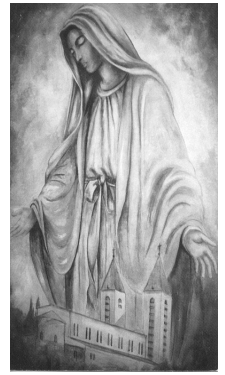


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OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSENGER

THE MIR CENTER OF WESTERN COLORADO



Vol. 24, No. 2

February, 2020

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. (Mt 5: 14-15)

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

Dear children! Today I am calling you to pray even more, until you feel the holiness of forgiveness in your heart. There must be holiness in the families, little children, because there is no future for the world without love and holiness – because in holiness and joy, you give yourselves to God the Creator who loves you with immeasurable love. This is why He sends me to you. 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.



Our Lady of Lourdes

Inside:

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From drug addict to tour guide -pg. 4*

From Attorney General William Barr's Speech at Notre Dame: Oct 11th, 2019

From the Founding Era onward, there was strong consensus about the centrality of religious liberty in the United States. The imperative of protecting religious freedom was not just a nod in the direction of piety. It reflects the Framers' belief that religion was indispensable to sustaining our free system of government.

In his renowned 1785 pamphlet, "*Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments*," James Madison described religious liberty as "a right towards men" but "a duty towards the Creator," and a "duty...precedent both in order of time and degree of obligation, to the claims of Civil Society." It has been over 230 years since that small group of colonial lawyers led a revolution and launched what they viewed as a great experiment, establishing a society fundamentally different than those that had gone before.

They crafted a magnificent charter of freedom – the United States Constitution – which provides for limited government, while leaving "the People" broadly at liberty to pursue our lives both as individuals and through free associations. This quantum leap in liberty has been the mainspring of unprecedented human progress, not only for Americans, but for people around the world. In the 20th century, our form of free society faced a severe test.

There had always been the question whether a democracy so solicitous of individual freedom could stand up against a regimented totalitarian state. That question was answered with a resounding "yes" as the United States stood up against and defeated, first fascism, and then communism.

But in the 21st century, we face an entirely different kind of challenge. The challenge we face is precisely what the Founding Fathers foresaw would be our supreme test as a free society. They never thought the main danger to the republic came from external foes. The central question was whether, over the long haul, we could handle freedom. The question was whether the citizens in such a free society could maintain the moral discipline and virtue necessary for the survival of free institutions. By and large, the Founding generation's view of human nature was drawn from the classical Christian tradition. These practical statesmen understood that individuals, while having the potential for great good, also had the capacity for great evil.

Men are subject to powerful passions and appetites, and, if unrestrained, are capable of ruthlessly riding roughshod over their neighbors and the community at large. No society can exist without some means for restraining individual rapacity. But, if you rely on the coercive power of government to impose restraints, this will inevitably lead to a government that is too controlling, and you will end up with no liberty, just tyranny.

On the other hand, unless you have some effective restraint, you end up with something equally dangerous – licentiousness – the unbridled pursuit of personal appetites at the expense of the common good. This is just another form of tyranny – where the individual is enslaved by his appetites, and the possibility of any healthy community life crumbles. Edmund Burke summed up this point in his typically colorful language:



"Men are qualified for civil liberty, in exact proportion to their disposition to put chains upon their appetites.... Society cannot exist unless a controlling power be placed somewhere; and the less of it there is within, the more there must be without. It is ordained in the eternal constitution of things that men of intemperate minds cannot be free. Their passions forge their fetters."

So the Founders decided to take a gamble. They called it a great experiment. They would leave "the People" broad liberty, limit the coercive power of the government, and place their trust in self-discipline and the virtue of the American people. In the words of Madison, "We have staked our future on the ability of each of us to govern ourselves..." This is really what was meant by "self-government." It did not mean primarily the mechanics by which we select a representative legislative body. It referred to the capacity of each individual to restrain and govern themselves.

But what was the source of this internal controlling power? In a free republic, those restraints could not be handed down from above by philosopher kings. Instead, social order must flow up from the people themselves – freely obeying the dictates of inwardly-possessed and commonly-shared moral values. And to control willful human beings, with an infinite capacity to rationalize, those moral values must rest on authority independent of men's will – they must flow from a transcendent Supreme Being.

