



Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas

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Volume 26 Issue 5

June 2012, 26 Years!

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Special points of interest:

- Year of Faith
- Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, March 2013 (Insert)
- Mission Statement



Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us!

TOTALLY YOURS

Prayer of Blessed John Paul II to our Blessed Mother,

Immaculate Conception, Mary, my Mother

Live in me. Act in me. Speak in and through me. Think your thoughts in my mind. Love through my heart.

Give me your dispositions and feelings. Teach, lead and guide me to Jesus.

Correct, enlighten and expand my thoughts and behavior. Possess my soul.

Take over my entire personality and life. Replace it with yourself.

Incline me to constant adoration and thanksgiving.

Pray in me and through me. Let me live in you and keep me in this union always.

TO MY PRIESTS

Our Lady Queen of Peace

On the 27th of June, 1981, Our Lady appeared three times to the children. On that occasion the children asked all kinds of questions and Our Lady responded.

For Priests, she gave this message:

"May the priests firmly believe and may they take care of the faith of the people!"

On the 28th of June, 1981, Vicka asked, "My dear Lady, what do you want from us and what do you want from our Priests?" Our Lady replied,

"That they should believe firmly and help others to do the same."



Our Lady Queen of Peace in Medjugorje. This life-size image is in the Chapel garden of St. Joseph Chapel at Holy Family Roman Catholic Church

PRAY FOR PRIESTS

Love them. Support them. Help them to be holy. We are weak and fragile. If your knees are not bent in prayer for us, we stumble and fall. We need your prayer ...

Fr. Jozo Zovko, OFM

YOUTH CORNER: INTERVIEW BISHOP GORMAN SENIOR MARC PHILIPPI

[by McKayla Philippi, MIC, Junior Editor] *I was thinking of a person to interview for "Youth Corner" and immediately I thought of my big brother Marc. Marc has had the opportunity to be present during many of Ivan Dragicevic's apparitions with the Blessed Mother. Marc was eight years old when he first witnessed Ivan speaking with Our Lady.*



Question: Marc, can you tell me what the most memorable experience you had when witnessing Ivan's apparitions with the Blessed Mother?

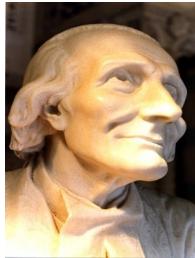
Answer: I would definitely say that each time I witnessed Ivan speaking to Our Lady was special. It is not every day you witness someone speaking with the Mother of God. The last time I witnessed Ivan conversing with Our Lady (6 years ago), really did touch me in a special way. I had the opportunity to serve with Monsignor Greg Gordon at Mass during Ivan's apparition. Listening to Ivan's testimony really sunk in that evening. I realized that Ivan was just a regular teenager at the time and he was not expecting the Blessed Mother to appear to him. I recall thinking how this must have turned his world upside down. Since the age of sixteen, Ivan has traveled throughout the world giving his testimony and sharing Our Lady's messages. I remember being in awe and having an overwhelming feeling of how much Jesus must love us. When a son sends his mother to do something, it must be very important. Pondering this thought I realized how urgent Our Lady's messages must be. She calls us to conversion and gives us the formula on how to become a saint. Another thing that really sticks out about Our Lady's message is the way she calls us to live our lives. She does not expect us to do anything out of the ordinary. She does not call for us to go to courageous acts or to do severe demonstrations of fasting. Her messages are very attainable. She encourages us to fast only a few days per week, anyone can do that. She is asking us to place Her Son in the center of our lives, and to simply love Him. She calls us to pray, follow the Church's teachings, and be the best version of our self that we can possibly be. Our Blessed Mother gives us the remedy of keeping our souls in shape. She advised monthly Confession. This helps me to gain personal accountability for the state of my soul. Yes, a good examination of conscience definitely helps us to keep in check with the state of our present actions. Who can't go to Confession once per month?

Our Lady's messages and motherly guidance can be applied to anyone's life. They do call for conversion every day. As a football player, I am called to do certain things everyday to become a better athlete. I need to lift weights, practice my position; I need to eat healthy and take the proper supplements to help with my performance. How much more important is it for us to take care of our immortal souls. I think of Our Blessed Mother as our spiritual performance coach. This is why her message is so appealing to me. She comes to us with her motherly love not to condemn us, but to get us on the right path. This path leads us to true happiness and eternal life. Now that's a mother for you! I feel very blessed and thank Almighty God for allowing me to experience His great love for us through the messages of His Mother.

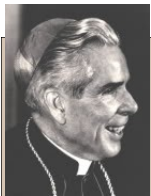
*"If you
knew how
much I love
you, you
would cry
with joy!"*

*Our Lady Queen
of Peace
Medjugorje*

St. John Vianney—
Patron Saint of all Priests

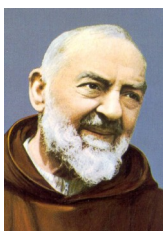


"Christian wife! Follow in the footsteps of the ideal of all womanhood, the Blessed Mother of God; in joy and in sorrow, she will be your advocate at the throne of her Son."



