware of purifying our own souls. Thus prayer, worship, sacrifice and the unconditional love of the Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Our Lady should mean everything to us. Will we pray on those occasions when we wish to do something else? Where does God fit in our lives? It seems that we are always asking ourselves this question, but are we doing anything to put God first in our lives while placing everything else second? For most, putting God first in one's life is a radical change in the fullest sense of that phrase. However, a radical change in one's life can lead to a

process of conversion that can bring one to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Prayer, fasting, the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Penance and the inspired Word of God are the means given to us by Our Lady to adopt a process of conversion. Are we ready? Talk is cheap. Action is needed.

Let us take a moment and remember the words of Jesus as His cross was up righted. *“Father forgive them; they do not know what they are doing.”* (Luke 23:34)

Be most encouraged by the love of the Eternal Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is the one thing that can keep us focused on being devoted people of prayer. In this way, nourish and strengthen your faith. Be grateful for your gift of faith and through that faith become one with God. Again through prayer, worship and sacrifice offer yourself to God for the salvation of souls while encouraging others to do likewise. In this way, we will be purifying our own souls while Jesus prepares us for the loving embrace of the Eternal Father.

I hope you are well. Give my best to all of your families. You are constantly in my thoughts and prayers. During these days may we offer many prayers in thanksgiving to Our Eternal Father; being forever grateful for His gift of Jesus Our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit as our Sanctifier, and Our Lady as Our dear Blessed Mother. May Almighty God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit bless you and remain with you forever and ever. Amen.

God’s love and prayers always,

Father Ed

HEdwardChalmers@aol.com September 30, 2004

PRESS BULLETIN 202, 9/26/2004

MY GOD AND MYSELF

When Jesus asked his disciples, “What do people say, who am I?”, they answered hastily: “John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets...” When He asked, “And you, what do you say, who am I?”, they hesitated. Peter dared to say: “You are the Messiah!” (Cf. Mc 8, 28-30)

It is very important for us to know who our God is. My God, your God, is not something. He is Someone. God is a concrete person and not something distant and imaginary. He is not in the clouds. He is in your heart. He completely revealed Himself in the God-Man, Jesus Christ. But which are our images and our ideas of God? It happens often that we want to reduce God to our measures, instead of allow Him to melt us and to mold us. Sometimes we reduce God to an

CHURCH and PPMC POSITION on PILGRIMAGES to MEDJUGORJE, BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

An anonymous PRAYER PETITION on a 7/04 form in a PPMC envelope postmarked 9/20/04 from **South Jersey, NJ** stated: *“That Kathleen and Keith will stop disobeying the Vatican’s wishes that Pilgrimages may not be organized to Medjugorje.”* Enclosed in the envelope were some undated photocopies of materials without clear sources distorting the position of various church officials on **Medjugorje**.

Anyone who reads the statement on the bottom of **page 2** or under the monthly message on **page 12** would know that we profess obedience to the **Magisterium** of the **Roman Catholic Church** headed by **Pope John Paul II** who lives in and operates from **Vatican City**. We take this obedience very seriously and confess it regularly to our **Confessors** and discuss it in our meetings with our **Spiritual Directors**.

Official pilgrimages organized by a priest, a parish, a diocese, etc. are not permitted since that would usurp the authority of the **Magisterium** to rule on the situation in **Medjugorje**. The PPMC was formed to meet the needs of priests, parishes, etc. who wish to have a pilgrimage to **Medjugorje** organized by lay people. At one time there were more than **300** centers like the PPMC operating throughout the world. They helped thousands of priests, bishops, cardinals, etc. get to **Medjugorje** on lay non-official organized pilgrimages. Few pilgrims have had negative experiences. The vocal minority has published much partial truth mixed with a lot of distorted negativity. **Please make sure you check out your sources and discern the truth of what they are saying.**

The **Commissions** called by **Bishop Zanic** to study the phenomenon reported from **Medjugorje** did **NOT** find **FOR** or **AGAINST** what was reported from **Medjugorje**. The written findings to date have used the terminology “non constat de supernaturalitate” which simply stated means “the supernaturality has not been proven.” **Bishop Zanic** voiced his wish that they had written a reverse of this so he had reason to condemn **Medjugorje**. **Bishop Peric** has continued the same line of reasoning his predecessor used but has not convened a new **Commission** to back up his wishes. In fact, in his press releases, there are distortions of the findings of the early **Commissions**. **Bishop Peric** goes to **Medjugorje** and performs his duties as **Bishop of Mostar-Duvno**. Senior officials within the **Magisterium** of the **Roman Catholic Church**, reporting to **Pope John Paul II** in the **Vatican**, have directed **Bishops Zanic** and **Peric** to support pilgrims in and going to **Medjugorje**.

instrument of satisfying our needs, our projects and our desires. Then, disappointed, we raise our eyes towards heaven, believing that God has forgotten us, simply because He has not done what we wanted Him to do for us.

The first degree of life with God and in God, is to put one's own will at the disposal of God. For that, Mary is our model and our fellow traveler. She is doing what God wants, and not what she wishes, and this is why she could say her "FIAT". In his last writings, the spiritual author Dietrich Bonhoeffer speaks about two basic Christian attitudes: the resistance and the abandonment. We want God to intervene in our lives, but at the same time, we resist: we put limits to Him, we reduce space for his action, and thus, we make out of our God an idol, a pagan deity.

Through the messages that Our Lady is giving in Medjugorje, she wants us to follow Jesus, to follow Him in all, without picking and choosing! The choice to follow Jesus is not just a declaration; it must be a vital act and a decision. To walk on the ways of God means to accept God's plans, and not to maintain one's own projects. This is why it is very important to know who is God in whom I believe, and what I expect from Him. And finally: is my God really the "God of Jesus Christ"?

