



Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas aka Marian Information Center

Volume 23 Issue 3

December 2009 Year of the Priests

Special points of interest:

- Year of the Priest:
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- Holy Relics of St. Pio da
Pietrelcina
- Immaculee Ilibagiza,
Catholic, Rwandan survi-
vor, on Love and Forgive-
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- Our Lady of the Word,
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A brief of the Medjugorje Center and St. Pio—for your discernment

This story actually takes root when Fr. Ben and his mother visited San Giovanni Rotondo in 1966. There in an extraordinary way, Fr. Ben Franzinelli met Padre Pio, face to face, in the Sacristy. You see Fr. Ben was praying earnestly at the predieu of Padre Pio (not knowing this at the time) and it was a practice of Padre Pio that after he celebrated the Mass, he would return to his kneeler and say his prayers of Thanksgiving. A tap on the shoulder, Oops! Padre Pio had the biggest smile and twinkle in his eye. Now 19 years later, in 1985, Fr. Ben is hosting a film event on the life of Padre Pio at his Parish, Holy Family, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. The narrative continues of two ladies who came to this Church who were drawn by their interest and devotion of this Sainly Priest, Pio. Now Fr. Ben did not know Perla and Diane; however, they had just returned from the little hamlet of Med-

jugorje where our Blessed Mother then and presently appears, allegedly, to six visionaries. As these women were touched deeply by what was occurring in Medjugorje, they approached Fr. Ben, seizing the moment to share with him. They gave him a tape and shortly thereafter, although he was skeptical, decided to go alone to Medjugorje. There Fr. Ben was also touched in his heart and his Priesthood was renewed. He came back and told Perla to find someone she could work with and the Medjugorje Center was founded in June of 1986. Shortly thereafter Perla became a spiritual daughter of Padre Pio. As the years went by, some of the volunteers of the Center, without anyone mentioning Padre Pio, also became his spiritual daughters. In 2001, through a guest speaker we had invited to speak on the Holy Souls of Purgatory, she brought with her a Priest who had the relic of then Blessed



Our Lady Queen of Peace in Medjugorje. This life-size image is atop of Apparition Hill where millions of the faithful, around the world, have climbed and prayed.

Padre Pio. You see, it wasn't until very recently, through a little lady from Scotland, that all this became so clear to us that St. Pio has been very present in the lives of the Center's members and volunteers! With awe and joy we now ponder if it was St. Padre Pio who actually initiated the Center with the others cooperating with Grace to bring us closer to God! ...

The Holy Relics—What is a relic? Veneration of relics ...

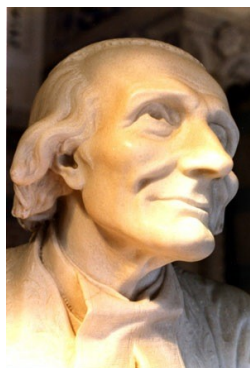
A relic is an object, especially a piece of the body or a personal item of someone of religious significance, carefully kept with an air of veneration as a tangible memorial. The word relic comes from the Latin reliquiae (remains).

Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians showed deep respect and reverence for the

remains of the holy men and women who were models of sanctity. Veneration is a way of both honoring the work that was accomplished by these saints, as well as asking that saint to help us on our pilgrim way through his/her prayerful intercession.

[Photo courtesy, Scotland: St. Pio's purificator used for the wound on his side.]

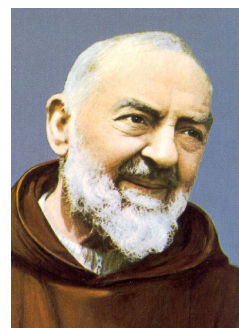




"Christian wife! Follow in the footsteps of the ideal of all womanhood, the Blessed Mother of God; in joy and in sorrow, she will be your advocate at the throne of her Son."



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



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

St. John Vianney—Patron Saint of all Priests

A man with vision overcomes obstacles and performs deeds that seem impossible. John Vianney was a man with vision: He wanted to become a priest. But he had to overcome his meager formal schooling, which inadequately prepared him for seminary studies. His failure to comprehend Latin lectures forced him to discontinue. But his vision of being a priest urged him to seek private tutoring. After

a lengthy battle with the books, John was ordained

Situations calling for "impossible" deeds followed him everywhere ... His work as a confessor is John Vianney's most remarkable accomplishment. In the winter months he was to spend 11 to 12 hours daily reconciling people with God. In the summer months this time was increased to 16 hours. Unless a man was dedicated to his vision of a priestly

vocation, he could not have endured this giving of self day after day.

Many people look forward to retirement ... But Fr. John Vianney had no thoughts of retirement. As his fame spread, more hours were consumed in serving God's people. Even the few hours he would allow himself for sleep were disturbed frequently by the devil.

... FR. TOM WASHBURN, OFM

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."

"It is not possible to create esteem for the priesthood except through an admiration of the priest's victimhood. No mother brings a child into the world without labor. No priest begets a vocation or makes a convert or sanctifies a soul except under the shadow of the Cross. And as an *alter Christus*, every priest must realize his ability to beget in the Spirit..."

"I cannot remember a time when I did not want to be a priest!"

"If there is any key to the renovation of the Church and the salvation of the world at this time, it lies in the renewal of the priesthood."

[www.archbishopsheencause.org]

St. Pio da Pietrelcina—Confessor

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

*A*lmighty God, you gave the Capuchin Priest, Saint Pio of Pietrelcina, the immense privilege of sharing in a unique way in the Passion of Thy Son.

Grant me, through his intercession the graces that I ardently desire ...

And above all, at the hour of my death, grant me the grace of being reconciled to the Will of Jesus, and united with Him in the glory of His resurrection. Amen.

Glory be to the Father... (three times).

[Authorized at Manfredonia, 26 February 2002
+Vincenzo D'Addario
Archbishop of Manfredonia-Vieste]

Padre Pio had the ability to read the hearts of the penitents who flocked to him for confession which he heard for ten or twelve hours per day. Padre Pio used the confessional to bring both sinners and devout souls closer to God; he would know just the right word of counsel or encouragement that was needed.

[Catholic.org]

Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI —how he was called into the Priesthood



Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, was born at Marktl am Inn, Diocese of Passau (Germany) on 16 April 1927 (Holy Saturday) and was baptised on the same day. His father, a policeman, belonged to an old family of farmers from Lower Bavaria of modest economic resources. His mother was the daughter of artisans from Rimsting on the shore of Lake Chiem, and before marrying she worked as a cook in a number of hotels.

He spent his childhood and adolescence in Traunstein, a small village near the Austrian border, thirty kilometres from Salzburg. In this environment, which he himself has defined as "Mozartian", he received his Christian, cultural and human formation.

His youthful years were not easy. His faith and the education received at home prepared him for the harsh experience of those years during which the Nazi regime pursued a hostile attitude towards the Catholic Church. The young Joseph saw how some Nazis beat the Parish Priest before the celebration of Mass.

It was precisely during that complex situation that he discovered the beauty and truth of faith in Christ; fundamental for this was his family's attitude, who always gave a clear witness of goodness and hope, rooted in a convinced attachment to the Church.