Let those who think that the Church pays too much attention to Mary give heed to the fact that Our Blessed Lord Himself gave ten times as much of His life to her as He gave to His Apostles." ¹

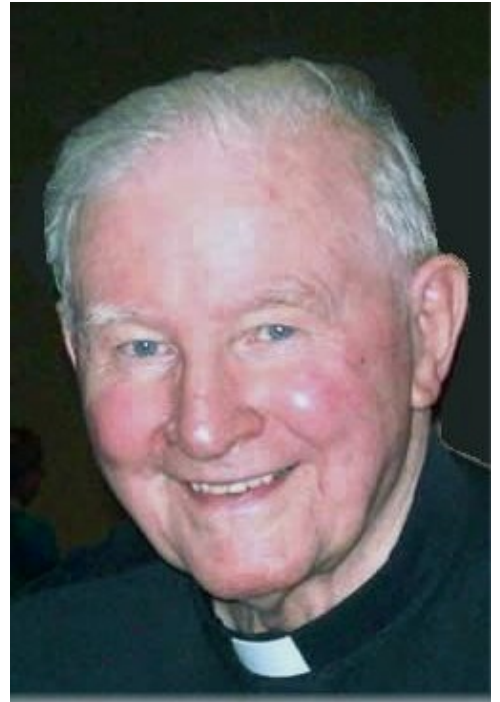
St. Padre Pio of
Pietrelcina



"Always stay close to this Heavenly Mother, because she is the sea to be crossed to reach the shores of Eternal Splendor." ²

A little known fact and an explanation for the "Sir" in Monsignor Franzinelli's title—he was invested into the Ecclesiastical Order of Knighthood to join the ranks of the Roman Catholic Church's prestigious society of the Equestrian Order Knights of the Holy Sepulchre on October 24, 2004 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

"The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem is one of the oldest and the only Order of Chivalry under the protection of the Holy See. Membership is considered as one of the highest Papal Awards conferred upon clergy and laity alike. It is both a great honor and a great responsibility. Membership in this Order entails a personal and solemn commitment to daily prayers for peace in the Holy Land as well as an active support to protect and maintain the Shrines of the Holy Land and for there to be a continuing presence of the Catholic Church in Jerusalem."



Monsignor Ben is celebrating his 60 year Anniversary to the Holy Priesthood on May 31, 2012. We rejoice and celebrate with him this momentous event in his life, dedicated wholly to the belief in the Gospel of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and to the pastoral care of his flock. Interestingly he wanted to be a religious missionary in South America, but God had other designs on him; he was called to be a Diocesan Priest. He will tell you that it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who understands him, as he wants to be understood, that sustained and graced his Priesthood — and the unending prayers and support of his beloved, widowed mother, Mrs. Gisella Franzinelli who would "always straighten me out." Monsignor "Father" Ben, as he is affectionately known, attributes the success of his Priesthood to the munificent Mercy of God and protected through the constant prayers of his parishioners, religious brothers and sisters, the laity and the multitudes of volunteers that came forth to assist him as a founding Pastor and presently in his "retirement".

There have been published booklets honoring his life, urged by the members of his founding, non-profit organization, the Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas to continually update, thus the three. You see, Monsignor, never really retired. He was called to be a Priest forever and in the spirit of Blessed Pope John Paul II, he remains active today—going on 91 years young in July!

One of the stories that was published in the Las Vegas Review-Journal in 1997, after his "retirement" in 1996, summarizes his remarkable journey, entitled Intrepid Explorer written by the insightful John Przybys and it starts with this statement: "Monsignor Ben Franzinelli has just returned from computer class, and he's as excited as a little boy with a brand new toy. "The information!" Franzinelli exclaims, a sense of marvel in his voice. "I can download stuff from the Vatican, from universities, from the major dioceses. Eventually I'll build my own page and attempt to say something on it, but I don't know what," he says, laughing." ... "The effusive, impromptu monologue is quintessential Franzinelli. There's the almost childlike joy of learning something new. *The willingness to offer an opinion, combined with the intellectual curiosity to continue weighing the opinion even after it's been loosed.* The concern about education. And, of course, what all of this could do in the service of God."

It was that springboard, after his "retirement" that launched him into the world of cyberspace to remain active. As members of the Center, we can attest to this as he took us along with him.

