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# OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSENGER

THE MIR CENTER OF WESTERN COLORADO

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*The love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. (2 Cor 5: 14-15)*

## Our Lady of Medjugorje's Monthly Message of May 25th, 2024:

*Dear children! In this time of grace, I am calling you to prayer with the heart. Little children, create prayer groups where you will encourage each other to the good and grow in joy. Little children, you are still far away. That is why continue to convert anew and choose the way of holiness and hope so that God may give you peace in abundance. Thank you for having responded to my call."*

On the 25th of each month, Our Lady gives a message through the visionary Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti for the villagers in the parish of Medjugorje and for all those who choose to follow her on the path to holiness.



Queen of Peace

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## A Look Back: A Village Sees the Light

by Gitta Sereny from *Reader's Digest* and from *medjugorje.com*

*Many are familiar with this article published in the Reader's Digest back in 1986 written by the famous author and journalist Gitta Sereny.*

On a hot afternoon in June 1981, two girls, Ivanka Ivankovic, 15 and Mirjana Dragicevic, 16, went for a walk outside the village of Medjugorje in southern Yugoslavia. As they passed a hill behind the village, Ivanka saw a bright figure of a smiling young woman ahead of them. "Look," she said, "the Gospa" - the Madonna. Mirjana didn't look up. "Come on," she said. "It's not very likely She would appear to us, is it?"

Later when they went to the hill with 13-year-old Milka Pavlovic to bring in the sheep, Ivanka pointed to the same place. Now Mirjana and Milka saw the figure too.

The next day Mirjana, Ivanka, Vicka Ivankovic, 16, and Ivan Dragicevic, 16, returned to the hill, along with Milka's sister Marija, 16, a calm, sensible girl. Ten-year-old Jakov Colo, Mirjana's cousin, a lively and curious boy, tagged along. Soon the children saw the apparition again, motioning them up the hill. They obeyed, astonished at how quickly they got to the top. "It was as if we were pulled through the air," Vicka said.

"It was impossible," said Mirjana's uncle who, with many other villagers, had followed them. "It takes at least twelve minutes to get up there, and they made it in about two."

By the time the villagers reached the top, the six children were kneeling on the rocks, praying. The Gospa told them, they said, that this day— June 25, 1981— was to be considered the true beginning of Her appearances, and that She would return the next day.

News of the visions spread like wildfire. By Sunday, thousands had congregated on the hill, over which shone a brilliant light, visible to all. The children described to the crowd what the Gospa looked like. Having identified Herself as the "Blessed Virgin Mary," the apparition added, "I come as the Queen of Peace." Soon there occurred the first of many strange phenomena described by eyewitnesses: the word mir, "peace" in Serbo-Croatian, appeared in huge flame-colored letters across the night sky, ending above the parish church in Medjugorje.

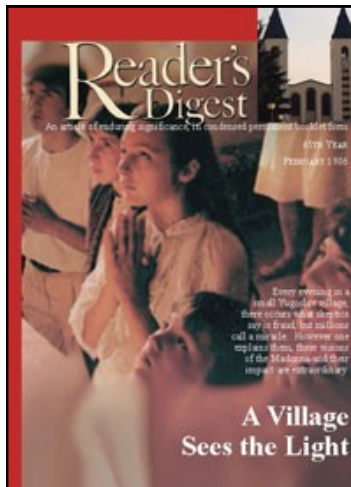
The parish priest was away on a retreat, but his elderly assistant pointedly ignored the event. It was only when the excitement threatened to turn into religious frenzy that parish officials and local authorities stepped in. The assistant priest and the police interrogated the children. Four doctors, two of them neurologists, examined the young people and stated unequivocally that they were "entirely healthy in mind and body."

During the first week, hundreds of people witnessed the "healing" of a three-year-old boy who had been mute, deaf, and virtually paralyzed since birth. (Since then, numerous other healings have been claimed.) Journalists and television crews began to arrive in droves from all over Yugoslavia. The parish

priest, Father Jozo Zovko, a Franciscan, returned. Like the police, he was convinced that the events were a case of mass hysteria. But on July 1st he was alone in the church, praying, when he suddenly heard a voice: "Go out and protect the children."

He jumped up, and "As I was leaving, the children ran toward me crying." They begged him to hide them from the police. He concealed them in the parish house where, over the next few days, they had several visions.

Over the past 4 1/2 years, there have been nearly 2,000 visions, occurring each evening at the same hour. The young "seers," relaxed, natural, arrive at the parish house in Medjugorje at about five, making their way through the crowds of pilgrims. Half an hour of quiet reading and prayer allows them to concentrate their minds.



Vicka, now 21, is suffering from headaches caused by an inoperable brain cyst and often sees the vision in her bedroom before a homemade altar. Marija and Ivan, both now 20, pray softly, their heads bowed, eyes closed. Jakov, 14, fidgets, looks around and is likely to smile at visitors. It is precisely because of this change—from childlike impatience to pure joy once the vision or "ecstasy" begins—is more apparent in him.

Just after 5:40 p.m., they stand side by side facing a wall on which hang a large crucifix and a rosary. Suddenly, as if with one movement, they cross themselves, fall to their knees and simultaneously gaze at the same point. They then listen, smile, or nod their heads. They speak—their lips and throat muscles move—but without making a sound. These movements occur individually, at different moments: they are apparently having different conversations at the same time. Sometimes they nod together—She seems to be saying the same thing to them all.

These days, the visions last about two minutes. But in the past they went on for as long as an hour. During this time the children seem totally unaware of anything around them. "They hear Her in Croatian," says Father Slavko Barbaric, a 40 year old psychotherapist with a PH.D in psychosociology from the University of Freiburg, who became spiritual adviser for the visionaries in August 1984. "It doesn't mean she actually speaks in Croatian, or for that matter speaks at all. They see and hear Her speaking about school and work, the nature of faith, moral questions, as well as the future of the world."

Then, simultaneously and unexpectedly, their eyes and heads shoot up; one or another might sigh Ode ("She's gone.") and the expression of enchantment leaves their faces. They make the sign of the cross, stand up, smile and talk, then separate to make notes describing what they saw. Their impressions of the Gospa's mood sometimes differ, but the details always tally.

The Gospa has told the story of her life to Vicka. "She talked a lot about Her childhood," says Vicka, "and a lot about Jesus." She has spoken about religion. To little Jakov She has spoken of children's things." The visions will continue, the young people have been told, until each has received ten special messages

*(Reader's Digest article continued on page 7)*

## From the Diary of Sister Emmanuel

www.childrenofmcdjugorje.com

On April 25th, 2024, the visionary, Marija, received the following monthly message:

***“Dear children! I am with you to tell you that I love you and to encourage you to prayer; because Satan is strong and every day his strength is stronger through those who have chosen death and hatred. You, little children, be prayer and my extended hands of love for all those who are in darkness and seek the light of our God. Thank you for having responded to my call.”***

### *An elderly woman lived alone*

Here is the story of an elderly woman, who lived alone in the mountains, in very precarious living conditions. She had never experienced the basic comforts we have today, and she had become used to not having them. She always used candles for lighting. Her son worked far away and rarely came to visit her. One day, however, seeing how destitute his mother was, he decided to give her a gift: he arranged for electricity to be installed in her humble home. He rejoiced at the thought that this would transform his mother's daily life.

He came back to see her a few weeks later, and asked, “So, Mom, I bet you're glad you have electricity, it's life-changing, isn't it?” “Oh yes, my son”, she replied happily. “Now, when the night falls, I can see better to light my candles!”

The son put his head in his hands, feeling discouraged... However, this simple story is not so far-fetched for us! What have we done with the Holy Spirit? Why do we live below our means, in the thick darkness of the mind that has gripped the world, when the Spirit of Light and Truth is given to us freely? Our Heavenly Father kept his promise, he sent the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost, and this same Spirit is offered to us all, in its fullness. Why, in so many baptized people, does the Holy Spirit lie dormant in them, unable to move forward and act?