[Excerpted: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/biography/documents/hf_ben-xvi_bio_20050419_short-biography_en.html]

Quotes on the Mother of God, Mary Most Holy



"Jesus took His flesh from the flesh of Mary," ... St. Augustine • "How beautiful she is, Our Lady of compassion! How dear! How utterly unselfish! How filled with joy for Him - and us - in the depths of her own agony and desolation!" ... -St. Alphonsus Ligouri • "The Power of One Hail Mary can change the world. In all our efforts and endeavors, we can never underestimate the power of prayer, and must always rely upon the help of God. In a special way we commend our efforts to the Mother of God and our own Blessed Mother." • "The Rosary, especially prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, is a powerful means of spiritual grace. In all of our efforts to promote the sanctity of human life, prayer is our first and strongest resource. May we rely upon the power of our Lord's presence in the Blessed Sacrament and the intercession of His Blessed Mother to guide and help us in fostering a greater respect for human life and an end to abortion in our society..." - Most Reverend Thomas Daily, Bishop of Brooklyn



A message from Monsignor Benjamin Joseph Franzinelli, Spiritual Director

Since 1986, the Las Vegas Medjugorje Information Center, a.k.a. Marian Information Center has served as a non - profit service providing current news of the alleged Apparitions of The Virgin Mary, Mother of God in Medjugorje, as well as other approved Apparition sites. Sustained to this date by your donations and by the prayers of interested patrons and our Prayer Group, we appeal to you now for your generous financial help to not only continue but increase our efforts to CONTINUE to inform YOU. THANK YOU, YOU WILL BE REMEMBERED IN OUR PRAYERS .

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.

ST. PIO DA PIETRELCINA—POPE BENEDICT XVI VISIT TO SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO, JUNE 2009

"Love for Christ Is Inevitably Linked to Love for His Church"

Dear priests,
 Dear men and women religious,
 Dear young people,

With this our encounter my pilgrimage to San Giovanni Rotondo comes to a close. ... My greeting is now turned to you, dear priests, who are daily engaged in the service of God's people as wise guides and diligent workers in the vineyard of the Lord. I greet with affection the dear consecrated persons, called to offer the testimony of a total dedication to Christ through the faithful practice of the evangelical counsels. A special thought for you, dear Capuchin Friars, who lovingly care for this oasis of spirituality and evangelical solidarity, welcoming pilgrims and devotees gathered by the living memory of your holy confrere, Padre Pio of Pietrelcina. Thank you very much for this valuable service you render to the Church and to souls who here rediscover the beauty of faith and the warmth of divine tenderness. I greet you, dear young people, to whom the Pope looks with confidence as to the future of the Church and society. Here in San Giovanni Rotondo, everything speaks of the sanctity of a humble friar and a zealous priest, who this evening, also invites us to open our hearts to the mercy of God; he exhorts us to be holy, that is, sincere and true friends of Jesus.

Dear priests, just the other day, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the day of priestly holiness, we began the Priestly Year, during which we will recall with reverence and affection the 150th anniversary of the death of St. John Mary Vianney, the holy Curé d'Ars. In the letter I wrote for the occasion, I wanted to stress the importance of the sanctity of priests for the life and mission of the Church. Like the Curé d'Ars, Padre Pio also reminds us of the dignity and responsibility of the priestly ministry. Who was not impressed by the fervor with which he re-lived the Passion of Christ in every celebration of the Eucharist? From his love for the Eucharist there arose in him as the Curé d'Ars a total willingness to welcome the faithful, especially sinners. Also, if St. John Mary Vianney, in a troubled and difficult time, tried in every way, to help his parishioners rediscover the meaning and the beauty of sacramental penance, for the holy friar of the Gargano, the care of souls and the conversion of sinners were a desire that consumed him until death. How many people have changed their lives thanks to his patient priestly ministry, so many long hours in the confessional! Like the Curé d'Ars, it is his ministry as a confessor that constitutes the greatest title of glory and the distinctive feature of this holy Capuchin. How could we not realize then the importance of participating in the celebration of the Eucharist devoutly and frequently receiving the sacrament of confession? In particular, the sacrament of penance must be even more valued, and priests should never resign themselves to seeing their confessional deserted or to merely recognizing the diffidence of the faithful for this extraordinary source of serenity and peace.

There is another great lesson that we can learn from the life of Padre Pio: the value and necessity of prayer. To whomever that would ask him about himself, he used to reply: "I am nothing but a poor friar who prays." And he really did pray always and everywhere with humility, confidence and perseverance. Here is a key point not only for the spirituality of the priest, but also that of every Christian, and even more for you, dear men and women religious, chosen to follow Christ more closely through the practice of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Sometimes one can become taken by a certain discouragement before the weakening and even the abandonment of faith that exists in our societies. Surely we must find new channels to communicate the message of the Gospel to the men and women of our time, but since the essence of the Christian message is always the same, it is necessary to return to its original source, to Jesus Christ who is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). The human and spiritual life of Padre Pio teaches that only a soul intimately united to the Crucified will be able to transmit even to those who are far away the joy and richness of the Gospel.



[Photo left] The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI praying at the tomb of St. Pio de Pietrelcina at the new Church in San Giovanni Rotondo

[Photo right] The Holy Father venerating the heart of St. Pio.

[Photo, pg 5, upper right] The Holy Father celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at St. Pio's tomb.

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

Love for Christ is inevitably linked to love for his Church, guided and animated by the power of the Holy Spirit, in which each of us has a role and a mission to accomplish. Dear priests, dear men and women religious, different are the tasks which are entrusted to you and the charisms of which you are interpreters, but may the spirit with which implement them be always one, so that your presence and your work within the Christian people, become an eloquent witness to the primacy of God in your life. Was not this what everyone perceived in St. Pio of Pietrelcina?



Permit me to speak a special word to the young people, which I see are so many and so enthusiastic. Dear friends, thank you for your warm welcome and for the heartfelt sentiments your representative has expressed. I noticed that the pastoral plan of your diocese, for the years 2007-2010, devotes much attention to the mission regarding youth and family and I am sure that from this attitude of listening, encounter, dialogue and verification in which you are committed, there will result an ever better care of families and a timely hearing of the actual expectations of the younger generation. I have present in mind the problems facing you, dear young men and women, and which threaten to stifle the enthusiasms typical of your youth. Among these, in particular, I mention the phenomenon of unemployment, which affects so many tragic young men and women from Southern Italy. Do not lose heart! Be "young people of great heart," as it has been repeated often this year since the Diocesan Youth Mission, animated and guided by the Regional Seminary of Molfetta last September. The Church does not abandon you. Do not abandon the Church!



Your input is necessary in order to build living Christian communities, and societies that are more just and open to hope. And if you want to have "great hearts," seek the school of Jesus. Just the other day we contemplated his heart, great and full of love for humanity. He will never abandon or betray your trust, he will never lead down mistaken paths. Just like Padre Pio, be faithful friends of the Lord Jesus, cultivating a daily relationship through prayer and through listening to his word, the diligent practice of the sacraments and the cordial membership in his family, which is the Church. This must be the basis of the program of life of each of you, dear young people, as well as you, dear priests and of you, dear men and women religious. To each and every one of you I assure my

prayers and implore the maternal protection of Holy Mary of Grace, who watches over you from her shrine in which crypt lie the remains of Padre Pio ... Pope Benedict XVI

"I wish to thank the Lord for having given us dear Padre Pio, for having given him to our generation in this very tormented century. In his love for God and for his neighbor, he is a sign of great hope."

