## Share the Messages

# OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSENGER

THE MIR CENTER OF WESTERN COLORADO



Vol. 24, No. 8 August, 2020

Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne... The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God. (Rev 12: 4-6)

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

Dear children! In this peaceless time in which the devil is harvesting souls to draw them to himself, I am calling you to persevering prayer, so that in prayer you discover the God of love and hope. Little children, take the Cross in your hands. May it be your encouragement for love to always win, in a special way now when the Cross and faith are rejected. You be a reflection and an example with your lives that faith and hope are still alive and a new world of peace is possible. I am with you and intercede for you before my Son, Jesus. 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.





Qureen of Heaven

# Inside:

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# The Martyrs of Compiegne

By Fr. Steve Grunow @wordonfire.org

I think that it is worthwhile today to remember the Sixteen Martyrs of the Carmel of Compiegne in France. These eleven nuns, three lay sisters and two externs were killed by the order of the Committee for Public Safety, an agency of the National Convention of Revolutionary France. They were murdered in a public execution by guillotine on July 17, 1794.

The sisters lived in a Carmelite convent of the Teresian reform (the reform of the great saint Teresa of Avila). This



meant that their observance of their vows was strict and their lives were completely cloistered. They entered Carmel with the intention of never leaving its enclosure. There, in that space, they lived a life of prayer for the sake of the world by living apart from the world. This commitment was also their crime.

The revolutionary government of France declared that the sisters of the Carmel of Compiegne were enemies of the state. Why? Because of their radical renunciation of worldly concerns, the consecration of their lives in humble service of Christ, and their observance of prayer as a total way of life. All this was considered to be a crime because it resisted what the state had determined and declared to be acceptable and reasonable behavior.

The sisters defied this ban on their way of life. They were arrested, placed on trial, accused of treason, sentenced to death. The sisters were then transported to the town center where a frenzied mob awaited them. But this execution would be different. The mob was stunned to silence by the appearance of the sisters, who, even though bereft of their religious garb, bore themselves with a dignity that was described by an onlooker as akin to a bride presenting herself for marriage.

The silence was broken only by the singing of the sisters as they chanted the hymn "Veni Creator Spiritus." One by one, the sisters made their way to the guillotine, youngest to oldest, each sister pausing to kneel before the Prioress, asking, "Permission to die, Mother." To which the Mother Superior responded, "Go, my daughter." The state had ordered their deaths, but their final act of obedience was not to the state, but to their mother in religious life.

The Mother Superior was the last to be killed. The revolutionary government of France fell ten days after the execution of the sisters. The execution of the Carmelite Sisters of Compiegne is a sign that manifests the necessity of religious freedom as a privileged foundational principle to ensure a just social order. It likely became utterly clear to the people of France that a government that would execute sixteen nuns for daring to assert that their unique way of life transcended the power of the state to rule and regulate would likely kill anyone. No one would ever be safe. There are forces in our culture and in our world that, even right now, are pushing with ever greater force against the principle of religious freedom. We owe it to the memory of the Sixteen Martyrs of Compiegne to resist these forces, and to resist with the same weapons of the Holy Spirit that they employed and that ultimately brought them victory.

# Jesus and Borja

From: *imedjugorje.com* 

Jesus Garcia: I was 28 years old when I came to Medjugorje for the first time. I worked at the newspaper. My boss sent me out to write a news report. My colleague and I journeyed to Medjugorje and we returned totally changed. When we got back, the news report became very important in Spain because it was the first time a high profile article was made about Medjugorje. It was 2006. After making that report, Gonzalo my colleague, who was 30 years old at the time, quit



the newspaper company and became a seminarian. Today he is one of the happiest priests in Madrid and he still visits Medjugorje when he can. He became a priest and I did not.

Years later I began to write more articles and reports about Medjugorje. I wrote a book. It's a beautiful story. A girl read that book. Because of that book she came to Medjugorje, and in Medjugorje I met her, we got married, and had three kids. It's a story written by God.

**Borja**: Well here we are now making a documentary because we want Our Lady's message to reach the whole world. We are useless instruments but we know with God's grace and graces from Our Lady we want to help Her message to spread to more people. We have done it with books, videos, and now we want to do it on a larger scale. We gained experience making a movie about Lourdes and it's been beautiful to see Our Lady in the movie box office. You see Hell Boy, Tom Cruise, X-men, and then Our Lady! So we feel an obligation to share with the world the marvelous place we've come to know as Medjugorje.

Jesus Garcia: I think it's beautiful to have Our Lady as a boss. The experience we have with our production company Gospa Arts is that regardless of what we plan Our Lady always changes it for the better. We can think that its better to arrive hours earlier to capture an apparition and Our Lady makes it that even if we don't arrive on time we are perfectly situated to film. We've also experienced our videographers getting sick, then we have to improvise. That Our Lady is your boss is a blessing and what happens is we are learning to let go and let Her be the one leading and we try to not get in Her way. To work for Our Lady is a gift.

**Borja**: We hope to release the film this coming year. The name of the film will possibly be **Medjugorje** which is popular among many. The book my friend Jesus wrote is called **Medjugorje** and we haven't spent too much time thinking about it. Look, we started this documentary 10 years ago – it's been a long time coming. A lot has happened here and Our Lady really has motivated us to make this documentary and we will see what happens. We don't know if it will be this year or the next to release the film but we are always working for the glory of God.

Jesus Garcia: Our experience is like this – Our Lady invites but She doesn't force a response. Because of your fears, your comfort, your lack of faith, your lack of experience, you don't accept Her invitation and you leave it on the back burner. You can say you have more important things to do or someone else can do it. However no one can respond to your invitation. And because it's for your own good, Our Lady insists, like all mothers. Your heart follows Her...

#### Sister Emmanuel's Letter

www.childrenofmedjugorje.com

On June 25th, 2020, visionary Marija Pavlovic received the monthly message, as follows:

"Dear children! I am listening to your cries and prayers, and am interceding for you before my Son Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life, Return, little children, to prayer and open your hearts in this time of grace and set out on the way of conversion. Your life is passing and, without God, does not have meaning. This is why I am with vou to lead vou towards holiness of life. so that each of you may discover the joy of living. I love you all, little children, and am blessing you with my motherly Thank you for blessing. having responded to my call."

#### Vicka was hospitalized in Zagreb for back surgery



Vicka recovering from back surgery

Vicka, the visionary, was in hospital in Zagreb on 13 July for her 6th spine operation that lasted 5 hours and 40 minutes. The surgeon is satisfied with the outcome of the operation, so we hope that Vicka will quickly regain her strength. The latest news is pretty good, even though she is just skin and bones and weighs less than 40 kilos.

Let us pray fervently for this visionary who remains hidden at this

time, but who actively gives her life for each one of us! Through the supernatural joy that emanates from her in all circumstances, even in the midst of painful illnesses, through her love for every single person, Vicka has become a fine example of what becomes of a soul that lives in intense communion with Jesus and Mary. May we see this joy overflowing from the heart, the joy we so ardently desire, as a sign of Heaven, and also become faithful students in the school of Mary!

# Death of young unbelievers



Sister Emmanuel

Many young people in this day and age suffer violent deaths, whether it be in a road accident, by overdose or suicide... Philippe Coutel's testimony is interesting, because three members of his family drowned as a result of a storm. Since none of them practiced their faith, but lived a rather 'disordered' life, he was quite worried for them and went to see the French mystic Marthe Robin, now venerable, hoping to receive a word from her about their final fate. Marthe had the gift of seeing souls. However, when he got there, he did-

n't dare ask her the question. She must have guessed his concern, for she had these words said by the priest who was preaching the retreat:



"Marthe has informed me that when young people who do not practice die in the ignorance of Jesus, several hours pass by before the final judgment, and sometimes even several days, during which the Lord shows Himself to them in all His light and asks them: do you want my love? And in general, young people say Yes."

To Father Maurice de Lesseps, who was worried about the fate of the neph-

ew of one of his friends, who died tragically outside a nightclub, she said, "You know, father, the soul receives great light at the moment of death, and only a few souls say no to God, especially among the young."

During my rare retreats at the Foyer de Charité (Retreat Home) at Châteauneuf de Galaure, many years ago, I often heard Marthe's words about the dying and those who die a sudden death. "God prepares the soul even unconsciously," she said. I heard testimonies that Marthe would bilocate to assist a dying person who was alone. This certainly happened several times. She would also bilocate in China; she had a particular attraction to this country, given the countless number of martyrs who suffered and died there. We will only know in heaven all the journeys and rescues made by this great saint who never left her bed of suffering for more than 50 years.

She said: "There is a time after clinical death when the soul is given the final choice for its eternity. The time can vary, it can last a longer or shorter time. It is shorter if the person has been ill for a long time, longer when death occurs by surprise." In any case, Marthe had a deep concern for the dying, she strongly insisted on the need to pray a great deal at their bedside, but also after clinical death. Indeed, for each of us, in this moment of truth when lies, illusion and confusion have disappeared, the soul

# The End of the Second of the Month Apparitions

From spritofmedjugorje.org

The following is from a question and answer session by Fr. Leon Pereira OP, the chaplain for the English-speaking pilgrims in Medjugorje, given near the end of March 2020.

Mirjana has her special annual apparition on her birthday, March 18. This year she was told no longer to expect an apparition on the second of the month, which she had been having since 1987. I have received many emails filled with dismay, expecting the apocalyptic worst. Remember, Mirjana always said these 2nd of the month apparitions were extraordinary graces and that she never knew when they would cease. She had no idea how long they would continue. And she half expected each one to be the final one. And now they have stopped. So I think there's been a lot of speculation and that's rather pointless. Probably a complete waste of time.

I've been told that I said the monthly apparitions stopping was a "gift". I don't recall this, and it doesn't sound like me. Why else did I attend these monthly apparitions so assiduously? I'm more likely to have said, the monthly apparitions were a gift, and have now stopped. For the village, the cessation of these apparitions restores our focus on living Our Lady's messages and takes attention away from the crowds, and from a voyeuristic attitude towards apparitions in general. The difference is simple: are we tourists or pilgrims?

If you have been in Medjugorje on the 2nd of any month, and you'd been attending the apparition, what

were you going there for? We need to ask ourselves that. Were we going there because these particular apparitions on the 2nd of the month were for the conversion of those who have not yet come to know the love of God for them (which is Our Lady's preferred way of referring to "unbelievers")? Were we going there to pray for that intention, or just to see the visionary and gawp at her and contribute to a raucous circus and hullabaloo on the hill? Is that what we were there for?

The fact that these monthly apparitions have been discontinued, is it a tragedy? This was an extraordinary grace anyway, so the fact that it's stopped doesn't affect you or me. Are we still praying for the unbelievers, for those who have not yet come to know God's love for them? I hope we are, because that's important. That was the point of the apparitions after all!

Many people want to say, "Oh look, there's a strange coincidence, don't you think? These apparitions stop just when a pandemic breaks out. Maybe it's a sign of worse to come? And maybe the virus is a sign of one of the secrets?" No, no, and no.

I would say to you, if you are inclined to be apocalyptic minded, if you're inclined to make a drama out of these things, ask yourselves, "Do I live the Five Stones of Medjugorje? Am I praying the whole rosary every day? Am I following the Mass live-streamed every day devoutly and, when able, going to Mass and receiving Communion worthily? Am I receiving Holy Communion also in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart and blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary? Am I reading the Bible every day, prayerfully? Am I fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays? Am I fasting on bread and water? And lastly, am I going to Confession at least once a month?" Maybe in these times you can't get to Confession, but certainly later on, when these restrictions are lifted, wherever you are, are you intending to go to Confession at least once a month or as often as you need to? These are the questions we should be asking ourselves, and not, "Oh I think that

something is coming up," and speculating, because whatever you come up with - well who knows? Are you right? Are you wrong? No one will know until later on. The cessation of the monthly apparitions does tell us this one thing though: repent and be converted; live Our Lady's messages

The end of the world could be today for you or me. It can happen anytime. You might slip in your bathroom and fall on your head or something. Who knows? God forbid! But the end of the world for us could be any time, so why waste time speculating about things we know nothing about? It is far more important – if you claim to be so devoted to Medjugorje – to be liv-

ing the messages of Medjugorje. And if you are, if you're truly living the Five Stones, I don't think you'd be asking these questions and worrying about anything. In a message given through Marija, we read: "Little children, the one who prays is not afraid of the future and the one who fasts is not afraid of evil." (January 25, 2001)

Back in 2014, towards the end of the year, Bishop Oliver Dashe Doeme of Maiduguri (north-eastern Nigeria) was praying before the Blessed Sacrament in his chapel. The bishop's flock were among the 2.6 million affected by Boko Haram (terrorists allied to Islamic State): displaced, harassed, more than 20,000 murdered, terrorized, suffering malnutrition and possible starvation. The bishop had a vision of Jesus extending a sword to him. As soon as he received the sword, it turned into a rosary, and Jesus said to the bishop three times, "Boko Haram is gone. Boko Haram is gone." The bishop understood the rosary is the weapon offered by God to us! This is the way to defeat Islamist terror and every other evil. Why do we fear the future when we don't even know how much or how little of the future is left to us? All we have is today, to be converted and to glorify God!



# On the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Excerpts from a YouTube talk by Fr. Donald Calloway on Mary, the Masterpiece of God

We are going to talk about the Virgin Mary, the masterpiece of God. I want you to imagine right now that you are God. Congratulations. You are omnipotent, You are all powerful. You are omniscient, You are all knowing, You are God. You are the real deal. You have created this world with people with free will and all of these beautiful places. But they jacked it up... they made a mess of it, you know how the story goes. But You are so good, You are going to enter into the world that you made, the world that is fallen and become one of them. How you going to do that. Rub a dub dub, Shazam, poof. Out of the heavens you appear as a thirty three year old messiah ready to accomplish your saving mission.

No. You made an anthropologic order. You set things up with a system of laws. You are going to abide by that. You're not going to break it. So you are going to come into the world.

Now only one of You, of the triune God is going to come in, so lets just say that you are the Word. What's that mean? Well, we know what it means. You are going to make your own mom. Yeah. I mean it's a no brainer but somehow we miss that. Jesus made His own mother. and Never has it been heard that a son precedes His mother. I didn't come before my mom. Neither did you. We came after. That's just how it works. But in this instance, God made His own mom. Whoa.

What is that mean? It means a lot. I'm going to put myself in this little experiment with you. And I'm going to act like I'm God. I'm not. Trust me. Hang out with me for a bit and you'd be like 'pray for father'. I'm far from being divine. But for the sake of argument, what would I do if I were God and I had all power, all knowledge, all ability to make my own mother.

Ohhh, I would make her a masterpiece. I would make her a flawless model of maternity of femininity, so amazingly beautiful that there would be no other creature like her. I would do this for my mom, cause I have the power to do it.

And you know if I had this enemy someone called Satan, Lucifer, the devil, and I was going to make my own mother, why would I, if I were God, leave any kind of stain in her. Why would I do that? You know what I would do. Hmm, let me think of a word. What would I create my mother. Oh, yeah. Immaculate. Flawless. Absolutely, ravishingly beautiful on every level. It would make my enemies so mad. Because he would maybe hope that I would come into the world through a creature, but she would still be a sinner. Oh no, oh no. Not my mother because I'm making my own mom, flawless, immaculate, perfect.

