

The Parish Visitor



Am I not your Mother?

The Parish Visitor

One of the traditional hymns we Parish Visitors sing is the Ave Maris Stella. Many processed into the chapel to this hymn, where we professed our vows. We often use it as we make our way to the cemetery to bring a Sister to her final resting place, where we await the resurrection of the body. One stanza in that hymn is “Show yourself His mother, May He hear your prayer, Who for our salvation, Deigned to be your infant.” In this issue, we will reflect on Our Blessed Mother’s care, not only of her Incarnate Son but also for all of us.

Every woman can find a source of strength and inspiration for her vocation in Mary.

I recently learned a prayer that reflects Our Lady’s maternal care:

“Mary, Mary, Mother of God, and my mother bring me to where Jesus wants me to be.” We repeat Mary’s name because children rarely call out “Mom” just once.



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Am I not here? Am I not your Mother?



Our Lady to Juan Diego at Guadalupe

By Mother Maria Catherine, PVM

I was fortunate to grow up in the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes, in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn, and attend “OLL” Our Lady of Lourdes school!

Dedicated in 1872, the Church was originally called St. Frances DeSales Church. It was renamed in 1897. It was the first National Shrine to honor Our Lady of Lourdes, with its life-size replica of the Lourdes grotto behind the sanctuary. In this Grotto, many people placed their crutches, etc., when they experienced healing through the intercession of Saint Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes.

Here, I learned about processions and devotion to Our Lady – and the praying of the Rosary. Each Wednesday, we had Rosary devotions, prayers, and a procession in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood taught us the proper way to walk in procession and enkindled a great desire to honor Mary by our reverence and piety.

Though I would not always be faithful to praying the Rosary as I got older, I never lost the devotion to Mary’s prayer – the Hail Mary – which I faithfully prayed each night!

In 1983, as a Junior Professed Sister, I was sent to Notre Dame Catechetical Institute in Arlington, VA., where I met Father Frederick Miller for the first time. Father was our Theology professor. During the semester, he spoke to us of True Devotion to Mary – a

book he recently discovered, devoured, and was now promoting! For some reason, I was not keen on attending the seminar on True Devotion that Father was offering. However, in one of his verbal “advertisements” for the course, Father said: “Our Lady will protect you from losing your faith and your vocation!” I thought: “Wow! How did he know that these were the two things I had been quite concerned about as I journeyed through my religious life?” I was sold and attended the seminar, culminating in our Consecration to Jesus through Mary according to Saint Louis de Montfort’s prayer of consecration.

My initial reason for making the Consecration was kind of mercenary! I wanted to be sure that I did not lose my faith or my vocation and if this were the way I would take it. However, throughout the years, I have come to experience the truth of Our Lady’s words to Juan Diego at Guadalupe: “Am I not here? Am I not your Mother?”

Not only has Mary been a Mother, Sister, and Friend to me, but She has shown herself to so many persons and in so many ways that She IS a Mother to us all. She has taken to heart Jesus’ words to Her at the Foot of the Cross: “Woman, here is your son!”

Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, our Foundress, says of Our Lady: “When Christ was dying on the Cross, He left us His best love-gift; it was His own Mother. He had nothing better He could give us. He had just given us Himself in Holy Communion the night before, and now He gave us the only object He had left, His own dear Mother. When Christ gave us His Mother, it was that She might be a real Mother to us. She was the best person that ever lived, and She had complete power over the graces of God. Therefore, by Her power, she could take care of us,



and by Her influence with God, she could give us every grace. We are preparing for Her feast day. The Immaculate Conception is the Patronal Feast of the United States. Let us ask Her for every grace and, best of all, the sense to value the gifts of God and to do our duty well for Him.” (*Learning to Live with Christ in the Liturgy*, p. 225)

In every visit of our Mother Mary to Her children: Rue de Bac (St. Catherine Laboure and the Miraculous Medal); Lourdes, Fatima, La Salette, Guadalupe, and in our day in the United States – Our Lady of Good Help – Her one desire is for our eternal happiness: union with Her Son through our prayer and sacrifice here on earth!

The Baltimore Catechism question: “Why did God make me?” and its response: “God made me to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this life so as to be happy with Him forever in Heaven,” is the reason for our Mother’s visits to us: to draw us into a deeper loving relationship with Her Son, so that we would be happy with Him (and Her) in Heaven.

As Saint Louis DeMontfort said: “I do not believe that anyone can acquire intimate union with our Lord and perfect fidelity to the Holy Spirit without a very close union with the most Blessed Virgin and an absolute dependence on Her support.” (*True Devotion to Mary*, #43)

In this issue of the magazine, you will read about old, familiar apparitions of Our Lady to Her children and not-so-familiar ones. I would like to challenge each of our faithful readers to the following:

- Choose one apparition and learn more about what Our Lady said and did, about the person to whom She appeared, and how you can make the message She gave your own.
- In preparation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, join us in the novena to Our Lady, asking Her to lead you and your loved ones closer to the Heart of Jesus. The Novena Prayer that the Parish Visitor Sisters say is:

*Hail Mary, followed by the invocation:
O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to Thee. (3x)*

- We will soon be in the season of Advent. Spend your Advent with Mary and Joseph, asking them to open your heart to the coming of Christ at Christmas. There is a beautiful prayer that many of us pray from November 30th to Christmas Eve:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe, O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires {state your intention(s) here}, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen.

(It is piously believed that whoever recites the above prayer fifteen times a day from the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30th) until Christmas will obtain what is asked)

I do not doubt that Mary is truly the Mother who desires to be close to each of Her children in their joys and sorrows. Won't you allow Her to fulfill the role that Jesus gave Her from the Cross: take Her into the home of your heart that She may take you to Jesus?

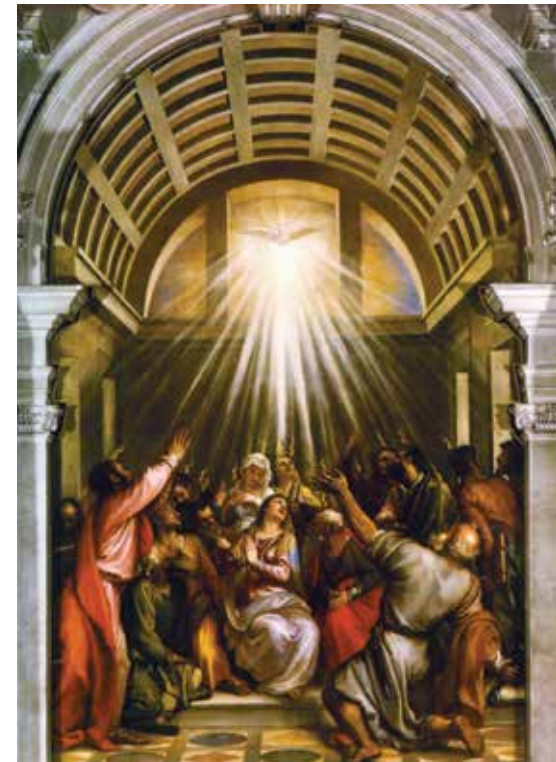
I would like to end with the Preface from the Mass for the celebration of the Votive Mass of Mary, Mother of the Church. It reminds us that Mary was present from the very beginning of the Church and in every moment of its growth: in its joys and sorrows! It ends by reminding us that "with a mother's love," She is walking with not only the Universal Church but each of us, in particular, and She "watches in kindness" our steps toward Heaven! Let us be conscious of Her presence beside us on our journey of life on earth to our life on high with Christ in the Heavenly Jerusalem!

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,
 Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
 and to proclaim your greatness with due praise,
 as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 Receiving your Word in her Immaculate Heart,
 she was found worthy to conceive him
 in her virgin's womb

and giving birth to the Creator,
 she nurtured the beginnings of the Church.
 Standing beside the Cross,
 she received the testament of divine love
 and took to herself as sons and daughters
 all those who, by the Death of Christ
 are born to heavenly life.

As the Apostles awaited the Spirit you had promised,
 she joined her supplication to the prayers of the disciples
 and so became the pattern of the Church at prayer.

Raised to the glory of Heaven,
 she accompanies your pilgrim Church
 with a mother's love
 and watches in kindness over the Church's
 homeward steps,
 until the Lord's Day shall come in glorious splendor.
 And so, with all the Angels and Saints,
 we praise you, as without end we acclaim: Holy...





A Dialogue with Mary, My Mother

Come, now, let me be your Mother,
Let me lead you to my Son
So that when you end your journey
We will be in Heaven, as one.

Mother, help increase my faith
Hope and charity, as well
'Til like you and holy Joseph
Content with Jesus, I will dwell.

I will help you with your fears
Give them to me one by one
With His grace, your heart will open
Love will banish all your tears.

There is so much I can give you
So much hurt and so much pain
Many fears lie deep within me
Now I ask you, take them away.

Joy will flood your very soul
You will know His Love Divine
Giving love for Love in freedom
You will be a true daughter of mine.

Mother, thank you for your mercy
For your presence at my side
For your Heart, so understanding
For your Heart, where I will abide.

Praise the God of every grace,
Praise the Holy Trinity,
He Who comes to dwell within me
His spouse, forever, I will be.



OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

By Sister Marie Michelle, PVM

On November 27, 1830, Mary Immaculate appeared to St. Catherine Laboure in Paris, France. The Virgin Mary was standing on a globe, with dazzling rays of light streaming from her outstretched hands. Framing the apparition was an inscription: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." When Mary spoke to St. Catherine, she said, "Have a medal struck upon this model. Those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck. Those who repeat this prayer with devotion will be, in a special manner, under the protection of the Mother of God. Graces will be abundantly bestowed upon those who have confidence."

During my senior year of college, I began to have mysterious pains in my joints and muscles. Although I had been an athlete all my life, as a competitive gymnast since childhood, at this time, after I would exercise, I would feel like I got hit by a truck. These pains worsened, and soon, I could not even get through a day of shopping with my friends without sitting down and resting. I went to many doctors, and finally, they diagnosed me with Lupus (SLE). I was still able to graduate, but I took off one year before I began the graduate program for Clinical Psychology, which I had worked so hard to get into.

One night, just sitting in a chair in my room, I was in a lot of pain and felt so sick, although I was taking two medications three times a day. Suddenly, my eyes fell upon a medal that my Great Aunt, a nun in Rome and later Argentina, had given me. I had no idea what it was, but when I looked at it that night, I heard

the words in my heart, "Wear it around your neck." Instantly, I obeyed these words and began to wear it. I later discovered that it was the Miraculous Medal. I started praying, "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee." many times

throughout the day. Soon after, I discovered the Novena to the Miraculous Medal in a book that my devout Catholic Grandma had.

I received the grace to memorize this Novena quickly, and I believe that the Blessed Virgin Mary prompted me to pray it silently within my heart because I would do so even when taking walks around my neighborhood.



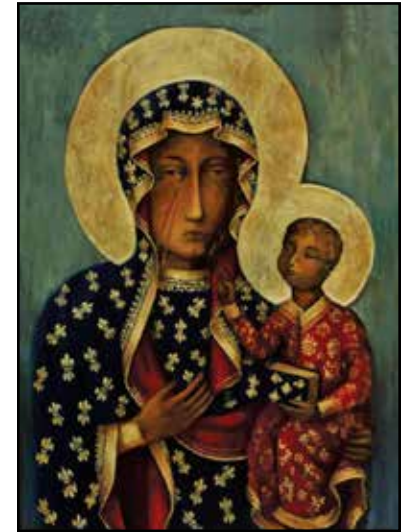
During this time, I was also struggling to live out my faith. Yet I believe that through the power of the Miraculous Medal and the prayers attached to it, as well as praying the Rosary faithfully every day, I was not only eventually healed of Lupus (no longer needing any medication for it) but also spiritually. The following Holy Thursday of the year, I began wearing the medal, Jesus gave me a profound grace to know with certitude that He was truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. From that moment forth, I was never the same because I started attending daily Holy Mass, daily adoration at a nearby perpetual adoration chapel, and frequently going to confession. I also meditated on the scripture more, developed a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and began reading the lives of the Saints. I no longer desired to watch regular television, only Catholic programs, nor listen to regular music, but only Christian or Catholic music. I started wearing modest clothing and long skirts, primarily blue, in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. At this point, I was living alone, and no one was telling me to do any of these things.

Soon after, I saw an invitation in my Church bulletin to "Come and See," although it had never dawned on me that I would like to be a nun, I decided maybe this had something to do with what was happening to me. This meeting was a group of priests and nuns from various religious communities. I felt so much joy when I attended and knew I wanted to be with these people. Then, I

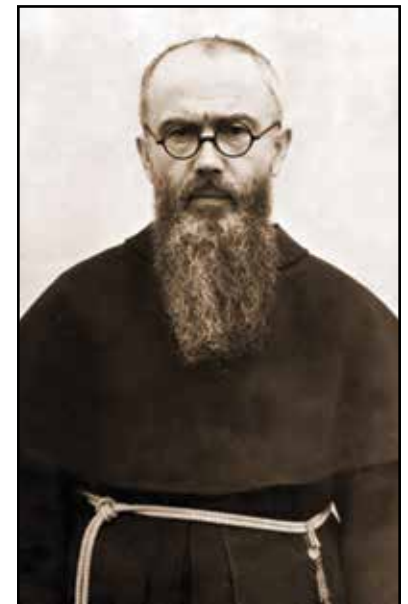
began to discern my vocation to religious life seriously, with the help of a priest as my spiritual director. Throughout these years of discernment, I volunteered in my youth group, taught Catechism to fourth graders, volunteered at various soup kitchens, volunteered at a woman's pregnancy care center, and became a sidewalk advocate for life.

During a visit to one religious community, after praying before a picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa, I was inspired to join the Militia Immaculata of St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Marian Evangelization movement. Later, I discovered that St. Maximilian termed the Miraculous Medal his "silver bullet" because of his faith in its power to convert hearts to Jesus through Mary.

Eventually, I found the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate on the CMSWR website. I visited after seeing their newsletter, which said: "Imagine being a child and not knowing God or how to pray?" That sentence attracted me because I knew what this was like since I was not baptized until I was sixteen. On the eve of St. Maximilian Kolbe's feast day, the last day of my Novena to him regarding my discernment, Mother Maria Catherine informed me that I had been accepted to the community.



Our Lady of Czestochowa



St. Maximilian Kolbe

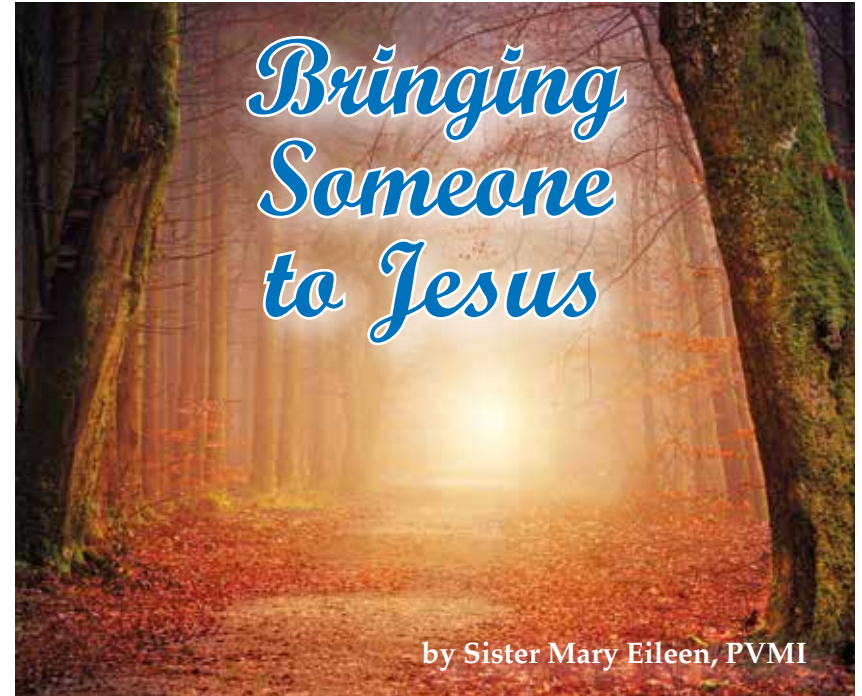


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I became a novice on March 25, 2023, and submitted three choices for a possible feast day. When, during the ceremony, Mother Maria Catherine announced that my feast day would be Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, I could hardly contain my tears of joy, especially when she quoted the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Catherine Laboure, “Come to the foot of the altar. Graces will be shed on all... I will always have my eye upon you.” I am certain that my great Aunt, Sr. Roseangela Vangelli, who had given me my first Miraculous Medal and passed away when I was in college, was rejoicing with Mary and the angels in heaven along with me... since she had been praying for me since I was a baby.



I praise and thank God for the powerful help of Mary Immaculate through the Miraculous Medal. I have strong faith in its power to obtain the graces needed for all who have confidence in her intercession, wear the medal, and pray for themselves and the world so much in need right now, “O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee!”



by Sister Mary Eileen, PVM

Throughout the Gospel, many people were brought to Jesus by others. In one Gospel passage, we read:

“They immediately told him about her.”(Simon’s mother-in-law was sick with a fever.)

“When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons.”

Have you brought anyone to Jesus?

Intercessory prayer is one powerful way of doing just that. It’s “telling Jesus” about someone. Intercessory prayer allows us to send angels on assignment on behalf of another. It breaks chains of bondage that keep God’s good desires for someone’s life from being fulfilled. Intercessory prayer “opens up heaven” on behalf of another.

To intercede requires faith, *“Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive.”* Mt 21:22. If we don’t have faith, we can pray, *“Lord, increase our faith”* Lk 17:5, like the Apostles did.



To intercede requires persistence, like the widow in Luke 18, who wore out the corrupt judge. Sometimes, we pray so casually, as if it were just another box to check off.

We can increase the power of our intercession by being “in agreement” with another person. *“Again, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.”* Mt 18:19. Find a prayer partner to increase your intercession’s power. You can even do it on the phone or through Facetime.



We are all called to intercessory prayer; some have a strong “charism” (gift from the Holy Spirit) in this area. When God wants to accomplish something, He sends out an intercessor (or two, or three or more) ahead of time. Anything good that happens first begins in prayer.

A thought from Mother Mary Teresa on Prayer



“God is all-powerful, and anyone who prays with faith shares the power of God because God has promised to hear every prayer. Is it not wonderful to think that we may share God’s omnipotence? But it is a happy fact...The world would be converted to God if we made use of the power of prayer. It honors God to ask great things of Him because we show that we value His dignity and that we trust His power.” Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon from “Learning to Live with Christ in the Liturgy”

SUB PRAESIDIUM

The earliest known prayer to Mary, dates from the year 300

“We fly to thy protection,
O holy Mother of God.
Despise not our prayers in our
necessities, but deliver us from
all danger O ever glorious and
blessed Virgin Mary. “



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

By Sister Alina Marie, PVM

The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe is very dear to the hearts of many Catholics, especially those from Mexico and the Americas. Our Lady's message is one of tender, compassionating love to all people, as expressed in some of her words below:

Know for certain, littlest of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True God through Whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near and far, the Master of heaven and earth. I wish and intensely desire that in this place, my sanctuary be erected. Here, I will demonstrate and exhibit and give all my love, my compassion, my help, and my protection to the people.

I am your merciful Mother. The merciful Mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of all mankind, of all those who love me. Here, I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities, and misfortunes.

Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that frightens you, the thing that afflicts you, is nothing: do not let it disturb you. Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more? Let nothing else worry you or disturb you...

St. Juan Diego, a humble Christian Indian, was the man to whom Our Lady spoke these beautiful words. He experienced her presence personally at Tepeyac Hill when she appeared asking him to go to the bishop so that a Church could be built in her honor. Though he did as she asked, Juan Diego met obstacles whenever he went to see the bishop because he was such a lowly man. They wanted proof to ensure it was Our Lady, so the next time he saw her, she asked Juan Diego to gather Castilian roses in his tilma, which did not grow in Mexico so that he would have proof for the bishop. On opening his tilma before the bishop, not only did the roses fall to the ground, but also the knees of the bishop, who was astonished to see an image of Our Lady on the tilma! Astonishingly, within nine years of the apparition, 9 million Aztec Indians converted to Christianity! Mary's gentle compassion completely changed a culture dominated by human sacrifice, idolatry, and cannibalism, which the Aztec Indians had notoriously practiced. From this, we could ponder: If Mary could make such a great transformation in that culture, how much more can she do in my life?



As a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate, Our Lady of Guadalupe has a special significance for me. The image depicts Our Lady as pregnant with Jesus and praying to God. She has come to the people with compassion, proclaiming the reality of the One True God and giving them words of tenderness as a Mother. She chose an ordinary, humble man as her messenger, a man of little account due to his lowliness. In our religious consecration, we Parish Visitors strive to live with an awareness of God dwelling in us, keeping that strong union with Him as He fills us with His Life, and praying to Him throughout the day with a spirit of faith in all that we do just as Our Lady of Guadalupe holds

Jesus within her while lifting her mind and heart to God. At the same time, we are going out proclaiming the greatness of God, the truth of His existence, and the streams of His Merciful Love flowing out from His Heart in the Church and her Sacraments just as Our Lady of Guadalupe came to bring her message of tender love to all peoples through St. Juan Diego. Like her, we hold humanity to our hearts, especially those wandering and lost, saying in our spiritual motherhood, "Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not in the crossing of my arms?" And just as Mary chose the lowly man, Juan Diego, to bring her message to the world, she also chooses us to live in that same humility and obedience so God can bear great fruit through us. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us! St. Juan Diego, pray for us!

Sources:

<https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/saints/our-lady-of-guadalupe-424>

<https://airmaria.com/2015/12/12/comforting-words-from-our-lady-of-guadalupe/>



Pray for Us — We Pray for You.



October 4 Sr. Mary Colette McCarthy, 1992
 4 Sr. Mary Bertille Beaudreau, 1992
 7 Sr. Mary Clarissa Albach, 1980
 9 Sr. Mary Hilda Broderick, 1954
 9 Sr. Mary Elise Stutzenberger, 2021
 11 Sr. Mary Theodora Timony, 1965
 12 Sr. Mary Rita Ready, 1998
 12 Sr. Mary Matilde Thompson, 2000
 14 Sr. Mary Concepta Deady, 1980
 17 Sr. Mary Irma Powers, 2005
 22 Sr. Mary John Bosco McTernan, 1943
 23 Sr. Mary Scholastica Werner, 1973
 25 Sr. Rose Aimee Tremblay, 2008
 28 Sr. Marion Adele Mitchell, 2008
 31 Sr. Mary Verda Mutz, 2006

November 2 Sr. Mary Lucian Keyes, 1977
 3 Sr. Mary Josephine Seitz, 1978
 10 Sr. Mary Martha Keville, 1953
 11 Sr. Mary Alberta Money Penny, 1979
 20 Sr. Mary Barbara Enright, 1964
 21 Sr. Mary Joan Halton, 1953
 23 Sr. Mary Melanie Quaid, 1969
 23 Sr. Mary Celeste Taylor, 1981
 25 Sr. Mary Ludivine Whitty, 2000

December 1 Sr. Mary Claret O'Melia, 1983
 5 Sr. Mary Horan, 2010
 7 Sr. Mary Suzanne Burke, 2009
 8 Sr. Mary Marcella Parnoff, 1994
 13 Sr. Mary Mercedes Cernich, 1984
 14 Sr. Mary Grata O'Donnell, 1961
 14 Sr. Mary Elaine Blais, 1986
 16 Sr. Mary Elizabeth Brady, 1959
 16 Sr. Mary Zita Stack, 1962
 28 Sr. Mary Lydia Mullen, 1966
 28 Sr. Jeanne Marie Dufour, 1988
 30 Sr. Mary Helen Pfundner, 1997



OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE

By Sister Carole Marie PVM

When the Lord took His Mother home into His eternal light and love, it was not to separate her from us but to give her the capacity to visit and help His children worldwide.

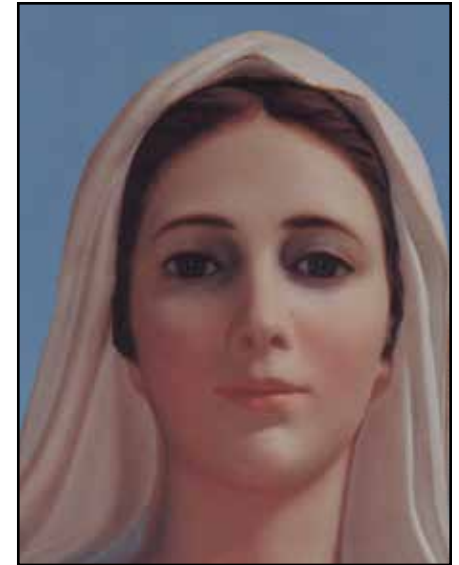
Medjugorje in Croatia is one of the places she has visited and encouraged her children. The location is significant because it is where the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand started WWI in 1914. Our Blessed Mother began appearing to six children ages 10 to 17 on June 24, 1981, and up to the present, she still occasionally communicates her messages to them. The Church has allowed pilgrimages to the shrine, and we Sisters were blessed to have such generous benefactors who have provided for four of us to visit Medjugorje. What was it like?



Sister Maria Arlene and I joined a group pilgrimage conducted by St. Benedict Tours with Father Glenn Sudano, CFR, serving as the chaplain, in 2022. From the time we set foot in Medjugorje to the time we left, we experienced the palpable presence of our Blessed Mother. We could not deny her motherly presence and an atmosphere of profound peace.

In her messages to the young people, she always emphasized being bearers of God’s peace and, therefore, being continually given over to prayer. Here is a sample message:

“Today, I am with you in a special way, and I bring you my motherly blessing of peace. I pray for you, and I intercede for you before God so that you may understand that each of you is a bearer of peace. You cannot have peace if your heart is not at peace with God. That is why little children pray, pray, pray because prayer is the foundation of your peace. Open your heart and give time to God so that he will be your friend. When true friendship with God is realized, no storm can destroy it.” (June 25, 1997).



I could not climb the mountain, but Sister Maria Arlene went on our behalf to the place where Our Lady appeared and gave powerful messages to the children. Sister represented each of us, our families and friends, and all our concerns to Our Lady.

The Church authority has not yet made a definitive statement on the authenticity of the apparitions because Our Blessed Mother is still giving messages at times to the now-adult visionaries. At the same time, “In April 1991, this Commission officially accepted Medjugorje as a place of prayer and authorized it as a place of worship. Private pilgrimages are authorized there. On August 21, 1996, Joaquin Navarro Valls, the spokesman for the Holy See, made the position of Rome explicit: ‘You cannot say people cannot go there until it has been proven false. This has not been said, so anyone can go if they want.’ (CNS Publication, August 21, 1996). ‘When Catholic faithful goes anywhere, they are entitled

to spiritual care, so the Church does not forbid priests to accompany lay organized trips to Medjugorje, in Bosnia-Herzegovina,' he added."

"Since June 25, 1981, more than 20 million pilgrims have come to this little village to pray and experience conversion, making Medjugorje one of the most frequented sanctuaries in the entire world." (Medjugorje, the 90s by Sister Emmanuel).



Whoever is in the night of sin,
let him cast his eyes on the moon,
let him implore Mary.

-Pope Innocent III



Slanslaw Gurba CC BY-SA 4.0

OUR LADY OF DIVINE REVELATION

By Mother Maria Catherine, PVMI

The ravages of World War II could be seen in all of the major cities of Europe: death and destruction were everywhere! Buildings, cities, lives destroyed, displaced, forever traumatized!

It is often that the exterior damage of war that is decried and made much of. However, the much more serious ravage of war is the spiritual damage: loss of faith, despair, discouragement, hopelessness, the interior woundedness that this brings to each heart affected by such horrors!

One of the “casualties” of World War II was a man by the name of Bruno Cornacchiola, from Italy. Bruno was a baptized Catholic, fought in the war, and lost his faith. Returning home to his family he forbade his wife, a practicing Catholic, from practicing her faith and allowing the children to practice, as well. Then, Bruno became a Seventh-Day Adventist.

On April 12, 1947, Bruno took his children to a park and while they played he was busily writing a talk he would give that evening denouncing the Catholic Church and the Pope. He even bought a dagger with which he was going to kill the Pope.

However, Our Lady intervened! She appeared to his children, first, in a cave in the park known as the Tre Fontane (Three Fountains). Becoming aware that his children were nowhere to be seen, Bruno searched for them and found them kneeling in the cave. The children were saying: “Oh, what a beautiful Lady!” Suddenly, Bruno also saw the beautiful Lady, who said to him: “I am the Virgin of the Revelation. You are persecuting me – enough of it now! Enter into the sheepfold, the holy court of heaven on earth.”

She also asked Bruno to go to see Pope Pius XII, with this message: “My body could not decay and did not decay. My Son and the angels took me to Heaven.” It was at this time that the Pope had been asking for a confirmation of how to define the dogma of the Assumption.

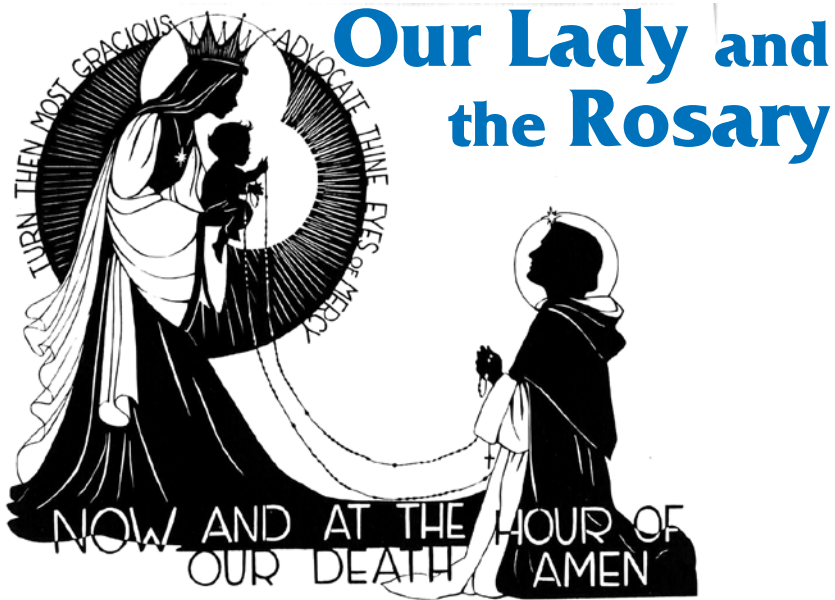
The apparition site was a place known for illicit relationships and activity. Sister Emanuela Edwards, a Missionary of Divine Revelation, said in an interview: “The grotto of Tre Fontane was a place of ‘sin’ because it was a place of illicit meetings and also where the remains of aborted children were found. Therefore, Our Lady said, ‘With this soil of sin, I will work great miracles for the conversion of unbelievers and sinners.’”

Bruno spent the remainder of his life speaking of Our Lady, defending the Pope, and drawing many people to the Catholic Church, which once he sought to destroy!

Today, we have great need of Our Lady of Divine Revelation! How many casualties of the war of relativism, secularism, and atheism do we have in our midst? How many of our Catholic people have left the Church? How many children are not evangelized, baptized, or catechized? How many children are aborted, and how much child abuse do we see rampant in our world today?

Let us pray to Our Lady of Divine Revelation to pour out grace upon our families, countries, and our world so that we return to a life lived for God alone!

Our Lady of Divine Revelation, pray for us, pray for our world!



Our Lady and the Rosary

It is said that Mary appeared to St. Dominic and encouraged him to promote the prayerful recitation of the Rosary to help combat the rampant Albigensian heresy in his day. By reflecting on the Mysteries of the Rosary, people could more readily recall the life of Christ. Invoking Our Lady's intercession would secure her aid in leading all to Jesus.

St. Pope John Paul II's Apostolic Letter on the Rosary, "Rosarium Virginis Mariae," in which he gave us the Luminous Mysteries, suggested that we contemplate the Life of Christ through the eyes of Mary while praying the Rosary.

In many of Our Lady's appearances, she has urged us to pray the Rosary for the conversion of sinners. Most notable is the appearance of Our Blessed Mother to three children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, where she referred to herself as Our Lady of the Rosary.

Fifty-three times during each five-decade Rosary, we pray,

"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus,

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."



The October issue of "Magnificat" featured saints who promoted the Rosary. The entry for October 24 was entitled "Our Lady of Lajas." Lajas means rock slabs. It recounts the discovery of an image in Columbia of the Blessed Mother holding the Child Jesus. Beneath them are St. Francis and St. Dominic. We see Jesus handing a friar's cord to St. Francis, and Mary is presenting St. Dominic with the Rosary. According to the article, no one

knows how this image was imprinted on the stone. Its vibrant colors can still be seen in a large church built on the site.

Let us heed Our Lady's plea to pray the Rosary daily. She will surely lead us to a closer relationship with her Son.