... Venerable Pope John Paul II
Canonization June 2002

ST. PIO DA PIETRELCINA—BIOGRAPHY, VATICAN

Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ (Gal 6:14)

Like the Apostle Paul, Padre Pio da Pietrelcina placed at the centre of his life and apostolic work the Cross of his Lord as his strength, his wisdom and his glory. Inflamed by love of Jesus Christ, he became like him in the sacrifice of himself for the salvation of the world. In his following and imitation of the Crucified Christ he was so generous and perfect that he could have said: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20). And the treasures of grace which God had granted him so lavishly and unceasingly he passed on through his ministry, serving the men and women who came to him in ever greater numbers, and bringing to birth an immense host of spiritual sons and daughters.

This worthy follower of Saint Francis of Assisi was born on 25 May 1887 at Pietrelcina in the Archdiocese of Benevento, the son of Grazio Forgione and Maria Giuseppa De Nunzio. He was baptized the next day and given the name Francesco. At the age of twelve he received the Sacrament of Confirmation and made his First Holy Communion.

On 6 January 1903, at the age of sixteen, he entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Friars at Morcone, where on 22 January he took the Franciscan habit and the name Brother Pio. At the end of his novitiate year he took simple vows, and on 27 January 1907 made his solemn profession.

After he was ordained priest on 10 August 1910 at Benevento, he stayed at home with his family until 1916 for health reasons. In September of that year he was sent to the friary of San Giovanni Rotondo and remained there until his death.

Filled with love of God and love of neighbour, Padre Pio lived to the full his vocation to work for the redemption of man, in accordance with the special mission which marked his entire life and which he exercised through the spiritual direction of the faithful: the sacramental reconciliation of penitents and the celebration of the Eucharist. The pinnacle of his apostolic activity was the celebration of Holy Mass. The faithful who took part witnessed the summit and fullness of his spirituality.

On the level of social charity, he committed himself to relieving the pain and suffering of many families, chiefly through the foundation of the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza (Home for the Relief of Suffering), opened on 5 May 1956.



For Padre Pio, faith was life: he willed everything and did everything in the light of faith. He was assiduously devoted to prayer. He passed the day and a large part of the night in conversation with God. He would say: "In books we seek God, in prayer we find him. Prayer is the key which opens God's heart". Faith led him always to accept God's mysterious will. He was always immersed in supernatural realities. Not only was he himself a man of hope and total trust in God, but by word and example he communicated these virtues to all who approached him.

The love of God filled him, and satisfied his every desire; charity was the chief inspiration of his day: to love God and to help others to love him. His special concern was to grow in charity and to lead others to do so.

He demonstrated to the full his love of neighbour by welcoming, for more than fifty years, countless people who had recourse to his ministry and his confessional, his counsel and his consolation. He was almost besieged: they sought him in church, in the sacristy, in the friary. And he gave himself to everyone, rekindling faith, dispensing grace, bringing light. But especially in the poor, the suffering and the sick he saw the image of Christ, and he gave himself particularly to them. He exercised to an exemplary degree the virtue of prudence, acting and counselling in the light of God.

His concern was the glory of God and the good of souls. He treated everyone with justice, frankness and great respect. The virtue of fortitude shone in him. He understood very early in life that his would be the way of the Cross, and he accepted it at once with courage and out of love. For many years, he experienced spiritual sufferings. For years he endured the pains of his wounds with admirable serenity.

When he had to submit to investigations and restrictions in his priestly ministry, he accepted everything with profound humility and resignation. In the face of unjust accusations and calumnies he remained silent, trusting always in the judgment of God, of his immediate superiors and of his own conscience.

ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA

He habitually practiced mortification in order to gain the virtue of temperance, in keeping with the Franciscan style. He was temperate in his attitude and in his way of life.

Conscious of the commitments which he had undertaken when he entered the consecrated life, he observed with generosity the vows he had professed. He was obedient in all things to the commands of his Superiors, even when they were burdensome. His obedience was supernatural in intention, universal in its scope and complete in its execution. He lived the spirit of poverty with total detachment from self, from earthly goods, from his own comfort and from honours. He always had a great love for the virtue of chastity. His behaviour was modest in all situations and with all people. He sincerely thought of himself as useless, unworthy of God's gifts, full of weakness and infirmity, and at the same time blessed with divine favours. Amid so much admiration around him, he would say: "I only want to be a poor friar who prays".

From his youth, his health was not very robust, and especially in the last years of his life it declined rapidly. Sister Death took him well-prepared and serene on 23 September 1968 at the age of eighty-one. An extraordinary gathering of people attended his funeral.

On 20 February 1971, barely three years after the death of Padre Pio, Pope Paul VI, speaking to the Superiors of the Capuchin Order, said of him: "Look what fame he had, what a worldwide following gathered around him! But why? Perhaps because he was a philosopher? Because he was wise? Because he had resources at his disposal? Because he said Mass humbly, heard confessions from dawn to dusk and was – it is not easy to say it – one who bore the wounds of our Lord. He was a man of prayer and suffering".

Even during his lifetime, he enjoyed a vast reputation for sanctity, because of his virtues, his spirit of prayer, sacrifice and total dedication to the good of souls.

In the years following his death, his reputation for sanctity and miracles grew steadily, and became established in the Church, all over the world and among all kinds of people ...

ST. PIO OF PIETRELCINA—Two of the Three APPARITIONS of the CHRIST CHILD with PADRE PIO



Lucia Iadanza, one of P. Pio's spiritual daughters, remembers an extraordinary thing which happened on the night of December 24, 1922. The friars had brought an enormous brazier into the sacristy and many people were standing around it in order to keep warm. We were reciting the rosary while waiting for the Mass. Padre Pio was praying with us. All of a sudden, in an aura of light, I saw the Baby Jesus appear in his arms. Padre Pio was transfigured, his eyes gazing upon the glowing child in his arms, his face transformed by an astonished smile. When the vision disappeared, Padre Pio realised from the way I was looking at him that I had seen everything. But he drew close to me and told me not to mention it to anyone.

Witness to a similar event was Fr. Raffaele da Sant'Elia, who lived in the room next to Padre Pio for 35 years. I had got up to go to the church for the Midnight Mass of 1924. The corridor was huge and dark, and the only illumination was the flame of a small oil lamp. Through the shadows I could see that Padre Pio, too, was making his way to the church. He had left his room and was making his way slowly along the corridor. I realised he was swathed in a band of light. I took a better look and saw that he had

the Baby Jesus in his arms. I just stood there, transfixed, in the doorway of my room, and fell to my knees. Padre Pio passed by, all aglow. He didn't even notice I was there.