Father Mario Knezovic

COMMUNIONS and CONCELEBRANTS

During the month of August, 221,000 received Holy Communion and 4763 priests from this country and abroad signed the register for celebrating Holy Mass in Medjugorje.

MONSIGNOR MAURO PARMEGGIANI and the "FIRST EUROPEAN MEETING of EUCHARISTIC ADORATION YOUTH GROUPS" in ROME



Monsignor Mauro Parmeggiani from Rome came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje during the Youth Festival 2004. Monsignor Parmeggiani is recommending us to do all that we can, so that "*Medjugorje may preserve the*

simplicity, the austerity and the intensity of prayer, so that all may encounter Mary, and through her, her Son Jesus, who are inviting us to conversion and the essential Christian experience today".

In the diocese of Rome, Monsignor Parmeggiani is especially charged with the pastoral work with youth, and he is preparing the "First European Meeting of Eucharistic Adoration Youth Groups", which will take place in Rome from October 6th to 10th, 2004.

The theme of this encounter is, "The Eucharist: Source and Fulfillment of Mission". More about it: <http://www.adoremus2004.org>, info@adoremus2004.org.

SOLEMNITY of the EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS



For the solemnity of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated in Medjugorje on the first Sunday after the feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, about 50,000 local and foreign pilgrims gathered at the Shrine of the Queen of Peace. As every year, pilgrims were streaming to Medjugorje even during the night. Many of them traveled hundreds of kilometers, some of them barefoot. The solemn Holy Mass on Cross Mountain was concelebrated by 57 priests and presided by Father Ivan Sevo.

For local and foreign pilgrims who could not climb Cross Mountain, there was a Holy Mass in the parish church at noon, presided by Father Tomislav Pervan.

The Evening Mass concelebrated by 68 priests was presided by Father Ljubo Kurtovic.

As a visible sign of the eternal light shining from the Cross, one week before the feast, the cross on Cross Mountain was illuminated, reminding us of its significance, and preparing parishioners and pilgrims for this feast.

MONSIGNOR FRANCISCO VITI, RETIRED ARCHBISHOP of HUAMBO (ANGOLA) VISITS MEDJUGORJE



Monsignor Francisco Viti, retired archbishop of Huambo (Angola) spent several days in Medjugorje in September 2004. He told us: "As a Christian and as a believer,

I came to pray and to adore the Lord. I thank the Lord for the experience of faith that I made here, especially concerning the sacrament of reconciliation and the Eucharist. I had a special joy in experiencing the spirit of prayer here. The ecclesial communion that reigns here between the pilgrims is a special grace of the Lord."

WINTER SCHEDULE of the PRAYER PROGRAM at the SHRINE

On Monday, September 13th, began the winter schedule of the prayer program at the Shrine. The prayer of the Rosary in the Parish church begins at 5pm, Holy Mass is at 6pm, followed by the blessings and the third part of the rosary. Eucharistic adoration

is every Thursday after the evening Mass and on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9pm. The Veneration of the Cross is every Friday after the Evening Mass.

He Rosary on the Apparition Hill and the Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain begin at 2pm. The occasion for confessions is every evening during the evening prayer program.

THE FIFTH INTERNATIONAL MEETING for MARRIED COUPLES

The 5th International Meeting for Married Couples will take place in Medjugorje from November 3 to 6, 2004. The theme of the seminar is "[How to heal the marriage and the family?](#)" It is recommended to bring with you: a small FM radio with headphones (for simultaneous translation) and a Bible. The seminar will take place in the Hall behind the church. Participation per couple: 30 Euro. You may make reservations by e-mail: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr or by fax +387-36-651-999. The number of participants is limited because of the available space in the Hall, so we ask you to send your registration as soon as possible, latest by the end of September. All the participants are invited to individually provide their accommodation in Medjugorje.

NOTE: The PFMC can make air and land arrangements for attendance at Medjugorje events. It is best to travel in groups of at least 3 or 4 due to cost of transport from either Split or Dubrovnik, Croatia. Call (856) 768-9228.

<http://www.medjugorje.hr/ulazakenstipe.htm>

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION – MARY, MOTHER of the EUCHARIST



The novena of our community in preparation of the feast of the Immaculate Conception had a character of study, reflection and prayer. The bishop made us know one of the principal documents of the Church, "De Ecclesia", decree of the Second Vatican Council and he pointed up the importance not only of knowing the Bible and the letters of God, but also of learning the teachings of the Church which are contained in its official documents.

Our study was concentrated upon the eighth chapter of the document cited above, where are contemplated Our Lady's figure and mission in the divine plan of

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salvation. The comprehension of the text has been facilitated by all that we have learnt in our spiritual walk through the catechesis, the biblical catechesis and the private revelation.

The document begins so: "Since God most merciful and sapient wanted to redeem the world, "when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman... so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal 4: 4-5). For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven and made flesh through the action of the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary's womb. This divine mystery of salvation is revealed to us and it is continued in the Church, that the Lord made as his body and in which the faithful, who accept Christ the Head and are in communion with all its saints, also have to venerate the memory first of all of the glorious ever virgin Mary, Mother of God and Our Lord Jesus Christ.

In fact the Virgin Mary, who at the announcement of the angel welcome in her heart and body the Verb of God and brought the life to the world, is recognized and honored as true Mother of God, the Redeemer. Redeemed in a sublime way, in sight of the merits of her Son...".

So it is affirmed that Christ is the supreme Head of the Church and is laid emphasis on Our Lady's figure who was the first redeemed creature: to her have been applied in anticipation the merits of the passion, death and resurrection of the Son. In this is refulgent the full, total, complete freedom of God who, since He has no space-time limits, applied in anticipation to the Mother the merits of the Son. So Mary was conceived without the original sin and full of grace. This is the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, proclaimed by Pius IX in 1854 and confirmed by Our Lady herself in Lourdes when, appearing in 1858 to Bernadette, she said: "I am the Immaculate Conception".