And you know what I would do if I was God, I would write a book. A big one. I'd call the first chapter, uh, I don't know. Genesis. I'd call the last chapter Revelation, you know, apocalyptic type stuff, dragons, and stuff. And in that book you know what I would talk about? I would talk about my mom's delicate little female foot crushing Satan's ugly face. (laughter) I'd do that. I really would. If I were God. Totally.

But I wouldn't stop there. Oh no, no, no. I'm not going to deprive my mother of any blessing that a woman could have. I would make my mother an immaculate creation. You know

what else I would give to my mother. The gift of virginity. A perpetual virgin as a matter of fact. I would astound the nations. I would make it so my mother was a virgin both before and during my birth. That's kind of a no brainer. That's easy to understand. But even after my birth. Cause if you're God, that's a temple. The womb of that woman is now a sanctuary. Nobody else abides in my sanctuary but me. I made it. That's my abode.

See to us, we think that is something. How can a woman be a virgin and a mother. That's like contradictory. How's that even work. For us we can't do this. But if you're God remember you're God, you can do this—its nothing to you. Right.

God did not deprive His mom of any blessing. Immaculate. Perpetual Virgin. This is the teaching of the Church. And He's not a stingy God. If He was stingy then He wouldn't be God.

You can't create a masterpiece of maternity and get stingy and say she's all mine. If you're stingy, you're not God. What you made You're going to share. See this is what I would do if I had made my own mother I would want everyone to call her mother. And I'd find a way to do it. I would probably do something crazy like be half naked, a little elevated and I would say to people, "Behold your mother". And if you didn't get what I said, then you got problems. If there is any ambiguity, if that's not clear to you. Then I'm not sure that your mind is working right. How much clearer do I need to be.

But I wouldn't stop there. You know what else I would do. I would make it so that my mother would never die. See my mom and your mom, sadly, someday, they're gonna die. They're not going to be here. I say that with

um... I don't want that to happen. I love my mom. When I was a teenager, we rubbed. No doubt. Right? But now, she's like my best friend. I love my mom so much. The day that my mom dies, I'm going to lose it. I know I'll see her again. I have faith. But still its my mom. If there were a way that I could prevent my mother from going into a tomb six feet under the ground, you bet I would prevent it. Because that's my mom. Well I can't. And neither can you. You're not God. But Jesus is God... And He can. And He did. And He did it in the most ingenious way that's going to blow your minds.

Is God going to allow His mother to experience corruption in the tomb? Never. God loves her so much that He implanted Himself in her body. See, this is why, from the beginning of the Church we have never talked about the resurrection of Mary. Ever. August 15th, we don't celebrate the resurrection of Mary, we celebrate the Assumption of Mary. Or the dormition of Mary. In Spanish, dormir, to sleep. The transitus of Mary, in the early Church. We have never celebrated a resurrection of Mary. Why? Because she never died. Not like you and I die. We die because of sin. She experiences a passing, a transition, a dormition a falling asleep... you can call it death but its not like you and I. God put Himself inside her. Because He loves her that much. I would have done the exact same thing if I were God. If I had the ability to do that. Wouldn't you do that? If you could do that for your dear mother. God did. Another sign of how special this woman is, of what a masterpiece of motherhood and femininity Mary is...

(Sister Emmanuel continued from page 3)

is naked in the truth of its life and its heart, and it meets the true Light which is also Mercy. It is then that the soul can throw itself into the arms of this God whom it may never have known or even rejected on earth. Our prayers are of paramount importance. In reality, the soul chooses at this moment between Heaven with God and hell without God, the only two possible and eternal destinies, purgatory being only the provisional antechamber of Heaven.

If we have to make decisions rather quickly for funerals or other practical concerns, try to stay with the deceased as long as possible in order to create a protective wall through our prayers. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is very powerful, since Jesus himself recommended it to St. Faustina, as it is able to soften even the most hardened rebellious hearts.

#### Marcel Van, Servant of God

This young Vietnamese, Marcel Van who is increasingly known and revered (1928-1959), and now recognized as Servant of God, had the grace of hearing the voice of Jesus since childhood, and then the voice of Little Thérèse of the Child Jesus, who formed him in the school of her "Little Way".

Jesus said to him: "Little brother, it is necessary for you to know that you are very weak, that no soul is as weak as yours; and I admit that your



weaknesses never cause Me the slightest sadness." And on another occasion Jesus told him: "What did your sister Thérèse teach you? You have forgotten everything already; it's hopeless! And it is also so much the better, since what you have forgotten, I am always there to remind you of and then you can continually learn the lesson anew. What happiness can be compared to yours?" His famous Conversations are a wealth of wonderful details about the person of Jesus, all expressed with a very touching childlike freshness. Here is another excerpt:

Jesus: "Never does sin offend my love; there is absolutely nothing that offends my love, other than lack of trust in my love... Even the devil must despair of a soul in which the word "trust" still lives...Later on, in heaven, we will certainly be surprised to see in the ranks of saints a large number of souls that we thought were damned... It is perhaps very easy for people to ascend to Heaven, while it can be very difficult for them to fall into hell; because Love cannot readily bear a soul being lost so easily."

lest some souls, knowing this, harden in evil ways... And then lose trust in me, and end up with no trust at all." (The Conversations 646-650)

"However, little brother, these words must not be manifested to all souls indiscriminately, it must be done with caution,



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## Andrea de Luca healed in Medjugorje

from medjugorjetoday.com

For three years, Andrea de Luca, aged 21, suffered from Perthes disease, confined to a wheelchair as his femoral head and hip degenerated. During Mass in Medjugorje, he felt a strong heat, and upon his return he heard a voice tell him to walk. Medical experts confirm a healing they cannot explain. The doctors who were treating him Dr. Anastasio Tricarico, a professor of or-



thopedics and traumatology at the University of Naples, and Dr. Pasquale Guida, an orthopedic surgeon from Naples, testify to Andrea de Luca's inexplicable healing in Italian author Paolo Brosio's new book, "Ray of Light". They also present before and after x-rays demonstrating the restoration of the femoral head that had been eroded by the disease. "One day, a young man greeted me: 'Hello professor' while he was riding a bicycle. I could not believe it was Andrea, whose disease I had followed for three years" Dr. Pasquale recalled. Unbearable pain and a life confined to a wheelchair are among the consequences of Perthes, a rare disease that leads to avascular necrosis of the femoral head.

In September 2009 Andrea de Luca and his parents went to Medjugorje. It was their last hope for a cure. One evening Andrea had gone into the garden of the place where they were staying. "I could not sleep. I went out into the yard, made the Sign of the Cross, and began to pray. Then the head of Our Lady's statue before me lit up. It was a beautiful light, you cannot describe it. I got scared and went back inside. I invited my parents to come and see. When they arrived, two beams came out of the statue, one from the heart, the other from the leg" he recalls.

"Then one day, a nun told me to talk to Jesus. Tell Him to take away your disease." The following day I went to Mass and prayed for the first time like that. I felt a heat in my entire back" says De Luca, who was 16 years old at the time. Because of fear, he would not put his crutches away. He only did so when he returned to Italy. He was silent in public for almost five years before he started telling what had happened to him. "When we returned home, I waited with my crutches in order to get out of the bus. Then three times I heard a voice in my heart saying, 'You are my apostle. Walk and bear my light.' From that moment, the severe pain ceased, a pain that I had felt for three years" says Andrea "I did not want to talk about it then. I was a child. Now I am an adult, and the doctors have confirmed that a miracle has happened in my case" he says.

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 that 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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# August

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2	3	4 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	5 The Birthday of Our Lady	6	7	8
9	10	11 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	12	13	14	15 The Assumption
16	17	18 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	19		21	22 The Queenship of Mary
23	24	25 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	26	27	28	29

## **Upcoming events:**

- + The dedication of St. Mary Major/ birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 5th (celebrated)
- + The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15th
- + The Queenship of Mary, August 22nd

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submit to the final authority of the Catholic Church.

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 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 to all who will listen.

WISSION SLYLEWENL