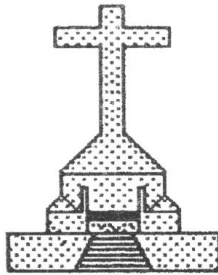


NUMBER 246 : DECEMBER 2011 : FREE

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST



[www.medjugorjene.co.uk](http://www.medjugorjene.co.uk)

## OUR MINISTRY

To spread the messages of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus,  
given through the visionaries in Medjugorje.

**PEACE CONVERSION**

**FAITH PRAYER FASTING**

**OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE  
PRAY FOR US**



**EVENING OF PRAYER  
IN HONOUR OF THE FEAST OF  
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

*Led by Fr Martin Morris*

**THURSDAY 8TH DECEMBER**

**Beginning at 7.00pm**

**ROSARY : HOLY MASS : ADORATION**

*(Refreshments afterwards)*

**ST ALOYSIUS CHURCH  
5 PRINCE CONSORT ROAD  
HEBBURN**

*(Nr Hebburn Metro Station)*

**PLEASE NOTE**

Fr Ciaran McDonnell will be celebrating  
an **Hour Of Grace** on Thursday 8th December 2011  
see page 5 for details

## OUR LADY'S MESSAGE

### Given 25th November 2011

Dear Children,

Today I desire to give you hope and joy. Everything that is around you, little children, leads you towards worldly things but I desire to lead you towards a time of grace, so that through this time you may be closer to my Son, that He can lead you towards His love and eternal life, for which every heart yearns. You, little children, pray, and may this time for you, be one of grace for your soul. Thank you for having responded to my call.

#### *Fr Ciaran's reflection on this month's message*

**T**his month's message begins with Mary's desire to give us **hope and joy**. In life we either desire that which is of great worth or that which is worthless.

We have many hopes in our hearts but the greatest of all hopes is the **hope of redemption, the hope of eternal life**. Mary leads us to her Son, so that He in turn may lead us to desire His love and eternal life. In Jesus our hope is not deceptive but real for our God is faithful to His word and promises.

**Joy**, a fruit of the Spirit, a fruit of

love (in the Old Testament the joy of the Lord was seen as the strength of God's people and in the New Testament, joy at the birth of Jesus our Lord and Saviour) was a joy to be shared by the whole people

#### **I DESIRE TO LEAD YOU TO A TIME OF GRACE**

**M**ary desires to lead us towards a time of grace. This very season of Advent is seen as a time of grace for the church, and for the world, when we are reminded of the Christ child, who came once in the flesh at Bethlehem, and comes now to every true believer who opens

his or her heart to allow Jesus to be born again in their hearts and souls today. The same Christ who came once in the flesh and comes today will also come again in glory at the end of time, not wrapped in swaddling clothes but in splendour and glory for all to see.

### WHAT IS THIS TIME OF GRACE THAT MARY SPEAKS OF?

**F**irstly grace is a **personal thing** and a relationship between God and mankind. Paul wrote to the early Christians to remind them that God's grace has been revealed. The grace he writes about is the very person of our Lord Jesus Christ, the mystery of Christ that was hidden for many years is now revealed

John writes we must not love this **passing world**. Worldly things do not last forever but we know and believe in **God's love for us that is everlasting**. This is what we call **uncreated grace**, God's everlasting love for us and his constant affection towards us.

Then we can speak of His **created grace** which is being held, supported and sustained by God's love when all else seems to fail in difficult and test-

ing times in our lives. But that which really changes our hearts and lives is what we call **sanctifying grace**.

It is our response to God in love and obedience. The more we respond in loving obedience to the call of God in our lives the more we will yearn for God and for the good things that our Father in heaven promises through His Son, Jesus.

### PRAY AND MAY THIS TIME FOR YOU BE ONE OF GRACE FOR YOUR SOUL

**I**t is both a gift and a grace to be able to pray always and not lose heart. Finding time for prayer means finding time for God, it means finding time '**for a time of grace**' that God alone can bestow upon us.

If we are having difficulty in finding time for prayer, time for God, in our daily lives how then can we experience the fruit of deep prayer from the heart which brings about conversion and peace in ones life?