[<http://www.messengersaintanthony.com/>]

ST. PIO OF PIETRELICINA—Apparition of Our BLESSED MOTHER TO PADRE PIO



One hundred years after the Apparition of the Madonna to Padre Pio in the church of the Madonna del Monte in Campobasso. Exactly a century has passed since, on 15 August 1905, the Virgin appeared to the Saint with the stigmata in the Marian Shrine where Padre Pio stayed from the beginning of the century, from 1904 until 1909. It was a miraculous event represented in a painting executed by Amedeo Trivisonno the artist from Molise, which is in the Church of the Madonna del Monte. It is the "Secret of Padre Pio", according to Roman historian Alberindo Grimani in a thesis presented on the occasion of the centenary of the wonderful event. In 1971, Padre Pellegrino of Sant'Elia a Pianisi, spiritual child of Padre Pio and Guardian of the Capuchin Friary, revealed the secret to Amedeo Trivisonno and asked him to "pass it down" in a painting, completed in 1972. Padre Pellegrino confided to the artist who was asking for clarification: "Amedeo, The Madonna appeared to Padre Pio in this Sanctuary several times".

(from the news review site www.fraticappuccini.it)

1972: The Secret of Padre Pio

by Alberindo Grimani

In 1972, at the end of July/beginning of August, Padre Pellegrino of Sant'Elia a Pianisi met with the artist Amedeo Trivisonno in the Shrine of Santa Maria del Monte in Campobasso. The artist had gone to pay homage to the Madonna, of whom he, like all residents of Campobasso, was a devotee, and also to check the status of the frescoes painted by him in the Church.

Padre Pellegrino, then Guardian of the Capuchin Friary of Santa Maria del Monte (his term as Guardian of San Giovanni Rotondo had been concluded in September 1970), became famous throughout the world after 23 September 1968; in the hours preceding Padre Pio's death he remained

close to the Saint at the end of his earthly life, witnessing his last prayers and blessings. For devotees of the Saint, Padre Pellegrino was always Padre Pio's "favourite disciple"; the "Angel of the Night" who had looked after the Padre through the nights for many years, and cared for him as a child looks after a sick parent; he was the friar who had heard his confessions, his most intimate thoughts and, at the end, Padre Pio's spiritual testament.

Padre Pellegrino and Trivisonno, who were also friends, met, therefore, in the Sanctuary of La Madonna del Monte. The Capuchin said more or less these words to the artist: "Amedeo, The Madonna appeared to Padre Pio in this Sanctuary several times! You must do a painting to commemorate the most important apparition: that when Padre Pio agreed to be "l'Alter Christus"!

Trivisonno, stunned by the secrets revealed to him, did everything he could to extricate himself from carrying out the task; but in the end, he gave in to the insistence of Padre Pellegrino and, in September 1971, started work. After various studies, "The Apparition of the Madonna del Monte to Padre Pio" was completed in May 1972 and therefore, after a succession of events, sent to Campobasso and placed in the Marian Shrine.

This painting by Amedeo Trivisonno, undertaken by him in Florence where he lived, has always been overlooked and rarely mentioned in biographies of Padre Pio. There are many reasons, which are hidden in secret and inaccessible Vatican archives, and to this day are still unavailable to researchers of the Saint.

After years of study and research on the life of Padre Pio, it is certain that between 1904 and 1909 that Jesus and Mary appeared to the Friar on several occasions in the Marian Sanctuary of Campobasso and that They gave him several messages for the Church and for humanity. Apparitions and messages which have been kept secret since 1922 and upon which has been placed a tombstone. In particular upon the messages from the Madonna to Padre Pio.

"The Secret of Padre Pio" is in the Sanctuary of Santa Maria del Monte: Padre Pellegrino of Sant'Elia a Pianisi entrusted this secret to Amedeo Trivisonno in 1971 and gave him the key which the artist has hidden in the painting. On 15 August 1905, the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven, Padre Pio accepted to being "l'alter Christus".

15 August 2005 will mark the Centenary of that Apparition of the Madonna to Padre Pio. It would be right, at such a tragic time for the world, to reveal and uncover the messages of the Madonna del Monte to Padre Pio.

**ST. PIO DE PIETRELCINA—U.S. SOLDIERS ATTEND PADRE PIO'S MASSES****ASCENSION THURSDAY • MAY 18, 1944 • by William M. Carrigan**

My very dear friend ...

For a few of us who are attached to the 15th Air Force in Italy, this day and its meaning will long remain crystal clear in our minds. Because it was our privilege to hear and see Padre Pio say Mass. Padre Pio, who since September 20, 1918, has borne the marks of the Crucifixion in his hands, feet and side is obviously a favored son of Christ. He is the only Priest in all History ever to receive this grace. Not only are these marks visible to all but his whole person reveals the Christ who bore them before him. His Mass is an unforgettable experience, and a sermon which stirs the depths of one's soul and awakens dormant faith in the heart. Yet he preaches not a word! To me, and to the soldiers I took with me, Padre Pio's Mass eclipses anything we have yet experienced in this theater of War. That is not difficult to understand when one realizes that he is the very antithesis of the cause of War, and thereby the cause of our being here. In him we have found the true opposite of hate. And in the violence of this war, contact with the Love of Christ through this favored Priest is a shock to our thinking. We will remember.



Padre Pio is a Capuchin Monk, his Convent is a small and simple home where he shares common life with a half dozen brother Monks. The Convent, as it is called here, was built on a rocky mountainside near a small mountain town, the like of which abounds in Italy ...

After his morning Mass and Thanksgiving he goes directly to the Confessional and does not leave until noon. Then he takes a small portion of food with his Community, the only meal of the day. After a short rest, he again enters the arduous work of confessions. Women are heard in the mornings. At five he goes into the Choir for prayer. During the night he may seek three or four hours sleep, but most of the time is given to prayer until Mass time.

There is always a crowd at his Mass. The men are allowed in the Sanctuary, and crowd even to the Altar steps. Our soldiers are always accorded the favor of the Sanctuary, that they may see Padre Pio better. His Mass is often two hours long, but no one minds the time. During the Consecration he is literally on the cross with Christ. His suffering in his hands and feet and whole body are obvious to all. His pain is so great at the words of Consecration that it is very difficult for him to say them. He will repeat a word many times, rest and go on to the next one and repeat again. After the Elevation he seems to be lost to the world and pleads with Christ for the needs of his vast spiritual family. It is well known that once he accepts a person into his family of spiritual children, he never forgets them. When I asked him to remember the father of one of our soldiers, he said to me, "I will pursue him with constant diligence and love." He never forgets a person who seeks his counsel and he has said that he will not let a soul get away from him once that person enters his spiritual family. Thus it is easy to understand why he is long with Christ during the Consecration and at his Communion. A peace and calm seem to settle over his pain wracked countenance immediately after he receives the Sacred Body of Our Lord.



There are always many Communicants, and while distributing the Sacred Host he is most watchful of every particle. Many times he will take the paten and examine it closely, picking off or shaking a particle into the Ciborium. Often one that he alone can see. After the Mass the men are permitted to go with him to the Sacristy and kiss the wounds in his hands while he is unvesting. He wears fingerless gloves at all times except at Mass and the men seek the opportunity to kiss his hands while he is unvesting because he puts on the gloves as soon as he removes his alb. He is most patient and kind to all who come to him at this time, especially this is true for our soldiers who often get a word and a gentle pat on the cheek from him.

At this time I have often arranged for him to take our soldiers to a side room and give them his blessing, a word, perhaps, and bless their rosaries, or anything they might desire blessed. Many like him to bless their silver wings. His engaging smile and simple humility draw everyone to him. There are always interpreters around should any wish to ask questions, but for the boys who speak Italian he is a special interrogator. He does the questioning. He wishes all a safe and speedy return to their families and loved ones.

When the soldiers board their trucks and begin the winding trip down the mountain, there is much silence and deep thought. When conversation starts, it is always about Padre Pio and what effect he had on them. Reactions vary greatly, but every one reports an undefinable change in their being ... Padre Pio is a designer of souls. Great artists are rare in this field. Would not you like to have your soul designed by so great a spiritual artist? Think about it.



IMMACULEE ILIBAGIZA—"I forgive you"

Immaculée Ilibagiza is a living example of faith put into action. Immaculée's life was transformed dramatically during the 1994 Rwandan genocide **where she and seven other women spent 91 days huddled silently together in the cramped bathroom** of a local pastor's house. Immaculée entered the bathroom a vibrant, 115-pound university student with a loving

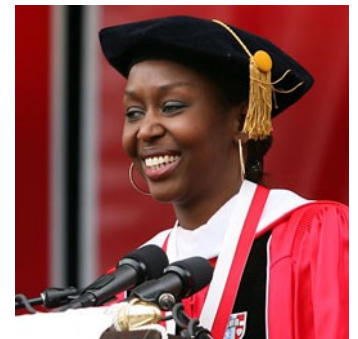
family - she emerged weighing just 65 pounds to find her entire family had been brutally murdered (with the exception of one brother who had been studying out of the country).

Immaculée credits her salvage mostly to prayer and to a set of rosary beads given to her by her devout Catholic father prior to going into hiding. Anger and resentment about her situation were literally eating her alive and destroying her faith, but rather than succumbing to the rage that she felt, Immaculée instead turned to prayer. She began to pray the rosary as a way of drowning out the negativity that was building up inside her. Immaculée found solace and peace in prayer and began to pray from the time she opened her eyes in the morning to the time she closed her eyes at night. Through prayer, she eventually found it possible, and in fact imperative, to forgive her tormentors and her family's murderers.

Immaculée's strength in her faith empowered her to stare down a man armed with a machete threatening to kill her during her escape. She also later came face to face with the killer of her mother and her brother and said the unthinkable, "I forgive you." Immaculée knew, while in hiding, that she would have to overcome immeasurable odds without her family and with her country destroyed. Fortunately, Immaculée utilized her time in that tiny bathroom to teach herself English with only The Bible and a dictionary; once freed she was able to secure a job with the United Nations.

In 1998, Immaculée immigrated to the United States where she continued her work with the UN. During this time she shared her story with co-workers and friends, who were so impacted they insisted she write it down in book form. Three days after finishing her manuscript she met best selling author, Dr. Wayne W. Dyer, who, within minutes of meeting her, offered to publish her book ...

Immaculée's first book, *Left to Tell; Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust* was released in March of 2006. *Left to Tell* quickly became a Best Seller and to date it has been translated into fifteen languages worldwide. Immaculée's story has also been made into a documentary titled "The Diary of Immaculée." She has appeared in numerous media including 60 Minutes, CNN, EWTN ... She was recently featured in Michael Collopy's "Architects of Peace" project, which has honored legendary people like Mother Teresa ... Immaculée has received honorary doctoral degrees from The University of Notre Dame and Saint John's University. She has been recognized and honored with numerous humanitarian awards... **Left to Tell has been adopted into the curriculum of dozens of high schools and universities.**



<http://www.stjohns.edu/media>

Immaculée recently hosted a documentary titled "Ready to Forgive, An African Story of Grace," a project sponsored by The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The film focuses on the Acholi people of Northern Uganda and their desire to forgive their tormentors. "Ready to Forgive" has been broadcasted on NBC and the Hallmark Channel. Immaculée recently signed a contract with MPower Pictures to produce a major motion picture about her story.

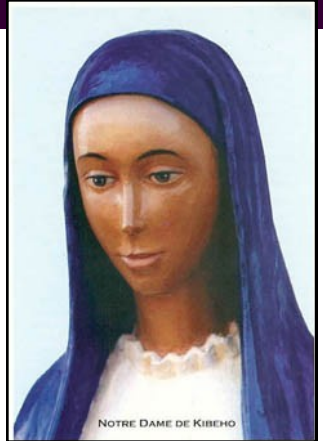


Today Immaculée is regarded as one of world's leading speakers on peace, faith, and forgiveness ... Immaculée works hard to spread her message and to raise money for her *Left to Tell* Charitable Fund which directly benefits the children orphaned by the genocide.

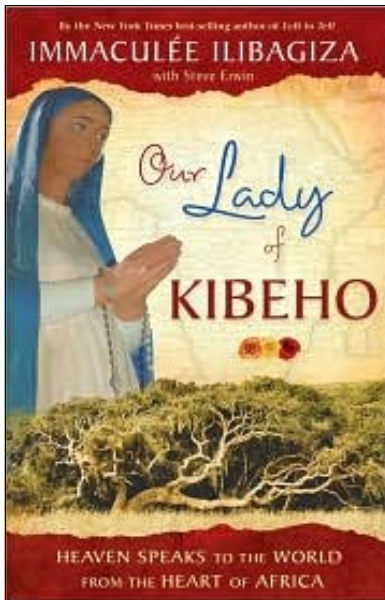
Official website: www.immaculee.com
Immaculée's *Left to Tell* Charitable Foundation for orphans of Rwanda:
<http://www.lefttotell.com/fund/index.php>

OUR LADY OF KIBEHO by Immaculee

None who knew Immaculee as a little girl would have predicted her role in the genocide and its aftermath: Immaculee had an idyllic Catholic childhood. Raised in a picturesque village in the mountains of Rwanda, her devout parents, Rose and Leonard were teachers, and were widely respected. Immaculee's earliest memory is of being rocked in her mother's arms as she prayed the rosary. The young Immaculee lived a holy life of prayer, study and innocent play until at age 11, when she was confronted by a crisis of faith. Not wanting to burden her loving family with her questions, Immaculee suffered silently until the day her doubts were put to rest forever, when her teacher told her the story of Our Lady of Fatima.



The story of three shepherd children from Portugal visited by the Queen of Heaven captivated Immaculee's imagination, and she convinced her friend Jeanette and her brother Fabrice to climb a local hilltop each day to tend their goats, where they prayed fervently for Our Lady to appear to them. Eventually the children grew discouraged and gave up their efforts, and were thrilled to hear, not a week later that Our Lady did appear to a young woman in Rwanda, in a convent school in a remote town named Kibeho.



The story of the apparitions of Our Lady at Kibeho has familiar elements to Catholics familiar with the stories of Lourdes and Fatima; simple children who receive the message, and are mocked at first by skeptical friends and authorities. Our Lady asks for increased prayer, conversion of hearts, and for a chapel to be built. **But no other apparition gives such vivid detail of future tragedies to occur if the people do not repent.** The prayerfully singing, rapturous crowd was abruptly silenced as the visionaries shrieked in horror at the visions of thousands of bodies hacked to death and rivers flowing with human blood revealed to them by a tearful Mother. All this is powerfully related to Immaculee by the tape recorder of her pastor, Fr. Rwagema.

The lives of Rwandans were deeply affected by the apparitions, with thousands of pilgrims, including Immaculee's father Leonard, traveling for weeks on foot, sleeping outdoors with little food or water in order to pray, sing and learn from Alphonsine, Anathalie, Marie-Clare, and the other visionaries. A chapel of Our Lady was built and thousands learned to pray a special rosary commemorating the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady. Immaculee describes how, although she was not able to travel to Kibeho until after the genocide, the visit of Our Lady steeled her for what lay ahead,

"Mary knew who her son was, and from his earliest days was aware of the pain that awaited him (and her). Yet through all those years, she supported him with the love of a mother, standing by him while he was whipped, beaten and crucified. And she was there for him when he drew his last breath. I realized that Our Lady, whose soft and gentle voice enthralled the visionaries, has rock-solid strength. It was the rock upon which I would build my faith in God, the strength that would sustain me through whatever sorrows life held in store for me." P 97

Immaculee didn't realize until days before the genocide destroyed her village and wiped out most of her family that she and her people were being prepared for unimaginable suffering.

<http://catholicmediareview.blogspot.com/2009/03/our-lady-of-kiebeho.html>

CREDITS

Grateful For the many articles found on the internet that assisted in putting this newsletter together. Our deep gratitude especially to the Webmaster, Ron, in Scotland, (our friends across the "pond") on the articles and photographs of St. "Padre" Pio of Pietrelcina
<http://www.padrepioinscotland.org.uk/>

MEDJUGORJE

This short talk by the visionary Ivanka was given at Medjugorje on August 1, 2009 and concurrently translated into six languages from Croat. Ivanka rarely gives talks to pilgrims and lives a discreet, almost private life, close to the village of Medjugorje. She was the first of the six visionaries to see Our Lady at the start of the apparitions in June 1981. She has been married for 22 years and has four children. [ED. Note: Now that her children are grown, Ivanka is traveling, giving talks on Medjugorje; most recently in Irvine, California and Chicago, Illinois, 2009]



I would like to greet you all with the most beautiful of greetings: Praised be Jesus and Mary. I am so pleased to be here with you today and even more pleased that you are ready to hear the message of Our Lady. For 28 years I have been asking God the very same question: Why did you choose me? I know that I was given a great grace and also I know that at the same time I was given a great responsibility. I have accepted this as a gift but at the same time I have been praying all the time that God gives me strength to fulfill all the assignments he has for me. I lived with my family at Mostar at that time and as always, after school, I used to come to Medjugorje. This is what happened that day on June 24, 1981 when I saw Our Lady for the first time. On that day, like every day, I was outside the village with Mirjana and we were waiting for other friends to come. I do not how long we were waiting but we got tired of that and then we started walking towards the houses. While we were walking towards the village I was really forced by something to look towards the hill and then I saw Our Lady. I said to Mirjana, "Mirjana, I see Our Lady on the hill" but Mirjana said, "Don't tell me these foolish things." I followed Mirjana who was walking back to the village and then we met Milka, the sister of the visionary Marija. Milka saw that something was wrong with me and she asked me what happened, and I told the girls to come back with me, that I had seen Our Lady. We went back and then all three of us saw Our Lady. Vicka also came to us and then two boys, the two Ivans. The apparition kept calling us but none of us dared to climb the hill. Our Lady was four or five hundred metres away from us. She kept calling us and emotions we felt in our heart were huge. We felt all kinds of emotions in our heart and none of us dared to get closer to her. Whoever we told that we saw Our Lady that evening, they did not believe us. They told us not to tell such things. That night was the longest night in my life. I was only 15 and I questioned myself the entire night whether what I saw was true or not.

So the next day at the same hour we went back together to the apparition hill. Before we saw Our Lady we saw the light, three times, and when we finally got to her, I cannot describe that moment of meeting with Our Lady because we felt so much love, felt so secure, so much happiness in our hearts. When we came to her we saw this most beautiful person, maybe 19 or 20 years of age. She had a crown of stars, white veil, greyish dress, and she was standing on a cloud. She had the most beautiful blue eyes and long black hair. I knew that it was the Blessed Mother. You see, two months before that day my mother had passed away. Because I knew in my heart that this was the Blessed Virgin Mary I asked her, "Mother, where is my mother?" And she said, "Do not worry, my child, your mother is with me." Our Lady told us, "Do not worry. I'll pray with you always. I'll come again tomorrow." The word spread very quickly so that on the third day people started following us because they saw something was happening with us, so they gave us holy water to bless the apparition. On that third day when Our Lady came, Vicka blessed her and she said, "If you come from God, stay. But if you do not come from God, please leave us." And then Our Lady smiled back at us and said, "I am the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace.

On that day Our Lady gave the first public message, which was the message of peace. As the days passed by Our Lady asked us to convert, to fast, to do some penance, to pray and go to confession and attend Holy Mass. These are the main messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje. From 1981 until 1985 I received the apparitions on a daily basis. During that period Our Lady dictated to me her biography. I wrote everything down. She also told me the future of the world and the future of our Church. When I have permission from Our Lady, this will be published. On the 7th May, 1985, I had the last daily apparition and that was the longest apparition that I have ever had because Our Lady stayed with me one hour. On that day Our Lady gave me the final and tenth secret and I was told that I would not have the apparitions on a daily basis anymore, but Our Lady promised me that she was going to appear to me once a year on June 25. From 1985 to today I received the apparition once every year on June 25. But at that last daily apparition I was given the greatest gift, not just for myself but for the entire world. And because every single human being is asking is there a life after this life on earth, I am standing before you here today, I am standing before the entire world and I can easily answer that question. Yes, there is a life after this life, because by God and Our Lady I was given this great grace, that I was able to see my late mother during that apparition time and my mom told me: "My dear child, I'm proud of you." For 28 years Our Lady has been telling us which road we need to take in our life. She is showing us the way and we have to decide which road we are going to take in our life. Our Lady has given a different mission to each one of us visionaries. My mission is to pray for families. So every day I pray for families. The last apparition I had was this year on June 25 and that apparition lasted ten minutes and Our Lady spoke to me about the tenth secret and she advised for all of us to become apostles of peace and to pray for peace. Our Lady ended her message with "Peace, peace, peace." Let us be reminded in prayer. Let us pray for each other. Our Lady wants us to be in peace, not to be afraid, to know that she is there for us all of the time. Finally, when you leave Medjugorje I would like you to take peace and love from Medjugorje back to your home and to your country. Thank you all for everything.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL in MEDJUGORJE—ANA FITZPATRICK

“For God Himself works in our souls, in the deepest depths, taking increasing control as we are progressively willing to be prepared for His wonder”
 ... Thomas R Kelly

Accepting a trip to Medugorje, Bosnia was the best decision I have ever made. I never imagined traveling to a small, often overlooked European country would have such a profound impact on my spirituality; from climbing apparition hill to pray to the Virgin Mary, to meeting with visionaries of Christ, being apart of the enormous evening masses where hundreds from around the world gather, and immersing myself in peaceful prayer. These experiences bring alive the proverb that one gradually allows God into their life.