In short, in the Framers' view, free government was only suitable and sustainable for a religious people – a people who recognized that there was a transcendent moral order antecedent to both the state and man-made law and who had the discipline to control themselves according to those enduring principles. As John Adams put it, "We have no government armed with the power which is capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate for the government of any other."

How does religion promote the moral discipline and virtue needed to support free government? First, it gives us the right rules to live by. The Founding generation were Christians. They believed that the Judeo-Christian moral system corresponds to the true nature of man. Those moral precepts start with the two great commandments – to Love God with your whole heart, soul, and mind; and to Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself.

But they also include the guidance of natural law – a real, transcendent moral order which flows from God's eternal law – the divine wisdom by which the whole of creation is ordered. The eternal law is impressed upon, and reflected in, all created things. From the nature of things we can, through reason, experience, discern standards of right and wrong that exist independent of human will.

Modern secularists dismiss this idea of morality as other-worldly superstition imposed by a kill-joy clergy. In fact, Judeo-Christian moral standards are the ultimate utilitarian rules for human conduct. They reflect the rules that are best for man, not in the by and by, but in the here and now. They are like God's

From the Diary of Sister Emmanuel

www.childrenofmedjugorje.com

On January 2nd, 2020, Mirjana received her monthly apparition at the Blue Cross, surrounded by a large number of pilgrims who came to entrust the New Year to the Blessed Mother. She conveyed this message:

“Dear children! I know that I am present in your lives and in your hearts. I feel your love, I hear your prayers and direct them to my Son. But, my children, according to motherly love, I desire to be in the lives of all of my children. I desire to gather all of my children around me, beneath my motherly mantle. This is why I am inviting you and calling you, apostles of my love, to help me. My children, my Son pronounced the words of the 'Our Father'- Our Father, (you) who are everywhere and in our hearts-because He desires to teach you to pray with words and feelings. He desires for you to always be better, to live merciful love which is prayer and limitless sacrifice for others. My children, give to my Son love for your neighbors, give words of consolation, compassion and acts of justice to your neighbors. Everything that you give to others, apostles of my love, my Son accepts as a gift. I am also with you, because my Son desires for my love, as a ray of light, to bring your souls to life; for me to help you in the search for peace and eternal happiness. Therefore, my children, love one another, be united through my Son, be children of God who all together, with full, open and pure heart, pronounce the 'Our Father'. And do not be afraid! Thank you.”



Sister Emmanuel

The child came alive

Denis Lefèvre, a 63-year-old man from France, tells the story of how, on his first trip to Israel, the group of pilgrims he was with were invited to go to Bethlehem to what is called "The Milk Cave", where tradition has it that Mary fed the Child Jesus with her maternal milk. Denis was Catholic, but more like a Christmas and Easter Catholic, because he hadn't yet encountered the love of God in his heart.

So here he was in the milk cave when the guide invited the pilgrims to hold close to their hearts a little doll depicting the Child Jesus and pray to Him in silence. Denis could feel his blood boiling, thinking, "They will tell tourists anything! They want me to pray to God with a plastic doll in my arms! This kind of devotion is ridiculous!" But when it was his turn, he didn't want to offend the other pilgrims, so he took the Child Jesus in his arms, rather reluctantly, and distanced himself a little from the group.

His first surprise was that the doll was not plastic, it was made of porcelain, and weighed like a real new born baby, which put him at ease. And then, all of a sudden, to his surprise, the eyes of the Child Jesus came alive! Jesus was looking at him! "I was so shocked," says Denis! "I felt a tremendous love and was so overcome with emotion that I burst into tears. I couldn't tear my eyes away from His! He was adorable! How long did it last, I cannot say, but the other pilgrims told me that I stayed with the Child for a long time."

"I returned to the Holy Land three times, and every time, I experienced this wonderful gift. Those eyes are with me at every moment! The Child Jesus lives within me!" Denis only told me about this amazing experience a few weeks ago at Christmas when his pilgrimage to Medjugorje was drawing to a close, and he was reliving this incredible occasion in his heart. He couldn't talk about it without crying! Every time he tells the story, he feels that outpouring of tenderness that the Child Jesus communicated to him through His gaze. A divine, indescribable look...

Who wouldn't love to see the eyes of this Divine Child? What some people experience as a real-life miracle through a wonderful favor from God, others live it with the eyes of faith! And we rejoice and give thanks to God, for this is the same gaze that will one day welcome us in Heaven, the gaze of a tiny child that has made Himself poor and vulnerable to be one with us in our poverty, seeking our tenderness!