We cannot imagine the good he dreams to do, if we just let him become active in our lives, and decide to live under his leadership! He is the Fire of Love! He is our Defender, our Comforter, our Sanctifier, our Liberator, our Strength, our Peace, our Illuminator... He is a communion of love - the source of the greatest happiness. We are all stamped with his



Sister Emmanuel

seal, we carry his imprint deep within us, indelible, because we are created in the image of God. But the Spirit's action does not stop there: with our help, he makes us like Christ, the source of our joy, because man aspires to happiness and happiness is to be entirely with Christ. Therefore, we can say that the Holy Spirit responds to everything that man aspires to in the depths of his heart. With him, spiritual limitation to small candles is over! “The aim of the Christian life,” said Saint Seraphim of Sarov, “consists in the acquisition of the Holy Spirit.” and also: “Acquire the Spirit of Peace, and thousands around you will find peace.”

How miserable is it then, when out of habit or ignorance, we focus our desires on what does not fulfill us. The disciples of Ephesus said to Saint Paul: “We have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit”! (Acts 19: 1-8). But as soon as they understood that He existed, they wanted to receive Him, and they were immediately filled with such fire that they began to bear powerful witness to Christ. Of course, not everyone can have a Saint Paul to lay hands on them, but in the tabernacle, isn't the living Jesus much more powerful than Saint Paul? He is waiting for us there with great gifts... Jesus himself made this moving confession to Venerable Marthe Robin: "If all Christians lived their faith well, the world would be converted in a single year!"

### *To draw the Holy Spirit into us*

A great way to draw the Holy Spirit into us, is to pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bride of the Holy Spirit, and to love her. To venerate her in this month of May, the month of Mary, let us unite our voices to that of Adam of Perseigne, who prayed to her as follows: “O Virgin, you are the basket of Moses, the receptacle of the Word, the cellar of new wine that intoxicates the sobriety of believers, you are the hand of God, the end of sin, thanks to which humanity emerges from the abyss of vices and reaches the delight of the Angels.”

The Blessed Virgin Mary obtains the Holy Spirit for us so that we can be purified and have within us the Heart of Christ. We thus gradually receive within us those same dispositions that Jesus described to us in the Beatitudes.

### *Work every day on a defect*

In her messages, the Blessed Mother recommended that we work every day on a specific defect. In this way, fighting against a given defect or sin day after day, we move forward with her towards the Kingdom with a purified heart. Keeping in mind an episode in the life of Little Thérèse of Lisieux, let us examine one of our bad tendencies today...

In her book, *The Story of a Soul*, St. Thérèse recounts that one day, in her Carmelite convent, the sisters were outdoors for recreation, when a delivery man rang the doorbell. It was therefore necessary to open the gate so that he could bring the Christmas trees into the courtyard. Thérèse eagerly began to untie her apron to go and open the gate, when she realized that

(Diary of Sr Emmanuel continued on page 6)



## Before going to Medjugorje, I was Doing Heroin

from medjugorje.altervista.org

*Testimony of Friar Michael of the Sons of Divine Love.*

I would argue with my mom and say, "No, I don't want to study anymore. I don't want to go to Mass. I don't want to work. I want to be free. Life is mine and I will do what I want." I began to be a slave. I was dominated, I was a slave to the syringe. It is evil that presents itself as good. Sin is always camouflaged. I never imagined that it would become the only interest of my life. Everything else counted for nothing. Not even soccer. I used to play soccer and do a lot of training, but slowly I couldn't handle it anymore. I was listless in everything. I just wanted to do drugs.

Our Lady said, **"Satan destroys you with what he offers you."** Not just drugs, but all sins destroys. I started doing drugs and soon I was addicted to heroin. I lacked nothing. I received money from my father. I manipulated him and my mom. When I saw drug addicts on the street, I despised them because I was well dressed and had money in my pocket.

My mother said, "Stop! I won't give you any more money. I'm going to tell everyone you're a junkie!" "That's not true!" It put me in front of a decision: either you get help or the door closes. The first time, the second... The third time it was closed. When I turned 19, I found it really closed. I made the wrong choices. In a short time, my home became the train station. I lived there. I began to be an instrument of evil.

