

Share the Messages

OUR LADY'S MONTHLY MESSENGER

THE MIR CENTER OF WESTERN COLORADO

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Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted— and you yourself a sword will pierce— so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Lk 2: 34-35)

**Our Lady of Medjugorje's
Monthly Message of
January 25th, 2024:**

*Dear children! May this time
be a time of prayer!*

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.



Huge crowds entered into the year 2024, by celebrating the Holy Mass in Medjugorje with the concelebration of 102 priests. The Holy Mass was celebrated by Archbishop Aldo Cavalli, the Apostolic Visitor with a special role for the parish of Medjugorje. At

the beginning of his homily, he reminded us that every year on the first day of January, we celebrate the World Day of Peace.

"Peace! Peace! Peace! May peace reign between God and people! This profound message sets two clear starting points for peace: God and man. Harmony between God and human beings is an essential act for world peace."

"This blessing of God will never end. God is faithful. On our part, throughout this year, we should value this blessing with our efforts, with our will, with our generosity, with our lives," said Msgr. Cavalli. Looking back at the Holy Mass readings, he spoke about St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, in which he says: "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son: he was born of a woman ... and we receive adoption."

"This statement is very important. We live in time. St. Paul sees time in its entirety, both in its transience (time passes) and in its greatness (it was before us and continues after us). When the fullness of time comes, God sends His Son, Jesus, in whom, thanks to the Holy Spirit, we receive adoption", said Archbishop Cavalli, explaining that "In this whole development of God's initiative in time, Mary has her own, very important, role. God chooses her, by grace, to be the Mother of His Son according to the natural law, through the incarnation. Mary accepts that choice in herself and gradually understands and realizes God's way, keeping and considering everything that happened..."



The Presentation

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Testimony of Fr Leon Pereira, OP

Transcript from YouTube video: Search: Medjugorje Mission - Fr Leon Pereira, OP (youtube.com)

Fr Leon Pereira has been the chaplain to English speaking pilgrims in Medjugorje for the past 8 years. Recently, during a mission trip, he told his story of an encounter he had during his first trip to Medjugorje back in 1991. During the early part of the video, he recounted his struggles after a back fracture suffered during his time in the army in Singapore, his disappointment after being accepted to medical school at the University of Edenborough but being unable to attend and some family issues that left him "a broken man."

I would like to tell you about my first trip to Medjugorje back in 1991. I arrived in September of 1991. I was praying for a miracle, for the healing of my family, for the conversion of all my family members, for peace in my family. So when I arrived in Medjugorje this is how I was; a broken man inside and out.

When we got there we did everything Fr Slavko told us to do, He died in 2000. He was very important in the spirituality of Medjugorje. He encouraged the pilgrims to develop a Christ centered faith, a Sacrament centered devotional life so we did everything he encouraged us to do. One day on the 10th of September, a Tuesday in 1991, I went to bed early because I was going to climb the big mountain the next day. There was a young man in the group, Kevin a year younger than I. Kevin is Chinese and we both wanted to climb the mountain early on the 11th of September and that night we both had a frightening experience with something evil. I won't go into it because we mustn't give too much attention to the devil but it was enough to spook us. More than spook us.

So on the 11th of September at a quarter to four in the morning Kevin came to get me and we spoke of what had happened the night before to both of us separately and it frightened us to the point of wondering if we should bother climbing the mountain because Medjugorje in those days was very basic –it was dark, there were no street lights at 4:00 in the morning and we thought: is it worth it going through all these dark vineyards to get to the mountain. But we remembered Our Lady had said pray the *Apostle's Creed* and the devil is forced to run away from you because you're declaring what you believe in and the devil has no part of that and so we prayed the *Apostle's Creed* and when we prayed that prayer something happened. On the mountain, a light appeared. It was orange light, golden, big and in the shape of an oval. We didn't know what it was but we walked towards it praying the rosary and when we got close enough we saw what the light was. The light was in the shape of a young girl about sixteen years old, slim, petite wearing a very simple dress standing with her hands with her palms open on either side and she had a veil on her head which hung straight down and she had narrow shoulders that were square. I always repeat this detail because I remember when I was looking at this girl and my exact thoughts as I looked at her I thought, oh you work out. (laughter)

We didn't know who she was but she was beautiful. And we walked towards the mountain and when we got close

enough you know when you get to the base of the mountain you can't see the summit and we had to decide and we decided to climb and on the way up Cross mountain there's the stations of the cross and somewhere near the top- station 10 or 12 I forget and you look out and you can see the other hill, Apparition Hill below you and there where Our Lady appeared on the 25th of June in 1981. In those days it was a bare patch of ground because everyone was taking soil from it and it was marked by an aluminum cross. Today there is a beautiful marble statue of Our Lady there donated by the Koreans.