The members, supporters and benefactors of the Medjugorje Information Center continue to be blessed, and we are so grateful to God for being under the care and sincere love of this founder and Spiritual Director, going on 26 years. And it is his flock of his Parish of Holy Family who can affirm this, who love him unreservedly for his pastoral care these past 37 years, because Monsignor Franzinelli loves as he loves Him first who loves him more. The genuine, agape love and respect for The Holy Mother of God in his life is world known, especially by his brethren, for the love that she has for him knows no bounds as she loves each of her priests. We will never know the many lives he has touched through his generosity, his prayer life and sacrifices. Only God knows! He has the heart and soul of the Good Shepherd! Thank you dearest Father Ben! Happy Anniversary and Birthday!

Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen on the Priesthood: *"How fruitful a vineyard of vocations is the sacristy! To see a priest making his meditation before Mass does more for an altar boy's vocation than a thousand pieces of inspirational literature."*

HISTORY OF HIS MINISTRIES

- Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Las Vegas, St. Joan of Arc, St. Christopher Parishes
- Pastor of St. James Catholic Church, Pastor and Founder of Holy Family Roman Catholic Church
- Courts of Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of America at Holy Family Parish
- Diocesan Director of Religious Education, Southern Nevada
- Co-founder of the Franciscan Center in Las Vegas
 - “I wasn’t going to change the world, but if an issue came up that I thought needed attention and ... I could do something about it, I did.”
- First Catholic Priest in Nevada to hold political office, elected member of the State Board of Education
 - “As an outgrowth of his efforts to improve education, he was elected ... in 1972.”
- Variety of local commissions in support of the youth, i.e., Juvenile Court, NAACP
- First Catholic Priest in Nevada to begin the Parish Sunday Masses in a saloon, 1975
 - Adopted the slogan, “Have chalice, will travel”
- The Priest in Las Vegas who was able to bring the renowned Bing Crosby and his family to entertain on the Strip of Las Vegas for the singular benefit for Holy Family Parish: From saloon to Sanctuary
 - “Franzinelli downplays his accomplishments over the years. Whether it’s working for civil rights or building a parish from the ground up, he says, “others have done the same thing.”
- Founder and Spiritual Director of the Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas, Nevada, 1986
- First Marian Conference in Las Vegas, 1992, hosted by the Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas
- Title of Monsignor bestowed on Father Ben by the late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, in 1996
- First to host Bilingual Marian Eucharistic Conference, 2004
- Knighthood of the Roman Catholic Church’s prestigious society of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, October 2004

QUOTES of Monsignor Fr. Ben

- The grace of God is always present for those who have strayed away.
- The study of the Scriptures trains a man in right thinking until he is equipped for every good work. Here is the essential conclusion. The study of Scriptures must never be selfish, never simply for the good of a man’s own soul. Any conversion which makes a man think of nothing but the fact that he has been saved is no true conversion. He must study the Scriptures to make himself useful to God and to his fellowmen. No man is saved unless he is on fire to save his fellowmen.
- Isaiah counsels patience. Saint James teaches it. Our Lord is our example.
- Humility is recognizing who we are before God, which means that we must realize without any doubt that I absolutely need and depend on God. All our blessings come from God, whatever we have, whatever our accomplishments, whatever our hopes, our fears, we need God.
- We can never put God in our debt and can never have any claim on Him. When we have done our best, we have done only our duty; and a man who has done his duty has done only what is demanded of him. God never owes us.
- Our Lady has become for us a beacon—the Holy Spirit is Her Lamp; the Light guiding our journey to a safe haven.
- In the personal intimacy of your home, Christ’s Loving Mother is ever closer to you. Can you image her gratitude for your hospitality, her proximity to your prayers and your hearing what she has to say to you? There is no doubt Our Lady will tell your heart how best you can serve her Son and imitate His Purpose in seeking your salvation and the salvation of other souls.
- The messages of Fatima and the messages of Our Mother, Mary, from Medjugorje and every corner of the earth presents her dialogue: Her desire for our conversion, our prayers from the heart, and the victory of the Kingdom of God over evil.



“Dear children! Today I call you to prayer. The one who prays is not afraid of the future. Little children do not forget, I am with you and I love you all. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

... Our Lady Queen of Peace Message of June 25, 2000
The Third Millennium

MISSION STATEMENT

The Center is a non-profit organization, chartered by both Federal and State of Nevada as the Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas, aka Marian Information Center. Our purpose is the publication of a quarterly newsletter and to maintain an active website (www.lasvegasmariancenter.com), principally to inform our readers of current Vatican and Catholic news unreported by the secular press and to provide current and updated information regarding reported alleged and approved apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. [Discretion is always necessary in discernment of news about any alleged apparitions.] ... We encourage prayer and the practice of the Roman Catholic Faith in conformity with the teaching and absolute authority of the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI and his successors.