Reading the messages, which are a unique grace, we see that Our Lady says to us: **"You are in darkness, My poor children. You are giving up My Son. You are building a world without God. Anyone who thinks that life ends here on earth is making a big mistake. I am here to take you all to Heaven. I am your Mother and I love you all. Don't forget: I intercede before My Son for each one of you every day."** It is a strong message that makes us understand why Our Lady is here. She told us, **"Satan is strong. He is freed from his chains. Never more than in these times. He wants to destroy not only human life, but also the planet on which you live."**

My mom prayed for 15 years to no avail. Every day she consecrated me to the Heart of Jesus and the Heart of Mary. She went to Holy Mass, she cried and prayed. She argued. She denounced me to the police. She went to the drug dealers. She told me: "I will have to give an account to God if I don't do this, because you are my son. I'm going to try in every way to get you out of this." She understood that I was an instrument of evil. She told everyone not to trust me. She was right. I am not telling you this to tell you personal things, but to testify how Medjugorje, through the encounter with Our Lady, has changed my life. I knew I wouldn't last much longer like this.

One day I was waiting for the drug dealer in a bar. He never came. He would bring me drugs to resell. I was using speed. In the morning, speed and beer. At noon, they were dispensing methadone. While I was waiting for this drug dealer, I found Our Lady's message on the bar counter among all the advertisements I read to pass the time. I saw a photo of Our Lady and I read the dates of a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. I had heard of Medjugorje. I read the message as if she were talking to me: **"Dear Son, I am your Mother. I'm here to help you, because I love you. If you knew how much I love you, you would cry with joy. Don't be afraid. Thank you for having**

**responded to My call."** In another message, Our Lady said: **"When you are sick, you have problems, you are in sin, you think that I and My Son are far from you. That's not true. We are always close to you."** It's us who don't feel His presence. We end up thinking that God doesn't want us, that He doesn't exist.

After reading that message, I called my mother that evening and said, "Mom, I want to go to Medjugorje." "Really?" "Yes, but send me the money." I asked her for a money order. I immediately manipulated her. I thought she was going to say no. She replied: "I'll send you the money, but promise Our Lady that we will go." "Yes, yes, I promise." Our Lady wasn't even in the antechamber of my brain. That promise was false. Our Lady is the first who wants to help us. We do not pray to her. She prays with us to her Son, because we are her children. She said, **"My Heart bleeds. I shed tears of Blood for you."** So, she is the first one who comes to our rescue.

Before we left for Medjugorje, I overdosed. They found me in a public restroom. When I woke up in the hospital - which is already a grace, because many people don't wake up anymore - I had IV drips attached. The first thing I saw was my mom's face. She said, "Are you alive? You will have to sign out so that I can take you home." The doctors didn't want to let me out. "Remember that you promised me to go to Medjugorje. There's a bus waiting for us." She knew she would have to take me home for a few days, to recover so that we could leave.

After a week we were able to leave. I didn't have the Rosary in my pocket. My pockets were full of heroin and methadone. That was my bread and butter. I didn't understand anything about the pilgrimage. The guide was full of good intentions: two Masses a day, Mount Krizevac, the hill of apparitions, Father Jozo. I didn't have ears to hear. But thanks be to God I did one thing: I climbed the hill of apparitions, where Our Lady first appeared and promised to leave an indestructible sign. Our Lady said: **"Don't wait. Many will kneel, but they will not believe. These are My last appearances."** Her presence here is very important. We need to figure out what is important. This is the time of grace. Now, today is the time of grace. I climbed the mountain. I was comfortable in that place. The first gift we receive here is peace. Our Lady is the Queen of Peace. The title with which Our Lady presents herself in the various places where she appears is important. Ten years after Our Lady presented herself with this title and said **"Peace among you, peace between you and God and in your hearts"** there were the first cannons in Sarajevo and the war broke out in Yugoslavia. Even now she asks us to pray for peace.