Mary untier of knots

Many know the famous novena to "Mary, untier of knots", a powerful prayer to the Blessed Mother that unravels many seemingly dead-end and unconscionable situations. But do you know where the term comes from? It has its roots in the early history of the Church, appearing at the beginning of the 3rd century in the writings of Saint Irenaeus of Lyon. This Father of the Church, in what is one of the very first treatise on theology, written to fight the heresies threatening the Christian faith, talks

(Diary of Sr Emmanuel continued on page 6)

The Testimony of Linda Leasure

from Cocaine Addict to Tour Guide

By June Klins from spiritofmedjugorje.org

Linda Leasure, a tour guide with *Totally Yours* pilgrimages, gave her conversion testimony last year while in Medjugorje, and it was aired on *Mary TV's* "Fruit of Medjugorje". Her heartfelt testimony is very powerful. To get the full effect, I recommend viewing program #387.

Linda began her story by saying as a child in Catholic school she wanted to become a nun. But when she switched to a public school after 8th grade, she made new friends that were not interested in God. Around that time, her parents got divorced, and then she was sexually abused by her oldest brother. All of these things pulled her away from the Church.

Linda said the "god" in her life at that time became swimming. She was very good at it and spent six hours a day swimming, training to make the Olympic team. She thought, "If I can make the Olympic team, everything will be all right."

Linda did make the team as an alternate for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, but that year the United States boycotted the Olympics, so Linda's dream went unfulfilled.

After that, Linda said, "I had to find another 'god'," so she turned to drugs. She became a "Deadhead" as she followed the Grateful Dead. During this time, she was also confused about her sexual orientation and was very promiscuous with both genders. "I thought that I could somehow heal this wound." When she got pregnant, she thought this would be her answer. She quit the drugs, married the baby's father, and had a beautiful baby girl. She thought, "Everything's going to be all right." But when her marriage did not work out, she needed another escape, and this time it became standard bred harness racing. Her new "god" became her goal to be the top woman driver and trainer in the country. She admitted that the horse racing industry is rough and that through it, she was introduced to cocaine. Addiction took over her life. She said this drug, nicknamed "the devil's dandruff," gave her a false high. She could not sleep at night, so she had to take downers to sleep.

During this time, Linda lived with her father. She felt that she was gay and stopped going to Mass. She began searching and exploring other religions, including Buddhism. In the meantime, the drug addiction became so bad, that's all she would live for. The cocaine eventually burned the inside of her nose, so she learned to freebase. At one point, she weighed less than 90 pounds. Throughout all of this, her mother never stopped praying for her.

When Linda got pregnant again, she said, "I can't have this baby," so "I killed my baby through an abortion, and I broke what I considered the gravest Commandment." After this, Linda did not want to live anymore, and started doing drugs even heavier. One day when she thought she was alone, she loaded a revolver with one bullet and took the

gun to her head, spun it and clicked on the trigger two different times, but nothing happened. On the third try, a friend, unexpectedly, rushed in and grabbed the gun from her. "What are you doing?" Linda replied, "I don't want to live anymore."

Not long after that, Linda's mother invited her to go on a trip to Yugoslavia with her. Sensing there was a catch to this, Linda asked her mother if it was a religious trip. Her mother said, "Yes, it's to a place called Medjugorje." Linda responded,

"Medjawhat?" Linda told her mother she was not going to go, since she was not Catholic anymore. Her mother replied, "You don't have to go to church." Linda decided to go, since she had never been out of the country, and she thought, as a photographer, it would also be a good chance to use her VHS camera.

So Linda traveled to Medjugorje with her mother and sister in 1988. They stayed in a house about a mile from St. James. The first thing they did, after checking in, was to go to St. James. Linda stood outside the church wondering if she should go in. It was very crowded, but she decided to go in with her camera. Within seconds, the inside of the church began to shake to the point that the statue of St. James almost fell over. The people inside the church panicked, including Linda and her mother and sister. They came running out of the church. Outside the church, however, everything was calm. Linda remarked, "I always say, to this day, it's because I went into the church...I don't understand how an earthquake can happen inside the church and not outside." That was her first experience in Medjugorje.



Linda with her mother and sister in Medjugorje in 1988

Back in those days, there was no TSA, so Linda was able to bring her cocaine to Medjugorje. "I couldn't come without it." But there was something telling her not to use it. That night, in the middle of the night, Linda woke up and she saw her life flash before her. "I saw my life and myself going to hell. There were demons...grabbing me, clawing at me." Her screaming woke up her mother and her sister. They wanted to know what was wrong. Linda snapped, "Just let me be," and grabbed the stash of drugs from her suitcase, ran to the bathroom and threw all of it in the toilet.

The next morning, although she hadn't slept the rest of the night, Linda planned to climb Apparition Hill with the group. She lagged behind the group at the base of the hill, and as she turned around, she saw a hooded demon. At this, she darted into the nearest store and purchased a rosary. She caught up with the group and tried to stay in the middle to hide as they prayed the Mysteries going up the hill. When they got to the place of the first apparition, where there was a cross at the time (now there is a statue of Our Lady), Linda broke down. "I cried. I prayed. I begged the Blessed Mother to take this addiction away from me." Linda stayed there after the group went down. She stated, "If you have any knowledge of someone being on cocaine to the point of such an addiction, there is just no way you can recover and not have withdrawal, but that day and from then on, I never touched a drug, nor did I have any withdrawals. Praise God!"

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instruction manual for the best running of man and human society. By the same token, violations of these moral laws have bad, real-world consequences for man and society. We may not pay the price immediately, but over time the harm is real.

Religion helps promote moral discipline within society. Because man is fallen, we don't automatically conform ourselves to moral rules even when we know they are good for us. But religion helps teach, train, and habituate people to want what is good. It does not do this primarily by formal laws – that is, through coercion. It does this through moral education and by informing society's informal rules – its customs and traditions which reflect the wisdom and experience of the ages. In other words, religion helps frame moral culture within society that instills and reinforces moral discipline.

I think we all recognize that over the past 50 years religion has been under increasing attack. On the one hand, we have seen the steady erosion of our traditional Judeo-Christian moral system and a comprehensive effort to drive it from the public square. On the other hand, we see the growing ascendancy of secularism and the doctrine of moral relativism.

By any honest assessment, the consequences of this moral upheaval have been grim. Virtually every measure of social pathology continues to gain ground. In 1965, the illegitimacy rate was eight percent. In 1992, when I was last Attorney General, it was 25 percent. Today it is over 40 percent. In many of our large urban areas, it is around 70 percent. Along with the wreckage of the family, we are seeing record levels of depression and mental illness, dispirited young people, soaring suicide rates, increasing numbers of angry and alienated young males, an increase in senseless violence, and a deadly drug epidemic. As you all know, over 70,000 people die a year from drug overdoses. That is more casualties in a year than we experienced during the entire Vietnam War.

I will not dwell on all the bitter results of the new secular age. Suffice it to say that the campaign to destroy the traditional moral order has brought with it immense suffering, wreckage, and misery. And yet, the forces of secularism, ignoring these tragic results, press on with even greater militancy.

Among these militant secularists are many so-called "progressives." But where is the progress? We are told we are living in a post-Christian era. But what has replaced the Judeo-Christian moral system? What is it that can fill the spiritual void in the hearts of the individual person? And what is a system of values that can sustain human social life? The fact is that no secular creed has emerged capable of performing the role of religion.

The consequences of moral chaos become too pressing. The opinion of decent people rebels. They coalesce and rally against obvious excess. Periods of moral entrenchment follow periods of excess. This is the idea of the pendulum. We have all thought that after a while the "pendulum will swing back." But today we face something different that may mean that we cannot count on the pendulum swinging back.

First is the force, fervor, and comprehensiveness of the assault on religion we are experiencing today. This is not decay; it is organized destruction. Secularists, and their allies among the "progressives," have marshaled all the force of mass communications, popular culture, the entertainment industry, and academia in an unremitting assault on religion and traditional values. These instruments are used not only to affirmatively promote secular orthodoxy, but also drown out and silence opposing voices, and to attack viciously and hold up to ridicule any dissenters. One of

the ironies, as some have observed, is that the secular project has itself become a religion, pursued with religious fervor. It is taking on all the trappings of a religion, including inquisitions and excommunication. Those who defy the creed risk a figurative burning at the stake – social, educational, and professional ostracism and exclusion waged through lawsuits and savage social media campaigns.

The pervasiveness and power of our high-tech popular culture fuels apostasy in another way. It provides an unprecedented degree of distraction. Part of the human condition is that there are big questions that should stare us in the face. Are we created or are we purely material accidents? Does our life have any meaning or purpose? But, as Blaise Pascal observed, instead of grappling with these questions, humans can be easily distracted from thinking about the "final things." Indeed, we now live in the age of distraction where we can envelop ourselves in a world of digital stimulation and universal connectivity. And we have almost limitless ways of indulging all our physical appetites.

There is another modern phenomenon that suppresses society's self-corrective mechanisms – that makes it harder for society to restore itself. In the past, when societies are threatened by moral chaos, the overall social costs of licentiousness and irresponsible personal conduct becomes so high that society ultimately recoils and reevaluates the path that it is on.

But today – in the face of all the increasing pathologies – instead of addressing the underlying cause, we have the State in the role of alleviator of bad consequences. We call on the State to mitigate the social costs of personal misconduct and irresponsibility. So the reaction to growing illegitimacy is not sexual responsibility, but abortion. The reaction to drug addiction is safe injection sites. The solution to the breakdown of the family is for the State to set itself up as the ersatz husband for single mothers and the ersatz father to their children.

The call comes for more and more social programs to deal with the wreckage. While we think we are solving problems, we are underwriting them. We start with an untrammelled freedom and we end up as dependents of a coercive state on which we depend. Interestingly, this idea of the State as the alleviator of bad consequences has given rise to a new moral system that goes hand-in-hand with the secularization of society. It can be called the system of "macro-morality." It is in some ways an inversion of Christian morality. Christianity teaches a micro-morality. We transform the world by focusing on our own personal morality and transformation. The new secular religion teaches macro-morality. One's morality is not gauged by their private conduct, but rather on their commitment to political causes and collective action to address social problems. This system allows us to not worry so much about the strictures on our private lives, while we find salvation on the picket-line. We can signal our finely-tuned moral sensibilities by demonstrating for this cause or that.

A third phenomenon which makes it difficult for the pendulum to swing back is the way law is being used as a battering ram to break down traditional moral values and to establish moral relativism as a new orthodoxy. Law is being used as weapon in a couple of ways. First, either through legislation but more frequently through judicial interpretation, secularists have been continually seeking to eliminate laws that reflect traditional moral norms. At first, this involved rolling back laws that prohibited certain kinds of conduct. Thus, the watershed decision legalizing abortion. And since then, the legalization of euthanasia. The list goes on. More recently, we have seen the law used aggressively to force religious people and entities to subscribe to practices and policies that are antithetical to their faith.

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(Diary of Sr Emmanuel continued from page 3)



about the crucial role of Mary, the "New Eve", in the plan of salvation. And he details the truly remarkable way in which God proceeded to restore man to his original dignity: he found in Mary the new Eve, the pioneer of a humanity reconciled with God. Mary is a woman with a husband, just like Eve. But that's where the similarities end. While Eve became a cause of death to herself and the entire human race through her disobedience, Mary, through her complete obedience, by saying yes to God, became the cause of salvation for all humankind. What has happened is a complete reversal of situation from Mary to Eve, through this similarity, as though seen in an inverted mirror.

Saint Irenaeus reveals the deeper reason for this: "Because what has been bound can only be unbound if the loops in the knot are done in reverse, so that the initial loops are defeated by the later ones, and conversely, the later ones release the initial loops. In other words, an initial bond is undone by a second bond, and the second constitutes the unraveling of the initial bond." And thus the circle is complete - or rather, the knot is untied! With a new Eve, Mary, and a new Adam, Jesus Christ, God has created a new path to lead man away from the hell of sin. He has forever untied all our bonds by going back through all the knots in which the lies of the Evil One had locked us. It is therefore easier to understand the strength and effectiveness of this novena to Mary, Untier of Knots, so aptly named! I myself have experienced the power of this novena and this is why I recommend it! It can be found easily on the internet and in booklets in your Catholic bookstores.

A fake message

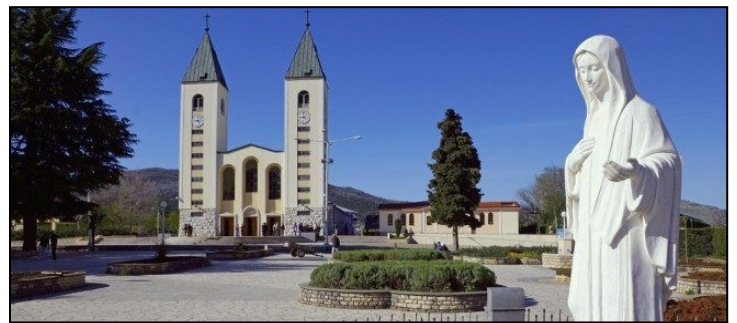
Once again, a fake message, supposedly from the Mother of God and attributed to the visionary Ivan Dragicevic, is being circulated everywhere. Its content is extremely alarming and concerns the Middle East. The exact same message had already been shared in the past for a number of years, and now it has reappeared, making those who receive it uncomfortable. Ivan is very sorry to see that his name is being used to spread false information, which moreover is not at all in the style of Our Lady. In actual fact, Mary delivers 2 messages each month, why would she suddenly need to use another channel to tell us something important, and what is more, make such strange requests? Requiring churches to be opened at a specific time for prayer will only create difficulties for the priests and lead them to doubt the seriousness of Medjugorje! This kind of message would have no impact if we refrained from sharing unverified information. Please wait until you receive formal confirmation from the source before sharing it with others! This will avoid playing into the hands of the enemy, creating confusion, anxiety and doubt.

That said, it is obvious that we must pray for our brothers in the Middle East and for peace in the world! This is why, for more than 38 years, Mary has been begging us to pray and fast to avoid wars.

(William Barr continued from page 5)

The problem is not that religion is being forced on others. The problem is that irreligion and secular values are being forced on people of faith. This reminds me of how some Roman emperors could not leave their loyal Christian subjects in peace but would mandate that they violate their conscience by offering religious sacrifice to the emperor as a god. Similarly, militant secularists today do not have a live and let live spirit - they are not content to leave religious people alone to practice their faith. Instead, they seem to take a delight in compelling people to violate their conscience. For example, the last Administration sought to force religious employers, including Catholic religious orders, to violate their sincerely held religious views by funding contraceptive and abortifacient coverage in their health plans. Similarly, California has sought to require pro-life pregnancy centers to provide notices of abortion rights...

But we cannot sit back and just hope the pendulum is going to swing back toward sanity. As Catholics, we are committed to the Judeo-Christian values that have made this country great. And we know that the first thing we have to do to promote renewal is to ensure that we are putting our principles into practice in our own personal private lives. We understand that only by transforming ourselves can we transform the world beyond ourselves. This is tough work. It is hard to resist the constant seductions of our contemporary society. This is where we need grace, prayer, and the help of our church. We cannot have a moral renaissance unless we succeed in passing to the next generation our faith and values in full vigor. The times are hostile to this. Public agencies, including public schools, are becoming secularized and increasingly are actively promoting moral relativism. If ever there was a need for a resurgence of Catholic education - and more generally religiously-affiliated schools - it is today. I think we should do all we can to promote and support authentic Catholic education at all levels. Finally, as lawyers, we should be particularly active in the struggle that is being waged against religion on the legal plane. We must be vigilant to resist efforts by the forces of secularization to drive religious viewpoints from the public square and to impinge upon the free exercise of our faith...



Pilgrimage to Medjugorje
With Catholic Journeys
May 11th to May 19th, 2020
Fr Carl Wertin: Spiritual Director
Contact Barbara Moulds for details
(719) 852-2807 or
email bjmoulds@msn.com

(Linda Leasure continued from page 4)

Linda said her next step was to go to Confession. She did not know when her last Confession was and was reluctant. "I'd broken just about every Commandment." She did not think she could do it, but she did! She went to an Irish priest who was very kind and nice to her. "I felt wonderful!... When I received the Eucharist that day, it was the best day of my life!" The last day of the pilgrimage, she was graced to see the Miracle of the Sun.

Linda went back home and tried to live Our Lady's messages. Her dad was watching her daughter and although she was still working with the horses, she did not have any temptation to do drugs. But slowly she began to backslide. She would skip a day praying the Rosary, and skip Mass. "Like climbing Cross Mountain, ... I hit that slippery slope and I started to go back into neutral and down the hill."

Then, Linda had the opportunity to be on a television show called "Roller Jam". She made the skating team and became a celebrity. She got busy with skating, filming and autographs, and had no time for church at all. So by the year 2000, although she had no desire for drugs anymore, she was into athletics again and this became her "god". Then during one of the tapings, she got injured and was not able to skate anymore.

Linda's mother continued to pray for her as she watched her slip away from the Church. One day her mother gave her a copy of Medjugorje Magazine, and in it was an ad for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with *Totally Yours* pilgrimages.

Linda still believed and still loved to travel, so she signed up with a person with whom she was in an inappropriate relationship. "I was still confused sexually." Linda said, "We have a saying that a tourist goes to see a place and new things, but a pilgrim goes to experience a place, become someone new." She continued, "and in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, when I took this rosary and I touched the spot where Jesus was crucified, He bopped me in the head again with a beam of light. I came back home from the pilgrimage to the Holy Land strong in my faith."

There was one last thing, though, that Linda said she could not do, and that was to forgive her brother for sexually abusing her as a child. "I just couldn't forgive him. And you know, God takes care of everything for us, if we just let Him."

Linda's brother, who lived in Arizona, was hit by a drunk driver and was left for dead. Although Linda had not spoken to her brother in years, she was the first family member to go there to be with him. "When I walked into the ICU and I saw him laying there, tubes in his head, God gave me the grace that day, in tears, to forgive him!"

The doctors said Linda's brother was medically braindead and would be a vegetable the rest of his life. When Linda's younger brother went to visit, he brought a bottle of Lourdes water given to him by a fellow parishioner. He found a priest to bless his older brother with the Lourdes water, and 10 minutes later, he opened his eyes! He began the slow journey to recovery as he learned to walk and talk again. Linda helped him with his recovery.

Linda gathered all the documentation from her brother's healing to present it at Lourdes. She saw that in *Medjugorje Magazine, Totally Yours* had a pilgrimage there and she wanted to go in thanksgiving. So Linda and her mother and her aunt traveled to Lourdes to thank the Blessed Mother for the healing of her brother and the grace to forgive him. On this pilgrimage, she met the owner of *Totally Yours*, Guy Murphy. She told Guy her story and that she wanted to give her life to God. "My entire life was spent on me and false 'gods'. Now I wanted to give it to the Lord totally." Guy told Linda to pray about it, and at the end of the pilgrimage, he offered Linda a chance to help out with their next pilgrimage to Rome and Medjugorje.

Since then, she has been working with *Totally Yours*, leading pilgrimages. "And when I see what God did in my life, I feel so close to Mary Magdalene. You know, God can take the worst sinners, the murderer that I thought that I was, I killed my child through abortion, and through prayers, my family never, never stopped praying. Never stop praying for your children! He can turn your life around. I've been blessed to be able to see the Blessed Mother work through a company and through Mr. Murphy's example – the Blessed Mother's little simple school of faith. And I see someone as an example, and I think, 'I can do it, too.' I can learn to fast. It was not easy. You know, I went from drug addict, a suicidal person to... really my life is leading pilgrimages now. I'm working with *Totally Yours* and *Totus Tuus*..."

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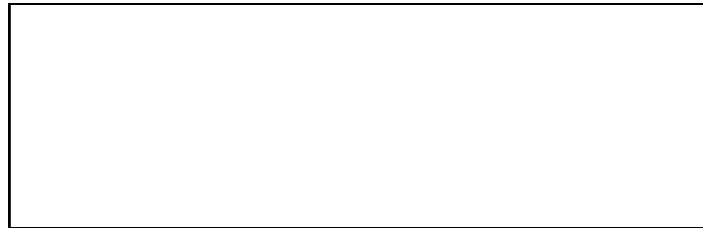
The Mir Center of Western Colorado
2574 Young Court
Grand Junction, CO 81505

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 The Presentation	3	4 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	5 ADORATION St Joseph's 8:00am-6:00pm	6 ADORATION IHM 3:00p to 5:00p	7 ADORATION Sacred Heart 9:00am to 6:00p	8
9	10	11 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	12 ADORATION St. Joseph's 8:00am-6:00pm	13 ADORATION IHM 3:00p to 5:00p	14 ADORATION Sacred Heart 9:00am-6:00pm	15
16	17	18 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	19 ADORATION St Joseph's 8:00am-6:00pm	20 ADORATION IHM 3:00p to 5:00p	21 ADORATION Sacred Heart 9:00am-6:00pm	22
23	24	25 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	26 ASH WEDNESDAY	27 ADORATION IHM 3:00p to 5:00p	28 ADORATION Sacred Heart 9:00am-6:00pm	29

Upcoming events:

- + *The Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd*
- + *Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11th*
- + *Ash Wednesday, February 26th*



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

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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 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