

MEDJUGORJE NEWS

New Zealand

FREE

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IN THIS ISSUE

- * Latest Messages from Our Lady (p.3)
- * From the Editor (p.4)
- * News from Medjugorje (Children of Medjugorje) (p.5 - 11)
- * Pro Life – Vote for Life (11 – 15)
- * The power of the Holy Spirit (pg 16)
- * My Pilgrim (pg 17 – 18)
- * We might give up but The Lord never does (pg 19)
- * Why I choose the Catholic road to Jesus (pg 20-21)
- * The gift of faith (pg 21)
- * O'Connor pilgrims (pg 22)
- * Help one another (pg 23)

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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.



Our Lady's Messages



25 April, 2017

"Dear children!

Love, pray and witness my presence to all those who are far away. By your witness and example, you can draw closer the hearts that are far from God and His grace. I am with you and intercede for each of you so that, with love and resoluteness, you may witness and encourage all those who are far from my Immaculate Heart.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

25 May, 2017

"Dear children!

The Most High has permitted me to call you anew to conversion. Little children, open your hearts to the grace to which you are all called. Be witnesses of peace and love in this peace less world. Your life here on earth is passing. Pray that through prayer you may yearn for Heaven and the things of Heaven and your hearts will see everything differently. You are not alone; I am with you and intercede before my Son Jesus for you.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

25 June, 2017 36th Anniversary Message to Marija

"Dear children!

Today, I desire to thank you for your perseverance and call you to open yourselves to profound prayer. Prayer, little children, is the heart of faith and is hope in eternal life. Therefore, pray with the heart until your heart sings with thanksgiving to God the Creator who gave you life. I am with you, little children, and carry to you my motherly blessing of peace.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

25 July, 2017

"Dear children!

Be prayer and a reflection of God's love for all those who are far from God and God's commandments. Little children, be faithful and determined in conversion and work on yourselves so that, for you, holiness of life may be truth; and encourage each other in the good through prayer, so that your life on earth may be more pleasant.

Thank you for having responded to my call."





From the Editor:

Dear Friends of Medjugorje News,

It is countdown now, as I write it is four weeks before I fly out. I am excited but there still seems so many things that I have to do before I go.

This morning we heard of a family friend dying at the age of 39, so young, and he was estranged from his family. Such grief for the family, no time to say sorry, to reconcile and no time “to go in peace”. We don’t know what time the thief will come at night, and it brings to mind that we shouldn’t go to sleep on an argument.

It was a time of reflection this morning at Mass, a time to thank and praise the Lord for all He gives us, the many blessings He gives us, and a reality check that this life is passing and we need to look towards The Lord for our future. To look at what we do with a newness. We might become so used to doing things in a particular way that we are

unwilling to change even if someone shows us a better way of doing the same thing. Parables are calling us to newness and to sacrifice what we are for what we can become. Change is never easy, looking within ourselves is never easy, but I believe with the help of the Lord and His sacraments, we can be called to newness.

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

Prayer to Saint Augustine of Hippo

We humbly supplicate and beseech thee, O thrice-blessed Augustine, that thou wouldst be mindful of us poor sinners this day, daily, and at the hour of our death, that by thy merits and prayers we may be delivered from all evils, of soul as well as body, and daily increase in virtue and good works; obtain for us that we may know our God and know ourselves, that in His mercy He may cause us to love Him above all things in life and death; impart to us, we beseech thee, some share of that love with which thou so ardently glow, that our hearts being all inflamed with this divine love, happily departing out of this mortal pilgrimage, we may deserve to praise with thee the loving heart of Jesus for a never-ending eternity.

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Excerpts from

Children of Medjugorje

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

On June 2 2017, Mirjana received her monthly apparition at the Blue Cross in the midst of a large crowd. After the apparition, she shared the following message from Our Lady:

"Dear children, as in the other places where I have come to you, also here I am calling you to prayer. Pray for those who do not know my Son, for those who have not come to know the love of God, against sin, for the consecrated - for those whom my Son called to have love and the spirit of strength for you, for the Church. Pray to my Son, and the love which you experience from His nearness will give you the strength to make you ready for the works of love which you will do in His name. My children, be ready. This time is a turning point. That is why I am calling you anew to faith and hope. I am showing you the way by which you need to go, and those are the words of the Gospel. Apostles of my love, the world is in such need of your arms raised towards Heaven, towards my Son, towards the Heavenly Father. Much humility and purity of heart are needed. Have trust in my Son and know that you can always be better. My motherly heart desires for you, apostles of my love, to be little lights of the world, to illuminate there where darkness wants to begin to reign, to show the true way by your prayer and love, to save souls. I am with you. Thank you."

What a beautiful evangelical message! "Keep your belts tied and your lamps lit." "You must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour." (Lk 12: 35 & 40). Our Lady specifies neither what awaits us nor what we must prepare for, but for 36 years she has made our work easy by giving us all the elements in order to be ready and experience true peace. Everyone will be able to understand that exhortation by reading over her messages while invoking the Holy Spirit.

With much finesse Our Lady comforts those who, having drunk from the source of grace that Medjugorje is, could have let doubt grow in them. Yes indeed, she is The One who came to Rue du Bac (Paris), Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe (Mexico), Kibého (Rwanda), and many other places around the world. She is the same Lady! Our Lady.

Goodbye Piercings!

An Italian priest came to Medjugorje for Pentecost with a group of young people. When he saw that most of them had tattoos and piercings, he took each one of them privately to one side and explained to them how God asks his people not to make tattoos, nor incisions. (Leviticus 19:28 "You are not to make incisions in your flesh on account of the dead nor submit to cuts or tattoos. I am the LORD").

But no one gave up their piercings. During the night, he spent hours praying and entrusted them all to Our Lady, telling her, "It is for you to act, as for me, I failed!" The next morning the group went to the Blue Cross for the apparition of Mary to Mirjana. Back at the pansion, what a surprise! Each one of these youth came to the priest to give him their piercings. Not one was missing!

The Priest smiled, and speaking to Our Lady, he told her, "What I could not do, you did!" He put all the piercings in an envelop and put them down at the site of the apparitions. Our Lady likes flowers a lot, but when we give up something harmful, it seems that she appreciates it even more!

Why every day?

I sometimes hear these words: "How strange that Our Lady comes to Medjugorje every day, when she is usually so discreet? I doubt it's really her!"

I have noticed that people who say this are generally over 60. Conversely, I have never heard a young person speak in this way. Why is that? You will quickly understand why when you read this short set of questions that I ask people who are in doubt. Their answers are often the same.

- When you were little, at school, did more than 60% of your classmates have parents who were divorced, and suffer cruel inner wounds?

- Oh, no! I knew maximum one or two children with divorced parents.

- At the age of 10, did teachers bring condoms to class and explain how to use them?

- At 10, I didn't even know they existed!

- When you were little, did you constantly have headphones on, with potential unlimited access to all sorts of programs that could be violent, perverse, pornographic, or even Satanic? (Keeping in mind that some music bands spread subliminal messages to incite people to perversion and suicide.)

- Oh, no! In my time, no one used headphones.

