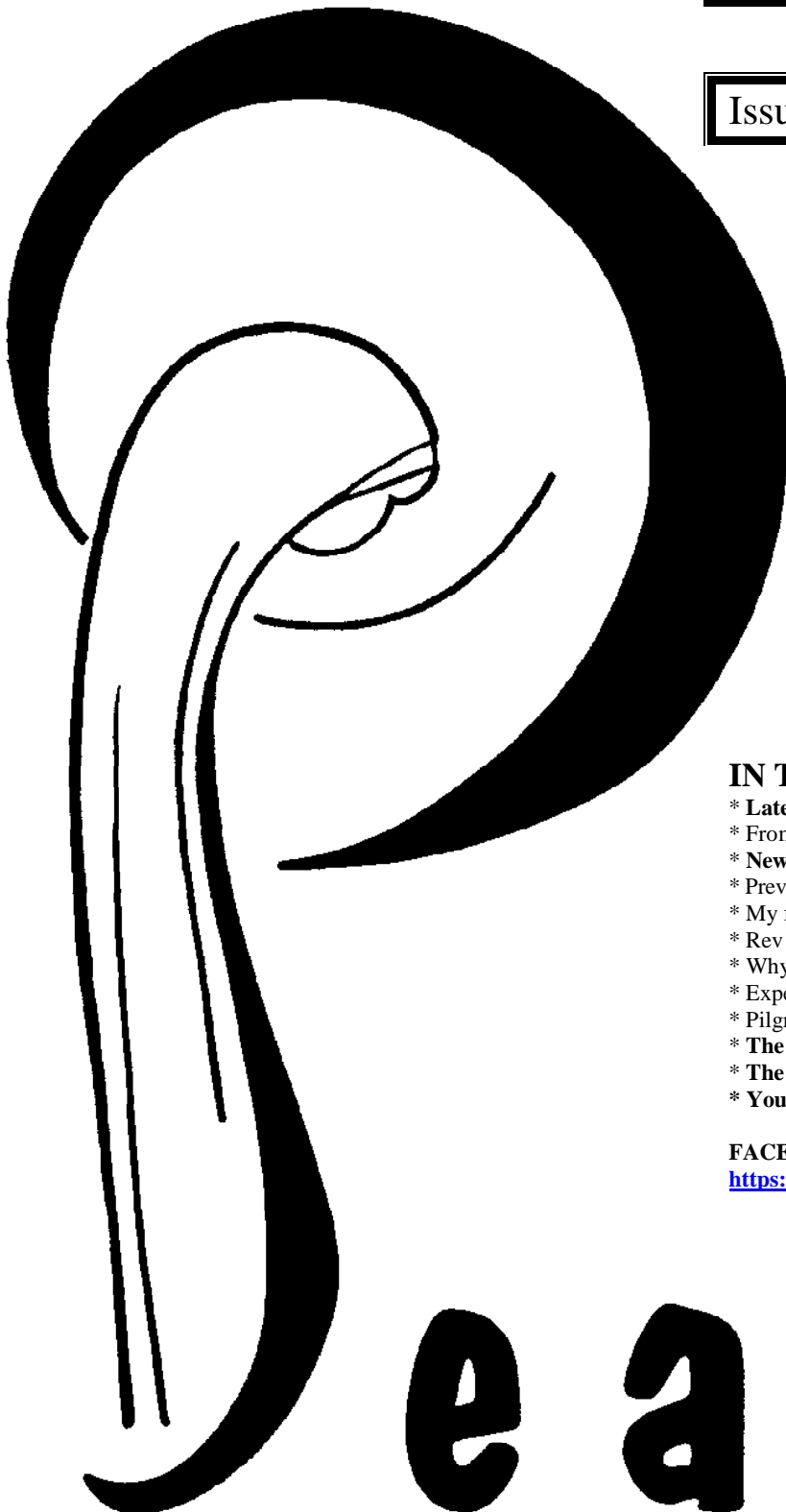


MEDJUGORJE NEWS

New Zealand

FREE

Issue no* - 83 March 2017



Preview of
the 2017
Auckland
Eucharistic
Convention

IN THIS ISSUE

- * Latest Messages from Our Lady (p.3)
- * From the Editor (p.4)
- * News from Medjugorje (Children of Medjugorje) (p.5 - 7)
- * Preview of Eucharistic Convention (p. 8 - 12)
- * My faith story: Sr Hyacinthe (p.13-14)
- * Rev Deacon Charlie Conner (p. 14)
- * Why I choose the Catholic Road to faith Pauline (pg 15-16)
- * Experience love & acceptance by coming home (p.17)
- * Pilgrimage (p18)
- * The gift of faith (pg 19 - 20)
- * The Blessed Virgin Mary Akita Japan (pg 21 - 22)
- * Your perseverance will secure your lives (pg 23)

FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/medjugorjenewsNZ>

e a c e

EDITOR: **Sarah Moran, Medjugorje News**
PO. Box 287
DARGAVILLE 0340 PHONE 09 439 6151
- Email: Sarah.medjugorjenews@gmail.com Web site: www.medjugorjenews-nz.org
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/medjugorjenews-nz>

This newsletter is FREE

It may be copied and distributed free of charge. Further copies may be obtained from the address above.

The Editor relies entirely on Divine Providence for the expense of producing it and any donation will be gratefully accepted. As we are registered as a "legal charity with a donee status" (under the name of *MEDJUGORJE NEWS TRUST*) any donation of over \$5.00 can be claimed for income tax deduction purposes. **If a receipt is required immediately, a stamped self-addressed envelope would be appreciated.** Otherwise it will be sent with the following issue of *MEDJUGORJE NEWS*.

(Please make all cheques payable to MEDJUGORJE NEWS.)

Donations can also be made by direct credit to our account with the ASB Bank Ltd,
Rathbone Street, Whangarei.
Account number:12-3099-0681435-00

If you wish to receive this newsletter directly, please send your name and full postal address, (PRINTED, please) and you will be included in our list of subscribers.

ANY ISSUE RETURNED BY NZ POST AS "UNKNOWN AT THIS ADDRESS" WILL AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN THE ADDRESSEE BEING DELETED FROM OUR MAILING LIST.
So, please advise us of any change of address.

As its name implies, the aim of this newsletter is essentially **the spreading of the messages received by the visionaries** in Medjugorje, according to the wishes of Our Lady

The Medjugorje Story

On the evening of 24 June 1981, in the parish of St James in Medjugorje, six young people claimed to have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary on Podbrdo Hill. The next day four of the six alleged another meeting with Our Lady, and said they spoke with her. On this occasion, the four teenagers (three girls and a boy) were joined by another young boy and a teenage girl. These six became the definitive visionaries in Medjugorje; they are Ivanka Ivankovic, Mirjana Dragicevic, Vicka Ivankovic, Ivan Dragicevic, Marija Pavlovic and Jakov Colo.

Since 1981, these six young people have been the centre of world attention, and medical and scientific studies. Their principal claim is that practically every day to the present time, our Blessed Lady has been appearing to one or more of them, and that from her they have received thousands of messages for the parish of Medjugorje and the world. All six still claim apparitions, though only three of them now on a daily basis, and each of the six says that he or she has received, or is in the process of receiving, ten secrets. The first of the secrets is to be revealed to the world through Mirjana Dragicevic, and the third is said to be concerned with a permanent sign that will authenticate the apparitions and be a help to conversion, and will be evident to all at Medjugorje. The visionaries say that Our Lady identifies herself to them as the Queen of Peace.

As a result of these claims, more than forty million people have visited Medjugorje from all over the world and there have been many assertions regarding remarkable signs and wonders, cures and spiritual healing. There is no doubt at all that those millions of people have found a pilgrimage to Medjugorje one of the most spiritually significant experiences of their lives.

News from Medjugorje can be found at the official website:

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

We acknowledge and accept that the authority regarding the authenticity of apparitions, locutions and related messages as well as all private revelations from **Our Lord, Our Lady or any Saint rests with the Holy See of Rome whose final judgement we will respect and obey.**

We also affirm our total allegiance to our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, our Priests and Bishops and our Holy Father, Pope Francis .

THE MEDJUGORJE MESSAGE

The Blessed Virgin Mary proposes a six-point programme:

1. **Faith** - Belief in God and in the supernatural. It is your true vision. Therefore live by it.
2. **Commitment to God** - Let Him direct your life. Begin by turning away from sin in true conversion and repentance.
3. **Prayer** - Regular Mass, monthly confession, daily rosary and dedication to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
4. **Fasting** - Bread and water on Fridays (and Wednesdays) if you can. If not, at least cut back or practise some other form of self denial.
5. **Peace** - In your own heart, in your family and neighbourhood and workplace, in all your human relations and reaching out to the war-stricken world.
6. **The Holy Bible** - We should read part of the Holy Scripture every day.