IN MEMORIAM: THERESA A HALL
(December 31, 1930 - April 5, 2012)



*“Okay,
we’re
finished
now,
let’s turn
the page!”*

Theresa Hall



**The Three
T’s**

**Blessed
Mother Teresa
of Calcutta**

**St. Teresa of
Avila**

**St. Theresa of
the Child
Jesus**

aka

*St. Theresa of
Lisieux*

&

The Little Flower

Pray for us!



**Memorial
Service for
Theresa**

**July 18, 2012
Wednesday
10 a.m.**

**Holy Family
Roman
Catholic
Church,
Las Vegas**

**(702)
458-2211**

In 1981, 31 years ago, Herb & Theresa Hall visited Las Vegas. They bought a business and then moved to Las Vegas from Los Angeles. Soon afterwards, Herb & Theresa committed themselves to become active members of Holy Family Parish.

Herb and Theresa were married on August 16, 1951 in Saratoga, New York. They have three children; 12 grandchildren, and 25 great grandchildren. Since retiring from their business in 2004, Las Vegas, Theresa and Herb remained very active in their commitment to family life, to their friends and to the Church, and most recent to the Youth. Herb passed onto eternal life December 14, 2007.

Theresa became actively involved with Holy Family Parish where Theresa was co-chairman of the Parish's 21st Anniversary fund-raising festival in 1995. It was at the time that I had the privilege of working alongside and witnessing Theresa's work ethic where she completely gave of herself and her leadership abilities noted. Her commitment to serving God in whatever capacity He was calling her was evident.

It was in 1997 when the Medjugorje Information Center was in a period of discernment and Theresa was asked to be a member. A few years later, Theresa served on the Executive Board of the MICenter as the President until her retirement. Earlier this year, she was serving as Vice-President and already involved in the special events planned for 2012.

A look back into her tenure (1997 - 2012) with the Center and you will see that she was foremost involved with our founder and spiritual director, Monsignor Franzinelli, as co-editor of the Center's Newsletter, co-chaired the First Bilingual Marian Eucharistic Conference with Fr. Pablo Straub as key speaker, committed to the various special events including Ivan, the Medjugorje visionary, fundraisers, our monthly Masses at Holy Family and including the involvement of the MICenter in assisting her Parish in bringing in renowned speaker, which benefited the Church and parishioners.

Her "can do" spirit, her willingness to serve Our Blessed Mother and her demeanor in listening and serving our Spiritual Director is most noteworthy. Her encouragement to others to respond to the Holy Spirit, "to be not afraid", left an indelible mark upon us and we are grateful to God for this child of His.

As stated by Dee Redendo, Director of Religious Education of Holy Family and presently serving as Corresponding Secretary for the Medjugorje Information Center and who knew Theresa from the beginning of 1981, says:

"She contributed her time and talents as Chairwoman for the Catholic Daughters Annual Luncheon and Fashion Shows. Also, she served in the capacity of secretary in the Catholic Daughters, Court 2226. Theresa was involved in many projects over the years: she served as a member of the Parish Advisory Board; Director of Volunteers; served as Lector and trained others to be Ministers of the Word. She served as a volunteer with the Refugees and Migration Services of Catholic Charities by setting up apartments for the new incoming legal refugees. On Saturdays, you would find Herb & Theresa feeding the homeless people with Fr. McShane at the downtown's shelter at Foremaster St and Las Vegas Blvd.

Theresa was a successful leader as well as a team player. When she undertakes a project, small or big, she knows what needs to be done and follows through to completion. During her leisure time, she loved to read, tried to bowl, and traveled with her husband. She wrote 2 short stories, and was planning to write another.

As Debbie Irani, Theresa's dear friend, reminds us "that Theresa was the current liturgical coordinator at Holy Family, a position she had since †Fr. Sullivan was with us. She also started the International Thanksgiving Mass that was her baby and creation."

Someone once quoted: "Theresa is truly a daughter of the Church." Those of us who know her, agree wholeheartedly.

Perla Saenz, co-founder and Historian of the MICenter shares and says: *Theresa, affectionately known as "T", thank you and God reward you for your many years of untiringly service to the Church and in a special way to the Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas. You generously always did all in your power to help in assisting The MICenter, whether it was bringing in Visionary Ivan or any speaker associated with Medjugorje and many others who gave witness to our faith, helping in furthering our journey with God. Now you are with Him; we continue our prayers for you and your family left behind and ask your prayers for us that we may all one day be united together safely in heaven. May your soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Eternal life grant unto to Theresa, O' Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen.*

... Mirla Dissette, President, Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas

YEAR OF THE FAITH, PROCLAIMED BY POPE BENEDICT XVI
OCTOBER 11, 2012 — NOVEMBER 24, 2013

Vatican recommends a Pilgrimage for the Year of Faith to the Holy Land
SPECIAL PILGRIMAGE from LAS VEGAS, MARCH 6—MARCH 16, 2013
Sponsored by the Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas