

Voice Medjugorje

Prayer Groups Newspaper

October 2009



Message of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, September 25, 2009

“Dear children!

With joy, persistently work on your conversion. Offer all your joys and sorrows to my Immaculate Heart that I may lead you all to my most beloved Son, so that you may find joy in His Heart. I am with you to instruct you and to lead you towards eternity. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

WORK WITH JOY ON YOUR PERSONAL CONVERSION

“There is no sad saint”, said Saint Francis, the little poor man of Assisi. How true is this statement! True when considering the internal state of a man who strives for holiness.

For “almighty, eternal God” means “Love, Peace, Persistence ... and Joy.” He wants to give everything he possesses to a man and wishes to share His joy with His creation. Isn't it astonishing when we realize that in our created world filled with so much diversity and unexpected events we are often facing things that are new and unknown to us.

...True love means to share all that I have with the one I love...

All that makes us open for harmony of his creation when we listen to God's teachings explained by God himself in His commandments of Love. Unfortunately, many times we see God's law as a kind of burden that is heavy and unbearable. Often we forget Jesus' words, “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Mat 11:29-30)

True love means to share all that I have with the one I love. It is a demonstration of love and trust that the one whom I give the gift is partly able to do the same towards me.

Also this time Our Lady affirms us that each of Her children is worthy of the grace of conversion and that in order to receive total conversion we need to strive for it persistently. But why do we need to do so much effort?



Why the Lord, when he loves us so much, hasn't created us perfect, thus such without the need of conversion? Love is freedom and freedom means also a freedom of choice. Therefore if I am loved, I am not obliged to answer to God's love that he shows me – I can love but I do not have to. If I want, I can answer to love with love but also, if I think that there is no need for that, I do not have to.

Having freedom of choice brings me the feeling of deep joy, especially when I am getting close to its realization. In another words I can say that it becomes my fruit; it's great joy to bear fruit.

When I strive without success, sadness arouses in my heart but at the same time it becomes a source of a new strength and motivation to continue until I succeed. Our

Lady herself promises us the victory in our struggles for conversion and unification with the Lord – it's Her who says: *"I am with you to instruct you and to lead you towards eternity.*

What a consolation is the presence and guidance of Our Lady in my life!

Let us pray: *Our Lady, help us to work more on our personal conversion. Give us joy from knowing that the Lord gives us the choice to use the gifts and the talents which He himself has given to us so that we would be worthy of Heaven.*

Fra. Henrych Jaworski

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DEAR FRIENDS OF THE QUEEN OF PEACE!

„With joy, persistently work on your conversion“, tells us Our Lady this month. Let us again remember her words: *"Call to conversion is the most important message that I have given you."* Call, invitation to conversion is a call to come back to God. This should be on our daily program for the rest of our lives. Every day we have to come back and return to God. It means to be ready to love God and our neighbor at all times. Our Lady encourages us to keep coming home every day with joy and perseverance.

“Oh, Lord, you are my only joy!”, exclaimed St. Augustine who experienced conversion through the intercession of his own mother, St. Monica. If we walk on the path of conversion, we bring joy to our neighbors. For the essence of joy is giving oneself. True joy can experience only the one who gives himself out of love.

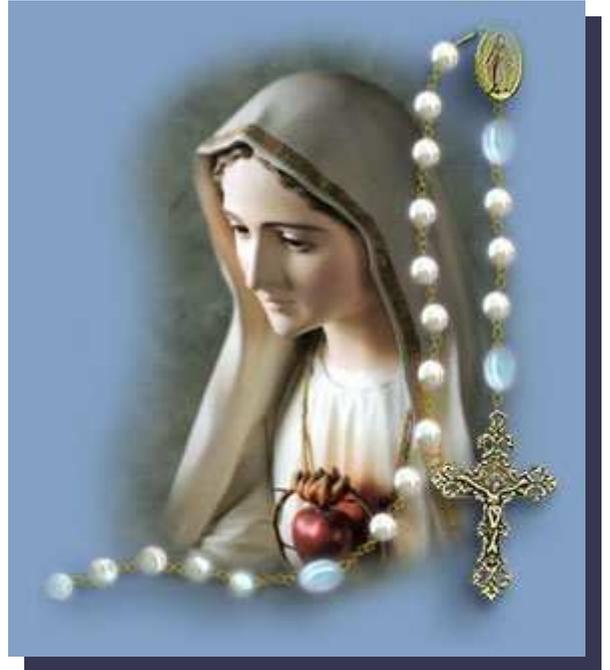
*... True joy can
experience only the one
who gives himself out
of love...*

Also today Mother Mary affirms us of her presence among us in order to lead and instruct us. The path of holiness that She leads us through is the path of perfect trust in Her as our Mother. Let us accept Her as the most precious treasure, just like St. John the apostle: *"...this disciple took her into his home."* (Jn 19:27) By staying close to Her throughout the day we will learn how to live and accept everything that happens in our lives. Let us tell Her every single day: *"Mother, make me a little child who fully trusts in You and is absolutely dependant on You."*

In message of October 25, 1984, Our Lady said: *"Pray during this month. God allows me every day to help you with graces to defend yourselves against evil. This is my month. I want to give it to you. You just pray and God will give you the graces you are seeking. I will help along with it."*

The month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. It's the prayer of rosary that is the most beloved and the most beautiful one. In this prayer we can offer all our joys and sorrows to Our Lady. She knows the best how to present them to Her Son Jesus. St. Ludwig Maria Grignion from Montfort

teaches us: "God opposes the proud, but gives his graces to the humble." If you humble yourself, convinced that you are unworthy to appear before him, or even to approach him, he condescends to come down to you. He is please to be with you and exalts you in spite of yourself. But, on the other hand, if you venture to go towards God blindly without a mediator, he vanishes and is nowhere to be found. How dearly he loves the humble of heart! It is to such humility that this devotion leads us, for it teaches us never to go alone directly to our Lord, however gentle and merciful though he may be, but always to use Mary's power of intercession, whether we want to enter his presence, speak to him, be near him, offer him something, seek union with him or consecrate ourselves to him." (143)



Let us give this month to Our Lady as our gift to Her. Let us persistently with Her heart seek Jesus in everything that comes into our everyday life. Let us live everything with Her.

Let us pray: *Dearest Mother, in your Immaculate Heart we want to hide and live this month of October that is devoted to you. Together with you we want to work with joy persistently on our conversion. We thank you for your offer and trust to instruct us towards eternity. Mary, renew us daily in your Heart and lead us toward the Heart of your Son. Help us to become little, humble so that our life, just like yours, would be the source of joy for others, because through you Jesus lives in us. Amen.*

Terezia Gazioua

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Our Prayer Group will meet on
Saturday, October 3, 2009.

In this time we pray for
the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady.

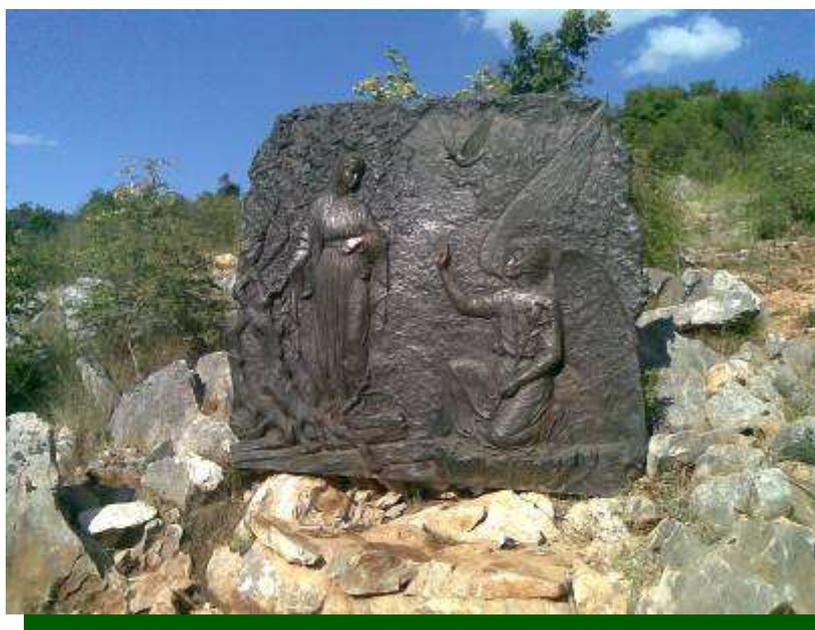
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...Little children, prayer works miracles. When you are tired and sick and you do not know the meaning of your life, take the Rosary and pray; pray until prayer becomes for you a joyful meeting with your Savior. I am with you, little children, and I intercede and pray for you... April 25, 2001