The Messages of Mary are addressed not only to Catholics but to the whole human race, regardless of beliefs or religion.

P
eace

Our Lady's Messages



25 October, 2016

"Dear Children!

Today I am calling you: pray for peace. Leave selfishness and live the messages which I am giving you. Without them, you cannot change your life. By living prayer, you will have peace. By living in peace, you will feel the need to witness because you will discover God whom you now feel to be far away. Therefore, little children, pray, pray, pray and permit God to enter into your hearts. Return to fasting and confession so as to overcome the evil in you and around you.

Thank you for having responded to my call.

25 November, 2016

"Dear children!

Also today, I am calling you to return to prayer. In this time of grace, God has permitted me to lead you towards holiness and a simple life - that in little things you discover God the Creator; that you fall in love with Him; and that your life be a thanksgiving to the Most High for everything He is giving you. Little children, in love, may your life be a gift for others and God will bless you; but you, witness without interest - out of love for God. I am with you and intercede before my Son for all of you.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

25 December, 2016

"Dear children!

With great joy, today I am carrying my Son Jesus to you, for Him to give you His peace. Open your hearts, little children, and be joyful that you can receive it. Heaven is with you and is fighting for peace in your hearts, in the families and in the world; and you, little children, help with your prayers for it to be so. I bless you with my Son Jesus and call you not to lose hope; and for your gaze and heart to always be directed towards Heaven and eternity. In this way, you will be open to God and to His plans.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

25 January, 2017

"Dear children!

Today I am calling you to pray for peace: peace in human hearts, peace in the families and peace in the world. Satan is strong and wants to turn all of you against God, and to return you to everything that is human, and to destroy in the heart all feelings towards God and the things of God. You, little children, pray and fight against materialism, modernism and egoism, which the world offers to you. Little children, you decide for holiness and I, with my Son Jesus, intercede for you.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

P
eace



From the Editor:

Dear Friends of Medjugorje News,

Another year begins, and what a year so far. What will this year bring, I gave up doing New Year's resolutions, they didn't last and I was never that motivated to keep them up especially when I look at what is important in my life, My God, Our Lady and our family. I want to make sure that I do everything that I can here on this earth to get to eternity. Here is where I need to take action, not when it is TOO late. I have read Mirjana Solda's book, My Heart Will Triumph, what an inspiration. She talks about the meaning of life after experiencing heaven for all these years with her communication with Our Lady. She said the answer is LOVE. Our Lady has said the word love over 400 times in her messages on the second of the month and March 18. GOD IS LOVE. JESUS IS LOVE INCARNATE. The Blessed Mother leads us to LOVE. And everything happening in Medjugorje today

originates from that love.

Message March 2, 2007. Today I will speak to you about what you have forgotten: Dear children, my name is LOVE. That I am among you for so much of your time is love, because the Great Love sends me. I am asking the same of you. I am asking for love in your families. I am asking that you recognize love in your brother. Only in this way, through love, will you see the face of the Greatest Love. May fasting and prayer be your guiding star. Open your hearts to love, namely, salvation. Thank you.

Eucharistic Convention: 21 – 23 April, Another great programme organised by John Porteous and his team. Looking forward to it this year, always a time of retreat, prayers, and spending time with the Lord without all the trimmings of the world we live in. A time to be with like-minded people who have a great love for the Lord. What a blessing we are given to have this time at the Convention. See you there.

Just a bit of housekeeping, someone is kindly sending our newsletter to The Parish Priest, Namosi Catholic Mission Namosi, Viti Levin, FIJI.(I hope I have spelt that right), however the envelope is being returned to me as they are no longer there. Could you please take them off your mailing list. Thanks.

We can now be found on facebook thanks to Bob and Judith Gill, our webmaster.
<https://www.facebook.com/medjugorjenewsNZ>

May the Lords face shine on you and give you peace, and may the Lord bless you and keep you.

Sarah Moran

Visiting those in prison – by writing

Would you like to become involved in a very special work of mercy by writing to long-term prisoners in a foreign country?

Divine Mercy Publications have set up a team of letter writers to correspond with the inmates of a maximum security jail in Zambia, central Africa. Most of these are Catholics/Christians to whom we send reading and prayer literature as well as clothes and toiletries.

The requests for pen pals are growing; the prison we write to has over 400 inmates, most of whom are in desperate need of consolation and encouragement. They are served by an Irish Catholic priest, whom they see 2-3 times per month.

We wish to continue this important work of mercy and need helpers to 'adopt' a prisoner and write on a regular basis, usually once every 1-2 months. Can you help?

There will be absolutely no cost to you, Divine Mercy Publications/Trust will cover all expenses including sending funds via the prison Chaplain approximately twice per year to help the inmates purchase food, toiletries, medicines, clothes and in some case pay a portion of their children's school fees to prevent them becoming 'street kids'.

All you need give is your time and mercy to these needy souls.

If you would like to know more please contact us. Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Divine Mercy Publications Trust Christchurch. PO Box 20266, Bishopdale, Christchurch 8543 –

Ph/Fax 03 3592087

Excerpts from

Children of Medjugorje

From Sister Emmanuel - <http://www.childrenofmedjugorje.com/>

On December 2nd Mirjana received her monthly apparition at the Blue Cross in the presence of a smaller crowd. After the apparition, she delivered Our Lady's message:

"**Dear children**, my motherly heart is crying as I am looking at what my children are doing. Sins are multiplying, the purity of soul is all the less important; my Son is being forgotten - honored all the less; and my children are being persecuted. That is why, you my children, apostles of my love, with soul and heart invoke the name of my Son. He will have the words of light for you. He manifests Himself to you, He breaks the bread with you and gives you the words of love so that you may transform them into merciful acts and, thus, be witnesses of truth. That is why, my children, do not be afraid. Permit my Son to be in you. He will make use of you to care for the wounded and to convert lost souls. Therefore, my children, return to the prayer of the Rosary. Pray it with feelings of goodness, sacrifice and mercy. Pray, not only with words, but with merciful acts. Pray with love for all people. My Son, by His sacrifice, exalted love. Therefore, live with Him so that you may have strength and hope; that you may have the love which is life and which leads to eternal life. Through God's love, I am also with you, and will lead you with motherly love. Thank you."

Are we going to let Our Lady cry much longer?

The closing of the Holy Door of the Jubilee year of Mercy made a twinge in our hearts, as if suddenly God was going to close the gates of his wonderful merciful heart and be less generous in distributing his gifts. Of course not! God never goes back, he is the one who always gives more! If the Holy Door was closed in our cathedrals and churches, it is because it is now open in our hearts, yes, in our hearts of flesh, like a new opening to the coming of God. It is a door that we carry in ourselves everyday. "Allow my Son to be in you", Mary tells us, and the Son, He is the Door that opens the Kingdom!

Before Christmas we can also adore Jesus hidden in Mary, as we imagine Him in the miracle of Guadalupe, the only image given from Heaven (along with the shroud of Turin) which pictures Our Lady pregnant. Why not create your own prayer with your own heart, asking "Jesus hidden in Mary" to protect His little brothers and sisters also hidden in the womb of their mothers and dramatically threatened to not see the light of day.

As we approach Christmas, if we listen to Our Lady's heartbeat, we can feel her great desire that Jesus be born in us. We also understand how much she suffers to see that He is considered as nobody, is rejected, is forgotten. The big shopping malls are overflowing with new products for "The Holidays". Whose Holidays? Where is Jesus? Where is His Birthday mentioned? Where is the Birthday present for The One who is THE Father's present for us? In contrast with this emptiness it will be easy to console the heart of Our Lady who is hurting for her Son in this Advent 2016. May our hearts become the little crib in the manger where she will be able to deposit the fragile and divine body of her Child.

Here is her dream: To find in us a warm welcome for her Son! Be able to count on us to warm Him up with our love and let him have the first place in our lives. She has explained everything during 35 years of apparitions and messages. Today it is up to us to dry her tears!

Malaysia is waking up!

In November, I went to Malaysia for a wonderful mission in the Kota Kinabalu region. In the town of Ranau, there is a parish, and its priest, Father Nick, is crazy about baby Jesus. As I told you last year, this sparked a movement among the families who wanted to receive the statue of the baby Jesus for 24 hours and honor him. As a result of the many miracles and conversions happening in people's homes, Father Nick had to reduce the amount of time each family could keep the statue to one hour, so as to satisfy all the requests. It was so successful!! And because the requests kept flowing in, he decided to build a little Sanctuary to shelter Baby Jesus. That way, everyone could come and worship the Baby. Because he knew about our connection with the Child Jesus and the presence in our garden of a life-size manger, Father Nick waited for my coming for him to consecrate this Sanctuary.