Traveling to Medugorje was the chance of a lifetime, but also a trip that many are unprepared to embark on. In the days before departing on the trip I was so engrossed in summer activities, and the fun I would be missing with my friends. Even as I landed in Las Vegas, Nevada to meet with my aunt and uncle whom I would be traveling with, I was still unsure if this trip would actually affect my faith, who I am, or who I wanted to be. As I continued to travel further and further away from home I noticed a change in me, peace was coming over me and I could feel myself slowly separating from everything I had left behind at home. My only focus was this new discovery. After all the traveling was complete I found myself in the home of a visionary, one of the people who still witnesses the virgin Mary.



Each day was focused on my relationship with God, every thought was about prayer and praise, every event was directed towards spiritual growth. There was no animosity between all the different nationalities that had traveled around the world to be a part of this world youth event. The withdrawal from the outside world was a beautiful experience because without all the distractions one could really hear God's voice. The Lord is specifically calling you to have a relationship with him, accept his love and do his work.

I realized so much about myself and my religion on this trip. I began to examine myself, my actions and how a stronger relationship with God can improve many aspects of my life. While in Medugorje I discovered the importance of prayer and the miracle of the church. Two things I had been overlooking immensely and have now learned to adopt into my every day life. I accepted God's invitation to have a relationship with him and like any commitment it takes work from both sides. I promised to serve others to fulfill his word as a part of my professional journey, and, to surround myself with individuals that uphold the same values and morals as me. I am so thankful for this experience which allowed me to see the connection I can have with God, the changes I can make that I would like to see in the world can start with me.

Ana is a recent high school graduate now in College. For a copy of Ana's testimony & others on tape, pl. contact the Center. Thank you.



Photo credit:
www.medjugorje.ws
 International Youth Festival
 August 2009



NEWSBRIEFS

Pope approves the election of new archbishop of Mosul, Iraq

More than 20 months after the body of kidnapped Chaldean Archbishop Paulos Faraj Rahho of Mosul, Iraq, was recovered, Pope Benedict XVI approved the election of a new archbishop for the city.

Looking for bigger role on Web, bishops meet Google, Facebook reps

In an effort to understand how the church can make better use of the Internet and its search engines and popular social networking tools, European bishops met with representatives from Facebook, Google, YouTube and Wikipedia.

The Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus*:

The Apostolic Constitution *Anglicanorum coetibus* which is published 11/9/2009 introduces a canonical structure that provides for such corporate reunion by establishing Personal Ordinariates, which will allow the above mentioned groups to enter full communion with the

Catholic Church while preserving elements of the distinctive Anglican spiritual and liturgical patrimony. At the same time, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is publishing a set of Complementary Norms which will guide the implementation of this provision.

ANGLICAN CLERGY AND FAITHFUL WHO WISH TO ENTER INTO FULL VISIBLE COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

On October 20, 2009, Cardinal William Levada, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, announced a new provision responding to the many requests that have been submitted to the Holy See from groups of Anglican clergy and

faithful in different parts of the world who wish to enter into full visible communion with the Catholic Church ... This Apostolic Constitution opens a new avenue for the promotion of Christian unity while, at the same time, granting legitimate diversity in the expression of our common faith. It represents not an initiative on the part of the Holy See, but a generous response

from the Holy Father to the legitimate aspirations of these Anglican groups. The provision of this new structure is consistent with the commitment to ecumenical dialogue, which continues to be a priority for the Catholic Church. *The possibility envisioned by the Apostolic Constitution for some married clergy within the Personal Ordinariates does not signify any change in the*

Church's discipline of clerical celibacy.

According to the Second Vatican Council, priestly celibacy is a sign and a stimulus for pastoral charity and radiantly proclaims the reign of God (Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1579).

http://212.77.1.245/news_services/bulletin/news/24626.php?index=24626&lang=ge

VOCATIONS: Young, Religious Order

Missionaries of Charity Fathers, order founded by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta and co-founder, Fr. Joseph Langford, celebrates their Order's foundation of 25 years!

Congratulations

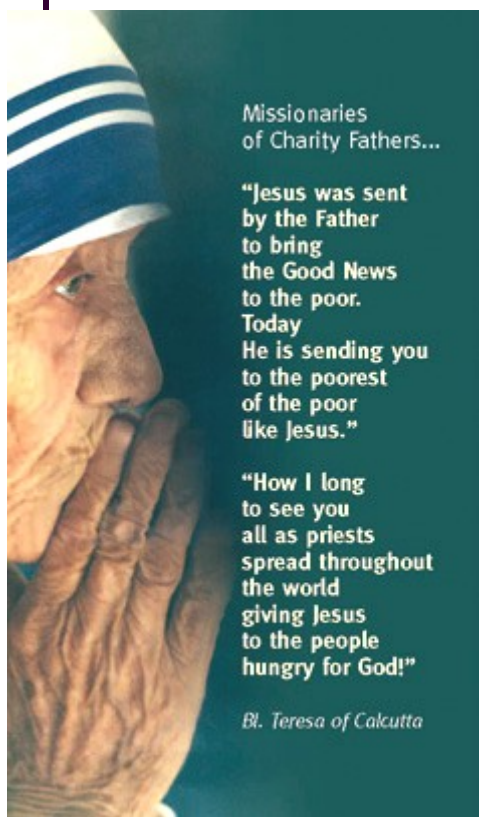
"You've only just begun!"

"A priest is very tenderly loved by God, by Jesus who has chosen him. And the work that the priest has been entrusted to do is only a means to put his tender love for God in living action. And, therefore, the work that he does is sacred."

... Mother Teresa of Calcutta

MISSION: Christ's mission is ours, His person is our identity. "There are such riches in the priesthood, if we can only help them to realize." It is the joyful living of this gift - the priesthood of Jesus Christ, and the Jesus Christ of the gospel - which the Holy Spirit, the world, and the poor ask of us.

<http://www.mcpriests.com/index.htm>



Missionaries of Charity Fathers...

"Jesus was sent by the Father to bring the Good News to the poor. Today He is sending you to the poorest of the poor like Jesus."

"How I long to see you all as priests spread throughout the world giving Jesus to the people hungry for God!"

Bl. Teresa of Calcutta

Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph—new daughterhouse!

The Carmel of the Discalced Carmelites of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, formerly in Las Vegas, by the Providence of God, moved to Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska in 1999. A new monastery was built for them by a generous benefactor as well as the 20 acres on which it resides. Once completed, the number of vocations grew rapidly to over capacity and their first daughterhouse in Pennsylvania was born; dedicated in August of 2009. It is with such great joy and thanksgiving to God for

this gift of prayerful women who give of themselves totally to God under Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. We know the story of St. Teresa of Avila, Reformer: “to follow the more perfect way” and Doctor of the Church, who laid foundations throughout Spain (16th c); then we have recently St. Madre Maravillas of Jesus (Canonized in 2003) who also opened more houses in Spain. In between these centuries, many foundations have been laid throughout the world. In the 20th c. we have the example of

Venerable Mother Maria Luisa Josefa of the Most Blessed Sacrament from Mexico who established schools, hospitals and orphanages during the most trying times of religious persecution in the 1920's and now, with us, we have Prioress of Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Mother Teresa of Jesus, OCD who has just opened their first Daughterhouse in the USA: Pennsylvania. Where next?