In the New Translation of the Mass we now say, before receiving Holy Communion, ***Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof***

*but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

Today in the Middle East and other parts of our world we can see that the ‘**Soul**’ of many nations have need for both healing and saving. The three powers of the soul are ‘**Memory,**’ ‘**Intellect,**’ and the ‘**Will.**’

So much grace is needed to heal the memories, the scars and wounds that war and hatred leave behind in the souls of people.

So much grace is needed if people are to be enlightened and educated to want peace. To understand, they must stand under the light of what has been revealed in Jesus if true peace is to grow and flourish in our world today.

And, so much grace is needed for nations to put God’s will first in place of their own if they are to walk once again in the light of the Lord and His saving presence.

Let no one this coming Christmas be a stranger or ignorant of the message proclaimed first by the angels from on high, “*Peace on earth to those who enjoy God’s favour.*” God’s favour, God’s grace is a condition for true peace in our lives.

We who have been so blessed to receive this hope and joy cannot and should not keep it to ourselves. The hope and joy Mary speaks of is for us first to receive it and then share that hope and joy with others as a time of grace.

Why not invite a member of your family or someone you know who may have wandered away from the life and prayer of the church to come with you once again and receive the grace of God which has appeared and made salvation possible for the whole human race?

I wish you all a very blessed and grace filled Christmas.

*Fr Ciaran McDonnell*

*All of us at the Medjugorje Centre also wish you,  
our readers and your families and friends,  
a very blessed and grace filled Christmas*

**MEDJUGORJE CENTRE NORTH EAST**

[www.medjugorjene.co.uk](http://www.medjugorjene.co.uk)



**MEDJUGORJE  
AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**

*led by Fr Ciaran McDonnell*

There will be no afternoon of prayer in January

**5th February 2012**

**4.00pm to 5.30pm**

*Rosary : Holy Mass  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament*

**ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH  
WEALCROFT  
LEAM LANE, FELLING,  
GATESHEAD**



**HOUR OF GRACE**

*Led by Fr Ciaran McDonnell*

**8th DECEMBER 2011**

**Beginning at 11.00am with  
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**



**and followed by  
Holy Mass at 12 Midday**

**ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH  
WEALCROFT  
LEAM LANE, FELLING,  
GATESHEAD**

## A MOVIE OF LOVE

by *James Caviezel*

In February, 2010, James Caviezel made his sixth pilgrimage to Medjugorje, and afterwards travelled to Vienna where he gave an interview to Christian Stelzer for the magazine *Oase des Friedens*. The following is taken from the Croatian translation, published in the latest edition of the Medjugorje parish magazine, *Glasnik mira*.

• *Jim, can you tell us, how did you hear about Medjugorje?*

My wife came to Medjugorje while I was in Ireland, shooting the movie “Monte Cristo.” Things were not that great, although I worked seven days a week. One day she called me, and I could notice in her voice that there was a change. She started talking about Medjugorje, and how one of visionaries was about to come to Ireland. I interrupted her by saying: “Listen, I really have some serious stuff to do. I am not able now to go into anything with any of the visionaries.” Besides that, I thought that as Catholic I didn’t have to necessarily accept Lourdes or Fatima or Medjugorje. That is how I thought. I remember that in the Catholic school I attended earlier in my life, when we heard about Medjugorje we were thrilled, but we soon found out that the

local bishop was objecting and considered the apparitions to be false, and so we lost interest immediately.

The visionary Ivan Dragicevic came to Ireland, and I knew straightaway that I would not have time for him, since I had to work all the time. One day my movie partner Jim Harris wasn’t feeling well, so I got the day off, and I was able to attend an apparition. I stood at the very back of the packed church and I wasn’t quite sure about what was going on. But when the man next to me in his wheelchair fell down on his knees at the time of apparition, I was deeply moved. I thought, This handicapped man, despite all of his pains, is kneeling down on the cold stone floor, and he is praying! Today I realize only God could have known me so well. He knew where exactly He needed to touch me to get my attention!

Although it might sound strange, on the following Sunday I got another day off, and I was able to meet with Ivan, which was my wife’s special wish. During the time of the apparition I knelt close to him, and I said in my heart, “Okay, here I am. I am ready. Do with me what you want.” In the same moment I felt as if

something was fulfilling me. It was very simple, and yet unique. When I got up, tears were running down my cheeks, and I started to cry with all of my heart.

