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OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSENGER

THE MIR CENTER OF WESTERN COLORADO

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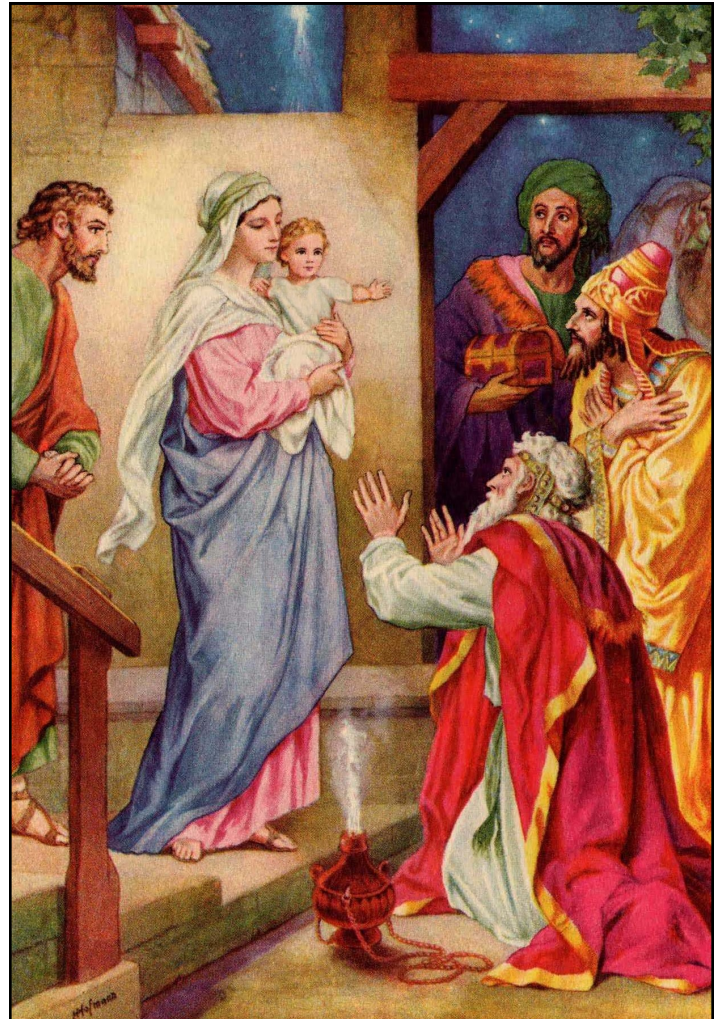
January, 2021

Behold magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem saying “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage...” (Mt 2: 1-2)

**Our Lady of Medjugorje's
Monthly Message of
December 25th, 2020:**

Dear children! I am carrying to you little Jesus who brings you peace, Him who is the past, present and future of your existence. Little children, do not permit for your faith and hope in a better future to be extinguished, because you are chosen to be witnesses of hope in every situation. That is why I am here with Jesus that He may bless you with His peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.

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



The Epiphany

Inside:

David Parkes healing - pg. 2

Annual apparition to Jakov - pg. 2

Protestant becomes Catholic priest - pg. 4

David Parkes on Conversion and Healing in Medjugorje

from Medjugorje.hr (View this testimony on YouTube)

The first time I heard about Medjugorje was in 1989. I heard about it because I was extremely ill at the time and the prognosis wasn't good. And we had a benefit concert to help the family financially and two people were at the concert who ran a travel agency and they invited my wife Anne and myself to come to a place called Medjugorje.

Yet I didn't want to come because God and I were not partners and the reason for that was that my eldest boy Ken was born with an incurable illness called cystic fibrosis.



And then I was struck down with an illness called Crohn's disease, so I got angry with God and didn't really want to come but as it turned out it was supposed to be my last holiday with my wife Anne. Not really believing I came with a very special priest from Chicago called father Peter Mary Rookey.