And that's not all. A week before the closing of the Holy Door in his church, a woman arrived in a wheelchair to pass through the Door and obtain the grace of the Jubilee. For a long time, she was paralyzed, hemiplegic, not to mention all the other illnesses that caused her much suffering. As she left the church through this blessed Door, she began to walk! She still does! The news of the miracle spread like wildfire. The very next day, thousands of pilgrims showed up to pass through the Holy Door. Providence permitted me to arrive at that precise moment! When I addressed this crowd to share the messages of Mary, there were about 20,000 people from all over the

country.

After I spoke, they bombarded me with questions about the messages, so we spent several hours together. Interestingly about 80% of these people were young. I told them that in Europe, such a meeting such would probably consist of 80% of elderly people. They laughed, but it's not funny! At Easter, Father Nick baptized 234 adults, and that is not counting the children. In Europe, we might have as many as 3 or 4... Lord, have mercy!

As if that's not enough.... Father Nick, anxious to give his flock a good Catholic formation, decided to have them renew their Baptismal promises. He knew that, for these simple people, it was important to have a hands-on experience more than words; so he built a one-foot deep pool, with 3 steps down; he filled it with water and made them walk across it while repeating their Baptismal Promises. The Lord confirmed that the idea came from Him, because miracles occurred immediately. One man had a hand that was completely paralyzed, but as he stepped out of the water, he was waving his hand around with amazement. "He has healed me!" he cried. Another was almost completely blind. As he was coming out of the water, he started shouting: "I can see clearly, I can see!" I willingly went to renew my own promises, knowing that, according to exorcists like Don Amorth, this prayer is an excellent way of casting out demons. And we have too many of those in our world! May this idea be looked at!

I thank each of you for your support through prayer, worship, fasting and sacrifices offered for these missions. When you get to heaven, you'll see what you have obtained and you will not be disappointed!

On January 2, 2017 Mirjana received her monthly apparition at the Blue Cross in the midst of a large crowd willing to entrust the New Year 2017 to the Blessed Mother. After the apparition, she shared this message that Mary is giving all of us:

"Dear children, my Son was the source of love and light when He spoke on earth to the people of all peoples. My apostles, follow His light. This is not easy. You must be little. You must make yourselves smaller than others; with the help of faith to be filled with His love. Not a single person on earth can experience a miraculous experience without faith. I am with you. I am making myself known to you by these comings, by these words; I desire to witness to you my love and motherly care. My children, do not waste time posing questions to which you never receive an answer. At the end of your journey on earth, the Heavenly Father will give them to you. Always know that God knows everything; God sees, God loves. My most beloved Son illuminates lives, dispels darkness; and my motherly love which carries me to you is inexpressible, mysterious but real. I am expressing my feelings to you: love, understanding and motherly benevolence. Of you, my apostles, I am asking for your roses of prayer which need to be acts of love. To my motherly heart these are the dearest prayers. I offer these to my Son who was born for your sake. He looks at you and hears you. We are always close to you. This is the love which calls, unites, converts, encourages and fulfills. Therefore, my apostles, always love one another and above all, love my Son. This is the only way to salvation, to eternal life. This is my dearest prayer which fills my heart with the most beautiful scent of roses. Pray, always pray for your shepherds that they may have the strength to be the light of my Son. Thank you."

"Return to the Rosary"!



2017, the centennial anniversary of the apparitions in Fatima, is a vitally important year for believers. Let's take a careful look at the message that Mary gave the 3 little shepherds, a message that shown across the entire 20th century like a beam of light. Mary presented herself as Our Lady of the Rosary. She revealed to us the path toward a lasting peace for the whole world, and she specifically gave us a sure way of ending World War I, namely to pray the Rosary! There is certainly a major reason why the Blessed Virgin, in all of her appearances throughout the Church's history, strongly insists that we pray the rosary every day. Why does she constantly reiterate this tender supplication? As a Mother, she

knows best how to guide her children toward happiness.



Many have never practiced this prayer. Some do not even know it, while others have stopped praying it. It has to be said that the hidden treasure of the rosary is not always very easy to find. That is why I propose to give you a little explanation.

There are 2 ways of praying the Rosary, the good way and the bad way. Or...Let's rather say: the weak way and the powerful way.

The weak way: Suppose that I carry a heavy burden on my heart because one of my relatives is dying in hospital and is in great pain So I decide to say a Rosary for this intention, in the hope of obtaining a healing for that person or at least some tangible relief. So I start reciting my Hail Mary's pretty mechanically, while my mind is anxiously focused on the

suffering of this person. I wonder how I am going to be able to deal with this very difficult situation. It goes without saying that this Rosary will still bear a little fruit, but it will leave me more tired and stressed than before I prayed. It's a pity, because I've spent some time praying it!

The powerful way: The Blessed Mother has taught us to pray the Rosary for the past 35 years with great precision. Suppose that the same problem is bothering me and it hurts: one of my parents is dying in hospital and is in great pain. So I am going to share this concern with my Mother in Heaven. Instead of locking my mind on that problem, I am going to completely get rid of it, let it go, throw it and abandon it in her Immaculate Heart. I may tell her: "MOM, now this is YOUR problem! The burden is too heavy for me, please take care of it since you're my mother. Aren't you all-powerful on the heart of God? He can't say no to you!"

I know she is good at taking care of her children's problems, so while she is busy with my problem, my heart is relieved and free to pray with serenity. With deep trust in her, I can now focus on Jesus wholeheartedly and contemplate the various situations in His life that the mysteries talk about.

Of course, before pronouncing the prayers of the Rosary, I take some time to go in spirit to the place where the mystery has happened. At that point, it's always a good idea to read the relevant part of the Gospel. With all my heart and using my imagination a concrete example: when I pray the 5th luminous mystery, the institution of the Holy Eucharist during the Last Supper, I go in spirit to Jerusalem, I enter the Upper Room in the Cenacle and I sit down at the table among the Apostles in order to participate in the meal.

When Jesus gave his friends his Body and his Blood, he was already thinking of me, because in his divine spirit he already knew all the Holy Communion that I was going to receive, as well as those of all men of all time. So I am not a distant outsider, rather I fully become part of this event that involves me directly. This extraordinary event is not an old story that is disconnected from my life. No, this action of Jesus is something he does for me again today. While I am watching him in prayer, I receive the same grace from Jesus that he poured out 2000 years earlier to his friends. Because "we become what we contemplate", everything that lives in the heart of Jesus at this moment penetrates into my own heart. I become filled with his treasures and my whole being is enriched by the burning love which emanates from him.

This example enables us to understand why such a prayer fills us with who Christ is and increases our love for others. This love will then be transformed into action, because it is solid. As Our Mother says: "Of you, my apostles, I am asking for your roses of prayer which need to be acts of love. To my motherly heart these are the dearest prayers." (In the Rosary, each Hail Mary is a new rose which we offer to Mary). "Always love one another and above all, love my Son. This is the only way to salvation, to Eternal Life. This is my dearest prayer which fills my heart with the most beautiful scent of roses."n, I am going to look at Jesus in this situation, enter the scene and participate in what is happening. .

A Narrow Escape!

A few years ago, one of my sisters from my community came to fetch me from Split airport. We decided to pray the Rosary on our way to Medjugorje. That winter was very cold and the road was very slippery and icy in places. It was pitch black. We were not going very fast, but suddenly our car swerved to the left towards the huge mountainous rocks which form the inside of the roads here. On the right side was a ditch that we managed to avoid; and fortunately, along the left side of the road below the rocks, there was a small wall (about 20 cm high), curved like you see on a racetrack. Without hitting the rocks, our car went over the small wall, skidded along and ended by going back in the right direction on the road without any damage. We had had a narrow escape! We owed this protection to the Blessed Mother, to whom we were praying, and to the many Angels of whom she is the Queen. We warmly thanked them! But the most surprising part of the story unfolded a few days later when I had to drive on the same road back to Split.

Since I knew exactly where the event had happened, I took a close look at the place because I had never seen a road with a curved retaining-wall except in films which showed racing-car scenes. To my amazement the retaining-walls were not there! They actually never existed!

Along the rocks there was an average small wall that is perpendicular to the road (90°), like on other roads everywhere else in the country. I understood that, on that night, Our Lady had looked after us in a way we never could have imagined!

Not only had she protected us from a freefall down the precipice on the right and from crashing into the rocks on the left, but she made sure that there was a curved sidewall in place so that we could come back home safe and sound in a car free from bumps! Thank you Mary, thank you for the power of the Rosary! I hope many of your children will adopt it while driving their car, and not only in the car!