The conciliar document continues pointing out the immense grace which is characteristic of Mary: "...for this gift of eminent grace she precedes by far all the other creatures of Heaven and Earth". Our Lady, even having human nature, is superior in grace to all the human and angelic creatures. The overall grace of all creatures is inferior to Mary's grace. All her qualities are immensely developed: intelligence, comprehension, will, sensitivity, introspection, mystic union and dialogue with God. Humanly we can't describe exactly Our Lady's figure, because the great deal of grace, gifts and charisms she had from God exceeds our capacity of understanding and expression. In the document is written about the role of the Blessed Virgin in the plan of salvation: "The books of the New and Old Testament and the venerable Tradition show more and more clearly the

role of the Mother of the Saviour in the economy of salvation and they put it nearly in front of our eyes. The books of the Old Testament describe the history of salvation, where slowly is prepared the coming of Christ into the world. And these first documents, as they are read in the Church and understood in the light of a further and full revelation, step by step more and more clearly put in light the figure of a woman: the Mother of the Redeemer.

In this passage of the decree Mary is defined “woman”: Jesus called his mother this way in two extremely significant moments of his life: at the beginning of the performance of miracles, signs of his divinity, on the occasion of the wedding of Cana (John 2: 4) and in the crucial and dramatic moment of his death on the cross (John 19: 26). He used a word of extreme respect, Mary is pre-eminently woman, she developed at the maximum all that is part of the female reality: emotions, feelings, affections, virtues, grace, sacrifice, immolation.

Mary consecrated all herself to God: “So Mary, Adam’s daughter, agreeing to the divine word, became Mother of Jesus and embracing with all her soul and without the weight of any sin, the salvific will of God, She consecrated all herself as maid of the Lord to the person and the work of her Son, serving the mystery of redemption under Him and with Him, with the grace of the almighty God”. Mary has consecrated herself totally, completely and with intelligence since the moment she had the use of reason, that is since the first instant of her conception and she renewed this consecration in the day of her presentation at the temple. The consecration to God was the first act that Our Lady did as human being, because she knew she would have cooperated with the Son of God for the Redemption.

During her life on the Earth Our Lady suffered Jesus’ passion and stigmata. She accepted not only this suffering, but she also asked for it explicitly.

In the book of Our Lady’s life written by Marisa and Monsignor Claudio, we read: “Mary is the Mother united with the Divine Son in love and suffering; so we shouldn’t be astonished that she asked and obtained to take part in the suffering of her Son Jesus. During the passion, she suffered not only morally due to the cruel sufferings of her Son (sufferings that she could see, because she was next to Jesus invisibly in bi-location), but she also lived physically on her virginal body the same sufferings of the Redeemer; so she herself is co-redemptrix”.

Moreover, still through the private revelation, we know this suffering continues even today, because each time Our Lady comes to the Earth she enters to be part of the mystic body, whose Head is Christ and

whose heart is Mary. The mystic body is an earthly reality, but it has a marvelous projection in heaven; all those united with Christ through the grace belong to it. When Our Lady appears she comes from the happiness of Paradise and enters the unhappiness of the Earth. In God’s letter of 31st December 2000 she said: “Sometimes, from the human point of view, I have not the courage of coming to the Earth, because I come as a creature of the Earth and I suffer when I see many injustices, many wickednesses, when I see how many beloved children of mine don’t love Jesus. I think about this in the Paradise, next to God, but then I say: I must go to my children, I must go to encourage them and also to suffer with them”. The bishop made us notice that is sublime this acceptance of the suffering on behalf of the Mother of the Eucharist who could stay in the joy of Paradise and instead she withdraws from it, pushed by her immense love towards her children and she comes to the Earth.

In the conciliar decree it is affirmed that Mary has always been united with the Son in the realization of the plan of salvation: “This union of the Mother with the Son in the redemption shows itself from the moment of the virginal conception of Christ until his death; and first of all when Mary hurriedly went to visit Elizabeth who proclaimed her blessed due to her faith in the realization of the words of the Lord” (Luke 1: 45). Our Lady made an action dictated by complete love: she ran to help her cousin Elizabeth. The presence of Jesus in her virginal womb sanctified John the forerunner. The bishop explained to us that in this event the Lord wanted to reveal to us a truth that unfortunately today is disregarded: man is sanctified by God only if he is united with Mary and accepts her presence in his life. In fact she makes the Lord present, who is immensely and infinitely more important. Mary is the path that leads to Christ, to live a strong and full of love relationship with Him.

When Jesus was born, He passed through Mary’s womb, like a sun ray that passes through a very pure crystal without breaking it; we read in the decree: “... then in the nativity when the Mother of God showed with happiness to the shepherds and the Magi her first-born Son, who didn’t diminish her virginal integrity, but consecrated it”. Christ didn’t injure Our Lady’s virginity at all, but passing through her womb, He lay down on her arms.

The bishop made us notice that this image reminds the one of the Eucharist that lay down many times on Marisa’s hands; when we receive Jesus the Eucharist in communion He entrusts himself to us. Thinking about this image our hands should form a little throne of love in which Jesus can lie down and we should

receive the Eucharist trying to have in our heart a part of the love that Mary had towards her Son when she clasped Him. In the Eucharist show themselves the apparent weakness and the omnipotence of God: the apparent weakness because He entrusts himself voluntarily to us and the divine omnipotence because when He enters inside us He makes us fervent, strong and generous. Christ, who is in our hands, first put himself in his mother's hands.

