

MEDJUGORJE INFORMATION CENTER OF LAS VEGAS

VIGIL OF THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY

JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2011

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH
4490 MOUNTAIN VISTA, LAS VEGAS

Beginning with the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 6 p.m.

WITH THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS FOLLOWING

IN HONOR OF OUR

BLESSED MOTHER, QUEEN OF PEACE

MONSIGNOR BENJAMIN JOSEPH FRANZINELLI • REVEREND FRANK YNCIERTO



THE STORY

HOLY FAMILY, "THE SALOON" – BING CROSBY – HOLY FAMILY – MEDJUGORJE

In the words of our Holy Father, Blessed Pope John Paul II of Happy Memory -
Medjugorje, Medjugorje, Medjugorje!

The spectacular event of Medjugorje is becoming, singular in the history of the Roman Catholic Church - the alleged event of the six visionaries in former Yugoslavia, now at the village of Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Was it ever known beforehand that six visionaries have claimed, in the same time and location, the apparition of Mary, the Mother of God since 1981, thirty years ago, to continue to see and speak to her in an apparition? These same seers are now adults, married with children, living in Medjugorje or nearby. To this day, they are ordinary young families without restrictions. One of these visionaries, Ivan Dragicevic, visited Las Vegas in the year 1992.

Holy Family Roman Catholic Church in Las Vegas has a very special place in the hearts of the Medjugorje Information Center of Las Vegas and all the faithful. Father Monsignor Ben Franzinelli, our Spiritual Director and founder of the MICenter, is the priest who in the year of 1976 stepped out in faith and approached a famous actor and singer Bing Crosby to host a fundraiser to help build Holy Family Parish. This year is the 35th anniversary of that concert benefit at the Aladdin Hotel. Its history of starting in a saloon brought Mr. Crosby to help get that Church out of there; it was the first time ever that Mr. Crosby and his family performed in Las Vegas. Mr. Crosby was called home 11 months later, October 14, 1977.



Ten years later, now in 1986, Monsignor Fr. Ben journeyed to Medjugorje for the first time; after his return two weeks later, the Church of Holy Family suffered an arson fire. What is remarkable is Father Ben's patience and acceptance of this. He attributes the tragedy of the fire to a spiritual cleansing of the parish through the intercession of the Blessed Mother of God of Medjugorje, Queen of Peace and Mercy for this miracle. So at the same time Father chose to have a huge tent placed on the Church property in the heat of the summer for the celebration of the Holy Mass with his parishioners, which took 8 months for the Church to be fully restored. Shortly thereafter, the Medjugorje Information Center was organized at Holy Family with prayers and celebration of Mass every Thursday. It was helpful that Monsignor Father Ben was Pastor of Holy Family until his retirement in 1996.

In 1987, Monsignor Franzinelli had commissioned a European sculptor in Italy to create the image of Our Lady Queen of Peace in wood. That 3 foot image can be seen in the lobby of Holy Family Parish today.

Then for the first time in Las Vegas, an extraordinary event happened: Medjugorje Information Center produced in 1992 the first National Marian Conference at the Las Vegas Convention Center featuring national as well as international speakers witnessing to the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, who addressed herself to the world in Medjugorje as Our Lady Queen of Peace. The Medjugorje visionary Ivan Dragicevic accepted our invitation to come to the Conference, where we would be blessed to be present during Ivan's apparition of Our Lady Queen of Peace. At Holy Family Catholic Church, Ivan during this time had his apparition in our sanctuary. Our Lady has never left us.



It was after the visitation of Our Lady Queen of Peace to Holy Family Parish that Monsignor Father Ben was inspired that to honor this singular privilege of grace, he commissioned a Marble Statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace marking her coming to us in this very special way. This statue stands today, outside in the courtyard of the present St. Joseph Chapel of Holy Family Parish. All are welcome to come and experience the peace of praying before that beautiful statue of Our Lady Queen of Peace where heaven descended upon Holy Family Parish, Las Vegas and all the faithful.



Through the years we have been very blessed to have developed a relationship with Ivan and some of the visionaries in Medjugorje. Ivan, who still receives daily visitation, has subsequently been to our valley as well as Mirjana, who receives monthly apparitions and messages for non-believers. With some of the seers of the past, such as Ven. Lucia and the children at Fatima, St. Bernadette at Lourdes etc., these visionaries were not called into the religious life; they chose the marriage vocation and are part of the world of laity, where they have dedicated their lives to their families, Holy Mother Church as parishioners and patiently, continuously bringing to the world the messages and pleas of our Blessed Mother entrusted to them to a world that is immersed in a culture of death for the past 30 years: ***"I have come to tell you that God exists!"*** To this day, three of the visionaries of the six receive daily apparitions.

Las Vegas has been extremely blessed to have this extraordinary privilege. We are grateful to God for Monsignor for his undoubting belief in the presence of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Medjugorje and through the visionaries, the multitude of places where she has come to the faithful, giving us her words and blessings.

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever, be praised!

[Article by Perla Saenz: December 8, 2011]