...Especially, I call all those who have consecrated themselves to my Immaculate Heart to become an example to others. I call all priests and religious brothers and sisters to pray the rosary and to teach others to pray. The rosary, little children, is especially dear to me. Through the rosary open your heart to me and I am able to help you... August 25, 1997

...Today, like never before, I invite you to prayer. Let your prayer be a prayer for peace. Satan is strong and desires to destroy not only human life, but also nature and the planet on which you live. Therefore, dear children, pray that through prayer you can protect yourselves with God's blessing of peace. God has sent me among you so that I may help you. If you so wish, grasp for the rosary. Even the rosary alone can work miracles in the world and in your lives... January 25, 1991

This message Our Lady gave in response to the question of Marija Pavlović: 'Our Lady, what do you wish to recommend to priests?' ***...I invite you to call on everyone to pray the Rosary. With the rosary you shall overcome all the adversities which Satan is trying to inflict on the Catholic Church. All you priests, pray the Rosary! Dedicate your time to the Rosary! ... June 25, 1985***

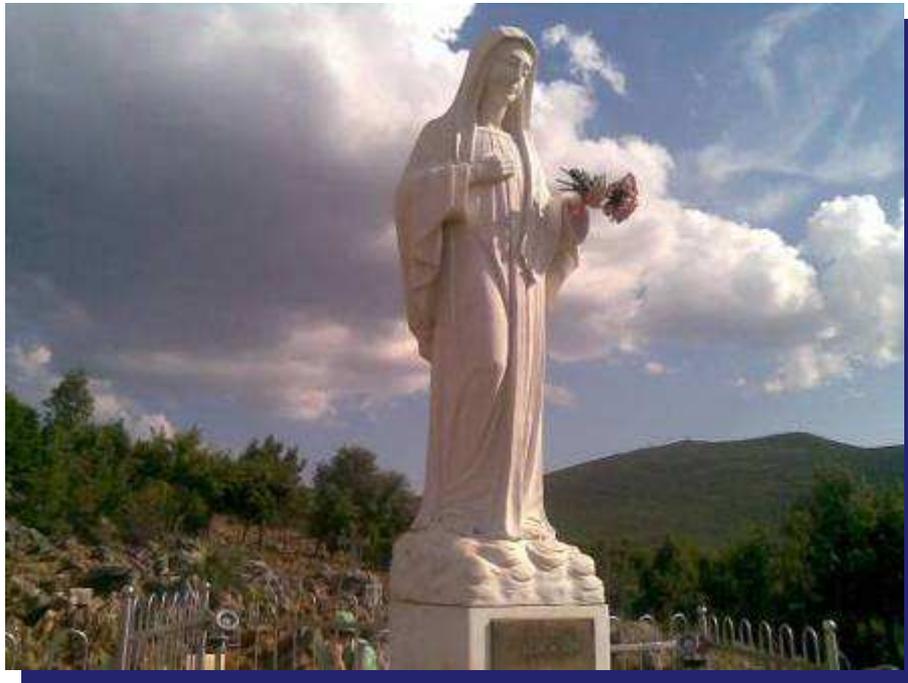


...Today I call you to begin to pray the Rosary with a living faith. That way I will be able to help you. You, dear children, wish to obtain graces, but you are not praying. I am not able to help you because you do not want to get started. Dear children, I am calling you to pray the Rosary and that your Rosary be an obligation which you shall fulfill with joy. That way you shall understand the reason I am with you this long. I desire to teach you to pray... June 12, 1986

BY PRAYER AND FASTING...

I attended a Seminar of Prayer, Fasting and Silence in Medjugorje four years ago. At that time, one of my daughters was living for over twelve years in a non-sacramental marriage. When I returned from the seminar, I started fasting every Monday, Wednesday and Friday on bread and water for this intention. After that time I again visited Medjugorje and on the advice of one priest I started to fast only twice a week, on Wednesday and Friday. Not even after two years after the seminar my son-in-law experienced a conversion in his life and in secret he enrolled to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. On Friday after the Feast of Divine Mercy they received the Sacrament of Marriage at church dedicated to Our Lady. From all my heart I give thanks to Our Lady, our dearest mother.

Jolana, Slovakia



I WISH TO TAKE MEDJUGORJE INTO MY HOME...

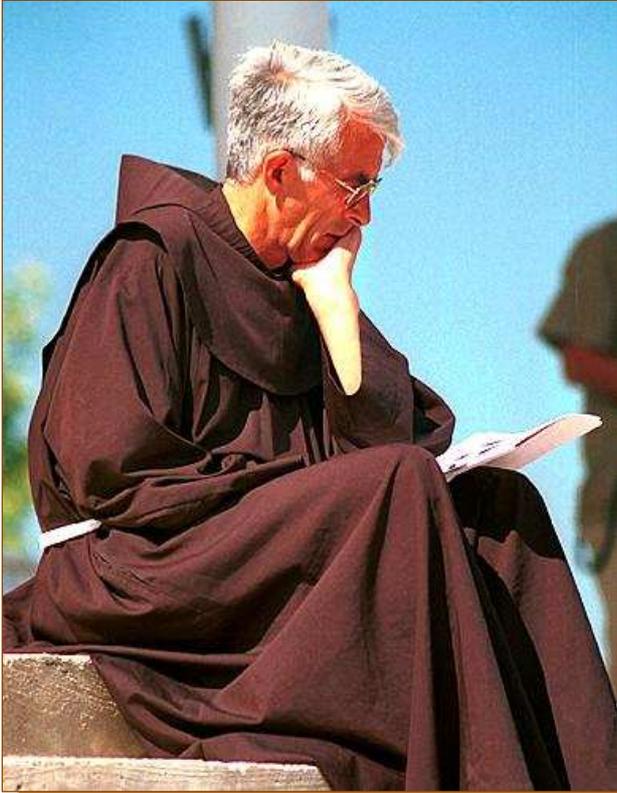
The last time I've been to Medjugorje I received the experience to know the Lord and myself more deeply. I surrendered to Him all my past, all that I was holding just for myself and was concerning to much in vain. He set me free by taking all of that away and filled me by new light and deep peace inside. Our Lady tells in one of her messages, *"Dear children, I beseech you, surrender to the Lord your entire past, all the evil that has accumulated in your hearts."* I come back home, to the "desert" place full of trials but deeply penetrated by the fact that the Lord is always with me. With greater zeal I desire to be lead by Our Lady. I wish to take Medjugorje into my home. I believe that with the help of Our Lady it will be so.

Peter, Ukraine

Fr. Slavko Barbarić OFM

„IN THE SCHOOL OF LOVE“

To know, or not know how to love



“Dear children! No, you don’t know how to love and you don’t know how to listen with love to the words I am saying to you. Be conscious, my beloved, that I’m your Mother and I have come on earth to teach you to listen out of love, to pray out of love and not compelled by that fact that you are carrying a cross. By means of the cross God is glorified through every person. Thank you for having responded to my call.” (November 29, 1984)

Many people are asking themselves why apparitions, and why Medjugorje? Why ever day? The questions are legitimate. Sometimes people disregard apparitions because of just such questions. To ask with love and to seek the response with love is all that can be hoped for, because the answers cannot be accepted by force!

To a mother who loves, only one concern is important. She wants what is good for us so that there will be no forcefulness among us and, especially, between us and her. Love and force cannot go together. They are as opposite in themselves as are light and darkness, or truth and falsehood. Force closes the approach to love. It closes the mouth, the ears, the heart and the whole being. Love however, talks, responds, listens, offers itself freely and awaits a response in freedom. When a person frees himself from inner forces which are the result of a dependence on material goods or on a false perception of self and others one becomes truly free, then the outer forces become and opportunity to demonstrate the inner freedom and personal decision.

The world is full of slavery and, therefore, full of enslaved souls and hearts. We are enslaved by selfishness and conceit, enslaved because of our own desires and passions towards money, drugs, alcohol, immoral life styles and immoral relationships. Many are enslaved by the direct influence of satanic action which is expressed by sin. The slavery to the fear of suffering is especially widespread.

On one occasion, I asked Jelena Vasilj how she discerns voice of Our Lady from that of Satan. She answered, “When Our Lady speaks, I have time to answer, I am free. I have space in my soul and I can decide. When Satan speaks, I feel pressured; he does not leave time to think. He wants to interfere and deceive and I feel pushed to the corner...”

You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. (Gal 5:13-15)

**“THE CHILD
IS THE BEAUTY
OF GOD
PRESENT IN
THE WORLD –
THAT
GREATEST GIFT
TO A FAMILY.”**

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta



MOTHER TERESA ON ABORTION

“I speak today to you from my heart -- to each person in all the nations of the world, to people with power to make big decisions as well as to all mothers, fathers and children in the cities, towns and villages.

Each one of us is here today because we have been loved by God who created us and our parents who accepted and cared enough to give us life. Life is the most beautiful gift of God. That is why it is so painful to see what is happening today in so many places around the world: life is being deliberately destroyed by war, by violence, by abortion. And we have been created by God for greater things -- to love and be loved.

I have said often, and I am sure of it, that the greatest destroyer of peace in the world today is abortion. If a mother can kill her own child, what is there to stop you and me from killing each other? The only one who has the right to take life is the One who has created it. Nobody else has that right; not the mother, not the father, not the doctor, no agency, no conference, no government.

I am sure that deep down in your heart, you know that the unborn child is a human being loved by God, like you and me. How can anyone, knowing that, deliberately destroy that life? It frightens me to think of all the people who kill their conscience so that they can perform an abortion. When we die, we will come face to face with God, the Author of life. Who will give an account to God for the millions and millions of babies who were not allowed to have the chance to live, to experience loving and being loved?

God has created a world big enough for all the lives He wishes to be born. It is only our hearts that are not big enough to want them and accept them. If all the money that is being spent on finding ways to kill people was used instead to feed them and house them and educate them -- how beautiful that would be. We are too often

afraid of the sacrifices we might have to make. But where there is love, there is always sacrifice. And when we love until it hurts, there is joy and peace.

If there is a child that you don't want or can't feed or educate, give that child to me. I will not refuse any child. I will give a home, or find loving parents for him or for her. We are fighting abortion by adoption and have given thousands of children to caring families. And it is so beautiful to see the love and unity that a child brings to a family.

The child is the most beautiful gift of God to a family, to a nation. Let us not refuse this gift of God. My prayer for each one of you is that you may always have the faith to see and love God in each person including the unborn.

God bless you!

(Message of Mother Teresa of Calcutta to the International conference on Population and Development, Cairo, September 1994)

“We must remember that love begins at home and we must also remember that the future of humanity passes through the family.”