Ivan told me, “Jim, man always finds time for what he loves. If somebody who doesn’t have any time finds a girlfriend and falls in love with her, he will always find time for her. People don’t have time for God because they do not love Him.” And he continued, “God is inviting you to pray with the heart.” I asked him: “How am I supposed to do that?” “By starting to pray”, he replied. In that moment the doors of my heart were opened. I couldn’t have even dreamed of that being possible. We went to a restaurant, and I must admit that the wine and food I had was never as tasteful as on that particular night.

Something started to change within me. My wife wanted to teach me on many occasions in the past how to pray the rosary, but I always refused to learn. Now I wanted to pray, but I did not know exactly how to do that. I just felt that my heart was opened. One morning as I was driving to work, I said to the driver who was taking me for filming every day, “I don’t know how you feel about this, but I would like to start to pray the rosary.” To my amazement, he

just replied, “Okay, let’s pray.” In the warm light of love that I felt within me, I was able to realize where I really was, how many temptations I had, what my feelings were, how weak I was, and how strictly I judged other people.

• ***When did you come to Medjugorje for the first time?***

After filming was completed, and that was in Malta, I decided to come to Medjugorje. When I was 20, an inner voice would say to me that I should become an actor. When I spoke about that with my father, he used to say, “If God wants something of you it is for you to become a priest. Why would He want you to become an actor?” I did not understand either at that time.

Again, I asked myself the same question, does God want me to become an actor, to make lots of money and to become rich? I was aware of the imbalance in the world between those who have a lot and those who barely have enough for survival, and I knew that was not what God wanted. And was I to make a choice to seek wealth, which does not provide permanent happiness, or to serve God who wants to guide my life?

At that time Medjugorje reminded me of Bethlehem and I thought, just as Jesus was born in a small place, in the same

way the Mother of God is appearing in a poor village in between hills. Those four days I spent in Medjugorje at that time were my turning point. In the very beginning I was still amazed at how much people prayed in Medjugorje. Everything reminded me of basketball camp. There you do not play just one match a day, but continually. The same as in school where you do not read just once a day, but always, repeatedly.

In those first days in Medjugorje I felt inner unrest while I was praying, because I was not used to praying that much, and I was asking God to help me. After four days the only thing I wanted to do was to pray. Whenever I prayed I felt connected with God. That was an experience I would wish for every Catholic! Maybe as a child, I felt something similar and I forgot about it. Now it was given to me again.

The same experience continued back at home. In our family we live the sacraments together. As we drive the kids to school we pray the rosary together. Sometimes when I don't start to pray my son starts first.

When I came to Medjugorje for the second time, I expected to have those first, initial experiences again, but it was different. After lunch one day, some pil-

grims invited me to go with them to visit Fr Jozo Zovko in Siroki Brijeg. That was also my wife's desire. I didn't know Fr Jozo personally, but I was very much impressed by all the stories I had heard about him. I met with him. He laid his hands on my shoulders. I laid mine on his shoulders. He laid his hands on my head. I laid mine on his head. In that moment I felt the words within me: "I love you, my brother. This man loves God." Fr. Jozo spontaneously turned towards his interpreter and asked her who I was and said that he wanted to talk to me. That was the beginning of a lasting friendship.

That was the time immediately after we finished shooting the "Passion," and around that time, I was able to experience all conflicting forces within me regarding that movie.

**• *Can you tell us why you felt that way, and what was the connection between that movie and Medjugorje?***

You are probably familiar with expression "to cross the Rubicon." That means it is not possible to go back, you reach the point of no return. The "Passion" was such a Rubicon for me.

When shooting started, I was 33 years old, just like Jesus. I always wondered if I was even worthy to play Jesus. Ivan

Dragicevic encouraged me and said that God does not always necessarily choose the best, which is something he sees in his own situation. If it wasn't for Medjugorje, I wouldn't have ever agreed to take that part because it was in Medjugorje that my heart opened to prayer and to the sacraments. If I wanted to play Jesus, I knew I needed to be very close to Him. Every day I went to Confession, and I attended Eucharistic Adoration. Mel Gibson was coming to Holy Mass as well with the condition that Holy Mass was in Latin. That was good because in that way I learned Latin.