- Did people try to sell you drugs outside of school? Were there drug dealers among you?

- As for me, I never saw that, although dealers probably already existed.

- In your "Catholic" school, did you take field trips to Disney World, for example, on Good Friday?

- Impossible! At the time, we respected religious Feast days. Besides, my religion teacher was a believer.

-When you were a teenager, had you already been beaten up in the street without any reason? Or bullied for money while the Police, scared, didn't do anything about it?

- These things happened, but they were very rare.

- Did "Gay Pride" exist then?

- *Oh no! In those days, it was another world! We could parade in the streets of my town in our communicant's frocks with no problem. There was a long procession for the feast of Corpus Christi, and we would throw rose petals to Jesus in the monstrance. But now it's forbidden. "It would disturb traffic" they say.*

- As a child and as an adolescent, did you talk among friends about instructions for "assisted suicide"? Did you know about "the choking game"? Role-playing games?

- *No! Never heard of them then.*

- When you started going to University, how many of your classmates had already committed suicide?

- *None! But you would hear of some extremely rare cases.*

- When you were 5 years old, did anyone at school suggest to you to change your gender? Were you told you could marry someone of the same sex?

- *You must be kidding! It was unthinkable!*

- As a child, did you have the legal possibility to send one of your parents to jail by saying they had hit you?

- *I'm beginning to understand, Sister...*

- Wait, that's not all! As a young teenager, were you allowed to go to nightclubs until the middle of the night? And if so, did you then run the risk of waking up the next morning in the bed of some stranger with no memory of the night before, after having been given drugs mixed with the drinks you were generously offered?

- *Hum....sorry, what is that?*

- And I'm not mentioning the "Satan Fests", "Hell Fests", and their catastrophic consequences for young people! I'm not even mentioning abortion and euthanasia.

Well my friend, now, be aware that your grandchildren who are between the ages of 4 and 25 today are bombarded with these kind of proposals, which damage them deeply and sometimes destroy them. So then... Are you still going to reproach the Mother of God, who is also their Mother, for coming every day for 3 short minutes in order to bless them, help them and pray for them, while Satan is live and active 24/7?

- *I hadn't thought of that... I'll think about it...*

- **Thinking is not enough. I beg you, please protect your children and let Heaven protect them! This is a critical time, be ready!**

Dearest Gospa,

You, undaunted, have been coming every day for 36 years, regardless of what people may say about you.

THANK YOU!

I beg you, please keep up coming to us, we need you so badly!

Thank you so very much for all the good you have done since June 24, 1981, thank you for so many lives saved, so many families reconciled, so many vocations to Christian marriage and to the priesthood, so many hearts that could finally find peace.

Thank you for welcoming so many of your children who were carrying heavy crosses! You comforted them and allowed them to taste a new happiness in their life! The list would be too long.

Dearest Gospa, as the end of your apparitions is approaching, as the revelation of the secrets are not to tarry for many more decades, I beg you, continue to pour upon our world the grace of your daily comings, and please forgive our guilty indifference to your calls. We implore you, don't tire in holding us against your motherly and Immaculate Heart!

Blessed Virgin of Fatima and Medjugorje, don't quit! On behalf of many young kids, I say to you THANK YOU for being there for them every day, while most of their homes are empty. Please pray to your Son, so that His infinite mercy may spare us from degeneration, corruption, calamities, wars, and especially the death of the soul. To you, His Mother, He has given such power over His heart! He cannot resist a single one of your supplications.

Yes, most loving Mother, please answer our call. We love you immensely.

How to Interpret the Words of Pope Francis before his flight from Lisbon to Rome, May 13, 2017?

Before you re-read the words of the Pope, here are 2 quotes from Jesus that we must always keep in mind:

"A good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree is known by its fruit. People

cannot pick figs from thorn bushes, nor gather grapes from briars." (Luke 6: 43-49) Also: "By their fruits you shall know them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles?" (Matthew 7:16)

Another quote from Jesus to Saint Faustina Kowalska reads:

"Listen, my daughter, all the works that come into being by my will contain the risk of great suffering! Consider if any of them have been subject to greater difficulties than that work which is directly mine - the work of Redemption. You should not worry too much about difficulties." (Diary §1642)

After watching the interview of the Holy Father on the evening of May 13, many of those who love Medjugorje and who have found a renewal of their spiritual lives there were greatly hurt at first, and struck by disappointment and sadness. Indeed, seeing the Pope shaking his head in a negative way while comparing the Blessed "Virgin" of Medjugorje to a post office clerk, could create disillusionment in many, including me. But thanks be to God, we took time to carefully consider each point brought up by the Pope, and we have found several good reasons to rejoice!

1 - The Ruini Commission. The essential point to focus on is that the Pope labelled as "very good" the document of the Ruini Commission instituted in 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI on Medjugorje. The purpose of this Commission was to come to know and to explain the phenomenon. In this interview, Pope Francis used the word "good" 6 times and reinforced it twice by saying "very, very good." This amounts to very emphatic approval. He basically gave high praise to the good work carried out by the good theologians, priests and cardinals. He publically opposed sending the report to another Congress for inspection. He said, "It doesn't seem right to me; it's like putting the Ruini report up for auction". Now, according to the votes of the experts who participated in this Ruini Commission, 13 among them are in favour of the recognition of the supernatural character of the first seven apparitions in Medjugorje, a single person voted against this, and one member reserved judgment until later. In other words, an overwhelming majority voted in favour of the supernatural character of the first apparitions.

2 - That's an enormous step in the history of Medjugorje! If we consider the last official statement from Zadar in 1991: "Non constat de supernaturalitate," it cannot be affirmed that this is supernatural (and not "We affirm that this phenomenon is not supernatural"), the question remains open. Therefore today, Medjugorje can become a place of verifiable Marian apparitions! Of course, we would prefer that this recognition be extended to a little more than those 7 days. However there was no question of denying the following apparitions! It's about maintaining doubt, and therefore, leaving a question mark. Let's not forget that these apparitions still occur, and that it is difficult to canonize a saint who is still alive. (Our Lady told the visionaries that she would appear to them once a year during their lifetimes.) Let's not forget as well that the apparitions at the Rue de Bac (Paris) in 1830 and the Miraculous Medal have never been officially recognized, yet there is an authorized Sanctuary there that thousands of people from every country endlessly flow through every day.

3 - Freedom to Adherence. The Pope made it clear that he was expressing his personal opinion, which means, in the language of the Church, that we are free to adhere to it or not, according to our own consciences. Even John Paul II expressed his personal opinion when he declared Medjugorje "a centre of spirituality" and repeated his desire to go there. He wrote letters in which he made known his recognition of Medjugorje as a place visited by the Mother of God. (In my book "The Hidden Child of Medjugorje," I attached photos of these letters.) He wrote, for example, to his friends, Marek and Zofia, in Krakow: "Madame Zofia, I thank you for everything you said about Medjugorje. I, also, travel to Medjugorje each day in pilgrimage through prayer; I join spiritually to all those who pray there, or who feel a call to pray there." However, he didn't express his personal opinion except in private to a number of reliable witnesses, among others, the President of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, and to Monsignor Paolo Hnilica. He didn't speak out in a Press Conference, no doubt so as to respect the opinions of his fellow Priests and Bishops, opinions that were different from his own. He could have used the influence of his position as Sovereign Pontiff, but he chose patience.

4 - A Comedy of Deception? We know that at Mostar, the Bishop had a personal opinion different from that of John Paul II. He actually denied the authenticity of the apparitions, characterizing them as some kind of deceitful comedy played from the very beginning by both the Franciscans and the visionaries. But now we have a Pope who is open to the authenticity of the first apparitions and who recognizes the good fruits over time - 36 years.

The Pope also referred to the position of the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, presided over by Cardinal Mueller, a man who has actively opposed Medjugorje for many years. Now, Pope Francis has openly dismissed the Cardinal's overly negative declarations. According to the "habits and customs" of the Church, such a public dismissal of those negative comments carries weight, even if the Pope doesn't personally recognize all of the apparitions at Medjugorje.

5 - A Postmistress Virgin? The Pope cannot believe that this "post office employee," could be the Blessed Virgin Mary. He seems troubled by two facts:

1 - That she speaks every day,

2 - That she gives precise appointments to the visionaries.

Now, at Medjugorje, Our Lady doesn't speak every day, far from it. Yes, she does come every day to pray with the visionaries, just as she has already done at Notre Dame du Laus (France) for 54 years with the Venerable Benoite Rancurel. That said, we know that Pope Francis is bombarded with so-called messages from the "Virgin", which must certainly exasperate him! But those messages have nothing to do with the Queen of Peace in Medjugorje.

As for setting up a time and date with the visionaries, she has often done that in the recognized apparitions of Lourdes, Fatima, Kibeho, etc. It is part of her maternal care, to make sure no one will be in the dark about her next apparitions. By doing so, she enables her children to gather together, to be with her and to pray with her. That's her joy as a mother. The miracle of the sun at Fatima was witnessed by 70,000 people on October 13, 1917. Our Lady had announced that apparition to the 3 shepherds, and, therefore, permitted that great historic gathering.

We could then conclude this: since the 2 major concerns brought up by the Pope against this "post office employee" are precisely those two hurdles, we can be reassured! When it comes right down to it, it is not impossible that the Pope might take these points into account when he ultimately expresses his thoughts.

6 - A Positive Point: The Pope has not rejected the messages. We can, therefore, continue to listen to them attentively, to share them, and to live them in all security according to the intense desire of the Queen of Peace.

7 - A Paradox? Let's remember the words of Christ: "People don't pick figs from thorn bushes. . . A tree is recognized by its own fruits." Pope Francis and the whole Ruini Commission recognize the good fruit of Medjugorje. The evidence is incontrovertible! So, how can this good fruit continue to grow on a bad tree?

The special envoy of the Pope, Monsignor Henryk Hoser, came to Medjugorje, as you know. The Holy Father praised him during this interview as a "good bishop whom he chose." Monsignor Hoser conducted a very serious investigation on site ("Come and see," says Jesus). He met key people, the Franciscans and the visionaries, visited several local communities and has seen various charitable works born from the messages etc. He will submit his report to Pope Francis by the end of June. In view of the encouragement and the comfort he anxious to give to the entire parish as the "special envoy of the Pope," it is probable that the next words of the Holy Father on Medjugorje will be more favourable. Monsignor Hoser is an expert in matters of apparitions. He was an active member of the commission which studied the apparitions of Kibeho in Rwanda, and these ended up being recognized. Let us wait in prayer!

8 - Chase Away Sadness! In any case, even if this personal opinion is that of a Pope, it remains an unofficial opinion and doesn't have the authority of the Church (See PS 3 on ex cathedra declarations). Everyone remains free then to believe in good conscience that it is the Mother of God who is still appearing today or not to believe it. Free, also, to go to Medjugorje, to pray there, to read the messages and to live them out. In spite of the sadness that this interview has brought to some people, when we look at it all closely, we find a lot of important and positive points.

The Pope concluded his interview by saying, "In the end, we will say something!" Let us wait in fervent prayer and trust, as Mary always did in her life. Let us cling to her as never before!

9 - Watch Out for Snares! Given the anti-Christian waves and the persecutions the entire world is facing at the moment, I believe that we should prepare ourselves to experience great spiritual battles. The confusion that reigns should drive us to be more vigilant than ever.

The traps that Satan could lead us into on the occasion of this interview are obvious, and falling into them would be a disaster. Moreover, that would be a great disservice to the plans our Heavenly Mother has. I see 2 important traps worth highlighting here:

- On the one hand, if we tell ourselves that the Pope does not look very favourably on Medjugorje, we might no longer go on pilgrimages there. That would work against thousands of poor and humble souls (who otherwise claim the attention of the Pope, paradoxically!) Think of all those faithful of Medjugorje who found peace and hope again, who came back to life by embracing the sacraments, and who were finally able to find new courage in the face of very difficult situations! They could feel wounded and discouraged. Not to mention those who have never been to Medjugorje but whom Our Lady is inviting . . . May they not deprive themselves of this providential source of grace!

- On the other hand, some might be tempted to reject the Pope and perhaps even the Church in view of these

contradictions within the institution. God forbid! It is out of the question to oppose the Pope/Gospa as if we had to choose between the two! Let's continue to pray for the Holy Father with all our hearts and for the Church of Christ.

"Your shepherds do not need your judgments nor your criticisms. They need your prayers, your love, and your help" (Message transmitted by Mirjana). "My Son is with you. He is everywhere. He is invisible, but you can see Him if you live Him. He is the light which illuminates your soul and gives you peace. He is the Church that you must love, for which you must pray and always fight for." (Message of August 2, 2015).

We love our shepherds and we pray for them. It's quite simple: We love them because they are our shepherds! Jesus chose them for us. Didn't the Gospa say: "Only through your shepherds will my Heart triumph.

Don't allow the Evil One to separate you from your shepherds!" (Sept. 2, 2013)

Let us trust our dear Mother, because all of this is inscribed on a providential path that she is managing with the heart of a Queen. As Queen and Sovereign, she will make everything work out for our good. As Vicka often says, "The Gospa will fulfil her plan." And, also, "The Gospa will defend herself." Could she have been more clear at Fatima when she declared, "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph"?

Medjugorje, June 30, 2017 Dear children of Medjugorje, peace!

To put an end to a major confusion which has been all over the Internet since June 16, I must clarify that the image of Christ imprinted on the host, during a Holy Hour of adoration in Medjugorje, is simply a fake. A young Spanish man himself said he was the author. Initially, he had made this photomontage just for his friends, using an application called Moldiv, while clearly indicating that it was a fake. But unfortunately, an ill-intentioned person circulated the picture without specifying that it was not real. And that was enough to create the greatest confusion.

This person did not stop there! To give credibility to this deception, he added a serious lie: to my great surprise, I learned that I had supposedly confirmed the authenticity of this miracle, and so had the parish priest who can be seen in the picture as well as the visionary Marija. This is all false! None of us was ever even contacted about this, nor did we ever confirm this so-called miracle. Actually, this kind of false claim is serious.

Here is the lesson that we can draw from this:

- Let's not disseminate any images or information without knowing exactly where they come from. Medjugorje doesn't need misleading advertising.

- Holy things must not ever be mocked, this does not attract any divine blessing. In addition, there is the risk of sowing trouble among people of good faith.

- Jesus is always present in the Eucharist and that is the extraordinary news that we should broadcast all over the world! That is the real miracle: the Son of God present in the Bread of Life, with or without any tangible image. "Blessed are those who believe without seeing!"

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you; may the Lord lift up His Face upon you, and give you peace."

On July 2, 2017, Mirjana received her monthly apparition at the Blue Cross in the midst of a very large crowd. After the apparition, she shared the following message from Our Lady:

"Dear children, thank you for continuing to respond to my invitations and for gathering here around me, your heavenly mother. I know that you are thinking of me with love and hope. I, too, feel love for all of you, just as my most beloved Son also feels it: He who, through his merciful love, is always sending me to you anew; He who was man; He who was and is God - one and triune; He who suffered in body and soul for your sake; He who made Himself bread to feed your souls and thus to save them. My children, I am teaching you how to be worthy of His love, to direct your thoughts to Him, to live my Son.

Apostles of my love, I am covering you with my mantle, because as a mother I desire to protect you. I am imploring you to pray for the whole world. My heart is suffering. Sins are multiplying, they are too numerous. But with the help of those of you who are humble, modest, filled with love, hidden and holy, my heart will triumph. Love my Son above all and the whole world through Him. Never forget that each of your brothers, within himself, carries something precious - the soul. Therefore, my children, love all those who do not know my Son, so that through prayer and the love which comes through prayer, they may become better; that the goodness in them could win; that souls could be saved and have eternal life.

My apostles, my children, my Son told you to love one another. May this be inscribed in your hearts and with prayer, try to live that love. Thank you."

Mirjana said that Our Lady was sad.

God Bless the Children

An Italian mom sent me this word from her little Paola who is 8 years old:

One day she said to her, "Paola, why do you never send a kiss to Our Lady who is in the frame above your bed?" She responded, "But mum, this is not the true Mary! The kiss I send to her is through the window towards heaven. This way, it goes immediately to the true Mother of God!"

See How Easily God is Moved!

Little Maria-Pia was born in Italy on May 13th of this year. She gestated in her mother's womb for only 6 months, and weighed only 1.2 lbs when she was born. In other words, she was fighting to stay alive. Imagine the anguish!

Very soon after her birth, it was discovered that Maria-Pia had a lung infection, and was in respiratory distress. She needed to be placed in an incubator. Her parents, being very fervent Catholics, received special permission from the doctors to have Maria-Pia Baptized in the intensive care unit. It was a special moment of grace for the whole family! They immediately began to pray and from the moment the Sacrament was conferred, everyone felt a great sense of serenity. Now that she had become a child of God, their little Maria-Pia was in the hands of the best Father there is. Despite the doctors' somber prognosis that the child's life was in danger and that the coming days would be critical, a certainty and peace came over the family that could not be disturbed.

Her grandfather, Davide, who often accompanies pilgrims to Medjugorje, immediately had an intuition in his heart, something that seemed obvious: in addition to verbal prayer, something very hands-on and demanding had to be done, something that would involve both body and soul. He suggested to all the men in the family to go on pilgrimage by foot. So Davide sent a message through Whats App to each of them, explaining what he had in mind, and inviting them all to come to his house at 6am the following Saturday (May 27th). From there, they would walk almost 9.5 miles to a shrine dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is venerated in this place under the name of "Beata Vergine della Sassola". In other words, a total of 19 miles on foot both ways, to unify their supplications, and beg heaven to save little Marie-Pia.

To his great surprise, he received immediate and unanimous answers: "We will all be there!" And on that Saturday 15 men walked in the blazing sweltering sun, happy and peaceful, chanting as they marched to the sound of the rosaries prayed with fervour, in light of the life-threatening emergency. They finally reached the shrine and attended Mass, all covered in sweat. There, a great surprise awaited them: their wives had come first! Without informing their husbands, they decided among themselves to join them and finish the pilgrimage with them. Their hearts filled with unspeakable joy, the whole family came to the Sanctuary and prayed a last prayer to rattle the Heavens above.

The Lord's answer came swiftly! Less than a day later, on May 28th, they learned that little Maria-Pia was starting to respond to antibiotics and that the infection was receding. They were ecstatic! Grandfather Davide cried with joy! Two days later, the mother conveyed another piece of good news: the child was breathing without medical assistance and her small heart problem had resolved by itself.

At present, 2 months later, little Maria-Pia is doing well. She is growing little by little and her family follows her progress closely. To thank God for the gift of life and for His protection, grandfather Davide repeated the same pilgrimage on foot, his heart overwhelmed with joy.

What can we learn from this beautiful testimony? Tons of graces are suspended above us, ready to shower down onto those who choose to believe, to take action and to express their gratitude. Sometimes, you need to be a bit forceful with God! **God is easily moved**, and He Himself inspires His children with the initiatives to take so that He can have the joy of granting them. Davide and his family did everything in their power, and God did the rest!

Today, you may not have a little Maria Pia fighting for her life; but you probably have a burden on your heart. Whatever that burden may be, remember that Heaven is ready to bless you! Of course, fulfilment or healing is not automatic. However, as Our Lady said, many more healings would be granted if one prayed from the heart and abandoned sin (through a sincere confession). It is enough then to just enter into the certainty that God loves us infinitely and that His dream is to shower us with grace, according to His wisdom.

Warning From Fatima on July 13, 1917

Just 100 years ago Our Lady showed hell to the three little shepherds of Fatima.

There she told them: You have seen hell, where the souls of poor sinners go. It is to save them that God wants to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If you do what I tell you, many souls will be saved, and there will be peace.

This war will end, but if men do not refrain from offending God, another and more terrible war will begin during the pontificate of Pius XI...

To prevent this, I shall come to the world to ask that Russia be consecrated to my Immaculate Heart, and I shall ask that on the First Saturday of every month Communions of reparation be made in atonement for the sins-of the world. If my wishes are fulfilled, Russia will be converted and there will be peace; if not, then Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, bringing new wars and persecution of the Church; the good will be martyred and the Holy Father will have much to suffer; certain nations will be annihilated. But in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and the world will enjoy a period of peace. In Portugal the faith will always be preserved...

At the end of what? 36 years of apparitions in Medjugorje have taught us how to live in the grace of God, and how not to offend God anymore. Let's not take the risk to ignore this motherly voice that only seeks to avoid the worst for us! Each one of us can hasten this triumph and therefore avoid a lot of suffering.

Pentecost in Rome!

Our Lady doesn't hide from us that her heart is suffering because sins are multiplying, they are very numerous, as she said. In fact, sin has never brought any blessing! According to spiritual logic we will have to suffer from today's explosion of sins if we do not enter into a sincere contrition and if we do not change the direction of our life.

But the Triumph of her Immaculate Heart is today closer than ever. This is why I intend to quote here a prophesy given by Patti Mansfield on June 3rd 2017 during the Pentecost gathering in Rome with Pope Francis at Circo Massimo:

"Brothers and sisters! As we were praying in the Spirit the Lord gave me a word and it was this: Lift up your eyes and see, that the fields are white for harvest. And if you would obey me, and if you would obey the prompting of my spirit, you will yet see, infinitely more than you can ask or imagine. You will yet see the power of my Spirit descend upon the human race. I tell you, the fields are white for harvest, but I need your obedience, I need your docility, I need your faith, and you will yet see marvels that will astound you, infinitely more than you can ask or imagine, for the glory of my name."

Sister Emmanuel+

TO BE READ AT EVERY LEGION OF MARY PRAESIDIA THROUGHOUT NEW ZEALAND

Dear fellow Legionaries this is an urgent call for help. In a few months New Zealand will have a general election. What you may not realise is that a Pro Abortion lobby group has a 20,000 plus petition to present to parliament to make abortion legal up to the date of birth.

If the Labour/Greens Coalition win the election they will strongly push for this end even without a petition. The younger National MPs are also leaning this way.

The situation is becoming even more precarious for our most vulnerable members of society. It is time for us in the Legion of Mary to become more involved with pro life issues through our prayers and with action.

We have been asked to help with a countering prolife petition to be sent on to Right to Life New Zealand. Their address details are on the bottom of the petition form included with this letter. Bishop Pat in Auckland endorses this initiative and every parish priest in the Auckland Diocese will be informed to participate.

Being actively involved with this endeavour of saving innocent lives is the most important work a legionary can do especially right now at this pivotal point in time. I am asking every active member to be wholeheartedly involved. We want the names of parishioners, family members, friends, neighbours and whoever else.

Please speak with your parish priest, ask him to announce the petition from the pulpit and then be ready with clipboards and pens to collect all the names, for 2 or more weekends if needs be. Think outside the square a bit, give petition forms to the principals of Catholic secondary schools for the senior pupils to sign or go to neighbouring Christian churches and invite them to be involved. Think and pray on ways to get names.

This is an urgent call and time is short, the pro abortion agenda has the jump on us so we need to get cracking. Pray hard for Our Lady of Guadalupe to intercede on behalf of our smallest brothers and sisters. Start as soon as you can.

May God bless you for your efforts on behalf of preborn babies.

Br. Mark Gasparini – Legion of Mary Senatus President

Vote for Life

Why a Christian cannot in good conscience
vote for political parties promoting abortion



“I have come that you

- Today, the scientific/physiological facts of conception and formation in the womb can only be correctly described as a future HUMAN CHILD. This is universally accepted.
- Why then, the question must be asked, has virtually every English speaking nation been at the forefront of KILLING IN THE WOMB well over a BILLION unborn children since the infamous and totally discredited Roe Vs Wade US Supreme Court judgement - hopefully soon to be repealed.
- Whatever we think of the new American politics, the current defunding of that nation's biggest abortion provider is to become law and that administration's ambition to fully restore RESPECT FOR LIFE should be a wake up call for us all!
- With the encouragement of our Spiritual leader, our prayers and the POWER of the Holy Spirit, our VOTES can begin NEW ZEALAND's journey back to life. We can ask an expectant mother at 3 months, “How is your baby?” if it's wanted. If the coming baby is judged to be INCONVENIENT we are expected to accept the incredible notion that ONE FIFTH of all New Zealand's pregnant women are so 'mentally at risk' that their BABIES CAN BE ABORTED! All under our government implemented and mainly paid for abortion industry involves - a Doctor + 2 Certifying Consultants + an Abortion clinic or Hospital section + an Abortionist + the Abortion Clinic staff.

may have **LIFE...**" - John 10:10

- GOD'S LOVE for every one of HIS CREATIONS is evident, particularly FOR THE UNBORN. Just these references alone testify this TRUTH - Psalm 127:3, Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5, Luke 1:15, Galatians 1:5, Isaiah 49:5
- To say the abortion issue is nothing to do with the church one would also have to say GOD IS not INTERESTED in HIS OWN CREATION and JESUS won't be making this statement on JUDGEMENT DAY " I was in the womb about to be killed and you did NOTHING!!"
- So surely the question IF YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN is ... Can you really VOTE for any politician or political party that has the avowed objective of increasing so called abortion services?
- JESUS THE GREAT BEGGAR IS BEGGING YOU TO SAVE THE LIVES OF HIS LITTLE ONES - VOTE FOR LIFE!
- You can make a simple start by asking your Pastor or Priest for permission for Praying the Prayer (overleaf) at all Church Services or if necessary just commit to Praying it Yourself each day - God will Bless You - an unborn Child may one day thank You!

Make your vote a
**VOTE FOR
LIFE**



P Daily Prayer for *Life*

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living,
To you do we entrust the cause of life.
Look down, O Mother,
upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born,
Of the poor whose lives are made difficult,
Of men and women who are victims of brutal violence,
Of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life
With honesty and love to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace
to accept that Gospel
as a gift ever new,
The joy of celebrating
it with gratitude
throughout their lives
and the courage
to bear witness to it,
resolutely,
in order to build,
Together with all
people of good will,
The civilization of
truth and love,
To the praise and glory of God,
The Creator and lover of life.

Amen

St John Paul II



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.

The Power † of the Holy Rosary.

Beautiful Reasons for Praying the Rosary Even More Often. Father Gabriel Amorth writes:

One day a colleague of mine heard the devil say during an exorcism: "Every Hail Mary is like a blow on my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end."

The secret that makes this prayer so effective is that *the Rosary is both prayer and meditation.* *It is addressed to the Father, to the Blessed Virgin, and to the Holy † Trinity, and is a meditation centred on Christ.* I write in addition to the above:

Please enunciate each word of the Rosary clearly and distinctly. Do not trample on the heels of the words of anyone with your words.

Do not speak over the leader if you are following or the respondent if you are leading the Rosary. *Remember that they also are having a conversation with Mary Our Mother and it is not polite to speak when someone else is speaking.*

In the case of the public Rosary there are only two people speaking: the Leader and the respondents. Each is speaking to the Blessed Mother and listening carefully to her response within their hearts as they meditate on the scene before them in their consideration of the mystery being spoken of and interpreted and translated into their lives.

Spread this powerful Prayer of Exorcism, the Rosary, which contains the Our † Father, the Perfect Prayer, prayed five times in the recitation of each set of the Rosary's Mysteries, backed up by the powerful prayers of Our Mother who prays with us as we pray 53 Hail Mary's.

The Eternal Father described to a group of us, through a Visionary Friend of mine, *what happens when we pray the Rosary, saying, "When you pray Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now....., the Blessed Mother comes instantly to your side to pray with you. And she does not come alone. She brings angels with her. And not just one or two for she is the Queen of Angels, so choirs of angels come with her. And she and Jesus are joined at the heart and cannot be separated so she brings Jesus with her. And Jesus cannot be separated from the Trinity so He brings the Father and the Holy Spirit with Him. And where the Holy Trinity is, all of creation is, and you are surrounded by such beauty and light as you cannot imagine in this life.*

Your Mother comes as Our Lady of Grace with her hands outstretched. Rays of light emit from her hands piercing your body, healing you and filling you with graces. This is your inheritance which was poured out from the heart of Jesus on the Cross, when the centurion pierced His Heart with the spear, into the only pure vessel ready to receive such graces at that time, Your Mother. Now as you pray the Rosary, or even just recite one Hail Mary, you receive your portion of these graces. He also said at this time, "Anyone who goes to Mary and prays the Rosary cannot be touched by Satan." Is it any wonder that anyone who prays the Rosary from the heart is so blessed and protected and powerful in their prayers for others?