Christ chose Mary to make himself flesh, He wanted a woman as mother, so wherever is Jesus, Mary is there; wherever is the Eucharist, the Mother of the Eucharist is there. In the document is written: "Only one is our Mediator, according to the apostle's words: "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all" (1 Tim 2: 5-6). The motherly function of Mary towards men doesn't obscure or diminish in any way this unique mediation of Christ, but shows its efficacy. Since each wholesome influence of the Blessed Virgin towards men doesn't originate from a necessity, but from God's consent and issue from the superabundance of Christ's merits, it is funded upon his mediation, on this absolutely depends and gets all its efficacy". Here it is affirmed that it is clear and expressed Lord's will that Our Lady is welcome by everybody as Mother of the Church. Mary's motherhood which is extended to all men, is officially decreed and recognized by God at the foot of the cross, when Christ is going to die and calling "woman" his mother, He gives her to all mankind.

Christ is mediator because He is God and man and Mary is mediatrix because she is Mother of God and our mother. The bishop explained to us that Mary is our mediatrix at God and we can address her with trust and familiarity. We need to feel her motherly warmth due to our weakness and human imperfections; Christ is next to us and loves us immensely, but when we are in front of Him we must adore Him. Mary lives next to us, so we must try to develop our relationship with her in order to live it every day more and more strongly and deeply. In fact, in the conciliar document we find: "And this Mary's motherhood in the economy of grace, has lasted without pauses since the moment of the consent given faithfully at the annunciation and kept without hesitations under the cross until the perpetual completion of all the elect. In fact when she was assumed into heaven, she didn't give up this function of salvation, but through her manifold intercession she keeps on granting to us the graces of the eternal health". The bishop pointed up that Mary's intercession is so powerful at God that sometimes she was able to modify the divine plans. Our Lady

obtained to anticipate the beginning of Christ's miracles on the occasion of the wedding of Cana and, as Pius XII affirmed, she accelerated the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles gathered in the cenacle. Her intercession that manifested itself in a so strong and powerful way, never ceased, but continues. Mary was crowned by the Lord Queen of Heaven and Earth and this means that God voluntarily put his own omnipotence in Our Lady's hands. So the bishop invited our community to pray the Mother of the Eucharist so that she intercedes at God in order to anticipate the realization of his plans and he affirmed that Mary's intercession is an everlasting reality that unfortunately has been forgotten; our community, as a member of the Church, must try to make this intercession strong, efficacious and working in the Church itself.

The bishop concluded the novena affirming: "Our Lady's Immaculate Conception in function of the divine motherhood is a dogma of faith and an other one will be added to this: Mary co-redemptrix and mediatrix.

In Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, are contained all the gifts and privileges that God gave to his Mother.

These are bright lights that enlighten the Church. When man causes difficulties and puts some obstacles preventing the light from reaching the Earth, then he falls in confusion and sin; but if the obstacles are removed, the light hits the Earth and reaches all corners. When man doubted about the eucharistic presence, the Church became poor; on the contrary when he went towards the Eucharist as finally is happening today, the Church has begun to be really strong and renewed. We must love the Mother of the Eucharist, who made possible this infinite gift of God which is perpetuated in the Church. In Christ's blood that came out of the Eucharist, brought by Our Lady, there is the scent and the taste of Mary's motherly blood. We must love the Mother of the Eucharist and all our brothers, the living ones and the dead ones, because the Eucharist is real presence of God and in God are present all creatures".



(MOVIMENTO IMPEGNO E TESTIMONIANZA MADRE DELL'EUCARISTIA" ia delle Benedettine, 91 - 00135 ROME – ITALY Tel. +39063380587; +39063387275 Fax +39063387254 Internet: <http://www.madredelleucaristia.it> E-mail: mov.imp.test@madredelleucaristia.it)

NAZARETH HOUSE

Aspiring to priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church, Nazareth House is located on the campus of Camden Catholic High School in Cherry Hill. It houses the Diocese of Camden formation program to help young men investigate whether God is calling them to a priestly vocation.

The mission of Nazareth House is to assist young men between the ages of 18-35 in the discernment and development of the seeds of a priestly vocation. The staff provides them with the foundation for seminary theologate formation, through a shared community life of prayer and worship; human, spiritual and intellectual development; and pastoral service.

It now houses the Camden Diocese Office of Vocations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or APPLICATION MATERIALS, CONTACT:

Director of Vocation Recruitment for Priestly and Religious Vocations, Father Chris Bakey, Director of Nazareth House, cbakey@camdendiocese.org

please visit: <http://www.beapriest.org>, or

Nazareth House, 300 Cuthbert Boulevard, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002 (856) 910-4930 or FAX: (856) 662-8917

WHO'S YOUR DADDY?

We must constantly remind ourselves that God is our Father. The devil, who is prowling around like a roaring lion (cr. 1 Pet. 5: 8), is desperately trying to mold us into his images.

Although we were intended to bear the image of God the Father, we can also bear the image of the father of lies. Ultimately there are only two models out there to follow. We need to choose to follow Christ. I would like to suggest three practical ways to orient ourselves toward the image of God. In each of these are suggestions for how parents and children can choose to mirror the image of God.

Spend time with your Father

For you: We need to spend time with God in prayer, opening ourselves to His grace and asking Him to reveal which images we hold that are not of Him. Sincerely ask Jesus to help you take on His image in a deeper way. "Prayer restores man to God's likeness (Catechism, no. 2572).

For Your children: There is a vital need for parents to spend time (both quality and quantity) with their children. One of the key identity-forming factors is a relationship with older people, especially fathers and

mothers. We live in an age when school age children spend more waking hours with non-familial relations than they do with their family. Those relationships will impress upon them images, many of which are non-Christian. Three hundred years ago sons worked with their fathers in the field, and daughters were in the home with their mothers. While we can't go back to that time, we can make every effort to spend time with our children, helping them to be formed by our relationships with them.