Some mornings, Ivan prays the Rosary on the mountain and stops where there is the statue of Our Lady to give his testimony, He said, "Humanity is at risk of self-destruction. Pray." It is not God who destroys us or punishes us. Evil makes use of men. When we are in sin, we become evil. During the pilgrimage, I heard Vicka testifying in front of our hotel. There must have been a thousand people. Vicka spoke about Our Lady's main messages. She spoke of fasting, of prayer. She said that Our Lady was alive and gave her a kiss on her birthday. She appears in clothes that recall penance: white and gray. She appears dressed in gold on holidays with a crown of stars. She said, **"My Heart will triumph."** But she needs our cooperation.

(Conversion in Medjugorje continued on page 6)

## Vayla: I Cannot Do It By Myself

by Gail Boos from spiritofmedjuigorje.org (edited for length)

As we gathered at the international airport in Atlanta and began to introduce ourselves for our pilgrimage in 1917, one young woman stood out among the rest. In my heart I just knew something was wrong with her. I did not know what, but felt that way and I would later find out.

Once in Medjugorje, as our group assembled for the evening meal, I noticed that the young woman, named Vayla, drank an awful lot of wine and became a happy drunk. I just prayed about what to do and decided to let it go to see how she would react the next night. Lo and behold, she did the same thing, so I had to take her aside and ask her to not drink so much. That went in one ear and out the other. Vayla enjoyed her wine and that was that.

Once back home from the pilgrimage, I made it a point to get to know Vayla and her husband Russell on a personal level. As our relationship grew, Vayla started sharing her history with me. What an incredible journey she has been on, and she is blessed to be alive. Her dark journey started when she was raped at the age of 13. By the age of 16, she was pregnant, and she gave the baby girl up for adoption. About three months after giving up her baby, she started on a deeper and very dangerous path of using IV drugs, and also selling drugs. She did this for the next 38 years of her life. During those years, she met a man in the army and had two children by him, a daughter and a son. When Vayla was seven months pregnant with her third child, she suffered a massive stroke which left her paralyzed on the left side, unable to walk, talk, or feed herself. She was hospitalized for 29 days. It is a miracle she recovered from the stroke, and her son was born healthy. Only through the grace of God did she pull through all this. Her marriage ended when her husband took his own life.

A mother never forgets the child she puts up for adoption, and at some point, either the mother or child will usually try and find one another. On December 23, 1993, a social worker decided to make one more phone call, before going on Christmas break, to see if a match could be found for Vayla. Vayla received a call asking if she had a child on April 8, 1969, in Seattle, Washington. The daughter was also searching for her mother. So, on December 24, 1993, they were reunited for the first time.

In August of 1995, Vayla met Russell by selling drugs to him. Russell had to return to Georgia as his father died. His mother was very ill and needed care, as she was suffering with Alzheimer's disease. Vayla ended up moving to Georgia to be with Russell and help care for his elderly mother. Russell and Vayla lived together for 11 years before receiving their annulments and then the Sacrament of Marriage.

When Fr. John met Russell and Vayla for the first time, he told me he thought he had "met a pair of pit bulls." As pastor of St. Anthony's, parish, Fr. John, with all his duties and parishioners to care for, saw two lost sheep. He personally made time to get to know them and guide them back to their Catholic roots. Along this new journey in their lives, the Holy Spirit was working within them, as they just stopped doing drugs. Fr. John instructed them to give up all their addictions and the evil sin of pornography. He told them to burn the DVDs. They did not want to, but Father insisted. They obeyed him and burnt all of them. Now they were free of the addiction to drugs and porn. They went to Confession and started attending Holy Mass.

In 2019, Fr. John, Vayla and Russell, and other parishioners from his parish, went on a pilgrimage again to Medjugorje with me. To be perfectly honest, I did not want Vayla to go because of her drinking. They had gone in 2018 and her behavior was the same. However, I did not want to offend them, nor Fr. John, so I let them return. Most of the pilgrims ignored her, but some came and complained that they could not take her anymore.

While in route to Tihaljina, she and Russell were really having differences of opinions and Russell broke down and started crying, saying he just could not take it anymore with Vayla. He simply did not know what to do. They were arguing even on pilgrimage. We sat down and prayed and asked Blessed Mother

to please help her. Returning to our hotel in time for our evening meal, my daughter told me that she and I were invited to Marija's apparition and I could bring one person with me. What a decision to make... All I could do was pray and ask God to put the name of the person I should take into my heart. I sat down beside Vayla at the dinner table and in my heart, I knew she was the one to go. I never mentioned to Vayla about asking her to go to the apparition, but as she started to pour herself a glass of wine, I put my hand over her glass and said, "Vayla, not tonight!" She said, "Well, okay," and gave me a not-so-nice look. We had to leave at 4:30 p.m. to get to Marija's, so I said, "Come on, Vayla, we have to go."

She thought she was going to be spoken to again about her drinking. The moment we started out the door of the hotel, the sky was picture perfect blue, and lo and behold, the word "HI" formed in the sky. When I told her where we were going, Vayla started to cry.

When we got to Marija's, we were three rows from the front, near the statue of our Blessed Mother. We told Vayla to write a prayer petition and put it in the basket. We also told Vayla to just surrender herself, her drinking, and all her bad habits to our Blessed Mother when She came down from Heaven. When our Blessed Mother came, we were on our knees, my daughter and I both praying for a miracle for Vayla. Vayla told us, as we walked out of Marija's, after the apparition, that she asked the Blessed Mother to help her, as she could not do it on her own.

Once outside, Vayla's face looked 20 years younger. Even Dragan, our guide, noticed it right away. Her behavior was totally different. Back at the hotel, she had no desire for wine. Blessed Mother had healed Vayla of her drinking, and to this day, she has not had a drink of anything! When Russell and I were stranded in Medjugorje, in March 2020, I feared she might take a drink, and we called her at home in Georgia to let her know we were OK, and I begged her not to drink. She said, "I would never do that. It would be like slapping God in the face."

*"Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged"* (Mt 7: 1-2). We can never look at anyone and judge them. Only God knows their heart and past, and He has a plan for every one of us, if we will just surrender to His will, like Vayla and Russell did. They were so blessed to have a priest that cared and loved them like Fr. John and Our Lady to help them...



(Sister Emmanuel continued from page 3)

another sister only too happy to seize this opportunity, was also preparing to run there. Therese then started to untie her apron very slowly, on purpose. Out of charity, she wanted to please her sister and allow her to be the first to open it. At that point, one of the sisters who was watching them, made this remark to Thérèse, laughing: "Ah! I just knew that you weren't the one to win a pearl for your crown, you were moving too slowly!" Therese remained silent, but she realized that one could never judge the intentions of the heart. Judging the intentions of the heart means to be mistaken! It means putting oneself in the place of God, who alone searches the mind and tries the heart. O Jesus, please, help us live Your Word in the Gospel, because we want to learn from You how to love as You love...



"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:37-38)

### ***Our criticism can harm others***

Before her conversion, Gloria Polo was a tough critic. She did not shy away from criticizing, judging, despising, and she did a great deal of harm to many people. After she had said some contemptuous and nasty words to a young girl, she committed suicide. But one day, Gloria was struck down by lightning and experienced the Personal Judgment that awaits us all after death... (One may find her testimony in the media at Gloria Polo).

After escaping hell by a whisker, she saw Jesus who entrusted her with a mission. This led to her changing her life completely. Having acted like a first-class menace for years, we can now see that the Holy Spirit is emanating from her in an impressive way. I have met her twice. She carries within her the heart of Jesus, to the point where she often feels what He Himself is feeling, both in pain and in joy. One fact must be emphasized: If, during a meal to which she is invited, someone starts criticizing and judging a neighbor, she feels such pain in her heart that she simply leaves the table!



She uttered a cry of horror! Venerable Marthe Robin was very sensitive to divisions, to criticism and to anything that could rupture communion between people. One day, a sister from my community went to see her, saddened by the fact that a friend of hers was treating her autistic child with contempt, both in word and in deed. This poor boy was suffering a lot. Hearing this, Marthe let out a cry

of horror! It was Jesus who was crying out within her. Marthe indeed said that these people who were plunged into lifelong suffering, are "co-redeemers". That is to say that their sufferings, united with those of Christ, bear abundant fruits for the salvation of many souls. Starting with their own families who despise them...

(Conversion in Medjugorje continued from page 4)

We have to make up our minds. "**Decide for God,**" Our Lady tells us.

I went to confession, because Vicka said a phrase that scared me: "He who goes to hell goes there of his own will." When she said that, I had a kind of flash and said, "I'm going to hell." I was scared. I went to confession. A lady who was on the pilgrimage with us said to me: "You are so conceited!" Maybe she saw that I wasn't doing anything that was asked or that I was acting badly to my mom. She said to me: "Go and kneel before the priest!" "I don't believe in priests!" "I thought so!" Eventually, I said to my mother, "Mom, let's go to confession."

The next day the priest refused to give me absolution. "Look, you're not seeing a psychologist!" I would talk about my problems and say it was the fault of others. He told me: "Leave your sins in the confessional or I won't absolve you. The Lord will heal you of drugs, but for other sins you must say 'I renounce this sin.'" I thought drugs were the problem. No! I had all the wrong ideas in my head. I could not do it right away. "Come back tomorrow if you want. If you leave your sins, if you are sincere, I will absolve you. Stand before God. Tell Him that you can't do it, but you must say that you are a sinner and that you commit these sins. Ask for God's help."

Thank God, I came back the next day. He absolved me. I had the act of contrition on a card. My mom wrote it. We slept in the same room. We had been talking all evening. I couldn't take it anymore. But I remember those moments as unique. They were truly moments of grace and life. The Lord had poured out so many graces upon me.

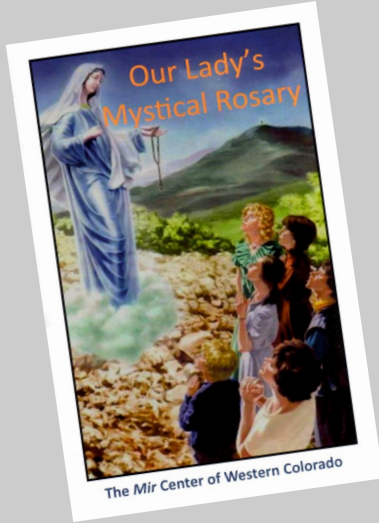
After that confession the priest said to me, "Go to the Doctor." I was thinking of a doctor here in Medjugorje. But the Doctor the priest meant was Jesus Christ. He is both Doctor and Medicine. On earth he healed the sick, fed the hungry. He said, "Do you want me to heal you?" We have much more than those who touched His mantle in their time. God's Word says, "They were amazed at the strength that proceeded from Him." We have more than they do, because we receive Him in Holy Communion: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. God comes alive in us. The evil we have decreases and the good increases. I had healing. This was the miracle I received in Medjugorje. There are also many physical healings. That is true. The parish office is full of these cases. But the interior grace that God gives us cannot be taken away from us. It is ours. The Lord does it for us. I have had the grace of conversion, the return to God little by little, to feel good about life, about oneself, to return to the family of God. This is Medjugorje for me. Change your life. Millions of people before us have made this change. Conversion means changing direction, questioning oneself, putting oneself before God, standing before Him.

Unfortunately, the Presence of God is no longer in our homes. We are afraid to even make the Sign of the Cross. One day I went to the bar downstairs from my house. I know the manager Gabriella, well. She knew that I was on this religious journey. She doesn't go to Mass. She said, "Hi Michi." "Praised be Jesus Christ," I answered. She looked at me like I was crazy. She didn't say, "Now and forever." Then, if you talk about Medjugorje, Our Lady, or God, they think you are crazy. They look at you and laugh. This is our reality. However, when we return home, we are a visible sign for others, to help them find their way, to help them return to God...

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*(Reader's Digest article continued from page 2)*

-all secrets about future events. Mirjana and Ivanka have already been told their ten secrets and have stopped having daily apparitions. Three have been told nine secrets, Vicka eight.

A number of investigations have tested the validity of the visions. In 1983, a Yugoslav psychiatrist and parapsychologist, Dr. Ludvik Stopar, hypnotized Marija shortly after a vision and found that her account under hypnosis was identical to that in full consciousness. After neuropsychiatric and physical examinations on all the youngsters, he concluded that they were "absolutely normal adolescents with no psychopathological symptoms." Twelve Italian physicians also found no evidence of hypnosis, manipulation or drugs.

In 1984 a team of French doctors under Prof. Henri Joyeux of the University of Montpellier conducted electrocardiograms, electroencephalograms, tests on ocular movements and reflexes, and tests on auditory nerves and larynx muscle movement. The doctors documented the simultaneous fixing of gaze on an identical point, with eye movement beginning and ending at the same moment and the cessation of the blinking reflex to sudden light. The team concluded that the phenomenon was scientifically inexplicable. They defined it as "a state of intense, active prayer, partially disconnected from the exterior world, a state of contemplation and of healthy communication with a definite person whom only they can see, hear, and touch." (Read the full article at: [medjugorje.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Readers-Digest-A-Village-Sees-the-Light.pdf](http://medjugorje.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Readers-Digest-A-Village-Sees-the-Light.pdf))

## Pilgrimage to Medjugorje



*Travel to Medjugorje*

**Medjugorje in the Fall**

September 3rd to 12th

[www.queenofpeacepilgrimages.co](http://www.queenofpeacepilgrimages.co)  
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Aren't the messages of Our Lady too good to keep to yourself? Isn't there a friend or relative that you'd like to add to our mailing list? There is no charge for "Our Lady's Monthly Messenger", but donations are accepted. Please Note: if you add more than 2 names, please consider a donation of 20 dollars per name per year. Make checks payable to: *The Mir Center*. And please, no overseas orders... Thanks and God Bless!

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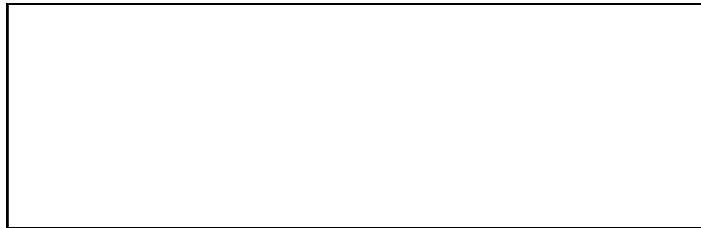
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June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis				1
2 <b>Corpus Christi</b>	3	4 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	5	6	7 <b>Sacred Heart of Jesus</b>	8 <b>Immaculate Heart of Mary</b>
9	10	11 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	19	20	21	22
23	24	<b>Queen of Peace Anniversary</b>	26	27	28	29

**Upcoming events:**

- + **Corpus Christi, June 2nd**
- + **Sacred Heart of Jesus, June 7th**
- + **Immaculate Heart of Mary, June 8th**
- + **Queen of Peace, 43rd anniversary June 25th**



Our Lady's Five-Point Program  
 \*Conversion  
 \*Prayer  
 \*Fasting  
 \*Peace  
 \*Reconciliation

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Our primary goal, our main focus, is to bring Jesus Christ to the world and to bring the world to Jesus Christ. To accomplish this task, the MIR Center of Western Colorado was established to provide accurate information about the messages and events originating from Marian apparitions occurring in Medjugorje and elsewhere. We are committed to living and sharing the messages of Medjugorje and helping others to live the messages as well. By living the messages of Medjugorje, which are in essence the message of the Gospel, we hope to spread peace into our families, into our communities, and into our world. As a nonprofit organization, we intend to use any and all funds raised or donations received to aid in spreading the messages of Our Lady to all who will listen. With regard to the apparitions occurring in the world today we humbly submit to the final authority of the Catholic Church.

MISSION STATEMENT