* * *

“But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love and we remind ourselves that love means willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even His life to love us. So, the mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans, or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts.”

* * *



”By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems. And, by abortion, the father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. That father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion.”

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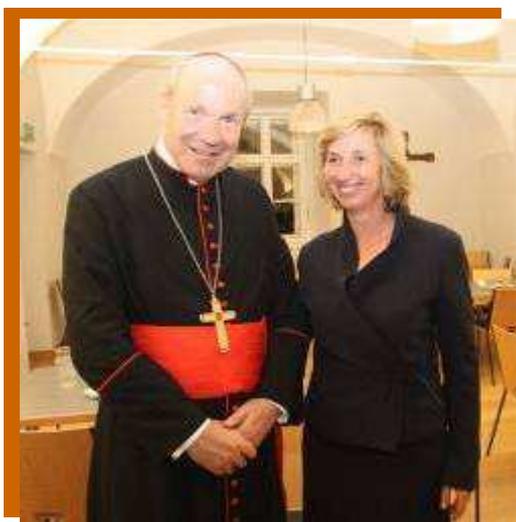
“Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion.”

SPIRIT OF MEDJUGORJE IN VIENNA

On September 15th, 2009 thousands of people from all over Austria attended a prayer vigil for peace at St. Stephen's Cathedral Vienna (Wiener Stephansdom). Motto of the meeting was „*Message for you!*“ Special guest of honour was **Marija Pavlovic-Lunetti**, one of the Medjugorje visionaries, who still today receives daily apparitions of Our Lady.

All seats in the cathedral were packed. Maria Pavlovic-Lunetti told how her life has been gradually changed by the daily apparitions. *“None of us would have ever dreamed of such a thing. We asked ourselves: Why we were chosen for this grace? We're not the best. Our Lady (Virgin Mary in Croatian, COR) invited us to conversion. With each passing day, our prayer was deeper and stronger. We began to make sacrifices for the intentions of the Virgin Mary. Our Lady began to convert our hearts and asked us to set up prayer groups. They inspired us to do more and to begin in our hearts with it.”* Maria Pavlovic-Lunetti further stated that Medjugorje was an invitation from the Mother of God, *”[for people to] return to God. I am convinced that the earth has no future without God. She was therefore grateful that I can visit your diocese to hand over your heart to the Madonna. Each of you will be transformed and become a source of light and bring peace in this world without peace.”*

Fra Leo Maasgurg, the national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies Austria, celebrated the Holy Mass. In his homily, he spoke of *„a quiet cry, cry of millions of God's children who will be starving also this year.“* At the end of the Holy Mass fra Maasburg renewed the consecration to Our Lady of all the people present at the cathedral.



The prayer meeting ended with a surprise when Cardinal Christoph Schönborn led the closing prayers. The Cardinal was obviously moved from seeing so many people in the cathedral, especially so many young people. ***“We must thank The Lord that, through His Mother, so many people are being led to the love of God, that people go to confession again, and develop a love of the Eucharist. Reconciliations take place in families, and people are being healed from drugs and other dependencies”***, said Cardinal Schönborn. ***“It is a great gift that Our Lady wants to be so close to all her children”*** and ***“(it is a) sign of the times that Mary touches people through such simple signs”***, he also said.

Adopted from: kath.net, September 16, 2009

10TH INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR FOR MARRIED COUPLES

*International seminar for married couples will be held in Međugorje from **the 4th to the 7th of November 2009.***

The theme of the seminar is:

<< Love never ends and ceasing of love >>

PROGRAM:

Wednesday, November 4, 2009.

01:00 pm – Registration of the participants
04:00 pm – Introduction to the seminar
05:00 pm – Evening Prayer Program in the church (Rosary, Holy Mass)
09:00 pm – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday, November 5, 2009.

09:00 am – Morning Prayer
09:30 am – Lecture, sharing
12:00 am - Silent adoration
03:00 pm – Lecture, sharing
05:00 pm – Evening Prayer Program in the church (Rosary, Holy Mass, Adoration)

Friday, November 6, 2009.

06:30 am – Prayer on Cross Mountain
10:00 am – Lecture, sharing
12:00 am - Silent adoration
02:00 pm – Lecture, sharing
04:00 pm – Preparation for confession
05:00 pm – Evening Prayer Program in the church (Rosary, Holy Mass, Veneration of the Cross)

Saturday, November 7, 2009.

07:00 am – Prayer on Apparition Hill
10:00 am – Lecture, sharing
12:00 am – Holy Mass – end of the seminar

SEMINAR FINISHES WITH THE HOLY MASS AT 12:00 PM.

Co-ordinator of the seminar is fr. Miljenko Šteko



The lecturer is the friar Ante Vučković, O.F.M. Born in 1958 in Sinj, as the first live child in a large family. He is a member of the Franciscan Province of the

Most Holy Savior with its seat in Split. He terminated his Preparatory and Gymnasium in Sinj and Theological Faculty in Makarska and Zagreb. He was ordained priest in 1983. After having served as a curate in Metković and Munich, he studied philosophy in Munich and Rome where he was awarded his Doctor's Degree in the dimension of listening according to Martin Heidegger. He taught philosophy in Rome, at the Pope's Antonianum College and at the Franciscan's Divinity School in Makarska. He is a Professor at the Catholic Theological Faculty of the Split University and at the Philosophy Department of the same University. He is the leader of spiritual exercises, seminars and spiritual renewals. He is a spiritual companion and advisor. He published several books. He is writing for professional and populist periodicals.

The seminar will take place in Medjugorje in the New Hall. Participation per couple: 40 €. You may make reservations by e-mail: seminar.marija@medjugorje.hr, or by fax +387-36-651-999 (for Marija Dugandzic).

The number of participants is limited because of the available space in the Hall, so we ask you to send your registration as soon as possible, latest by the end of September. All the participants are invited to individually provide their accommodation in Medjugorje.

We encourage you to bring a small FM radio with headphone and a Bible.

The newspaper **“Voice Medjugorje”** is a call, invitation for everyone who wishes to pray for intentions of Queen of Peace and for realization of Her plans. By witnessing in our lives we long to become Mary’s Light to this world, to spread peace all around. On June 25, 2004 our Lady said: *“Dear children! Today also, joy is in my heart. I wish to thank you for making my plan possible to become reality. Each of you is important therefore, little children, pray and rejoice with me over every heart that has converted and become an instrument of peace in the world. Prayer groups are powerful, and through them I can see, little children, that the Holy Spirit is at work in the world. Thank you for having responded to my call.”*

Our small newspaper is published monthly since December, 2004. The new issue is sent via email a few days after the Virgin Mary gives Her message on each 25th day of the month. Voice Medjugorje is published in Russian, Slovak, Lithuanian, Lithuanian and English language. Through our newspaper we unite in prayer with our brothers and sisters from prayer groups mostly from the eastern countries – Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Moldavia, Belorussia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Slovakia, Czech Republic and USA.

Prayer groups meet according to the agreement made among the members, usually once a week, at their houses or at churches. Prayer meetings are conducted in modest and humble way and consist of praying rosary, meditation upon the text of the Bible and our Lady’s message, sharing after the meditation, praying for the prayer intentions of the Queen of Peace, praying for the needs of neighbors, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In our lives we attempt to follow the messages of Our Lady, which means:

- **to pray three rosaries a day**
- **to fast every Wednesday and Friday**
- **to confess monthly**
- **to attend Holy Masses, often receive Holy Communion and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament**
- **to pray for the priests and Church**
- **to meet in prayer groups at least once a week, according to agreement of the members**

We usually meet in prayer on the first Saturday of each month. If possible, the prayer meetings are held on this day. At meetings, we pray three rosaries, attend Holy Mass, Adoration and read reflections from the newspaper. We all pray for the intentions given in the newspaper, for the period of a whole month.

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