PILGRIMAGES IN HONOR OF OUR LADY

by Sr. Dolores Marie, PVM



One way Our Blessed Mother is honored is by walking pilgrimages, an old tradition of loving sacrifice for Our Lady. Two of these pilgrimages, among many others, are to the shrines of Our Lady of Champion and Our Lady of Czestochowa.

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion (formerly called Our Lady of Good Help) is in Champion, Wisconsin, where, in 1859, Our Lady appeared to Adele Brise and told her to catechize the children in the area. It is the only Church-approved apparition in the United States. Yearly, there is a "Walk to Mary" pilgrimage, beginning at the National Shrine of St. Joseph in Wisconsin and going 21 miles to the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. The photo shows some of the pilgrims on their way.



Another well-known pilgrimage is the Polish Walking Pilgrimage celebrating the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother. Beginning in Great Meadows, New Jersey, the walk is nearly 60 miles long. It lasts four days and three nights, culminating in Mass for the feast of the Assumption at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

Masses and Confessions occur during the pilgrimage, and the pilgrims camp out at state parks and farmlands at night. Pilgrims traveling from other directions also walk to the Shrine and meet this group for the feast day Mass on August 15.

May Our Lady bless all those who offer this sacrifice in her honor!

*"The Motherhood of Mary
in the order of grace continues
uninterruptedly... Taken up into
heaven she did not lay aside this
saving office, but by her manifold
intercession continues to bring us
the gifts of eternal salvation."*

(CCC #969. Citing Lumen Gentium) #62)



OUR LADY OF ZEITOUN

By Sister Mary Josita, PVM I

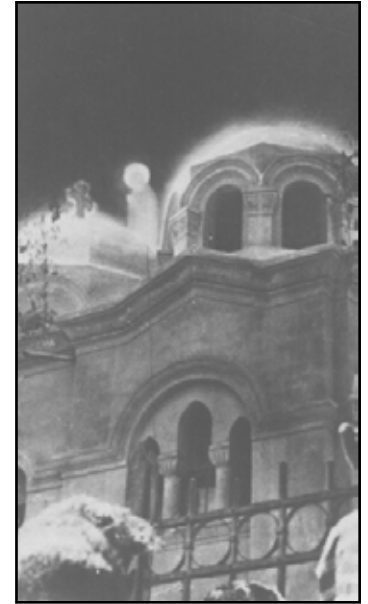
One of the most remarkable apparitions of our Blessed Mother took place in Egypt in 1968 and lasted for three years.

A Coptic believer named Tawfik Kahlil Ibrahim intended to build a hotel in the area where it was believed that the Holy Family rested on their way to Egypt. He said Our Lady appeared to him in a dream and asked that he build a Church in her honor. She told him that a miracle would take place there in the future. St. Mary's Church was built and modeled in miniature on the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

A Muslim mechanic, Farouk Atwa, first observed what he thought was a woman about to jump from the dome of a Coptic Church across from where he was working. He pointed in her direction and went to call someone to help the woman. The first apparition lasted about an hour. The following week, she appeared again and several more times, always at night. Sometimes, she was alone. At other times, she had the baby Jesus in her arms, and still others, with St. Joseph and the Child Jesus at about twelve years old. Throughout the apparitions, thousands saw the woman who appeared luminous and larger than life. At one point, the government even ordered a blackout to determine if someone was projecting the image. Without other light in the area, the image only appeared brighter.

Those who saw her were Muslims, Jews, Coptic Orthodox Christians, and non-believers. Among those thousands was then-President Gamal Abdel Nasser. The image was photographed and even appeared on local television stations.

The mechanic who first observed her was due to have his index finger amputated the following day. He had already lost part of it, and what remained had become gangrenous. He pointed to the woman with that bandaged finger, and his finger was restored and completely healed. Many other miracles were reported. People with paralysis or polio, who were blind and mute, or who had asthma, among others, were healed.



Although Mary did not speak in any of the apparitions, her message is one of peace. Many also saw several doves on many occasions. Our Lady blessed the people assembled, sometimes carrying an olive branch, and seemed to look at each one.

Every year, on April 2, the Church celebrates the apparition. Thousands of believers gather to honor Mary and to seek her blessing and intercession.

"Blessed are you, O Mary, the ever-lighted lamp."
– St. Cyril of Alexandria

"Blessed are you, O Mary, the heaven-bearer of the Divinity."
– St. Ephrem the Syrian

"Blessed are you, O Mary, who is more honored than the Cherubim and more glorified than the Seraphim."
– St. John Chrysostom

"Blessed is our land, and blessed is our Holy Church, which the Blessed Virgin has chosen from all parts of the world to appear in, in a very special and unprecedented manner."
– Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria.
(Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church)

*Like Our Lady,
the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate
strive to do all they do*



*These words are part of our vows and of our lives.
Could they be part of yours as well?*

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Please consider passing this magazine on to a friend or relative.