Fill the Mind with Christ-Like Images (Phil.4: 7-8)

For You: Meditate upon the Scriptures. Read the lives of the saints. Fill your mind with noble images of people with a Christ-like character. The more you fill your mind with godly images, the easier it will be to follow those same images.

For your children: In addition to reading the lives of the saints, which is particularly helpful for children, be aware of what images fill children's minds. Our society is constantly throwing images at our children from movies and music to athletics and advertisements. Choose wisely what images your children are exposed to throughout the day.

Grow in virtue (2 Pet.1: 5-8)

For you: Reflect on your vices and where you need to grow in virtue. Pick a single virtue (don't try to fix everything at once) and actively try to grow. Ask someone to hold you accountable to this. Be very practical.

For your children: A great way to help young children grow in virtue is through the practice of etiquette. Practicing kindness by saying please and thank you will help the same child to practice kindness in other ways. Manners are the guardians of virtue, and as a side benefit, well mannered children create a more hospitable home! As children grow older and enter into adolescence, you can help them

HOLY MASS TIMES

If you ever think you will miss Holy Mass because you don't know the times of Holy Mass or the locations of churches in the area that you are currently located, please call **1-410-676-6000**.

If you have access to the Internet and don't already have it book marked, type in the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) www.masstimes.org in the white box near the top of your browser.

You can find maps to the churches in addition to the times of Holy Mass celebrations.

develop more “significant” virtues.

The Catechism reaffirms the constant teaching that parents are the first and primary educators of their children. Perhaps this teaching points at an underlying truth, that parents are the primary educators of their children whether they actively choose that role or not. Hebrews 6: 12 encourages us to be “imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.” May we imitate Christ and those who follow Him, so that our children may do the same.

(Edited from “Teaching By Example-The Role of Christian Parents” by John Zimmer- Lay Witness May-June 2004)

POPE JOHN PAUL II BEATIFIES PERE TARRES I CLARET

Ecclesiastical Adviser to Catholic Action in Spain

Pere Tarres i Claret was a doctor, a priest, an apostle, a formator of youth and he will be beatified this Sunday by John Paul II in Loreto. As a young student and doctor, the future blessed already walked “on the paths of holiness.” As a priest, “he dedicated himself to intense pastoral activity” and, in particular, to the “formation of the youth of Catholic Action,” highlighted Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Sainthood Causes, in his decree last June that opened the doors to the imminent beatification.

An ecclesiastical adviser of Catholic Action, Pere Tarres i Claret was “a great educator, say those who knew him: he knew how to teach to love,” acknowledged Italian Catholic Action.

A native of the city of Manresa, near Barcelona, Spain, Father Claret was born on May 30, 1905. He studied at the faculty of medicine of the University of Barcelona. While living in this city, he frequented Saint Philip Neri’s Oratory.

He was a member, with great apostolic zeal, of the Catalan Federation of Christian Youth. Both in the federation as well as in Catholic Action he worked in several posts simultaneously. He made a vow of chastity at 22 with the approval of his spiritual director.

In 1928, after completing medical school, he established himself definitively in Barcelona. Together with his friend, Doctor Gerardo Manresa, he founded the sanatorium-clinic of Our Lady of Mercy in that city.

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During the disturbing period of the Spanish Civil War, as a refugee in Barcelona, he secretly took communion to the persecuted. He also acted as a field doctor, heroically looking after numerous wounded, and did not miss an occasion to manifest his faith.

He returned home from the front in 1939, and entered the Seminary of Barcelona that same year. He was ordained a priest on May 30, 1942.

The future blessed was entrusted with many pastoral activities in his short eight years as a priest. Among the offices he held were that of diocesan vice-assistant of Catholic Action youth in Barcelona and assistant of the association’s center for women and youth in the parish of Saint Vincent of Sarria.

In 1945 he wrote in his diary that he felt “submerged in the ocean of the apostolate, as he had dreamed about for so long, with the same fire and enthusiasm that he felt as a lay person for the federation” of Christian Youth.

After three months of a painful illness, Pere Tarres i Claret died at 45 in the clinic he had founded on Aug. 31, 1950.

In addition to Father Claret, John Paul II will beatify on Sunday two other outstanding figures of Catholic Action: young lay Italians Pina Suriano (1915-1950), and Alberto Marvelli (1918-1946).

(VATICAN CITY, SEPT. 3, 2004, ZE04090304, http://www.zenit.org/english/send_friend/index.phtml?sid=58339)

EUCCHARIST: WHO’S WORTHY? WHOSE CALL?

There are two things you should never bring up in conversation if you’re not prepared for a lengthy and sometimes contentious debate: politics and religion. So it really shouldn’t have been a surprise that sparks began to fly when people began to discuss the issue of whether or not politicians who publicly disagree with Church teaching should receive Communion. Caught in the middle of the firestorm, the bishops responded on June 18 by releasing a statement, Catholics in Pastoral Life,” at the end of their annual spring meeting in Englewood, Colorado. Earlier in the week, the bishops received a preliminary report from the Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Catholic Politicians. That report is available on the bishops’ Web site (www.usccb.org)

A Controversy Emerges

But in order to understand how we got to this point, we need to back up a little. This issue first began to

heat up a little. This issue first began to heat up last December when Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, then bishop of La Crosse, Wisconsin, issued a canonical notification to all Catholic politicians of his diocese that they could no longer present themselves for Communion if they supported abortion or euthanasia. Archbishop Burke also said that if Senator John Kerry, the likely Democratic candidate for president, presented himself for Communion in Burke's diocese, Kerry would receive only a blessing. Kerry has said that he personally does not believe in abortion, but politically supports abortion rights. Before long, bishops on both sides began to speak out. Some supported Archbishop Burke's stance, saying it was their duty to present and stand by Church teaching. Bishop Michael Sheridan of Colorado Springs went a step further, saying in a May 1 pastoral letter that Catholics who vote for politicians who support abortion, fetal stem-cell research or euthanasia may not receive Communion "until they have recanted their positions and been reconciled with God and the Church in the Sacrament of Penance." Other bishops, however, balked at the idea of refusing Communion.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick of Washington, D.C., who is heading the task force on this issue, said,

"As a priest and bishop, I do not favor a confrontation at the altar rail with the sacred body of the Lord Jesus in my hand."