Dearest Gospa, please, don't let us fall into spiritual laziness, help us seize all the means you are giving us to finally enjoy true peace and divine protection!

Sister Emmanuel +

2017 Eucharistic Convention Features Faith Overcoming Tragedy

Two of this year's Eucharistic Convention speakers have horrific personal experience with some of the world's most diabolical evil – forced amputation, kidnap, torture and genocide.

But their ability to forgive and remain faithful to God is as inspirational as it gets, and their stories are **NOT TO BE MISSED** at the XXIV annual Eucharistic Convention, whose theme is "His Face is on You."

This year's event – scheduled for 21-23 April at Takapuna's largest AMI Netball Centre auditorium – also includes other terrific international speakers **PLUS** one of America's loveliest and most talented young Catholic singer-songwriters.

Ticketing information is in the order form at the bottom of this story. Don't take chances on missing out! Order your tickets soonest!

Mariatu Kamara



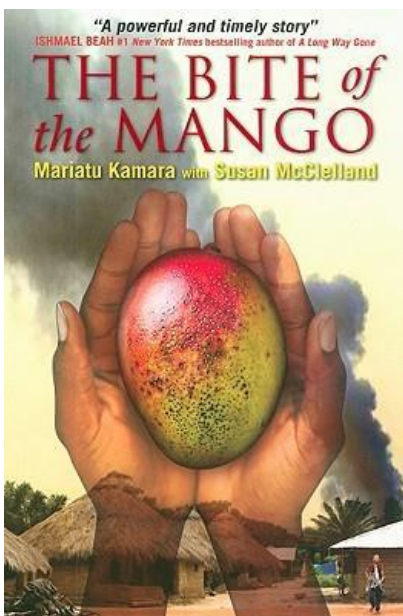
Twelve-year-old Mariatu Kamara was living peacefully in a rural village in Sierra Leone with her family and friends before drugged-up rebel soldiers invaded her life and destroyed everything she loved.

The soldiers – just children themselves but in drug-induced rages – killed members of her family right before her eyes. She knew she would be the next to die, but the monsters had more awful plans for her – chopping off her hands with machetes.

"We're not going to kill you," one of the child soldiers told her. "We want you to go to the president and show him what we did to you. You won't be able to vote for him now. Ask the president to give you new hands." "As my mind

went dark, I remember asking myself: "What is a president?"

The rebel soldiers were amputating people's hands, legs, arms and ears to display their frustration at the government whom they accused of corruption. They thought that by cutting off people's hands, they would no longer be able to vote and the government would be overthrown. An estimated 20,000 civilians had their body parts amputated. Miraculously, Mariatu survived the attack, long months in hospital and refugee camp, and years-long depression that led her to attempt suicide several times.



Mariatu, who tells her remarkable story in her book "The Bite of the Mango", now lives in Toronto, Canada. Remarkably, she does not hold grudges against the rebel soldiers because she came to understand that they, too, were victims of a hideous war.

In her book, Mariatu says: "Something in me had changed. I knew now that I could look forward and back-without any regrets at the same time". Speaking at the Convention is part of her ongoing road to recovery, and her spiritual mission.

Mariatu will speak at the Saturday night dinner – a separate event requiring separate tickets – and at the Eucharistic Convention proper on Sunday afternoon.

Father Douglas Al-Bazi

Tragically, World War II's genocide of the Jews was not the last genocide to plague the modern era. Hundreds of thousands of Chaldean Catholics have been slaughtered by Islamic Fundamentalists in Iraq and Syria. The Christian population of Iraq has been decimated from two million in 2003 to less than 200,000 today.



In 2006, Father Al-Bazi was on his way home after celebrating Mass. His church was blown up, then gun-toting jihadis dragged him from his vehicle, threw him in their boot and sped off.

The terrorists – who Father Al-Bazi says were wearing Iraqi government uniforms and had access to state police cars and ambulances – began a campaign of torture as they attempted to secure a ransom from the Church.

“One of them hit me with his knee to my face and back and broke my nose. Then they took me inside and they brought chains, and I spent nine days there in this way.” He recalls that his chains had 10 links, and he used them to pray the rosary.

“My cell was a tiny toilet and my head had to rest in the sink. After the second day they used a hammer and they started to break my teeth. There was blood in my mouth and when I spat my teeth and blood came out. One of them told me ‘don’t be worried, you have a lot of teeth and we have all night’.

“At one point they said they were going to cut off my head and put the head of a dog in its place then send it to my relatives.”



Born and ordained in Baghdad, Father Al-Bazi says he still feels guilty for leaving Mar-Elia, his parish church in northern Iraq, and he remains traumatised by the events, suffering nightmares and “daymares”.

“When I hear the Quran, I remember when they were torturing me, beating me as they recited the Quran aloud. They would put a gun to my head and I would hear click, click, click.”

Father, who to this day has a bullet in him, was brought to New Zealand, where he is parish priest of St Addai Chaldean Catholic Church in Papatoetoe.

Dr Inge Auerbacher

“I remember as a little girl waiting impatiently for my birthday to arrive. My childhood birthdays were always very happy and special. That is, until my eighth birthday. I was seven years old in 1942 when I was sent with my parents to a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. My next three birthdays marked the years of a nightmare.”



Dr. Auerbacher with her parents and grandparents

Dr Auerbacher had been booked for the 2015 Eucharistic Convention, but an unfortunate accident prevented her from coming and sharing her personal story about the Holocaust. But she's coming this year! She will be the fourth Jewish person to tell their story at the Convention – following on from Bob and Freda Narev in 2015 and Magda Brown in 2010.

“Some might ask why a Catholic event such as ours would need any testimonies from Jews, let alone four! But Dr Auerbacher stresses that every holocaust survivor has a unique, personal story. I agree with that and believe that we need to listen to them all – to make sure this evil never occurs again, never!” says Convention Organiser John Porteous.

Dr Auerbacher will be sharing her heart-wrenching story of three childhood years spent in the horrific Terezin concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. As a child of just seven, she witnessed life's darkest, most awful moments -- dreadful diseases, mass starvation and systematic murder of those she loved. Amazingly, Dr Auerbacher maintains a wonderful, loving persona which instantly draws you into her friendship and her vast “adopted” family. Dr Auerbacher's life included working as a chemist, travel writer and avid photographer. She has also published more than 50 poems and numerous articles.

Adds John Porteous: “As a Catholic parent, or grandparent, you are a primary educator in your child's life. We urge you to bring your children and grandchildren, nieces and nephews, to hear from the very lips of a woman who by God's grace was not one of the 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis. Mons Paul Cronin frequently reminded us that the Jews are our elder brothers and sisters, and that our Saviour himself was a Jew in the line of David!”

Dr Auerbacher has a remarkable gift for making everyone in large auditoriums, even young children, feel as if she is speaking directly to them, with a grandmother's love. Her important testimony is not to be missed!

Alanna-Marie Boudreau:



Every year, it is amazing how the Spirit of God has His Hand covering every aspect of the Eucharistic Convention.

In 1994, Bill and Anna Moore attended our very first event with their five year old son, Eli. As you may know, Bill and Anna have helped with this event for more than 20 years. Eli, now a professional musician, recommended Alanna-Marie Boudreau for the 2017 Eucharistic Convention. “I somehow came across her either from a link or a sidebar in the link that my cruise

ship agent, based in Canada, posted on her Facebook wall. Through a conversational moment on a

business call with her, she asked what my particular engagement was for that January, and it happened to be Hearts Aflame, which I of course explained. And it turns out she's a very vocal and dedicated Catholic. So there you go."

Eli, an accomplished songwriter himself, was enormously impressed by power of Alanna's songwriting, and the depth of her Catholic faith. She has been described as a young woman richly gifted, both naturally and supernaturally. "A writer, speaker, lyricist, pianist, and guitar player, she pushes beyond the pulse of things and into the very marrow of human experience, canvassing songs rich in melodic appeal.

Raised in a rural farming community in upstate New York, she studied classical piano from the age of six and, by the time she was in high school, was performing in recitals and writing lyrical music on the guitar. Her debut EP, *Hands in the Land*, was released in 2012. It was followed by a full length album, *Hints & Guesses*, in 2014, after a vastly successful Kickstarter campaign. Both releases were met with great enthusiasm and lead to three tours throughout the USA, a tour through Israel, and concerts in the Rocky Mountains as part of a collaborative effort with One Billion Stories, and the SAMMY award for Best New Singer Songwriter in 2015.

In February 2015, Alanna collaborated with Love Good Music to create her second EP of original music, entitled *Hesychasm*. In 2016, she recorded her second full-length album in Nashville, teaming up with producer M. Allen Parker to create her most distilled, visceral work to date. You can find out more about her on her website www.alannaboudreaumusic.com or on You Tube.