The Daily Prayer of Mother Teresa

Dear Jesus, help me to spread Thy fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with Thy spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. Amen.

Dear Editor, Father Neil and Sarah,

After telling many friends that I would share my revelations at a recent Pilgrimage, I had better not procrastinate. I am warm, dry and cosy. The sun is not shining which is good, I may be distracted to garden instead!

It was a Pilgrimage under chaplaincy of Monsignor David Tonks. The Eucharistic Convention had just finished. We flew out on Monday, 24th April. It started in Jordan, into Israel and culminated on Mt Sinai, Egypt.

On Mt Nebo, Moses looked across the Jordan River and beyond into Israel....the Promised Land! On Mt Nebo is the reality of old Testament deliverance of Israelite slavery out of Egypt. A monument is now in its place to pay homage as a remembrance in the shape of a staff twined by a serpent. Pope John Paul 2nd, visited this place in 2,000. He tied the present to the past.

In Jordan, I came across more mosaic art than anywhere else during the pilgrimage. I liken the mosaic of our brokenness to the patient hand of God using the broken bits to put back into wholeness a fantastic image of His Mercy....His face on us.

I feel the brokenness of myself like a mosaic. God puts me together piece by piece. He makes me whole and perfect carefully and patiently. Wherever I am, God is with me, around me, by me.

In return, I listen to His word. May I spread His image far and wide through me and in me. May others see me and know that God is Love. May I share my blessings as God has intended. May I fulfill my life with God's purpose always. There are many reasons to follow God. My one purpose is to know Him, serve Him, praise Him and thank Him. To know that God is Love.

Many past civilizations left behind ruins and history. There were wars, famine, disease, destruction, natural disasters and death! Rulers conquered lands, displaced people, made them into slaves, refugees...stateless and illegal. There was no peace. The triumph and prosperity of rulers were short lived. Their discontent, greed, vanity ended their civilizations.

In the holy Land, I discovered a civilization of the plan of God in progress. This is the civilization of the...word...made man in flesh! Jesus the ultimate sacrifice for mankind. The ...word...fulfilled his Father's will. That is to die in order to bring about salvation to mankind. Jesus is the Truth, Way and Life. It does not matter if the places are not exactly where Jesus once lived, ministered and died. What matters is whether you believed that Jesus is Son of God and your Saviour.

There are many churches, places of worship which were built to glorify God. These are meeting places for worshipers to gather in thanksgivings, to praise, to pray for needs and peace, to receive Holy Communion. In Masses everywhere, the living and the dead, humanity and divinity meet in the intimacy of the sacrifice at the altar.

There is division in this civilization of the ...word...of God. He lives in you and in me. We are made in His image. If we do not surrender our wills to follow His will, we are out of order. Following our free wills build walls of division. Brick by brick the division is wider and deeper.

The living word is also living water, living bread, living you and living me.....Body of Christ in the Church. It will not die because we procreate, pass down traditions, values, Way of the Cross, Mass, Gospels, our Catechism. We have the moral compass in following the Truth, Way and Life.

On morning of Tuesday 18th April, I woke up early, composed a prayer to Monsignor David. This was my Pilgrim Prayer. Before climbing Mt Sinai, I had him bless a bag of sand. It contains all those dear and near to me, all those dead and living. It contains my prayers of praise, gratitude, thanksgiving. It contains my petitions, supplication. It represented our talents, our repentance, sacrifices, our trust, our communion.

It was a testing climb. I rode a camel 2/3 of the way. We reached a plateau where camels could climb no further. There was at least another hour's climb to summit. The rest of the group climbed to the top. Everyone had the will and determination by hook or by crook. I did not feel the need nor have the desire to achieve the summit. My purpose is to encounter God at whatever level I am at. I have no need to prove to myself or to God my weakness. He knows. I am loved. He has reached me!

I released the bag of sand over a wall. The view above, below and around remains untouched by man made structures. Just the sky, mountains, horizon, sand, stones and rocks! Barren, dry, inhospitable and hot! These blessed sands represent our free wills. They will radiate warmth with the sunrise, they will rest peacefully in the cool of the night. They will be blown from place to place, wherever, whenever the wind takes them. They will settle and be made use of. One grain can irritate. Bonded together, it builds monuments, pyramids, homes, shelters.

While the group climbed, Bedouin hospitality was extended to me. I rested comfortably on my side stretched out on a narrow, worn smooth slab of stone bench. Bedouins drank hot drinks and snacked and chatted. I shared their man made hut and shelter. It was out of the wind. I felt safe. I prayed for the group to reach their desire.

I felt complete peace in the company of Bedouins but in my own solitude, I feel like gentle running water

passing through. It is an oasis of living rain, manna from heaven, God is never far away.

The God of History is the God of our present and the future. I am awakened by this reality through the experience of this Pilgrimage. Anyone can be a pilgrim. It is not necessary to go to the Holy Land. God is in you and in me. Daily when we choose to carry His Cross, God is on pilgrimage with us!

God bless you,

Rose Muir. Address...1B Napier Ave., Takapuna, Auckland. Tel...09 486 0070....

My Pilgrim Prayer by Rose Muir

In these desert sands, You have the whole world in Your hands
Nothing can slip through your fingers without you knowing
You speak to us from mountain tops, You bring us to our knees

We who are terrorists, priests, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters
We are Your children, You love us all
I bring before You this bag of sand, countless in numbers

This bag represents my ancestors, the living present, generations to come
You have called me by my name, I have not always listened
There is hopelessness in this world, we are not helpless

My sins are countless yet you absolve
The terrorists are numbered yet you have mercy
I bring before You the suicide bombers, show them hope
The peacemakers, give them hope

Peace does not come with more conflict, show us resolution
Health does not come with more experimentation, let us not poison our bodies
Teach us how to live simply so that others may simply live

In this bag of sand, I praise You, I thank You, I bless You
I surrender to You my talents, let me turn them into gifts for You
I surrender to You my will, let me be an instrument of Your peace

I surrender to You my family, all those dear to me near and far
Give them opportunities to encounter You

You are with me every minute of every day, I am blessed by Your Presence
I am blessed to be on this mountain to witness the timelessness
The fruitfulness of Your Son, incarnate, Jesus Christ

Let me be a faithful pilgrim till the day I die. This prayer has no ending until you end my life.

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**

We might give up, but The Lord never does.

My name is Meri and I can only be described as a survivor of life, I was born and raised in the Far North of New Zealand. After leaving school at 17, I went south to Dunedin, where I worked in the telephone exchange for four years. I married a wonderful man and we shared my husband's family home.

But all was not well in our marriage, partly because of damaging past events in my life. I wasn't well psychologically but I didn't realise being sexually molested from the age of seven until I was 15, had affected me. I was angry, violent and aggressive all the time, which eventually led to us divorcing. I was 22 and he was 38. He was a lovely man. It took me a while to realise but I now know the abuse doesn't define me or who I am.

I stayed alone for several years, with only my mother, who I left work to care for full time. The last five years of her life brought much financial difficulty. We lived in a rundown house with not much prospect of help.

I had known a family friend, Walter, all my life and knew he would help me if I asked. There was always the ever-present danger of the abuser calling on me, even in my early adult years. Walter became my best and only friend, who supported me through all my troubles and protected me from the abuse.

He helped me when I lost my mum. He became my second husband. I was 46 and he was 24 years older. We spent eight years at his run down farm house with no hot water, holes in the roof, there was electricity but the house was cold and damp, with rotting weather boards.

When I found myself stepping in to care for three children for a family member, Housing New Zealand made the home liveable for us as a family.

I had been brought up an Anglican but later embraced the Assembly of God church. I first gave my life to the Lord in the Assembly of God church at 21, but I eventually fell away. I believe the children brought structure to my life at that time though. They really brought me back to the Lord and the AOG church again, because they wanted to go to church and loved their Sunday school sessions.

At 48, I made the decision to follow God a second time. But sadly, I fell away again, because of having no support or fellowship at home. Walter wasn't a believer and I didn't have anyone to pray with and for me.

One day, Walter fell ill and when admitted to hospital, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. Three weeks later, he passed away. Life then took a massive downturn for me. Of course I had relied on Walter for absolutely everything. I had got so far away from my faith and Walter had filled that void. When he died, I was completely lost, I had no one. I had a lot to forgive others for as well. I was completed alone again and facing, not only the loss of Walter but the hostility from other members of his family. I was angry, alone and hurt.

A family meeting was called on the day of the funeral and I was told to leave the marital home because the family wanted the homestead back. There was only my own family home for me to go to which had no water, no sewerage and was completely run down. I started to fall into a deep depression. I cried every single day, from the time I woke up, until I went to sleep. The pain became so intense, it felt like an elephant was sitting on my chest.

The pressure continued to build up, with over 20 dogs to feed, bills to pay, no money and nothing to eat. My financial situation became more unbearable. With a farm to tend and a house to keep, I lost all hope and was paralysed with fear. After several days, I decided I could not live anymore. On that day, my body was so wracked with pain, I could hardly get out of bed. Walter was a farmer with guns and that was my way out. I thought I would put the dogs down first and then shoot myself.

For some unknown reason, I turned on the television and a Christian programme was on. "The man said, 'are you afraid?' I GOT SUCH A SHOCK?. It was like he was in the room talking to me, literally. Then he said, 'if you have fear, I can tell you what to do'. I remember just sinking to the floor and crying my eyes out and saying, 'yes, tell me what to do'. At that moment, he said, 'give your fear to God'. I remember thinking, 'it can't be that easy'."

From that moment on, I allowed the Lord to minister to me, through Dr Charles Stanley, on the Shine tv channel. It was not a channel I usually watched. In fact I couldn't even stand anything to do with Christianity or Christians then. At the end of the programme, there was an alter call and I gave my life to the Lord. I was on my knees before the tv, and gave my life for the third and final time and that was three years ago. I am still following the Lord. He is really looked after me because I think it's amazing that, I asked the Lord to provide me with a home and job and he has provided this. I believe this is all the workings of the Lord and the path he wants for me. I'm so glad I have him in my life. The trials are never easy, the paths rough and hard, but the reward in The Lord is what we hope for. The joy He can only give in our daily walk is what we need in our life. Many blessings.

Why I choose the Catholic Road to Jesus

I wanted to share how our Good Lord gives us hope in the most devastating times, how He and our Most Blessed Mother are always tenderly caring for us, and how They brought me full circle, back to our One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church.

I was raised in a loving Catholic home, and our family of 8 prayed the Most Holy Rosary often. I thank my beautiful parents (who still pray the Most Holy Rosary often, just the two of them now). Then I grew up, went to college, got married, and moved not only away from home, but also away from my Holy Catholic faith. I never physically left the Church. But I just didn't see the need for too much of it. I prayed only when I needed something. I have no idea if I even owned a pair of Rosary beads.

After 3 years of marriage, and a 2 year old, we were expecting our 2nd child. We went to the hospital, as I was scheduled for a C-section the next day. The nurse came in and tried to find our precious baby's heartbeat. Another nurse came in to help. Then the doctor came in and ordered a stat ultrasound. He told us the baby had died. I looked at my husband and saw the tears streaming down his face. I looked at the doctor and said "I need Rosary beads". A nurse gave me hers that she carried with her. God bless her!! I clung to those Rosary beads. Our Lord and Blessed Mother took such good care of me at that time. It was difficult to pray, but I knew they were there. They held me and comforted me. Our Blessed Mother knew my pain, she had lost her Son. Thank you, Jesus and Mary for your love and comfort. I love you!!

We travelled back to my parents' home for Justin's funeral. That night, I was so angry with God. I threw the Rosary beads behind the big entertainment centre, which I was not able to move myself. They were there to stay! For now. After many tears, I fell asleep. When I awoke in the middle of the night, the Rosary beads were in my hand, I was clinging to them. I asked my husband why he had gotten them for me. He hadn't. Neither had anyone else in the house. (No one here, I mean). I wasn't very spiritual, but I knew something spiritual had happened. So I just kept clinging to my Rosary beads.

About 2 weeks after Justin had died, I went into the nursery and leaned against the crib. I felt I couldn't go on. I didn't want to live, I felt so empty. I wept. I cried out to God, "God, I can't go on like this. I need your help. Please help me"! Almost immediately I began to feel lighter. The weight was being lifted. Can't really explain it. Then I heard my 2+ year old talking to someone. He was carrying on a conversation across the hall. But there was no one with us, just he and I. I listened to this for several minutes. Then it was quiet. I went into the room and looked around, no one there but my little boy. I asked him who he was talking to. "That man, mommy". Again, I looked around. No one was there. "What man, honey"? I asked him. "That nice man that was here to make sure you were OK, mommy. He left, mommy".

Yes, there is always hope in the Lord. He will NEVER leave us nor forsake us!!!

Thus, my search began. I needed to draw near to God. But what is the best way? I prayed and I prayed harder. I didn't know where I belonged. I searched. And again I prayed. For guidance. Where was "home"? I attended a Life in the Spirit seminar at our Catholic Church. This awakened me to the Holy Spirit, Who was already within me. I knew it was time to give my life to Jesus. (Though I have taken it back quite often)! I learned how to praise God. I began to pray the Most Holy Rosary again, after many years away from it.