So when we looked on that patch of ground the same young girl was standing there with her hands in the same position facing the church and the village. So we knew we had picked the wrong mountain but we thought we had to get to the top. So we

climbed all the way to the top and right at the top there was a couple from Florida from Tallahassee in their sixties and they had been there the whole time we had watched this girl and so we asked them if they had seen anything and they said no and so we just vaguely said we saw a bright light but we didn't say anything more. We couldn't really talk about it and we didn't want to talk about it and then we took some photos and said our prayers and came down and went into the church. Now the very first mass, the Croatian Mass had just finished. So the church was empty apart from three of us: there was Kevin, myself and one of the Franciscans, Fr Petar Lubicic. He watching us and wondering because Kevin was taking pictures of all of the stained glass windows and Fr Petar was wondering what this strange Chinese dude was up to. And I went to stand facing the statue of Our Lady. I stood near the back and I was looking at the statue of Our Lady and I was just thinking what was all that about who was that girl, did I imagine it, wondering who that was, it must be your imagination, because you wanted to see something so you made it up. But then again I thought, Kevin saw her as well. Could we both imagine the same thing, can you have mass hysteria with just two people?

And while I was thinking these thoughts the second half happened: a clear voice started to speak inside me, a women's voice speaking in English a beautiful voice. And she began by telling me the story of my life to me. Now this was interesting because I told you I was a broken man at the age of 18 and here she was telling me the story of my life from zero to 20, I was 20 years old at the time, but from her perspective and she saw many, many, many things as blessings including all the bad things- she saw them as blessings and told me so. But also while she did this she told me all of my sins every single sin as it came up. She did it gently, kindly, charitably but relentlessly. Every sin. She even told me things that I had done which were good but I'd done for the wrong reasons so for example she would say do you remember when you did such and such but you only did this to be noticed or to be praised, okay bad motivations but she did it so kindly but she was relentless she went through everything. I would say there was a great emphasis by her on sins of the tongue. Talking too much, talking about other people cutting them down to size, discouraging them gossiping about them, slander. These things are really bad especially gossip and slander

(*Testimony of Fr Leon continued on page 5*)



Fr Leon, arrived a broken man

From the Diary of Sister Emmanuel

www.childrenofmedjugorje.com

On December 25th, 2023, the visionary Marija received the following monthly message from Our Lady:

***“Dear children! I am carrying my Son Jesus to you to fill your hearts with peace, because He is peace. Little children, seek Jesus in the silence of your heart that He be born anew. The world needs Jesus, therefore seek Him through prayer, because He gives Himself daily to each of you.*”**

According to Marija, the Blessed Mother did not say “Thank you for responding to my call”. She was dressed solemnly and was holding the Child Jesus in her arms. Our Lady prayed over us in Aramaic, and Jesus stretched out His little hand towards us as a sign of blessing.

That same day, the visionary, Jakov, received his annual Christmas apparition, and he conveyed the following message:

***“Dear children! Today with my Son in my arms, I desire to call all of you to pray to the little Jesus for the healing of your heart. Children, often in your hearts sin rules which destroys your life and you cannot feel God's presence. That is why, on this day of grace, when grace is spreading throughout the whole world, surrender your life and your heart to the Lord, so that the Lord may heal them with His grace. Only with pure hearts will you be able to experience the birth of Jesus anew in you, and the light of His birth will illuminate your life. I bless you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”*”**

Our Lady continues to surprise us!

To everyone's amazement, on December 31st, during the daily apparition to the visionary Marija, which lasted a long time, Our Lady invited us to go to the hill of Podbrdo, the place of the first apparitions, the next day, January 1st, at 3



Sister Emmanuel

p.m., and to pray there until the time of the apparition, that is to say at 5:40 p.m. (winter time). In other words, she asked us to pray there for 3 consecutive hours. It was unique! The reaction was very beautiful and immense, not only in Medjugorje, but also abroad! Many prayer groups, families and parishes decided to join in the prayer that rose from Podbrdo on the Solemnity of the Mother of God.