The Blessing of the new Daughterhouse in Elyburg, Pennsylvania

*P*raised be Jesus Christ, Now and Forever!

Cenacolo Comunidad—recognized by the Holy See

“I exhort all of you to follow him on the path of holiness and to imitate his missionary zeal. I welcome Italian-speaking pilgrims with affection, in particular the members of Comunità Cenacolo, who for many years have helped young people, especially those who have become addicted to drugs, to find the path of life again meeting Jesus Christ.”

... Pope Benedict XVI (Mission Sunday)

The members of the Cenacolo Community (10/16/2009) were in Rome to receive the new decree of recognition as an International Association of the Faithful of Pontifical Right. “The precious gift of this recognition is the even stronger bond that unites us with the Holy Father, with the heart of the universal Church, and with her closest collaborators. With all our poverty, fragility, and smallness, we enter delicately and humbly into the great universal mission of the Church, Servant and Mother of humanity, who brings “good news to the poor, liberty to captives, and healing to the brokenhearted.”

Over 50 Fraternities worldwide. Incredible in 26 years!

[Ed. Note: Cenacolo is prominently recognized and visited in Medjugorje] Visit: <http://www.comunitacenacolo.it/index.asp?idlingua=2> for more info!



Sister Elvira, Foundress

Ven. Little Audrey Santo—what is a “victim soul”

What is a Victim Soul? Best explained from the book, *The Holy Man on the Mountain* on Padre Pio. “Padre Pio wished to offer his whole life for souls, and was willing to accept punishments that were meant for others, if it would benefit their salvation. A person who makes such a complete oblation of self in order to undergo suffering for others is known as a “victim soul” ...”

Little Audrey is such a soul! The process of beatification is beginning for this precious child who at the age of 3 fell into a swimming pool and remained in a “akinetic mutism” stage (semi-coma). She was taken care of by her devoted Mother, supportive family, clergy and friends. People from all over the country would visit Little Audrey. Many mystical experiences occurred and many testimonies from the faithful have surfaced.

Her family and priests were with Audrey when she passed at the age of 23 from cardiac arrest, very quietly and peacefully.

Her incredible story continues to unfold ...

For more information, please visit her official website at:

<http://www.littleaudreysanto.org/>

The Little Audrey Santo Foundation, Inc.
(For her beatification and canonization)
68 South Hagg Street
Worcester, MA 01602
Telephone: 508-755-8712
Fax: 508-754-2920



Act for a Foundation for the Promotion of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Little Audrey Santo
And for the Diffusion of the Religious Aspects of her Personal Morality

In the year 2008 on this day 11th of the month of September in Worcester, to the Diocese of Worcester located at 49 Elm Street, Worcester, MA 01609, the Most Rev. Robert J. McManus, DD, STD, does hereby decree by this present act and in accordance with the mind of Canon 299 the recognition of the Foundation for the Promotion of the Cause of Beatification and Canonization of Little Audrey Santo and for the Diffusion of the Religious Aspects and her Personal Morality.

The Foundation, which has already been recognized and established according to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, is Little Audrey Santo Foundation, Inc. This entity also serves this Foundation which is also a private association of the faithful in accordance with the norm of Canon Law.

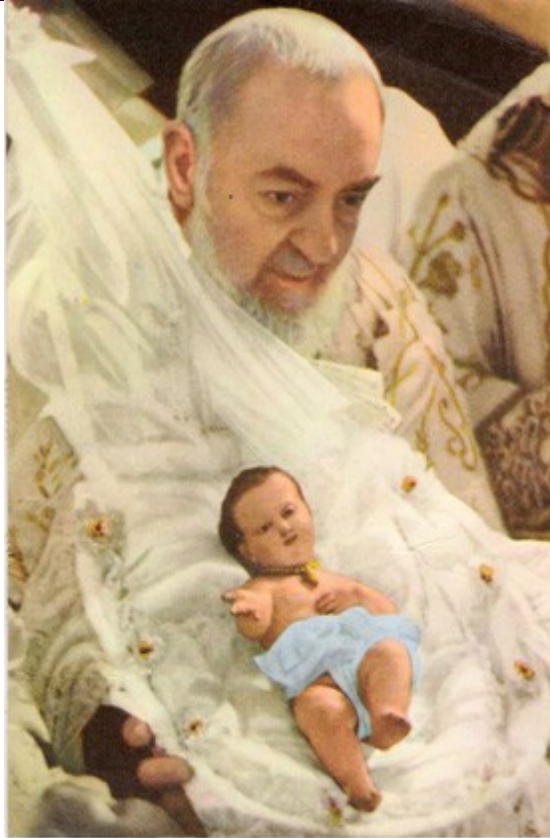
The persons who have executed the Constitution and the Statute, although not presently in attendance, have declared themselves as members of this Association of the Faithful to promote the cause and to uphold the Constitution and the Statute.

Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

Robert J. McManus
Most Rev. Robert J. McManus: DD, STD,
Bishop of Worcester

WHO ARE WE? The Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas was established in June of 1986. Monsignor Benjamin Franzinelli, Pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church, visited the little hamlet in 1985, after being approached by two ladies who had just returned from Medjugorje—their hearts aflame with the desire to tell all who would listen of the apparitions of our Blessed Mother that were occurring since 1981. Upon Father's return from Medjugorje, he told one of the ladies, Mrs. Perla Saenz, to choose someone with whom she could work, and with Monsignor as Director and Spiritual Advisor, they established the Medjugorje Information Center. Since that time, the Center is one of the oldest Medjugorje establishments in the United States whose primary mission is to give information regarding the occurrences of the alleged apparitions that still exist to date. The message is simple: that God exists! That Peace must reign! And that we must Pray, pray, pray from the heart.

THE WORKS Over 23 years, the Medjugorje Information Center has provided weekly prayers and monthly Masses in honor of Our Lady Queen of Peace, publish yearly periodicals, host a website, offer pilgrimages to various Holy sites and to Medjugorje specifically. We sponsored the first Las Vegas Marian conference in 1992 and brought other reknown speakers such as Fr. Pablo Straub and Fr. Corapi to the valley. We have been blessed to bring the Visionary Ivan of Medjugorje as well as David Parkes on several occasions. None of this would be able to occur if not for your prayers and support. For this we thank God for each of you. May His Holy Will be done!



May God's love reign in your hearts,

May His peace reign in your lives,

May His Light be your illumination to bring Him closer to others!

We wish you and your family

*A Merry and Blessed
Christmas and
Joyous New Year!*

Gospa Message of December 25, 2004

"Dear children! With great joy, also today I carry my Son Jesus in my arms to you; He blesses you and calls you to peace. Pray, little children, and be courageous witnesses of Good News in every situation. Only in this way will God bless you and give you everything you ask of Him in faith. I am with you as long as the Almighty permits me. I intercede for each of you with great love. Thank you for having responded to my call."

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