And I had a great yearning to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. I began to go to Holy Mass daily. Jesus in His Most Holy Eucharist gives me strength for the day. He is my strength! I felt drawn to spend time with Jesus in His Most Blessed Sacrament. "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you". (James 4:8)

And Confession, oh, I never really "liked" to go to confession. But there were sins from long ago I knew needed to be forgiven. The priest who heard my confession at a weekend retreat was an absolute blessing. I cried and asked if I really needed to say these sins out loud. He looked at me so kindly, and I saw Jesus. I cried and confessed aloud these sins I had carried around with me for so long. The priest stood up, came to me, hugged me and told me how much Jesus loves

me. At that moment, I knew it was true. I saw our gentle Jesus that day. Oh, our Holy Sacraments!! What graces we receive through them!!! Yes, I am home to stay in our One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church!!!

Thank you, saints and angels, for your intercession and protection.

Thank you, Blessed Mother, for your love, your tender love.

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for your loving guidance.

Thank you, my precious Jesus, for dying so that I may live.

And thank you, Heavenly Father, for taking such good care of your child who had taken her faith pretty lightly.

Thank you, Father God, for everything!

I love you!!!

OUR GOD IS AN AWESOME GOD!!!!!!

Linda J. Handel

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The gift of faith

The Lord must despair with me at times, I have such little faith, I try to do things in my own might, and continually He shows me the way, His way, how to put things together for His mothers magazine. I mean, the other night I did ask Him to help me get everything together cause I was running out of time and sooooo much to do. You know the feeling, panicking, thinking I have got so much to do and so little time. Well of cause HE has got everything organised, I am just the one who puts it together. **WHY AM I SO BLIND.** I despair with myself. I continually need reminding, just like a little lost child, which I am but I think I am turning 60 years end of August, surely something is going to sink in soon. Never mind, I guess, that fact that He is continually reminding me, at my side, means that He cares for me.

Yes I am off to Fatima and Medjugorje for my birthday. What a wonderful surprise the Lord has given me and one that I have looked forward to for so long. It is amazing that I will be heading off on the anniversary of seven years of doing the magazine, having taken over the editorship from Paul all those years ago. He is an awesome God, and one who is faithful. Looking forward to putting pen to paper when I get back for the magazine.

The other big news is our daughter and her husband have been blessed with a child. The baby is due beginning of new year, around the time of his/her dads birthday and his/her poppas birthday. Noel excited, hoping that it will come on his birthday, a special gift. I don't think Amanda too excited about that prospect as it means she will be overdue. Has been suffering with a lot of morning sick, so not that happy with pregnancy at the moment. But what a special gift around the Lords birth and The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on the 1 January. Another blessing of a grandchild, our second, as our eldest son has a boy in Brisbane. The Lord is good, and what a wonderful gift GRANDCHILDREN.

Was talking to a dear friend the other day about the WONDERS of GODS LOVE, and she said, Nothing can separate us from God's love. HE is there surrounding us, in good times and in bad. Let The Lords arms enfold you in times of need. Many Blessings. Looking forward to next issue. **Sarah Moran**

In the words of St. Teresa,

“There is a terrible hunger for love. We all experience that in our lives – the pain, the loneliness. We must have the courage to recognize it. The poor you may have right in your own family. Find them. Love them.”

Holy and loving St. Teresa, the love of Jesus on the Cross became a living flame within you, and so you became the light of His love to all. Help us to love all families! So that we may have eyes to see hurting families and helpful hands to care for them.

Find the Original Here: <http://www.praymorenovenas.com/novena-st-mother-teresa-calcutta/#ixzz4oTL4TLKE>

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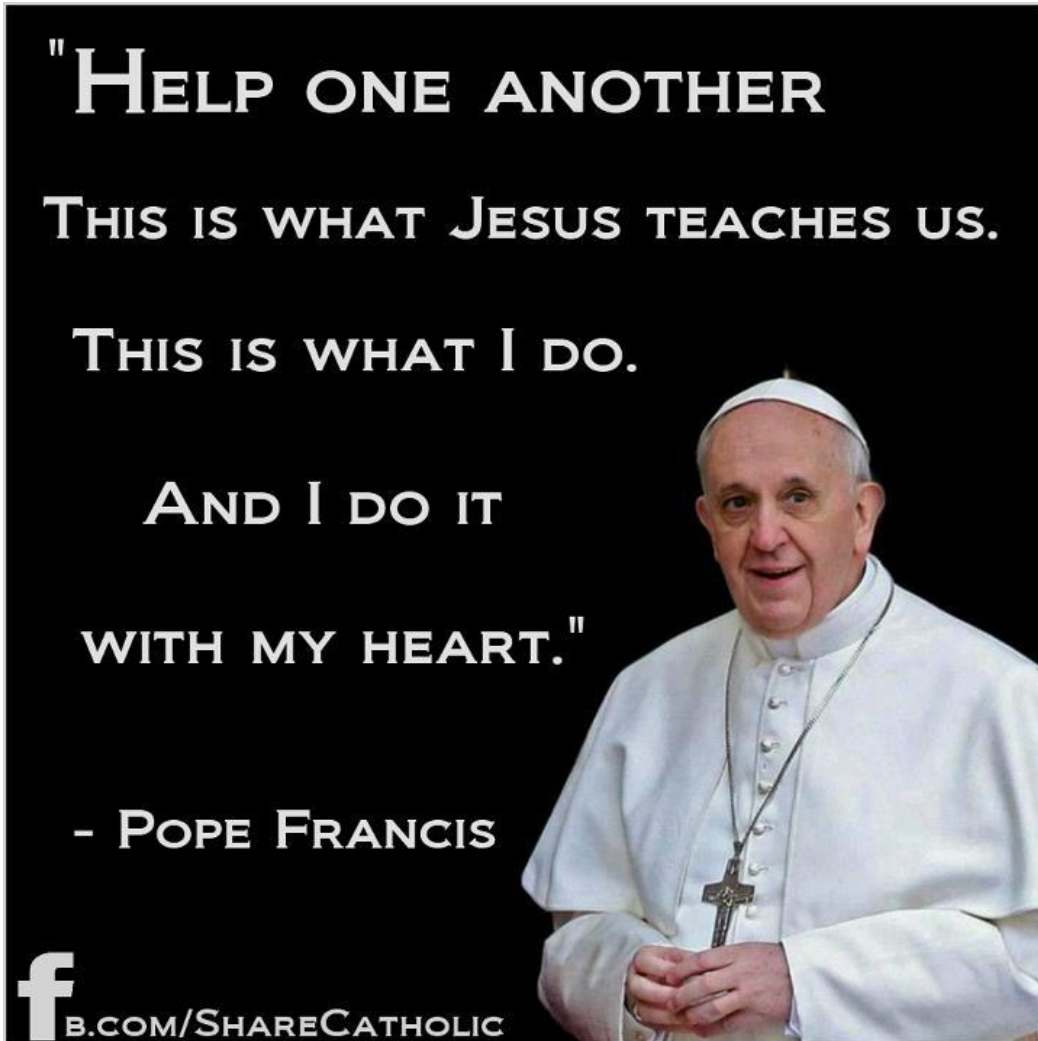
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Questionnaire

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.)

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Have you enjoyed reading this issue?

Is it helping you in your spiritual life?

Do you think others would benefit from reading it?

What about passing it on to someone or leave it in any church porch/foyer or anywhere else, so others can read it too.