In 1989 Medjugorje was just a one - street town to be really honest with you. The street started from the bridge in Medjugorje and ended at the roundabout which, subsequently I learned, were the ruins of the old Catholic Church. I wanted to go back to Dubrovnik. I wanted plenty of action. But for every reason that I had to leave Medjugorje my wife Anne always had one reason as to why we should stay a little bit longer. And the ruse was that father Peter Mary Rookey was supposed to be celebrating Mass in the Church of St. James which was a lie.

He wasn't even on the altar and as I left the church of St. James, Anne and I got lost and then I heard Anne scream out: 'David, wait' and as I turned around, I saw her coming, running from the door of the church. She said: 'David, father Rookey is having a healing service in the graveyard.' Now, I turned to her and said: 'Well, I hope he has more luck than we had of him supposedly saying Mass this morning. I said: I'm not going, I'm too sick. I was in excruciating pain because of Crohn's disease and she said to me: Look, David, on our children's lives, if you come with me to the healing service, as soon as it's over I'll go back to the house and I'll pack the bags and we head off to Dubrovnik.

So, those were the words I wanted to hear so we walked around the side of the church down through the vineyards because the vineyard was right up, close to the church. Down through the lovely grove of trees where the statue of the Risen Lord is and then down to the graveyard. It was jammed. There were about seven or eight hundred people there because Father Rookey was so well known that whenever people said he'd be around, people came because he had an extremely beautiful gift of prayer for healing. In the graveyard there's a little paved area in front of the little burial chapel and in the middle of the chapel was father Rookey and three Irish priests and he was blessing them as he always did. And then they dispersed, blessed people and father Rookey came over close to where I was and there was a young

Annual Apparition to Jakov Colo

from Medjugorje.hr

At the last daily apparition to Jakov Colo on September 12th, 1998, Our Lady told him that henceforth he would have one apparition a year, every December 25th, on Christmas Day. This is also how it was this year. Through Jakov, Our Lady gave the following message:

"Dear children Also today Jesus is here beside you, even when you think that you are alone and that light does not exist in your life. He is here and has never left you or distanced Himself from you. The light of His birth illuminates this world and your life. His Heart is always open towards you, to receive your every pain, every trial, fear and need. His arms are extended towards you, that as a father, He may embrace you and tell you how important you are for Him, how much He loves you and cares for His children. Children, is your heart open towards Jesus? Have you completely surrendered your life into His hands? Have you accepted Jesus as your father, to whom you can always turn and in Him find consolation and everything you need to live true faith? That is why, my children, surrender your hearts to Jesus and permit Him to begin to rule your lives, because only in this way, will you accept the present and be able to face the world in which you live today. With Jesus, every fear, suffering and pain disappear, because your heart accepts His will and everything that comes into your life. Jesus will give you the faith to accept everything and nothing will distance you from Him -- because He firmly holds you by the hand and does not permit for you to distance and lose yourselves in difficult moments -- because He has become the Lord of your life. I bless you with my motherly blessing."

adult in a wheelchair and he said: Are you prepared to take a step in faith for Jesus? That's stuck with me to this very day and the young adult said 'yes', so he anointed him and then he went to the next person and he laid hands and then they fainted.

And that's what I would call it. I subsequently found out, it's called resting in the spirit. But I'd never seen this, I thought this was the hocus-pocus pastor doing his thing and he went to the next six people. They all went down and of course, me being cynical, I turned to Anne and said: Ann, this is hysteria! Once one does it they're all going to do it, nobody wants to be left standing, they all have to be seen, to be getting what they're getting on the ground and if they don't, they're going to feel: What's wrong? So, Ann told me to shut up and I went off. I couldn't stand and watch this thing happening, so I came back about 15 minutes later and then she turned and said to me David: Why won't you have a blessing? And I said: Whoa, remember I'm the atheist! But you said, it'll do you good, you've been extremely ill! So I left again and I came back and this thing happened over

(David Parkes healing continued on page 5)

From the Diary of Sister Emmanuel

www.childrenofmedjugorje.com

On November 25th, 2020, the visionary Marija Pavlovic received the following monthly message:

"Dear children! This is a time of love, warmth, prayer and joy. Pray, little children, for little Jesus to be born in your hearts. Open your hearts to Jesus who gives Himself to each of you. God sent me to be joy and hope in this time, and I am saying to you: Without little Jesus you do not have the tenderness or the feeling of Heaven which is hidden in the Newborn. Thank you for having responded to my call."

A child on the staircase!

As we approach Christmas, I would like to tell you two stories about Child Jesus, because He often appeared in the lives of the Saints. One day, Saint Teresa of Avila was on her way to the chapel in her Carmelite Convent of the Incarnation. As she was about to walk up the stairs, she looked up and saw, standing on the last step, a tiny little boy, radiantly beautiful. Taken aback in amazement, she stretched out her arms towards him without saying a word. She wondered how he could have gotten into this private part of the house. But it was the child Himself who asked her, "What is your name?"

"My name is Teresa of Jesus! And you, dear little child, what is your name?"

"If you are Teresa of Jesus, then I am Jesus of Teresa!"

What a precious introduction! In these simple words of a child, He reveals to us a deeply moving feature of Jesus' heart. He desires to make known to us so much more than just how close He is to us 'physically', He is pointing to the deep union of His Person with ours! From the moment of our Baptism, we belong to Him, and He too belongs to us! In fact, every one of us can happily add Jesus to our first name. Caroline of Jesus, Vincent of Jesus.... This intrinsic belonging, acquired at the Sacrament of Baptism, gives us access to all the treasures of grace hidden in the Newborn, including the tenderness and sense of Heaven, as told to us by the Blessed Mother. Today,



Sister Emmanuel

more than ever, such power of healing is offered to us with this divine tenderness and warmth of Heaven! Who does not desire this priceless treasure, so rare, and yet within everyone's reach!?

Little Newborn Jesus, Little Child, this Christmas, please come to me on the staircase of my life, that is too high for me, and allow me to take you in my arms, for you belong to me, and I too belong to you!

St. Edith Stein

St. Edith Stein, is one of the 6 Patron Saints of Europe and had a great affection for the Child Jesus and the mystery of the Incarnation. Her Jewish roots had already given her a deep sense of the Living and True God. On becoming a Catholic, she became fascinated by the person of Jesus, especially in the smallness of His childhood, and she devoted herself entirely to Him in the Carmel of the Child Jesus of Prague, in Cologne, Germany.

Before entering the Carmel, she attended midnight Mass in a church on Christmas Eve. After Mass, the church emptied, all lights went out, and the last door was closed. No-one had noticed the silent presence of a woman praying. The next morning, when the sacristan opened the church, she could not believe her eyes: Edith was standing there, in front of the crib, in the same position as the day before. The sacristan apologized for locking her in all night and asked if she was tired. But Edith replied, "How can one be tired on the night God became man?"



Arrested by the Gestapo as were so many Jews, Edith was first deported to the Westernburg camp and then transferred to Auschwitz. In one of those horrible 'death trains', which was to take her to the hell of Auschwitz (as if toward her last station), she managed to smuggle a little note to her community to reassure them about her fate, saying: "The beloved Child Jesus is also here, in our midst!"

Was the Child Jesus in the midst of these people condemned to an excruciating death? Yes.... He had not abandoned Edith, who had venerated Him with so much love for so many years. The Child God had given her a peace that is not of this world; that divine peace that Jesus speaks of in the Gospel, which only He gives us, and which the world cannot give us. Nothing and no one can take this peace away from us, not even all the Auschwitz' of today's world. Jesus Himself lays this peace in our hearts during prayer. Of course, I am not belittling some of the tranquility and security that the world sometimes gives, but this is only short lived, like the scent of flowers in a field! At the moment of the

(Sister Emmanuel continued on page 6)

Protestant Becomes Catholic Priest: Fr. John Boughton

From Medjugorje.hr (View this testimony on YouTube)

I heard of Medjugorje the first time in 1991, in the fall. I came in February or March of 1992 as a Protestant. I was studying to be a medical doctor, I was 28 years old and was going back to the university. A friend of mine from Texas, also a Protestant, I was raised protestant, saw the conversion of this other man, Jeff Reed who runs St. David's Relief Foundation now. He saw a change in Jeff and he went up to Jeff and said: Jeff, what happened to you? I want it! Because Jeff had this peace about him that Jeff had never had before.

My friend Robert and I were at his ranch in Colorado and talking and he said: John, I don't know what to do about this, but I see this radical change in my friend Jeff and he gave me this book on Medjugorje by Wayne Weible. Read it and tell me what you think. And so that's the first time I heard about it.

We grew up together, we were best friends all our lives, we never talked religion, we talked, we chased girls together, we hunted together, we drank together, but we never talked religion together. We were even altar boys at the Episcopalian Church together, but never talked religion until he handed me that book. And he didn't know that at that moment I was asking the big questions at 28 years old. You know, why do I have such a big hole in my heart? Why do I have all the things the world promises and I'm on my way to medical school, why do I feel so empty?

And what's, what's happening here? And when he handed me that book, wow, it was a great beginning and we began to talk further about it and he said: What do you think?

I said, it's one of three things: it's either of the devil, they're crazy or it's real. And I have a little bit of a military background; I was a naval officer in the reserves and I said, militarily speaking, it can't be of the devil because he would never tell his enemy, tell us to go to his enemy by going to confession, by going to church, by praying the Rosary, something I didn't know how to do. He would never tell us to do these things, so it can't be of him.

There's six of these kids, how could they all be crazy, that doesn't make any sense either. So it must be real and Robert looked at me, goes like: Dadgummit, I think you're right. That's what I thought, too. We have to go! I was like: Okay, let's go! I can't say that I came with expectations because I really had no idea of what to expect. I'd read this book by Wayne Weible and all I knew was it was a very strange time to come as well.

It was early 1992 so it was like February, March of 1992 and Jeff Reed had said: Okay, well, let's go, but father Svetozar is asking if we can bring some medical supplies along because at that point in time he knew the war was coming.

And so we, with Jeff in a group of Mexican charismatics from West Texas, all gathered a bunch of medical supplies and carried them in suitcases through Belgrade down to Sarajevo and into Medjugorje. So, basically we were smuggling, not basically, we were smuggling and it's an interesting story, we got caught but my friend Robert and I saw the power of the rosary worked that day.

And though they had Robert thrown in a holding tank ready to throw him in the jail, somehow that rosary worked, we saw these little "abuelas", these little grandmothers from Mexico and Texas, praying the rosary and the guard's boss came down and saw this letter written in English with a stamp that was raised; raised seal stamp saying in English on the letterhead of a veterinarian that we had permission to bring in these medical supplies and she ran her finger over that stamp and then lifted her finger and yelled at her compatriot for holding us.

That was the first introduction to the power of the rosary, like there's something to this. I don't know what it is and then we came in to Medjugorje. After a couple of days and it was an amazing experience to see, to see what the rosary does, to see, to meet, meet our Lady because as a Protestant we didn't know Our Lady.

But we got to know her there. And then to meet Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament because they had adoration going on. Though there were hardly, I think we were the only pilgrim group at all in town.

There was still adoration and father Slavko was there and father Svetozar. Despite the fact that the threat of war was happening, it was a very peaceful place and you could note the difference. I came on that first pilgrimage asking God what he wanted me to do with my life, I was on my way to medical school, I was back in University studying, but I realized I needed to ask God and quit telling him what I wanted to do but asked him what he wanted to do and there was a particular moment upon Podbrdo where I finally just kind of signed a blank check to Jesus and said: Okay, Lord, I'll do whatever you want me to do, I'll even become, and I thought of the craziest thing I could think of, I'll even become a Franciscan in Bosnia, I don't know what they are, I don't know what they do, I just met one the other day but I'd even do that if you wanted me to.

And this peace descended upon me at that moment, I didn't think I was going to become a Franciscan, but in time when I went back home after that pilgrimage, I began to realize through spiritual direction that was indeed a real call to give my life completely over to the Lord, but I wasn't convinced of the Catholic Church yet.

Well, the first struggle was realizing that, in being called to the Catholic Church, that I would have to give up my girlfriend if I was gonna really be a priest. Like before when I was Episcopalian, I'd think: Well I can do both things.

So this is a little bit more serious, but then I realized, I needed to act on the truth, so I said: Okay, if that's what you want, Lord, let's go! And by God's grace the Catholic Church in its wisdom doesn't allow new any convert to enter into any religious order for at least two years.

And by God's Providence and through our Lady's hand I spent that time, most of these two years, here in Medjugorje running convoys during the war with the St. David's Relief Foundation, so I was under the tutelage of father Svet and father Slavko for almost two years here.

(Protestant becomes Catholic priest continued on page 6)



(David Parkes healing continued from page 2)

a period of two hours coming backwards and forwards. And then I eventually said: Listen, you're an idiot, you should have had the blessing two hours ago and you could have been off somewhere else, so I stood in line with about 60 people; three Irish priests were now working in front of father Rookey, they blessed me in turn. Nothing happened and I'm looking at my watch thinking how long am I going to be here and I looked at my watch and father Rookey, he called himself the rookie priest, and he smiled at me.

He said to me: David, there's something you want to tell me and I said: Father, I don't wish to speak with you. I said: I'm extremely ill, the pain is excruciating and the doctors say I maybe have two weeks to live so with that he reached into his pocket and took out a crucifix about the size of my hand. A little black crucifix and that crucifix contained seven relics of the seven founders of the Servite Order of the Servants of Mary. So he struck the cross in my right hand, then he dipped his thumb in the oil and he anointed my forehead. Then he put his hands on my head and started to pray and then I remember him going to take the crucifix from my hand and the next thing I remember is lying flat on my back and I had been in that state for 20 minutes.

When I got up off the ground, there was a politician with us from Ireland, not a senior politician, but, we have two Parliaments - we have the senior and the junior one. And they are senators, they're not politicians, so he uses that to great extent in America because a senator in America is high-profile. So, when I opened my eyes and I'm looking up who's standing over me, only the senator Donie Cassidy. And I met him because he was involved in the music business and the first thought when I opened my eyes is: Oh, God, back in Dublin what is he going to tell all the hard - drinking musicians about Parkes lying on his back in a graveyard?

So, when I got up, when I dusted my clothes down, he said to me: Parkes, he said, the Spirit is with you very strongly, you've been out for 20 minutes. But I didn't realize anything that happened except there was a burning heat in my body that went from the top of my head to the tips of my toes. I've never experienced that since Medugorje or ever before Medugorje. But from that day to this the aches, the pains the vomiting, the diarrhea with the Crohn's disease had instantly disappeared. I was very fortunate to experience a physical healing, but the greatest of the two miracles, as most people call them, was the spiritual healing.

I'd been very troubled I had no peace in my life, my eldest boy Ken, as I mentioned, was born with cystic fibrosis, I couldn't come to terms with it. When he was born, I was playing soccer professionally, I had the great honor of playing against Pele, George Best, a representative of my country and the thoughts of a highly trained slim, trim, brimful energy soccer player having a child, an imperfect child. Because, that's what I called him. I used to call Ken my cross, I just couldn't come to terms with it. And that drove a wedge between Anne and myself, so I left Anne twice, but Anne has an incredible ability to forgive, so she forgave me on both occasions and invited me back to the family home. Thank God we are still together. As we speak we celebrated 46 years of marriage and we're still holding hands because if we let go, we'll kill one another.

But what happened after the physical healing was that the desire to leave Medugorje had gone. Medugorje was just on fire within me and the church of St. James was like a magnet, I could not stop going to the church of St. James. So, we used to go to Mass at 7:30 in Croatian, then we'd go and have breakfast and then we'd come back for the German Mass and then of course we had the English mass and then sometimes we would stay for the Italian Mass. That's how serious things were and we were sitting one afternoon outside the front of St. James, just sitting, we were not talking, I was just reflecting on the few days that had gone past and a lot of people were going past of different nationalities.

And the English people were all talking about this peace and we could hear some Croatian people saying "*mir*" and some people were saying, they experienced this incredible peace upon the hill of apparitions. So I turned to Ann, even though I was still very weak after the two surgeries and I said to her: Would you help me to climb this apparition hill where these people are experiencing this peace, not realizing it was Sunday and as we would call it now, Divine Mercy Sunday.

So we set off in the afternoon and when we got up to the hill, it was packed. So when we got to the place where Our Lady is reputed to have appeared for the first time, it was full. So Anne and I sort of came back down the mountain and she found this huge big rock and sat on it. And I just stood there with my back to the hill, but looking directly down into the beautiful twin spire church of St. James and I didn't know what to do. I wanted to pray but I couldn't, I'd forgotten how to pray and I remember saying to myself, you know, I'll say Our Father and that's as far as I could get. And then I tried to say the Hail Mary and all I could get was this Hail Mary and then Anne, who was sitting on the rock, she told me after that she was looking at me and she saw me getting a bit agitated because I couldn't pray and so she jumped down off the rock and when she hit the ground I instinctively turned from looking at the church to her, I extended my arms and I embraced her and I apologized to her for all the hurt that I'd caused her, all the pain that I had caused our children, our family members and our friends and she started to cry and then she threw her arms around my neck and then, because of that little gesture of love, I started to cry. So we cried in one another's arms for about ten minutes, but when I stopped crying, I had this most incredible inner peace, inner peace that seemed to allow David Parkes to live with David Parkes. I did not want to leave Medugorje. As the days got closer to departure I didn't want to leave, I was getting too much, I was getting closer to God every minute.

So when I went back home I still couldn't sing, my muscles weren't strong enough so three days after coming back from Medugorje I went into see the band, to see them all. When I left to go to Medugorje, they had been told that I had two weeks to live so they'd never thought they'd see me well enough. So, when I walked into the room, I was standing up straight now because prior to all this I was crooked over, the pain was excruciating. And these were seven hard - drinking musicians. Most musicians, you know, if they're fully professional, they sustain their life by drinking, it takes away a lot of pain and so forth. So, when I went in there, they just stood there with their mouths open and just asked what happened. So I told them, they said: Listen, this is a miracle, there's no way, when you left here a week and a half ago, there's no way we would ever think that you would walk in here. So they went around spreading what had happened. I mean, within three days the Musicians Federation were calling me from their office in Dublin. We heard the great news, the great story...

(Sister Emmanuel continued from page 3)

great passage from this life to the next, what is left of these worldly transient delights? The Prince of Peace, born in Bethlehem in a manger on a freezing cold night, is the One who offers us His peace, a peace that fills our heart, that captivates us on this earth and fills the elect with eternal happiness in Heaven.

Like Teresa of Avila, like Edith Stein and so many Saints, I in turn want to discover you, play with you, hold you against my heart, live constantly with you, fulfill your desires and let you transform me day after day! With you, little King of Glory, I want to seize the Kingdom of Heaven that belongs to children and those who resemble them.

He came close to death!

Our Italian friend David Sacconi, travel agent and faithful pilgrimage leader in Medjugorje, came face to face with death this summer. His testimony illustrates the words of Jesus as entrusted to Don Dolindo of Naples. "On August 13, 2020, I was struck down by a severe stroke. But thanks to the quick reaction of my relatives, I was immediately taken to hospital. Then, given the seriousness of the situation, I was rushed to a center specializing in strokes, just 25 km from my home.

My condition was very bad, but I was fully conscious. Following a consultation and after informing my wife of the risks of an operation, the doctors decided emergency surgery was necessary. Even though I was conscious, I could not speak and it was impossible for me to express myself. I sat up on the operating table, raised my hands to attract attention, and invited those present to make a sign of the Cross with me (which may have made them a little uncomfortable). Since I could not speak, in my heart and with all my strength, I said to the Lord: "You take care of this, I trust in you!" From that moment on, everything miraculously changed: I was filled with an indescribable peace. This peace remained with me every day during my intensive therapy, and never left me!

At the time, I didn't know who Don Dolindo was, much less his famous surrender prayer. Discovering it moved me beyond words. Now I am convinced that surrendering to the Lord in critical times is the only remedy against fear, anguish, pain, and above all loneliness. The Lord does not merely relieve our suffering at a difficult time, but uses our 'cross' to help us feel His Presence. I am a witness to the extraordinary gift of this prayer of trust, "Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything", since I have experienced it. I believe everyone can live it, that's why I chose to share it with you!"

A sign from Fr. Slavko?

From 15 to 24 November, the parish prayed a novena for Father Slavko Barbaric culminating on the 20th anniversary of his departure to the Father. Barbara, an Italian woman who lives in Medjugorje, entrusted her father, who was suffering and badly declining in health due a stroke, to Fr. Slavko's intercession. She herself had a breast tumor, but it was her father's recovery that she was asking for. At the end of the novena, Barbara no longer had any tumor, much to the astonishment of her doctor. Not only that, her father had recovered too! Both are now doing well. Long live the help of the saints!

(Protestant becomes Catholic priest continued from page 4)

So my first two years as a Catholic were spent in this parish. And it was a beautiful thing because I could see literally day by day, sometimes multiple times in a day, the fruits of heaven and hell, side-by-side. We would leave this peaceful little envelope of Medjugorje and hit the borders of Mostar and go all the way up as far as Zenica and Tuzla and points in and around and beyond Sarajevo and see the fruits of hell and then come back and see the fruits of heaven.

And then I watched as the Friars just operated through all this. One of my heroes, father Leonard Oreč, God rest his soul, I remember the day the Muslims and Croats had a peace treaty signed and that day he called me up and said John: Load up all your trucks and get some more, we're going over to the East side of Mostar to the Red Crescent and we're going to give them supplies and we're gonna show them we're about peace.

And I remember standing in East Mostar with father Leonard in his full brown habit and this little boy grabbing my hand because I was, you know, a civilian, going: This guy's crazy, there are snipers around here all over the place and he's in a habit!

This is... and it dawned on me, this is what friars are about and so this really formed me greatly, to see that spirituality. I had no idea what religious life was supposed to be about from the inside, had no concept of any of it, but I just knew in my heart that I was called to be a friar. I was invited to join the Province here, was honored by that invitation, but I also knew in my heart somehow that I was called back to the United States. I had no idea where, so father Svet mentioned this bunch and as the war began to wane and dwindle down near the beginning of '95 we knew we were going to pull out, there was no need for us to be here anymore and I said: "Father, where should I go... I know I'm not called to stay here. He said: Why don't you look at this little strange bunch of friars in the Bronx? And so that's how I was introduced to the community I now belong to. Anytime anybody says "yes" to Jesus through Our Lady, it breaks open a space for God to be able to act in their hearts and to move.

My theory, which is not so humble because I'm not so humble, but my theory is that Medjugorje has a charism that our Lady is giving marching orders for her troops and placing them around the world to be able to do what God wants to do and be lights of the love of Jesus Christ in a very dark time.

And she's playing chess and she invites people and she gives them a job and that person can open their heart to that or not. And when they do, great things happen. A Dominican priest I know, father Giles Dimock from the United States, once said about Medjugorje, he said and this was maybe 15 to 20 years ago, he said this to me: You know, Medjugorje has got an interesting thing, 80% of the people who are active in the parishes, they're all, they've all been touched by Medjugorje.