His reasoning? "It implies that I know precisely what's in a man's heart or a woman's heart, and I am not always sure."

In June, Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk of Cincinnati told John Allen of the National Catholic Reporter that making a judgment on what someone believes can be tricky.

"We need to be very cautious about denying people the sacraments on the basis of what they say they believe, especially when those are political beliefs. So

Kerry believes abortion is a good thing for our society.

Do you refuse him Communion on the basis of his opinions? What about people who don't like *Humanae Vitae*? What about people who don't like the Church's teaching on the death penalty, or on homosexual marriages? Are we going to refuse them?" Archbishop Pilarczyk asked.

Also of note: In January 2001, Rome's outgoing mayor, Francesco Rutelli, who had said he was personally opposed to abortion but would not impose his belief through law, received Communion from Pope John Paul II

Whose Call?

In their June pastoral statement, the bishops said, "We have the duty to teach about human life and dignity, marriage and family, war and peace, the needs of the poor and the demands of justice."

But in the end they broke no new ground, reiterating that the decision concerning who is or is not worthy of receiving Communion in a given diocese is up to the local bishop. So we're back where we started.

The bishops are right on one thing: They do have a responsibility to speak out on the Church's teachings. That is their role as leaders in the Church.

It is up to us, however, as individual Catholics, to decide how to implement those teachings in our lives. That includes making sure that we are prepared to receive Holy Communion. And that means making choices about such things as for whom we should vote by using a yardstick.

There are those, fact, who question the bishops' right even to speak out on any issues of moral credibility in light of the clergy sex-abuse crisis.

In the recent document, the bishops used words such as "teach," "persuade" and "maintain communications." Those words speak of dialogue and cooperation, not of sanctions and ultimatums.

Let's hope that is their intention. The final report of the bishops' task force on this issue is to be released after the November elections. We'll have to wait and see, but the tone of the interim report seems to support that stance.

Everyone Has a Role

As that report pointed out, "It is not just politicians, but all of us who should ask are we worthy to receive the Eucharist. Are we free of serious sin? Do we live according to the Gospel? Do we choose life, serve the least of these, hunger and thirst for justice and peace? All of us are called to reflect on our worthiness, confess our sins and renew our lives."

For now, maybe the bishops—and all of us should be working harder at changing hearts and less at making judgments. Denying the Eucharist—the core unifying element of our faith hardly seems the way to go about it.

Perhaps Saint Francis de Sales, patron of the Catholic press, said it best: "A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrel of vinegar."

S.H.B.

(Susan Hines-Briggger, Assistant Editor, Saint Anthony Messenger, August 2004
www.americancatholic.org)

HISTORY of OUR LADY of CHARITY

A beautiful image of the Mother of Christ appeared floating on the waters of the Nipe Bay at the beginning of the XXVII century. The image was seen by three peasant boys at dawn, three days after a storm had passed by. The young men had gone out to collect salt and found the image floating on a small board with an inscription saying: "I am the Virgin of Charity". They picked up the image and carried her back to the village of Barajaguas where they lived. Some years later the image of Our Lady was moved to the Parish in el Cobre. From both places, the image used to disappear for a few days and then return again. A girl named Apolonia said that she could see her on the mountain of el Cobre. Everyone in the village was concerned with these events. One night after the people had finished praying, they saw a beautiful bright light shine on the mountain. It was then decided to build a small chapel and the image was transferred to that location. She has remained there ever since, known as the National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in el Cobre,,,, Cuba. On May 10, 1916, Pope Benedict XV proclaimed Our Lady of Charity "Patroness of Cuba". On January 24, 1998 during his pastoral visit to the island, Our Holy Father Pope John Paul II personally venerated and crowned the holy image. From the very beginning, Mary the Mother of the Lord was honored in Cuba with the beautiful title of: "Our Lady of Charity." The faithful have permanently sought her intercession and implored her protection in all their needs and in times of danger.

(National Shrine of Our Lady of Charity, 3609 S. Miami Ave., Miami Florida)

HAVE YOU LOST YOUR HEARING?

Don't you hear God talking to you?
Or is it that you're not really listening.
God wants you to know of his love for you,
To ignore him you don't know what you're missing.
God desires your full attention,
Even if it is not what you want you want to hear.
His Holy Word is nothing but the truth,
And the truth is nothing you need to fear.
What on earth is more important than God?
Why are you trying to tune him out?

God is the source of your salvation,
Eternal life with God is what it's all about.
Never turn your back on God's Holy Word,
Trust that his Word is always true
Believe that he will fulfill your every need,
And that God will always have a love for you.
Open your ears and hear God's Word,
And be willing to give him your full attention.
God just wants to show you his never ending love,
And that is the focus of his intention.

(Joe Floyd, September 11, 2004)

WHY HAVE A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR?

A spiritual advisor or director can be a companion on your spiritual journey. She or he can be a "sounding board," helping you to identify obstacles to God's grace that you may be setting up. A spiritual director can also assist you in naming how God may already be working in your life. If the Pharisee praying in the front of the Temple(Luke 18: 11-12), for example, had had a spiritual advisor, he or she might have asked, "Is this type of prayer really opening you up to God's grace? Isn't that what all prayer is supposed to do? Is this prayer possibly a way of congratulating God for having you on God's side?"