Three hours of rain, cold and mud! Many pilgrims arrived early to ensure they were as close as possible to the statue of Our Lady. At that time, the weather was clear. But at 3 p.m. sharp, the rain began to fall, only to stop a few minutes before the apparition, which was the just the amount of time it took to pray 10 *Hail Mary's*... Climbing down the hill took a long time for this huge crowd, because the stones were slippery and it was already dark.



And yet, during all those hours of discomfort, whether standing or sitting uncomfortably, soaked by the rain, the wonder of wonders was that no one uttered a single complaint! On the contrary, joy could be seen on their faces. This was the joy of the sacrifice requested by Mary and generously performed together. An unforgettable experience. Then came seven minutes of Heavenly joy! In the evening, at 5:40 p.m., Marija went into ecstasy and her voice was suddenly inaudible, as Our Lady appeared to her. The crowd then fell completely silent. The Blessed Mother was joyful and remained for 7 minutes. With her hands outstretched she prayed at length over the thousands of people gathered around her and Marija entrusted to her all of our petitions, and especially those who are sick.

Then she said, ***“Thank you for answering my call and praying for my intentions. You will not regret it, not you, nor your children, nor your children's children.”*** This message was the gift she promised, because in these troubled times, it has comforted many people who anxiously wonder about their future, about that of their children and their grandchildren. Mary enables us to understand that our future is in her Motherly Heart, the best refuge ever, along with that of Jesus, her Son. She invites us to trust, and not fear.

These are the facts, but let us try to look deeper, as this message has a precedent! On October 27, 2001, in Syracuse (Sicily), in the presence of the religious authorities and the Governor, Mr. Cuffaro, Sicily responded to Mary's call given at Fatima and, during a large gathering, the island was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The visionary Marija had gone especially for the event and, during the apparition that followed the consecration, Our Lady gave the same message.

(Diary of Sr Emmanuel continued on page 6)

Bishop Joseph Strickland in Medjugorje

Transcript from youtube.com Bishop Joseph Strickland's sermon at the Holy Mass in Medjugorje on January 17, 2024.

This is my first time here in Medjugorje but it really is in so many ways a David and Goliath story. And if we think about it, for each of us, David and Goliath is our story as well. One beautiful point that I've learned the significance of here in Medjugorje: the five smooth stones of David with which he slays the giant Goliath. In that story of David and Goliath, prior to what we hear this morning, in the verses before you probably remember that they tell David to put on his armor and he does and it just doesn't work. It reminds me when I was a little kid playing football, maybe my brother priests as well, though I don't know if Fr. Dave was ever a little kid. But this image of David with his armor on I get the idea of a little kid with all football equipment on almost bigger than them. That's the image of David carrying this armor. And in God's wisdom he says I don't need the armor.

His armor is the word of God. Just like these five small, smooth stones that slay the giant. In this little known part of the world it is a David and Goliath story. And the Blessed Virgin Mary comes here to strengthen people of faith, people who know Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. These visions began in the midst of Communism, in the midst of oppression. I would imagine that many of the people living here felt like a little David against a Goliath. How could we ever survive, how could we ever conquer? But through the Blessed Virgin Mary, they did.

This little place has become a place of significant pilgrimage and I'd encourage you to carry that in your heart. All of us can feel insignificant but if we read through sacred scripture like this story of David and Goliath, so often the Lord chooses the small, the powerless the insignificant to carry forth his message, just like the maiden from Nazareth or David the little boy who conquers a giant.

I'd encourage you to reflect on this reading. I don't believe that its just coincidence. Remember that with the word of God that strengthens us, we can conquer all things, even our own tendencies to sin and darkness.

The refrain from the psalm and I was told before I came to get good shoes to climb up the rocky mountain. They're not kidding. It looks like a pile of rocks. Big rocks. Blessed be the Lord my rock. Think about that. As we climb the apparition hill and the mountain of the cross. You'll see a lot of rocks. And the Lord is our rock. He loves us beyond our imagining so let us be strong in that rock that is the Lord.

We can also look at the beautiful gospel passage from Mark. Once again Jesus is healing. This is a place of peace and healing. With the Blessed Virgin Mary coming to this little village so many years ago to bring the message of her Son. Mary never points to herself, she points to her Son and says do what He tells you. And that is what resonates from this beautiful place.

One thing that occurred to me about the rocky climb up apparition hill that those children made as they first saw this vision of

the Blessed Virgin Mary, that scared them off at first. One thing I thought about as an American with all of our industry and all we do I was humbled to realize because honestly I thought why haven't they improved this road. Because they're wise. It needs to be a rocky road because life is a rocky road. If it had been paved and made very comfortable, it would have lost the beauty of making that climb. So blessed be the Lord my rock will echo through your experience here because that is Mary's message. The Lord is our rock. He loves us and will never abandon us.

One thing that one of the visionaries said yesterday that was very profound for me: pray for your priests for these good men for all of the priests in your life. They're just men. I'm sure these three are an exception. But you know some priests who get on your nerves who you really disagree with but Mary urges us to

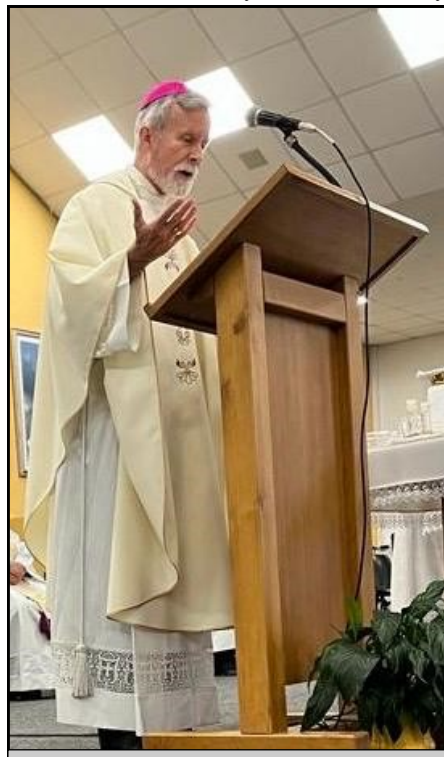
always respect them to challenge them to be the holy men we need priests to be. To be Marian and Eucharistic, that this is the heart of the work of a priest of Jesus Christ, here at the altar of sacrifice, His altar of sacrifice. I know that these priests know that but support them, pray for them, urge them to be holy men in an unholy world.

Finally we can look at this gospel passage where Jesus goes about His healing ministry. Jesus entered the synagogue and a man was there who had a withered hand and they watched to see whether he would heal on the Sabbath so that they might accuse Him. So often we see that basic scenario in the gospel. Here is the Lord in love and goodness bringing healing and the religious leaders are ready to pounce, ready to accuse, ready to reject the Son of God. It happens so often in the Gospels but the Lord in His love and mercy continues to heal.

The image we have in this gospel, a man with a withered hand. I had a broken arm as a kid, probably many of us have. Maybe you have injured your hand in some way, maybe your dominant hand. That is difficult. So think about how Jesus healed a man

with a withered hand evidently for life and how sad that the Pharisees don't see this wonder, a man freed of that burden that he's carried throughout his life. Instead they're ready to pounce on Jesus to see if he steps out of their mold in some small way.

Finally brothers and sisters as we move to the Eucharistic altar and as you enter into this pilgrimage I encourage you to keep that image of the man with a withered hand who is healed. There's a withered hand in my life and probably in most of our lives, there's something withered, something that needs healing something that we long for the Lord to touch and in this place know and believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary is here and she knows all that we need and she tells us to do whatever He tells us. The more we embrace that truth, that power, that grace from word and sacrament, then the more that whatever is withered in our lives is healed. Maybe not in the way we want, maybe not in the way we imagine, but still, expect healing.



Bishop Strickland in Medjugorje

(Testimony of Fr Leon continued from page 2)

they are close to murder because you are destroying someone's reputation. You might of well have just killed them.

Then, when she finished she said you are happy because you have seen me and I said I'm very happy. Who are you? And she said, I am your Mother, the Mother of God. I want you to tell everyone you meet that I am their Mother and that I love them. Now, practically everything she said she made me feel what she meant. When she said I am their Mother she meant like she had given birth to every single one of you, every single one of you and she was embracing us, planting a flag on you and claiming you. When she said I love them she hugged my soul to show me how much she loves you.

And Our Lady loves you in such an incredible way. Our Lady loves you, she looks at you like you are the only child in the whole universe. Like there's no one else. She makes you feel like that and she looks at you like you are so wonderful and interesting and charming and funny and witty and beautiful and handsome and gorgeous. This is how she looks at you.

And she said, Do not begin to imagine that you deserve to see me. God gives grace as He chooses. So right near the beginning she said you don't deserve this, shut up—don't worry. And she said the day will come when you will regret ever having seen me and I was very hurt when she said this because I said how can you say that, this is the best day of my life. And she said the day will come when you will deny ever having seen me.

Now when she said this I remember thinking, remember the prediction of Peter's denial that doesn't turn out too well. So I thought quit while you are behind. So I kept quiet. But all of this came true as she said because within two three years of this I was at medical school in Leeds and I was the only one on campus who was bored because everything that young people can get up to is boring compared to Our Lady. In fact, everything that old people can get up to is boring compared to Our Lady. And I couldn't tell anyone about this episode because they'd lock me up in a padded room with one of those straight jackets and also I had no desire to share this because it was so personal, so intimate. So I felt like seeing Our Lady even just that once had made me into a freak and I couldn't enjoy a normal life.

So one day I said to her I wish I had never seen you and when I said that, as soon as I said that I thought it's happened like she said and you know there'll be a cock crowing outside.

And in terms of denying seeing her, in England many Catholics, Catholics make fun of Medjugorje. They say Megaforgery, big deception, Megaforgery and I was such a coward, such a Judas I wanted to be part of their crowd. I used to laugh with them and not tell them the truth about my experience of Medjugorje.

And Our Lady continued when you turn again you must hold firm to my Son Jesus and at that point of the conversation she showed me a series of visions of the future of the Church. Don't ask me why she showed me such a strange thing. I didn't ask and after this she said you will forget much of what you have seen. And I said no, I won't and immediately after the conversation, I forgot. All of them bar one were beautiful, won-

derful things. I remember the emotions but I don't remember the content of what she showed me. I only remember the bad thing which is this. She showed me that a time is coming when almost every Catholic in the world will be ashamed of Jesus and ashamed of His words and they will turn their backs on Jesus. Just like that — led by their leaders. And they will turn away from Jesus and they will say: We don't remember, we don't care we don't want to know we're too advanced, we're too sophisticated etc.

And very few Catholics will remain faithful and the faithful Catholics will be persecuted by the majority who have apostatized. The others will make it difficult for the minority faithful to go to work, to go to school, to go the shops, to live, even to function. It was so horrible I said the first thing that came into my heart. I said Blessed Mother please let my parents die before this happens. And my father died 18 months ago and my mother died just 4 months ago and I never told them that I prayed for this gift but now they know. But it was so horrible, truly horrible. The thing that was most horrible about it was the rapidity the speed with which almost everyone turns away and they reveal that they were never really Catholic to begin with. This was the big shock. And I prayed at that time I said to Jesus I said Lord make sure that I never ever become a heretic and that's why He made me into a Dominican. *(laughter and applause)*

Our Lady asked me are you willing to suffer for my Son Jesus? And I said yes and she told me where my greatest sufferings would come from. And I told her all of my problems. She said give your heart to Jesus. Pray with a firm faith. Surrender your life to Jesus. Just like that. Now, it was not the answer I wanted but this is the actual answer to all our problems. Give your heart to Jesus, pray with a firm faith, and surrender your life to Jesus.

I wanted to see her again and I thought how can I arrange that so I said to her Blessed Mother because remember I told you I was a broken man, so I said Blessed Mother I'd very much like to die now, please, so I thought it would be marvelous if I could drop dead in St. James Church and go with her. I thought why waste time getting old, right, you know your knees don't work so well, do they. Getting old is such a drag,

And she said, would you not like to live a bit longer to help me and when she said a bit longer I knew she meant anywhere from 9 days to 90 years and a question like that you have to say yes and so I said all right then but you'd better make sure it's worth my while. And when I said that she laughed and she has a beautiful laugh and when she laughed I realized I shouldn't have said that and then she took control of the whole conversation, like a mother with an idiotic child, and she did the talking. She told me that many sufferings were necessary and that I had to cooperate with this. She told me I had to make many sacrifices, that I would not come back to Medjugorje for a long time and that turned out to be true. I could only come back when I was invited. So I waited 18 years to be invited. I waited a long time and it was a very painful time to be away from Medjugorje. She told me not to go looking for her but that she would come to me when I am dying. Now this is not guaranteed, this is only if I live a good life. And then the conversation finished...



(Sister Emmanuel continued from page 3)

She thanked those present for doing this consecration, and then added, "You will not regret it, not you, nor your children, nor the children of your children!"

Less than a year later, on September 6th, 2002, a devastating earthquake raged in the Province of Palermo (magnitude 5.6), but it was confined to the sea, so that the city was spared. The

very holy priest, Father Matteo La Grua, a prophet who also performed miracles, soon-to-be-beatified, had received in prayer that the Blessed Mother had moved the epicenter of the earthquake towards the sea. The sea was literally boiling! Without this special protection

from Mary, the entire city of Palermo would have been destroyed as well as most of the province. Yes indeed, the Sicilians did not regret consecrating their island to the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

Another precedent, more hidden: A French couple decided to consecrate themselves as a family to the Immaculate Heart of Mary after a long preparation of 33 days. This preparation was to be completed in Medjugorje. On the 33rd day, they were able to visit the visionary Marija and during the apparition, they prayed their consecration. After the apparition, Marija turned to them and told them that the Gospa was happy about their consecration, that she thanked them and that they would not regret having done it, neither they, nor their children nor their children's children. No need to describe their joy! This testimony may be less spectacular than that of Sicily, but it will certainly inspire many other families!

In Medjugorje, in more than 42 years of apparitions, Our Lady has never made such a surprise summons, engaging thousands of her children in a long prayer lasting 3 hours, under very uncomfortable weather conditions.

Why did she ask for that? Shall we get the answer before we see her in heaven? What great disaster did she want to avoid? What destructive plan of the enemy was cancelled thanks to the prayer and sacrifice of her children who, on this 1st of January, celebrated her as the Mother of God? She did not hesitate to ask for a lot, so one might think that she gave a lot, given the immense power of prayer! Let us recall here this often-repeated message: **"Dear children, only through prayer and fasting can you prevent wars, stop wars and suspend the laws of nature."**

(Example: natural disasters). In her various apparitions - think of Lourdes and Fatima - the Virgin Mary always asks for penance, sacrifice, offering, in connection with prayer because there is no true love without self-giving.

Is your home blessed?

In January, the Franciscans keep this beautiful tradition of blessing parishioners' homes. They go from house to house, greet families, recite certain prayers, and sprinkle holy water around the family home. From the beginning of the apparitions, Our Lady recommended the use of holy water and asked that we carry on ourselves blessed objects, small crosses, medals or oth-



er Christian objects blessed by a priest. These simple articles are signs of our faith and also a protection against evil and the influences of evil. They are not good luck charms, not amulets, not talismans. It is important to stress

this fact, because many people are not aware of the danger of harmful superstitions. In addition, every Saturday, many Croatian mothers go around the house and property to sprinkle holy water. I asked Vicka the reason for this, and she said, "But because we are Christians!" Yes, in an anti-Christian or Christianophobic context, Christians need these signs, as constant reminders of their belonging to Christ and the Virgin Mary.

He's come a long way!

In his teenage years, Vittorio, from Italy made the typical kinds of bad choices. It would take too long to describe them all. His father was quite cold, indifferent, and absent. He did not listen to his son, and Vittorio suffered deeply from this emotional emptiness. Feeling unloved, he had left his parents' house and started taking drugs to help him forget his pain. Without fully realizing the seriousness of his choices and their dangers, he connected with a group of Satanists who practiced black masses, drugs, alcohol, pornography, orgies, etc. This group had a kind of headquarters in an apartment, where Vittorio went often because there he could meet up with women and get drugged up with Marijuana, hashish, cocaine... This life lasted several years.

But one day, on the street, he met a childhood friend, a girl, who asked him, "Vittorio, how are you doing?" This friend was praying a great deal, and was living Mary's Medjugorje messages. She continued, "I see you're not well; I'm going to pray for you!" This word touched Vittorio at the time, but he did not lend it much importance. He did not see this friend again for 4 months.