He said: And they also have another thing that's interesting, they seem to be scandal proof, they seem not to be devastated when they encounter the humanity in Jesus's Church. Boy, isn't that what we need in these times! People who work and people who can weather a storm, that's what I see, I've seen it in so many different ways. I could give so many different anecdotes of how it's happened, but that's what I see as particular graces of Medjugorje.

(Protestant becomes Catholic priest continued on page 7)

A Perfect Gift!

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(Protestant becomes Catholic priest continued from page 6)

Everybody needs to work on applying their faith, you know we're not given the gift of faith we're not given the tools of faith, the various things Our Lady invites us to do, the rosary, the confession, living the Eucharist, reading the Scriptures, fasting... We're not asked to do these things and to say: Oh, look what I do and hang, you know, it's like hanging a trophy on the wall. Look at this, isn't it nice what I do? No, they are tools, they are weapons, we're intended to use these things and to go into the spiritual fight and to fight. And if anybody looks around and sees what's going on in the world right now and thinks there's not a fight, they've got their eyes closed and their ears shut.

We need to be active, we need to get out there, we need to proclaim the truth and love, the things that our Lady invites us to do. These five stones as Father Jozo famously speaks of. They're tools with one goal in mind, to make space for Jesus Christ, to be put into the first place in our hearts so that we individually can, whatever way the Holy Spirit inspires us to do, go out and bring that light of Christ to other people. For no other reason. If not, it's burying the talent in the soil and doing nothing with the gift that God has given us. We have to be active! As an individual coming home, getting a hug from mama is always much appreciated and needed. Coming back to the home base where it all started and remembering, we need to remember where God brought us from to hang on.

But then as a priest, and as a layman coming to Medjugorje going to confession is always so powerful. Now being on the other side of the confessional and being able to participate in this most intimate way of Jesus's work in souls, soul after soul, it's humbling, it's mind-blowing, it's energizing, it's an amazing thing to see. A lot of big fish, as they say, you know, the little fish are the ones that go to confession every week or two. The big fish are the ones that have been away for 50 years. A lot of big fish coming here, you know. And what is that? It's that grace of conversion that's being pumped out over here in torrents.

It's beautiful! So to a priest it's energizing and it gives you hope. You see so many young people coming and giving their lives over to the Lord and hopefully signing a blank check and saying: Do with me what you will and obviously letting our Lady co-sign that check because none of us have enough in the bank accounts, but giving everything over to the Lord so I see that as I talk to young people and then the veterans who've been here many times. And it's not just a vocation to religious life, it's secondary vocations, seeing as a priest, hearing people ask: How can I go back to my parish and get active; what can I do back home? They can fight all that and so again it confirms what I've seen the charism of Medjugorje to be: It is Our Lady giving marching orders to her troops on every level and sending them out.

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

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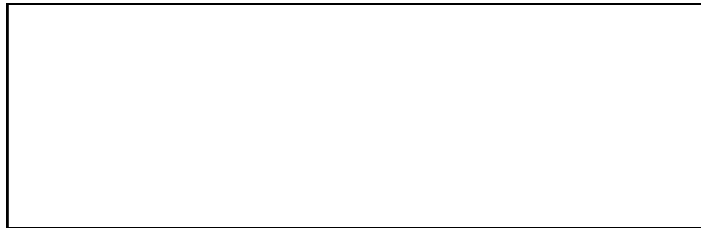
The Mir Center of Western Colorado
2574 Young Court
Grand Junction, CO 81505

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St. Francis			1 Mary the Mother of God	2
3 Epiphany	4	5 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	6	7	8	9
10 The Baptism of the Lord	11	12 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	27	28	29	30

Upcoming events:

- + *Mary, Mother of God, January 1st*
- + *Epiphany, January 3rd*
- + *The Baptism of the Lord, January 10th*



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

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 2574 Young Court
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If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know...

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

MISSION STATEMENT