Rosanne Romero



Rosanne Romero is the bestselling Filipina author of *Amusing Grace*, a collection of articles from her well-loved 'Kitchen Scribbles' column in *Kerygma Magazine*. In 2015, she launched *Amusing Grace, A Second Helping* which was nominated for Best Inspirational Book for the Cardinal Sin Book Awards.

Rosanne was a very active teenager into horseback riding and ballet. When she was in university, she began experiencing strange symptoms that no doctor could diagnose.

In 1986, following the birth of her second child, her mysterious symptoms were diagnoses as Multiple Sclerosis, a debilitating degenerative disease of the brain and spinal column. (This is the same disease suffered by former Convention speaker Rita Klaus).

Currently living in Manila, Rosanne and her family spent 1995-1998 as missionaries in Indonesia. She is a sought-after speaker on the subject of "adversity", speaking from her own life experiences of God, "not only in spite of, but mostly because of" her illness.

She is a wife to Omy Romero, PhD, a management consultant, and mother to "two batty daughters, Rinka and Becca." The most recent addition to the hats she wears is "Lola" (grandma) and she wears it proudly. www.rosanneromero.com

Adds John Porteous: "The seriousness of the messages that these speakers bring may be hard to hear, but in this time of such persecution and spiritual battles, it is essential that Catholics stay informed, keep their heads up, and get right down on their knees at Mass. This Convention may be the most important one yet, considering the times we are in, including the fact that this is the 100th anniversary of the Miracle at Fatima. I encourage you to come and to bring those you love, especially if they have been away from the Church. The number of conversions traced back to the Convention is really incredible. This is unlike any other event you will ever attend."

THEME

The theme for this year's Eucharistic Convention is "**His Face is on You**". "This means to me that Jesus loves each of us equally whether prince or pauper; it's we who make any distinctions. When 'invited' (the operative word), He meets us where we are, even if we are in the deepest, darkest place possible, and He very gently leads us out of the darkness into the light. This might take years, we might stumble and fall, but He will never give up on us," says John.

The amazing Convention 'retreat' features daily Mass, Adoration, music, and opportunities for confession, fellowship and browsing through Catholic books and gifts! There is NOTHING like it in New Zealand!

You can visit eucharist.co.nz for the most current updates about this year's amazing Eucharistic Convention.

EUCCHARISTIC CONVENTION 2017 - REGISTRATION

LAST NAME: _____ FIRST NAME: _____

STREET: _____ SUBURB: _____

CITY/TOWN: _____ POST CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

POSTAL (if different) _____

NUMBER OF SATURDAY TICKETS: _____ \$ total: _____
Adult = \$40 Senior = \$30

NUMBER OF SUNDAY TICKETS: _____ \$ total: _____
Adult = \$40 Senior = \$30

NUMBER OF CHILDREN'S TICKETS: _____ No Charge

Make cheques payable to EUCCHARISTIC CONVENTION) TOTAL \$ enclosed: _____

Please ENCLOSE STAMPED, SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE for return mail

Mail your registration to
EUCCHARISTIC CONVENTION, P O BOX 4523, SHORTLAND ST, AUCKLAND 1140

“At the end of life we will not be judged by how many diplomas we have received, how much money we have made, how many great things we have done.

We will be judged by "I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was naked and you clothed me. I was homeless, and you took me in.”

— Mother Teresa

**PILGRIMS OF FAITH AND HOPE
ROME / HOLY LAND / FATIMA**

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions

Accompanied by Father Alfredo Garcia

19 DAYS – DEPARTING AUCKLAND 29 SEP 2017

Fully Inclusive Pilgrimage Includes:

All Flights & Airport taxes EX Auckland. 4 nights Rome, 7 nights Holy Land, 4 nights near Fatima. All Breakfasts plus dinners in Israel. Tour Guides, Transfers, Coach Travel & entrances to all sites & excursions throughout Itinerary.

***Full Package Cost : NZD \$ 9849 per person (Twin / Double Share Room)
(A full Itinerary is available on request).***

For Expressions of Interest, please contact Karen Embleton (Travel Agent)

Karen.embleton@mondotravel.co.nz Ph 09 9400064 / 021 1887781

My Faith Story: Sr Hyacinthe Defos du Rau, OP



I was 16 years old when I understood for the first time that it may be possible that God, the all-powerful creator of everything that is, may be willing to speak to me and reveal Himself to me personally. My mother had sent me on a Catholic camp in England (I am French), in order to improve my English in a Christian environment. One night during that camp, which took place on a farm, an ex-drug dealer gave his testimony of how God touched his life and transformed it completely through the revelation of His love. This was not the first testimony I had heard, but it was the last I attended with any patience left. These testimonies tended to leave me extremely frustrated, as they made me feel like something was missing in my otherwise good and Catholic life. I had

no idea what that missing element was, but I knew I wanted it desperately, vaguely suspecting that if I could ever take hold of whatever it was these people had received, my life would be radically transformed from the inside. I also knew that this was not just a matter of improvement, but a life-and-death condition to living to the full. As the testimony went on, I was barely listening, lost in frustration and anguish, as I realised more and more that:

I missed something fundamental in my life;

I had no power of obtaining what was missing by myself, it had to come from outside as a gift;

If I did not obtain this, I suspected my life, no matter what I did with it, would lack meaning and purpose, since everything passes and we die just as we are born: naked.

I now can put into words the anguish of the moment, but this anguish then came out most dramatically: I went out in the night, and walking in the field by myself, I started crying and shouting in distress. The words I yelled again and again then summarised the whole of my distress (but also my arrogance): "God, if you do love me that much, as I am told, why don't you tell it to me yourself?!?" And I added a prideful ultimatum to my maker: "If you do not say it yourself to me, I won't believe in you anymore!"

I also knew that, should God not reveal Himself personally to me at that time, life itself would lose any taste or lasting relevance. This may also have been the first genuine prayer I ever uttered, entering into adult life. I knew that I was sick of hearing others speak to me about God. I now desperately wanted God Himself to speak to my heart, to talk to me, showing me this incredible, life-transforming love I had heard about but never experienced so far.

I heard nothing that night. I was ready to hear a physical sound in my ear, or witness something extraordinary. I

knew God had the power to do anything He wished, that He supposedly loved me, and yet nothing happened. At some point, one of the camps' leader's, a wonderful lady, came out to see what was going on and saw me in tears and completely incoherent. She quietly prayed with me, invoking the Holy Spirit into my heart, as I was resolving not to believe any more, or at any rate not to pay God any kind of attention from that day forward, since He hadn't answered my prayer immediately. This resolution was the most bitter of my life: consciously and willingly turning away from God at that moment was the cause of a sadness greater than I have ever experienced. We are made for Him and our happiness is in Him. I went to bed with a heavy heart that night, and my future was one of darkness.

The next day I awoke to a new world. The darkness was replaced by light. As I opened my eyes, I knew the love of God for me. That knowledge of faith, which was inexistent a few hours before, was mysteriously present in the depth of my heart, a transforming certitude, which had been planted mysteriously in me as a gift. I was loved. I am loved, by God. Unconditionally, eternally willed and loved by the One who made me and wants me for Himself. God had spoken to my heart, in words that could not be heard, but in the mysterious language which had awakened faith where there was none. This faith has since grown and deepened, and it keeps growing through grace, received in the Sacraments of the Church and in prayer, the silent heart-to-heart with the One who has made our hearts, for whom our hearts are made, and who in Christ has pledged us his own Sacred Heart.

Taken from www.thepapalvisit.org.uk

My Faith Story: Reverend Deacon Charlie Conner

I am pretty sure that God has always spoken to me although if I am being honest I have spent much of my life not listening, or more precisely not wanting to hear what he has been trying to say. As children my parents taught us to pray – it was a normal part of our lives as was going to Mass on Sundays. But when I left school I drifted away...more precisely a rapid slide! Within months I had managed to get caught up in all kinds of things and for nearly 10 years this was the pattern of my life. I did my own thing, lived for the "moment", prayed when I was in trouble and rarely went home. Since then I have heard people saying that it's all part of the painful process of growing up, discovering oneself and making sense of the world. Maybe that's true but for me it was just about being self-centred – of course, at the time I didn't see it like that, and simply "happied" myself with the thought that "I was a 'good' person and anyway everyone was doing it". What a load of rubbish as evidenced by the befuddled trail of carnage I left behind me!

But it all began to change in August 1998 when I went, with one of my younger brothers, to a shrine to Mary, the Mother of God, in Eastern Europe. I had never heard of this place but it was here during the following week that my life was profoundly changed. I think I became aware that stuff was happening when

we listened to a couple of young men (who lived in a community in the village) who told of their heart-rending life stories and how through prayer and hard physical labour they had been healed of their addictions. I was somewhat dismissive in my questioning; asking whether they felt as if they were escaping from reality in the community life that they had embraced. "Reality is where you are....." came the direct response and by those simple words my heart was pierced.

In the following hours I came to realise that I was a self-centred wretch, my whole life was being lived without care for my actions and simply to satisfy my own selfish desires. It began to dawn on me that I needed to go to confession..... and there, one memorable evening standing in the queue, I was overwhelmed by grace – I came to know in those few moments with certainty that I was totally and unconditionally loved by our Heavenly Father, that I was a child of God. I didn't hear a voice but I was totally convicted, I just knew it and a tear of joy trickled down my cheek.

Well that was the moment when I encountered Mercy Himself and life hasn't been quite the same ever since – thank God!

Taken from www.thepapalvisit.org.uk

"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."(John 14:27)

In New Zealand and Australia

Over 200 Catholics are offering Catholics “B & B” for \$35.00 one person, or \$30.00 per person for 2 or more persons per night, includes continental breakfast. This is a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. If you wish to become a host or if you wish to purchase a book with all the details of hosts, the cost is \$15., includes postage, contact or order from Marie Anderson, 2 Brent Place, Christchurch, 8053, Phone 03 3595 541, email, marie.ian@xtra.co.nz.

Why I choose the Catholic Road to faith

By Pauline

I was born a twin and almost died when I was born mum and Dad had me baptised as they thought I would not make it. I went to a Catholic primary school run by the nuns. My primary and secondary school was Catholic so by the time I came to go to work I had a very good background in the Catholic faith and myself had a strong faith.

I was married at twenty one and my husband turned Catholic at the time of the marriage and I believed that marriage was a life-long commitment. In the space of seven years we had three children. On our ninth wedding anniversary he told me he had been seeing another woman and that she was moving into our house the following weekend. I thought he was joking but he was serious so we moved out and my parents came and picked me and the kids up and took us to their bach. This was when my faith helped me so much and the Lord really started to work in my life. I was totally devastated, my world had blown apart and I had three children to take care of on my own. I hit rock bottom. The only thing that stayed the same was that I went to Mass on Sunday and got strength from going to receive the Eucharist. It gave me strength to carry on one day at a time.

The three of us moved to a different town and I put my name in the new parishioners book and a nun came to visit me from the new parish. She helped me so much just by listening and being there. The children were going through their own grief and in the end the doctor said the best thing I could do for the children was to get them back to my home town where they knew more people and had familiar surroundings then they could have more contact with their dad which would help-- so we moved back to my hometown after three years away.

I came back and with three friends started up a group for separated widowed and divorced people through the Catholic church which ran four times a year for five years. I then joined the Cancer Support group which I was involved in for ten years. This was an incredible time sharing Jesus with the dying, so many precious memories! I then joined the Catholic Chaplaincy for nine years bringing the Eucharist to the patients in hospital visiting then just before their operations and walking alongside them. It was a very blessed time.

I went to work in an Alzheimer's unit as a recreation provider. It was amazing! I took residents to Mass and they remembered all the words of the Mass and the songs. I also said the rosary with one of the residents but due to health problems I had to leave that job. I was having problems breathing. The dr thought I had asthma and the ambulance was picking me up on average two times a week. I would end up in ICU for three or four days. I did not know what Jesus was doing with my life but he needed me to be in the hospital to help the patients in there. So many things have happened while I have been in the hospital!

One night the ambulance men picked me up I was in the resus room and I saw the eyes of one of the Drs and I could not breathe. I asked Jesus to let me know if this Dr knew God. The Dr went with me to Intensive Care and as he was leaving he said to me “May your God be with you.” It was such a comfort! I have been ill now for five years and two years ago I had a stroke and have recently seen a specialist. My children have all grown but we are such a close family. I have grown closer to my God than I have ever been and for me I would not change a thing. The depth of love and the relationship I have with Jesus has grown from strength to strength.

To answer the question WHY DID I CHOSE THE CATHOLIC WAY TO JESUS? The Catholic faith has all the sacraments and the Mass to help us on the way through life. It is only as an adult that we have free will to choose to follow the Catholic faith. A personal relationship with Jesus is a most precious gift. As we grow older the relationship deepens we also have the support of the church community to come together for special occasions. I think for me the reading from Romans 5: 1-5 sums up how I feel about my faith:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through Our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access, by faith, into this grace, in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so but we rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance: perseverance, character: and character hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Pauline Cole: Update to my Catholic Testimony

I wrote a few years ago in the Catholic Testimony Page and you sent me an email. Here is an update:

I was talking about a Dr who took me up to the ICU and I thought he had real deep faith I asked The Lord to let me know in some way if what I saw in the Dr was right. As he was hooking me up to the machines in ICU he was so busy but as he went to leave he held my hand and said to me May your God be with you. It was such a comfort to me.

In October last year I was told that I had bowel cancer it was such a shock I went numb for awhile. I had a CT scan and a MRI then had an operation on November 29th at Base Hospital in New Plymouth. I prayed that if I had to go through this cancer that I have the best Drs and health Professionals looking after me. I had Dr Fancourt that did the operation it should have taken three hours and it was five hours and he saw a tumour on the liver during the operation. The nurses said he is very good and takes his time during operations I am really pleased that I had him there with me.

I then had six months of chemo and the support was amazing. I had a social worker and in our first meeting I ended up praying together with her I asked her to make an appointment with the Physiologist and he was a Catholic man and helped me through the different stages. Being an ostomate took some getting around but the district nurses were amazing and visited every few days to begin with. After that I had to go to oncology unit the nurses were really great. It is so important for health professionals to treat patients well especially when they are feeling so vulnerable. I had a time of Drs appointments, CT scans, MRI scans and chemo.

I kept a positive attitude and prayed a lot and put my life in the Lord's hands and thanked him for taking good care of me. After six months of chemo in August this year I went to North Shore Hospital in Auckland and had my liver op and spent 5 days in intensive care. Then to the ward for two weeks had times of praying with patients during the night also had a Catholic chaplain come and see me and gave me a picture of Our Lady and a pair of rosary beads. It has been an amazing journey and I thank God every day for the way he has supplied my every need it has given me a much deeper faith than I have ever had in my life.

The Lord is not someone who lived 2000 years ago he is here with us in our everyday life. Whatever we are going through Jesus has been there and understands our grief, anger, loneliness. Our God can be a friend we can confide in him how we are feeling.

I could have told you I am a solo mum there are 1000,s of those or I am Catholic there are millions of those. It is only when I tell you how I feel about having faith and being Catholic that you get to know who I really am, and that is all I can give you is me. I think this Quote from the bible says how I feel.

ROMANS 5 1-5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through Our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access, by faith, into this grace in which we now stand. and we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. But we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. AMEN

GOD BLESS YOU ALWAYS AND IN ALL WAYS

Taken from www.catholicprophecy.info

Pioneer

The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was founded by Fr James A. Callan S.J. in Dublin on 28 December 1898.

AIM OF THE ASSOCIATION

Peace and Harmony in the Home

The Pioneer Contribution

The spread of the Christian virtue of temperance throughout Ireland and abroad

Means

Prayer, an alcohol-free life style and public witness to the infinite love of the Sacred Heart by wearing the pin

Support for the young and victims of drug and alcohol abuse

Alternative social and cultural activities

A monthly family magazine and use of other media

Promoting Pioneer membership worldwide **Contact John 09 522 1728 or Mary 09 620 4605**

EXPERIENCE LOVE & ACCEPTANCE BY COMING HOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

There's an old saying that goes, "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic." Maybe you have been away from the Church for a little while or for quite some time, but now you feel a tug at your heart calling you back to the Catholic Church. Listen to that tug. It's your Heavenly Father reaching his arms out to you, the Holy Spirit whispering in your ear, hoping to draw you home.

We hope you accept this as your invitation to rediscover the truth, wonder and mystery of the Catholic faith. As your brothers and sisters in our worldwide Catholic family, we want you back. We've missed you, and our Church is not the same without you.

Regardless of why you left or got out of the habit of going to Mass, you can always come home and return to the practice of the sacraments and the fullness of relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church he founded. We are Catholic. Welcome home.

Your Father in heaven wants you to come home, and so do we, your fellow members of Christ's body, the Church. The longing you have in your heart can be fulfilled through Jesus and his Catholic Church. You are not alone. Countless of your own brothers and sisters in Christ have returned home, have come back to Confession and to Mass, and have experienced the joy of a renewed relationship with the God who loves them and accepts them unconditionally. Now, you can too.

HOW CAN I FEEL WELCOMED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AGAIN AFTER EXPERIENCING HURT AT THE HANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH?

It can be difficult when we feel like our fellow Christians aren't acting very Christian toward us or toward others. The Church is indeed made up of sinful, imperfect people, who often disappoint. But rather than distancing yourself from the Holy Eucharist and the Catholic Church that Christ founded, consider clinging to Jesus all the more, since he never disappoints. It is helpful, in times of trial and hurt, to remember why you are Catholic—not because all Catholics always represent the mercy and love of Jesus perfectly well, but because the Catholic Church was founded by Jesus, administers the sacraments, and contains the fullness of Truth, helping all of us to draw closer to God and grow in holiness. Do not allow the actions of some to cause you to lose faith in the Church as a whole. Discuss your frustrations with a priest or deacon at your local parish, and start your journey back to a welcoming home. Above all, do not lose heart. People may disappoint, but God never leaves us, and He is always present in the Catholic Church he founded.

WHAT STEPS DO I TAKE TO COME BACK TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Recognize that your Heavenly Father yearns for you to come home to his Church. Then, go to Confession at your local parish and consider discussing any concerns or questions you may have about returning home with a priest. Begin going to Mass again and experiencing Christ's presence through worshipping in the liturgy. The Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are also there to help you on your journey home, as are parish ministries like RCIA or a local returning Catholics group. Know that you are not alone, and do not be afraid to find answers to your questions, both here and through your local Catholic parish community.

FIND THE LASTING PEACE THAT ONLY COMES FROM GOD.

www.catholicscomehome.org

We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature - trees, flowers, grass- grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls. Mother Teresa

Read more at: <https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mothertere164357.html>



Special Pilgrimage in 2017

HOLY LAND AND JORDAN PILGRIMAGE

Departing 09 October 2017 (15 days)

Please come and join us on this extremely special Spiritual Journey and walk in the footsteps of our dear Lord in the Holy Land, and also visit Petra and Amman in Jordan.

The Chaplain is to be advised.

The Co-Ordinator is Kathryn O'Connor, O'Connor Travel World.

Cost per person, share twin:	\$5,995.00* (AUD)
Single supplement:	\$995.00 (AUD)

* The costs above include airline taxes and fuel surcharges ex Australia/New Zealand and are current at time of print but are subject to change at the discretion of the airlines and/or operators and due to currency fluctuations.

The group will fly on Emirates Airline from Australia and New Zealand to Amman, Jordan and return.

Please contact us for any other information you require.



O'Connor Travel World
Inc. Pilgrimages Australia & NZ

P.O. Box 3,
Surrey Hills, VIC 3127
Australia
ABN 54 686 198 307

Tel: +61 3 9830 5489 | Fax: +61 3 9836 8429
Email: kathryn@oconnortravelworld.com.au
Web: www.oconnortravelworld.com.au

O'Connor Travel World
is a pilgrimage apostolate
consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary



The Gift of Faith

Early February, I read about the book by the visionary, Mirjana Solda, "My heart will triumph". I had heard about it before and decided that maybe I should go online and actually get a copy. Well, I read it within a day, once I get a book that is so amazing there is no way I can put it down until it is finished.

The book gave me so much, **one**: a better understanding of what the visionaries have gone through, Mirjana has got a certificate to say that she is 'normal' and as she said not many people can say that. **Two**: What they had to go through from believers and non believers. **Three**: why would she make it up, she had a great life before the apparitions, why would she jeopardise it for a falsehood.

I am actually going to quote parts from the book that touched me, I am hoping that at the Eucharistic Convention, I will have got one of the shops to get copies of the book in so that they can be sold there or if you are hungry/thirst like me, you could go online at www.MyHeartWillTriumph.com get a copy now.

"All of the horrible things happening in our world today come from those who do not know the love of God. But she's not necessarily speaking about atheists. Unfortunately, many people who think of themselves as religious do not know His love yet, either.

An unbeliever is not just someone who calls himself godless or says that he does not know whether God exists said Fr Slavko, According to this intention, an unbeliever is also someone who says that he "believes" and knows the Word of God but does not live according to it and does not do what is good. Such a "faith" is actually knowledge that is not imbued with love.

And the Bible agrees. The apostle Paul wrote, "If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing.(1 Corinthians 13:1-2) (This was the reading our daughter asked me to do at her wedding in November, so it really hit home to me).

In the same way, Our Lady does not want us to go around preaching to others. She was us to talk, but with our lives, not our mouths. She asks believers to live as examples of people who know God's love. That way, those who do not believe can see the effect of that love in us. The reading this Sunday was "you are salt for the earth... you are the light for the world".

"The only true peace, " Our Lady said, "is the one which my Son gives".

Everyone hungers for peace, but most look in the wrong places. Only God gives peace .You can have millions of dollars, but without Him, you are destitute. You can live in a mansion, but without Him, you are homeless. No matter how much you acquire, you'll never be satisfied because you'll always think that peace is just around the corner. Many people think, "If only I can make more money, then I'll be happy." But peace is never around the corner. It's right in front of you, and to find it, you simply have to get on your knees and ask.

"At Mass in Medjugorje one evening, I was having terrible back pain, something I've suffered with through the years. The church was crowded as usual, but I notice a small space open on one of the benches, amidst a group of Italian pilgrims. Hoping to rest my back, I sat down, but one of the Italian started yelling at me.

"Stand up!" she said. "That's our bench! We were the first ones here!"

"I'm so sorry," I said. I quickly got up and stood in the aisle.

Later, one of their friends came to join them and she recognized me as one of the visionaries. When she told the others, they stood up and offered me the entire bench. I smiled and thanked them but remained standing.

I always laugh when I think about their reaction, but, at the same time, it serves as a cautionary tale. Imagine if I were someone who did not believe, and who, for the first time, entered a church to see what it was all about. After being "welcomed" in such a way, would I ever enter a church again? And whose responsibility would that be?

In a way, I think we are all unbelievers. No one can truthfully say, "I'm a good believer and I'm doing everything that God wants." Everyone makes mistakes. But it's important that we try, and if you desire to be an example – if you desire to show that you have faith and love – then you have to smile..... "Peace begins with a smile," said one of the great believers of our time – Mother Teresa – who was actually born in Yugoslavia and was said to have followed the messages of Medjugorje.

Most importantly, we should never judge or criticize. When Our Lady asks us to pray for those who do not believe, she wants us to emulate her. First, we should feel love for them, to see them as our own brothers and sisters who were not as fortunate as we were to come to know the love of God. Only then will we be able to pray for them; otherwise our prayer will be ineffective and even hypocritical.

"The first and last intention of our prayers needs to be for the grace to love God and our neighbour with our heart," said

Fr Slavko. "If our heart is not steeped in and completely permeated with divine love nothing we do will have any value, nor will we be happy. The one who prays for the grace to love prays for happiness and peace for himself, for his family and for all mankind."

....When I look back, I see how I've changed and grown since the early days of the apparitions, and what I have learned. For example, I used to wonder how a loving God could allow suffering.

Bez muke nema nauke is an old Croatian proverb that translates to "Without suffering there is no learning." It's clear to me that every hardship in my life contributed to who I am today – every sorrow refined me as a messenger of God's love and gave me a better education than any school could have offered. Now, as an apostle of Our Lady, I'm able to answer difficult questions by drawing on my own experiences.

Only when you experience suffering can you truly understand the suffering of others. You can relate to what they're going through and help them cope, either with words, prayers or just your presence. After carrying my suffering in silence for so long – so used to hiding my pain in order to protect others from it – I've learned how to share my feelings. Perhaps this book is part of that.

*....Our Lady has shown me that Heaven is devoid of suffering. I see abundant truth in the statement heard so often at funerals" "They're in a better place now." Our true home is with God. We are like pilgrims on Earth, here for a brief sojourn on our way to an eternal reality that transcends time, space and death. Your pilgrimage might end today, tomorrow, or in twenty years, but you are going to meet God, whether you're aware of that or not. Was your walk guided by humility and sacrifice, or arrogance and greed? **It's better to contemplate this question now instead of at the end of your journey.***

..... When I described Our Lady's sorrow to a group of pilgrims, one woman shook her head and said, "When will this world change? When will people understand?"

"That's not what we should be asking," I said. "Instead, we need to ask ourselves "When will I change? When will I understand?" We cannot put the blame on others. We need to start with ourselves, and only then can we help others."

The only soul I need to scrutinize is my own. When it's my time to stand before God, He won't ask me about you. He'll only ask how well I answered His call.