Then one morning, as he woke up, he said to himself: "I'm tired of taking drugs, that's enough, I'm done! He said it and he did it: he stopped taking drugs that very day. The most surprising thing is that he did not have to suffer the pains of withdrawal that usually follow when you suddenly stop taking drugs. This was an immense grace. He later explained that he had an inner strength that he had not known before. He stopped hanging out with this group at its HQ. When he went out into the city again, he met the same friend who told him clearly: "Since we met, I have been praying the Rosary for you every day."

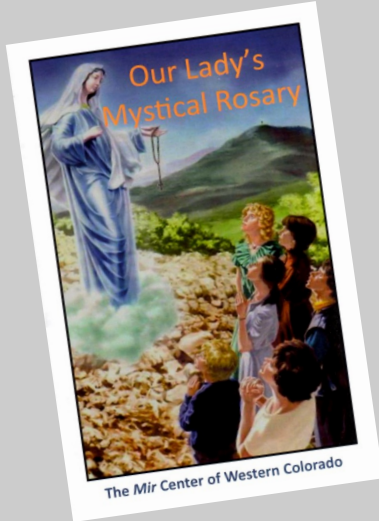
Vittorio then remembered their meeting and this promise of prayer. On that day, a new life began for him. He found a priest who helped him in his journey of conversion and who supported him in difficult times. Vittorio now works in his father's business and is very good at computers. He has been doing well for four years now. His beautiful journey of faith includes daily Mass and regular confession. He lives in chastity and is rebuilding himself by following Jesus as best he can. He was recently in Medjugorje, for the New Year, so he was on the Podbrdo on January 1st in order to respond to Our Lady's invitation. How-

(Sister Emmanuel continued on page 7)

A Perfect Gift!

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(Sister Emmanuel continued from page 6)

ever, despite this life change, Vittorio still harbored a deep anger towards his father, and this anger caused him anxiety and insomnia. He was going to an exorcist, hoping to be cured of this. But it was to no avail because nothing changed. Forgive your father? In Medjugorje, he met a layman, Francesco, who had experienced a deep liberation after years of suffering. Francesco said to



him, "There is no point in receiving further prayers of liberation, for you must first forgive yourself and also forgive your father!" Vittorio did not expect this answer and he remained silent for a few seconds to think. Francesco seized this opportunity to tell him, "With sincere forgiveness on your part, you will find peace of heart, because in forgiveness, it is the Lord who acts. This is the key to your inner healing. Satan does not want you to forgive, because if you forgive, then he will no longer be able to torment you."

Vittorio trusted this word and understood that he had to forgive his father. But it was very difficult for him, like a huge mountain to move! The solution was found: "Go back home," Francesco told him, "and first try not to judge your father. Try to be close to him and try to make yourself useful in the little details, also with your smile and your way of doing things. Don't expect a good answer right away from your dad. He'll need to understand your change." Vittorio decided to follow this advice. This simple and firm decision to forgive his father brought him great inner serenity, as if this old conflict were beginning to melt into his heart. In Medjugorje, Vittorio opened a new door to Jesus, he is ready to live in harmony with this extraordinary divine Host, in accordance with the Gospel. We will pray for Vittorio and for all those who, like him, fight with courage to choose life, at all costs! They testify that Jesus is alive and ready to perform miracles still today in order to save us!

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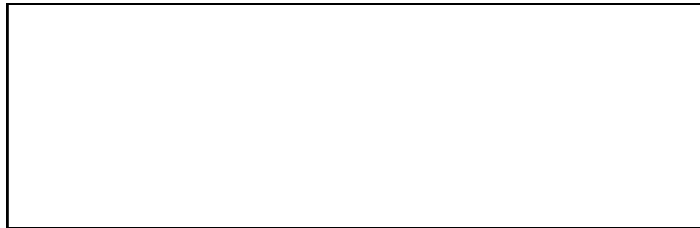
The Mir Center of Western Colorado
2574 Young Court
Grand Junction, CO 81505

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis		1	2 The Presentation	3
4	5	6 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	14 Ash Wednesday	15	16	17
18	19	20 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Medjugorje prayer group 7:00pm St Francis	28			

Upcoming events:

- + **The Presentation of the Lord, February 2nd**
- + **Ash Wednesday, February 14th**
- + **Palm Sunday, March 24th**



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

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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