Spiritual direction is about grace, about honesty, about how we are cooperating with God's desire to share divine life with us or how we could be obstructing that life. A spiritual director might help a person make connections that the individual had missed.

When I asked a Franciscan who is a veteran spiritual director about this ministry, he emphasized that a spiritual can help a person deal with conscious images of God and identify other images of God perhaps accepted unconsciously but never probed. How we think about (and pray to) God influences how we see ourselves and other people. An imbalance in one area causes problems in the other two.

He continued: "For me the aim of spiritual direction is to help the directee become aware of the depth of God's love for that individual and to remove misconceptions, incorrect beliefs and misunderstandings obstructing awareness of God's love. Spiritual direction helps a person see the beauty and goodness of God and then give oneself to God in

love.” Where to find a spiritual advisor? I frequently encourage people to contact a nearby retreat house and see if the staff has any suggestions of good directors in that area. Some retreat houses have programs for training spiritual directors.

A spiritual director can be ordained, but that is not essential because such direction is not the same as the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

There are many helps to growing in the life of God’s grace. A spiritual director is one very valid way, but so too are studying the Scriptures, praying the Liturgy of the Hours or participating in reflection groups or small Christian communities. Some people very involved in these activities have a spiritual director and others do not.

(Father Pat McCloskey, O.F.M., Editor, Saint Anthony Messenger, August 2004 www.americancatholic.org)

PILGRIMS of FAITH MARIAN CENTER (PFMC)

The **PFMC** is not a church, store or travel agency but has aspects of all three. The **PFMC** operates as a non-profit, with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status, religious association and ministry whose volunteers are lay persons professing a belief in Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior, as the Only Begotten Son of God the Father, Creator of the Universe.

Most **PFMC** volunteers profess that faith through the apostolic and universal teachings of the Roman Catholic Church. Those volunteers who are practicing Roman Catholics profess allegiance to the Magisterium of the Church founded upon the Rock (Kephas / Cephas or Petros depending on original or translation) of Simon bar Jonah and led by his apostolic successor **Pope John Paul II**.

The **PFMC** was established in the home of **Keith and Kathleen Werner** based on pilgrimages to **Medjugorje, Bosnia-Hercegovina**, and other holy places or shrines worthy of pilgrimage.

Books, pamphlets, and religious articles brought back from pilgrimages were placed on display for others to view and acquire for themselves based on donations. Our inventory is quite extensive. The inventory management volunteers, currently **Vince and Livia Nocella**, are always happy to find something for you.

The **PFMC** is NOT a store and does not sell anything. We strongly support the use of Catholic stores wherever they are convenient to our readers.

For books, pamphlets, and religious articles, the **PFMC** operates like a church pamphlet or book rack where selections are made and donations offered

based on value posted or received. Most of the other outlets are operating on a for profit basis. Your gifts from the **PFMC** may be a tax break for you.

The **PFMC** has items from inventory on display at **Epiphany House**. Order forms have been produced in the past and enclosed in previous issues of “**The PILGRIM**” as well as loaded on the **Internet** as printable pages such as the one for **December 2003** <http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/12OF03.pdf>.

Copies are available if you did not get yours or if you need extras. We need volunteers to help us get the entire inventory available for production of order forms. We eventually want to take pictures and load up a shopping cart program. If you have inventory or computer skills we would love to have your help.

If you wish to order, please determine your order request, make out a check or complete the information for use of a credit card, i.e. card type, number, expiration date, and name on card, sign, and mail to **PFMC**. If you do not have an order form, call us at (856) 768-9228 with a FAX number or mailing address and we will send you an order form. If you know what you want and we carry it, you can order over the telephone using your credit card.

The **PFMC** is directed and operated by volunteers who monitor the donations made for all activities. These activities include coordination of pilgrimages to holy places and shrines, retreats in local retreat centers or hotels, and days of recollection at the **PFMC** as well as the display and inventory management mentioned above.

Operating for many years on a cash only basis, the **PFMC** now accepts **DISCOVER/PRIVATE ISSUE (NOVUS), MASTER CARD (CIRRUS) and VISA (PLUS)** for all transactions requiring donations to the **PFMC**. This includes for books and religious articles, pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, seminars, “**The PILGRIM**,” or any of the various funds. We ask that those who use credit cards assist us with the costs associated with their use, about 3%.

Please come and see the **PFMC**. We know you will enjoy what you see and find a way of helping out.

Thank you and God bless you,

(Kathleen, Keith, and the PFMC Volunteer Staff

BULLETIN NOTICES for PFMC AREA EVENTS

Would you be so kind as to copy or cut out the following BULLETIN NOTICE and take it to your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator? Ask your Pastor or Parish Bulletin Coordinator to publish any

portion of the notices in this article or in this issue of **"The PILGRIM"** to support **PFMC** events for which you have an interest.

We send **"The PILGRIM"** to many parishes and ask pastors to post our Bulletin Notices. We are told that they get so many requests from outside the parish that they simply cannot respond to them all. They respond better to requests from parishioners.

Please help get the word out on **PFMC** activities, events, and pilgrimages. Ask your pastor to allow information materials to be put out in church.

Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his representative. We are trying to network with other ministries in support of bringing people to Jesus either directly, through Mary, or through her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

Thanks for your assistance, we really need and appreciate it.

2005 RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC), 3-Day Extension (3DX), Youth Track (YT)

The Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC) will host its annual RETREAT CONFERENCE (RC) for 2005 at the Hilton Hotel in Cherry Hill, NJ. The RC and it Youth Track (YT) will run from Friday, 4 February 2005 through Sunday, 6 February 2005. The 3-Day Extension (3DX) will run from Monday, 7 February 2005 through Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005. This will be an excellent chance to prepare for Lent 2005.

The speakers include: Father Bill Halbing, Father John McFadden, Father Michael Semana, Father John Tino, Keith and Kathleen Werner, and Linda Schubert, author of "Miracle Hour." Information packets with reservation forms are available at: www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith/2005/05RET2.pdf.

For more information call (856) 768-9228.

Thanks for anything you can do to post these notices in parish bulletins or even with local prayer groups.

(Kathleen as well as all the PFMC Volunteer Staff)

CONFERENCE CORNER

22-24 October 2004: Ninth Annual Catholic Unity Conference, Hilton Hotel, King of Prussia, PA. Contact *In His Sign (IHS) Ministries*, (610) 527-2906 or visit www.inhissign.com.

6 November 2004 - Medjugorje Conference, Pheasant Run Resort, Saint Charles, IL. Dupage Marian Center, Westmont, IL (630) 968-5268.

We need conference or meeting notices no later than the **25th of the month** before the event. The earlier the better so we can make space for it.

Please FAX any printed notices to **(856) 768-9428** or mail them to the address on page 24.

PFMC DISPLAYS and / or PRESENTATIONS



Kathleen and Keith are available to participate in parish or prayer group meetings with witness, and/or videotape or slide presentations, followed by a question and answer session. The experiences and continuation of the **PFMC** ministries for Our Lady and her Son in this time of manifestation of Our Lord's mercy and graces are shared at no cost.

Free will offerings are accepted. This is especially true for books, tapes, and religious articles, when they are made available in displays at the presentation sites. Recipients are asked to donate at or above the suggested value posted on each article on display.

Displays may be set up without a presentation.

We are willing and have offered to set up displays in parishes for all the weekend Holy Masses. We'll come on Saturday afternoon in time (about 2 hours) to set up before the first vigil Holy Mass and stay through Sunday afternoon or evening until after the last Sunday Holy Mass.

Displays in parishes are particularly beneficial when good Catholic religious goods or book stores are not convenient to the parishioners. With Christmas and other Holy Days coming up along with school events as well as First Communion, Confirmation, etc., consider religious gift shopping.

Ask your pastor if he would allow the **PFMC** to set up a display in the basement, school cafeteria or gymnasium, or wherever we could have about 20 large tables with display material on them.

(Keith and Kathleen Werner)

"THERESE" – THE MOVIE

Opened at theaters throughout the nation including **Philadelphia, PA** and **Burlington, NJ** on **9/30/04**.

Try to see it.

If you missed it in the theaters, plan to buy it on videotape or DVD.

CALENDARS:

In *October*, the Church celebrates the Feasts of *Saint Luke, Evangelist (18) and Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles (28)*, the Memorials of *Saints Teresa of Jesus (15), Isaac Jogues, John de Brébeuf and Companions (19)* and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Pope Callistus I (14), Hedwig (16), Margaret Mary Alacoque (16), Paul of the Cross (20), John of Capistrano (23)*, as well as *The Guardian Angels (2)*, and *Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher (6)*. Church calendars show **Columbus Day (11)**.

In *November*, the Church celebrates the Solemnities of **ALL SAINTS (1), ALL SOULS (2), CHRIST the KING (21)**, Feasts of the *Dedication of Saint John Lateran Basilica in Rome (9)* and *Saint Andrew the Apostle (30)*, Memorials of *Saints Charles Borromeo (4), Leo the Great (10), Martin of Tours (11), Josaphat (12), Frances Xavier Cabrini (13), Elizabeth of Hungary (17), Cecilia (22), Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions (24)* and the *Presentation of Mary (21)*, and the Optional Memorials of *Saints Martin de Porres (3), Albert the Great (15), Margaret of Scotland (16), Gertrude (16), Rose Philippine Duchesne (18), Pope Clement I (23), Columban (23)*, as well as *Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro (23)*, and the *Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul in Rome (18)* and *Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (27)*. Church calendars recognize **Election Day (2), Veterans Day (11), and Thanksgiving Day (25)**.

AROUND the *PFMC* AREA

Please review the announcements on page 2, the enclosed blue colored information sheet for the **Friday, 19 November Day of Recollection** with **Father Bill Halbing** and the orchid four page information sheet with reservation forms for the **2005 RC, 3DX, YT** from *Friday, 4 February 2005 through Ash Wednesday, 9 February 2005*.

Please help get the word out on *PFMC* activities, events, and pilgrimages. Ask your pastor to post bulletin notices and allow information sheets to be put out in church. Please do not put material in your church without obtaining permission from the pastor or his representative. We are trying to network with other ministries in support of bringing people to Jesus either directly, through Mary, or through her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

POPE JOHN PAUL II'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for OCTOBER

VATICAN CITY, OCT 1, 2004 (VIS) - The Holy Father's general prayer intention for the month of October is: **"That, firm in their faith, Christians may be eager to dialogue with those who belong to another religious tradition."**

His missionary intention is: **"That the due presence of Catholics in the national life and media of the Latin-American Continent may increase."**

(INTENTIONS/OCTOBER/VIS 041001 (70))

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Pilgrims of Faith Marian Center (PFMC), A Religious Association, Inc.

NON-PROFIT and IRS Code 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT

<http://www.geocities.com/pilgrimsfaith>

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The PILGRIM, Volume 15, Number 10 – October 2004

**PRIORITY DATED
RELIGIOUS MATERIAL**

**Mailed early AM,
Friday, 10/8/2004**

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ATCO, NJ
PERMIT NO. 74
NON PROFIT ORG.

PLEASE DON'T THROW THIS AWAY!!

If you do not desire to read "The PILGRIM," please give it to a Marian prayer group or return it to sender. If address has changed, please send a change of address.

If there is no time to read it all now, please put it with other reading material in a place where you can read at least an article per day until the next issue arrives. We operate on divine providence and the kind donations of those who can afford to support us. **PRIESTS!** Please note that **HOMILY** ideas have come from priests reading articles in "The PILGRIM!"