Still, Our Lady believes in you – even if you don't yet believe in her. Her love is unconditional. She loves the sinner as much as she loves the saint. She loves the atheist as much as she loves the believer. She loves you and all her children as much as she loves me.

Just a taste of her book, an amazing, inspirational book, one that I would recommend to any reader. Written in a down to earth manner, someone who has been blessed to communicate with OUR LADY.

Regards Sarah Moran

"The greatest disease in the West today is not TB or leprosy; it is being unwanted, unloved, and uncared for. We can cure physical diseases with medicine, but the only cure for loneliness, despair, and hopelessness is love. There are many in the world who are dying for a piece of bread but there are many more dying for a little love. The poverty in the West is a different kind of poverty -- it is not only a poverty of loneliness but also of spirituality. There's a hunger for love, as there is a hunger for God."

— Mother Teresa, A Simple Path: Mother Teresa

The Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Akita, Japan, to Sr. Agnes Sasagawa

The extraordinary events began on June 12, 1973, when Sr. Agnes saw brilliant mysterious rays emanate suddenly from the tabernacle. The same thing happened on each of the two days that followed.



On June 28, 1973, a cross-shaped wound appeared on the inside left hand of Sr. Agnes. It bled profusely and caused her much pain. On July 6, Sr. Agnes heard a voice coming from the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the chapel where she was praying. The statue was carved from a single block of wood from a Katsura tree and is three feet tall. On the same day, a few of the sisters noticed drops of blood flowing from the statue's right hand. On four occasions, this act of blood flow repeated itself. The wound in the statue's hand remained until September 29, when it disappeared. On September 29, the day the wound on the statue disappeared, the sisters noticed the statue had now begun to "sweat", especially on the forehead and neck. On August 3, Sr. Agnes received a second message. On October 13, she received a final third message.

Two years later on January 4, 1975, the statue of the Blessed Virgin began to weep. It continued to weep at intervals for the next 6 years and eight months. It wept on 101 occasions.

The Messages to Sr. Agnes July 6, 1973

"My daughter, my novice, you have obeyed me well in abandoning all to follow me. Is the infirmity of your ears painful? Your deafness will be healed, be sure. Does the wound of your hand cause you to suffer? Pray in reparation for the sins of men. Each person in this community is my irreplaceable daughter. Do you say well the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist? Then, let us pray it together."

"Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, truly present in Holy Eucharist, I consecrate my body and soul to be entirely one with Your Heart, being sacrificed at every instant on all the altars of the world and giving praise to the Father pleading for the coming of His Kingdom."

"Please receive this humble offering of myself. Use me as You will for the glory of the Father and the salvation of souls."

"Most holy Mother of God, never let me be separated from Your Divine Son. Please defend and protect me as Your Special Child. Amen."

When the prayer was finished, the Heavenly Voice said: "Pray very much for the Pope, Bishops, and Priests. Since your Baptism you have always prayed faithfully for them. Continue to pray very much...very much. Tell your superior all that passed today and obey him in everything that he will tell you. He has asked that you pray with fervour."

August 3, 1973

"My daughter, my novice, do you love the Lord? If you love the Lord, listen to what I have to say to you."

"It is very important...You will convey it to your superior."

"Many men in this world afflict the Lord. I desire souls to console Him to soften the anger of the Heavenly Father. I wish, with my Son, for souls who will repair by their suffering and their poverty for the sinners and ingrates."

"In order that the world might know His anger, the Heavenly Father is preparing to inflict a great chastisement on all mankind. With my Son I have intervened so many times to appease the wrath of the Father. I have prevented the coming of calamities by offering Him the sufferings of the Son on the Cross, His Precious Blood, and beloved souls who console Him forming a cohort of victim souls. Prayer, penance and courageous sacrifices can soften the Father's anger. I desire this also from your community...that it love poverty, that it sanctify itself and pray in reparation for the ingratitude and outrages of so many men.

Recite the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist with awareness of its meaning; put it into practice; offer in reparation (whatever God may send) for sins. Let each one endeavour, according to capacity and position, to offer herself entirely to the Lord."

"Even in a secular institute prayer is necessary. Already souls who wish to pray are on the way to being gathered together. Without attaching too much attention to the form, be faithful and fervent in prayer to

console the Master."

After a silence:

"Is what you think in your heart true? Are you truly decided to become the rejected stone? My novice, you who wish to belong without reserve to the Lord, to become the spouse worthy of the Spouse, make your vows knowing that you must be fastened to the Cross with three nails. These three nails are poverty, chastity, and obedience. Of the three, obedience is the foundation. In total abandon, let yourself be led by your superior. He will know how to understand you and to direct you."

October 13, 1973

"My dear daughter, listen well to what I have to say to you. You will inform your superior."

After a short silence:

"As I told you, if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge, such as one will never seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead. The only arms which will remain for you will be the Rosary and the Sign left by My Son. Each day recite the prayers of the Rosary. With the Rosary, pray for the Pope, the bishops and priests."

"The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres...churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord.

"The demon will be especially implacable against souls consecrated to God. The thought of the loss of so many souls is the cause of my sadness. If sins increase in number and gravity, there will be no longer pardon for them"

"With courage, speak to your superior. He will know how to encourage each one of you to pray and to accomplish works of reparation."

"It is Bishop Ito, who directs your community."

And She smiled and then said:

"You have still something to ask? Today is the last time that I will speak to you in living voice. From now on you will obey the one sent to you and your superior."

"Pray very much the prayers of the Rosary. I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved."

History of Ecclesiastical Approval

February 27, 1978 — Pope Paul VI approves the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's Norms of the Congregation for Proceeding in Judging Alleged Apparitions and Revelations. These norms provide the criteria for evaluating such phenomenon and establish the local Ordinary as the competent authority to do so. They also provide that regional or national Episcopal conferences may intervene (as has occurred with regards to Medjugorje) if warranted, as may the Holy See.

April 22, 1984 — After eight years of investigations, Rev. John Shojiro Ito, Bishop of Niigata, Japan, recognizes "the supernatural character of a series of mysterious events concerning the statue of the Holy Mother Mary" and authorizes "throughout the entire diocese, the veneration of the Holy Mother of Akita, while awaiting that the Holy See publishes definitive judgment on this matter."

Letter of Bishop Ito recognizing the events at Akita

[EWTN: Despite claims that Cardinal Ratzinger gave definitive approval to Akita in 1988, no ecclesiastical decree appears to exist, as certainly would in such a case. However, some individuals, such as former Ambassador of the Phillipines to the Holy See, Mr. Howard Dee, have stated that they were given private assurances by Cardinal Ratzinger of the authenticity of Akita. In any case, in keeping with the current norms, given the absence of a repudiation of Bp. Ito's decision by his successors, or by higher authority, the events of Akita continue to have ecclesiastical approval.]

Revised: November 2011

Taken from EWTN website

MY SOUL IS THIRSTING FOR YOU, OH LORD - Volume II

By Willy Vermeulen available for \$5.plus \$1.40 postage, 4/8 Elizabeth St, Tauranga 3110 or e-mail willyv@kinect.co.nz

"By your perseverance you will secure your lives." (Luke 21:19)

Today's Gospel reminds us that the bitterest interpersonal suffering in our lives often comes from those closest to us, our families and friends.

The same might be said of our Church family. The worst harms to the Church often come from within: for example, the sexual abuse crisis or the "bad popes" of centuries past.

Yet our Lord assures us that the Church will withstand and survive any attack, be it from a broken bond of trust or from the outside world. *"The gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)*

Similarly, the domestic Church, the faithful God-fearing family, will survive and withstand any cultural or political threat to its existence. And the individual Christian who perseveres will not be harmed spiritually but will rather be strengthened by calling on God's assistance during times of trial.

St. Ambrose referred to the final perseverance of faith, the hour of death that comes to us all:

"It is a Passover from corruption, from mortality to immortality, from rough seas to a calm harbor. The word "death" must not trouble us; the blessings that come from a safe journey should bring us joy."(From a *Treatise on Death as a Blessing*, St. Ambrose, Bishop)

Questionnaire

WE REMIND READERS THAT, IN ORDER TO REMAIN ON OUR MAILING LIST, THEY SHOULD CONTACT US AT LEAST EVERY TWO YEARS.

We would appreciate it if all readers WHO HAVE NOT DONE SO would fill in the questionnaire below. Any comments, requests or criticisms will be welcome.

AS OUR MAGAZINE IS FREE, THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR DONATIONS, but to ensure that it is actually read. *(If those who reply wish to give a financial contribution, we would be very grateful, but this is not essential.)*

Yes, I wish to continue receiving the 'Medjugorje News'

No, please take me off your mailing list

My address has changed and is now:

Name **Address** (if not on back or if changed)

.

Comments

.

.