There were always new temptations from which I needed to defend myself, and in those inner battles I used to feel great inner peace – for instance, in the scene where the Mother of God approaches me, and I say to her: “Look, I make everything anew.” We repeated that scene four times, and I felt every time that I was standing too much in the forefront. Then somebody hit the cross, and my left shoulder was dislocated. Due to that sudden and sharp, intense pain, I lost balance and I fell under the weight of the cross. I hit the dusty ground with my face, and blood gushed forth suddenly from my nose and mouth. I repeated the words Jesus said to His mother: “Look, I make everything anew.” My shoulder was in in-

credible pain when I took the cross again and I felt how precious it was. At that point, I stopped acting, and you could only see Jesus. He came forward as to the answer to my prayer: “I want people to see you, Jesus, not me!”

Thanks to continuous prayer of the rosary – I can't begin to tell how many rosaries I said during the time of shooting – I was able to experience a special grace. I knew I wasn't supposed to use bad language. I knew I couldn't be rude if I wanted to say something to members of the crew. Most of them did not know about Medjugorje. They were all great actors, and we were lucky to get them. But how was I to bring Medjugorje to them, if not by my own life? Medjugorje for me means to live the sacraments and be in unity with the Church. Thanks to Medjugorje, I started to believe that Jesus was really present in the Eucharist and that He forgives my sins. Through Medjugorje I experienced how the rosary is a powerful prayer and what a gift we have when we attend Holy Mass every day.

How could I help other people to increase their faith in Jesus? I realized that this can only happen if Jesus is present in me through the Eucharist, and so people would see Jesus through my life. When we were shooting the scene of

the Last Supper I had an inner pocket made in my clothes where I placed some relics of saints and a relic of Christ's Cross.

I had strong desire for Jesus to be really present, and so I asked the priest to expose the Blessed Sacrament. At first, he did not want to do that, but I was persistent in asking because I was positive that people would recognize Christ more if I myself was looking at Him. The priest was standing with the Blessed Sacrament in his hands next to the cameraman, and together with him, he approached me. When people watch the movie and see a shimmer in my eyes, they are not aware that they really see Jesus, a reflection of the consecrated Host, in my eyes. The same was in the scene of Crucifixion. The priest was there; he held the Blessed Sacrament in his hands, and I prayed all the time.

The biggest challenge in the movie was not, as I originally thought, to memorize all the texts in Latin, Armenian or Hebrew, but all the physical efforts I needed to overcome. During the last scene, my shoulder was sprained, and it became dislocated every time somebody hit the cross. While we filmed the scenes of the scourging, I was twice caught by those whips and I had a 14cm

wound on my back. My lungs were full of fluid, and I had pneumonia. Chronic sleep deprivation should be added to that, since for months I had to get up at 3.00 in the morning because make-up would take almost eight hours.

Another special challenge was the cold weather, temperatures hardly above zero, which was especially difficult to endure in the Crucifixion scene. My whole costume was made of one single piece of light fabric. While we were shooting the last scene, the clouds were very low and lightning struck the cross to which I was tied. Suddenly everything was silent around me, and I felt my hair standing on edge. About 250 people who were around me saw my whole body being illuminated, and they all saw fire on the left and on the right side of me. Many were shocked at what they saw.

I know that the "Passion" is a movie of love, maybe one of the greatest of such movies. Jesus today is the subject of many controversies, more than ever before. There are so many factors that threaten this created world, but faith in Jesus is the source of joy. I think **God is calling us in a special way in this time, and we need to answer that call with our whole heart and whole body.**

## FR JOZO TO SERVE IN ZAGREB

Fr. Jozo Zovko relocates from Austria to Croatia.

From December or early next year he will live in the Franciscan monastery in Zagreb.

*From a report given by [www.medjugorje.tv](http://www.medjugorje.tv)*

**B**efore long Fr Jozo Zovko will again be able to greet his Franciscan brothers in Croatia. After almost three years in Austria and on the island of Badija Fr Jozo (parish priest of St James in the early days of the apparitions) will soon relocate to Zagreb, the Croatian capital. Fr Jozo happily accepted the relocation that most likely will take place in December.

Though Fr Jozo has full priestly faculties and may administer the sacraments like every other priest, he has accepted his superiors' wish that he does not give interviews or talks in public about the apparitions in Medjugorje or Our Lady's messages until the Vatican Commission on Medjugorje has arrived at a conclusion.

"Fr Jozo doesn't take it as a punishment. He says he understands. He didn't say he was happy with it, but he understands. He knows that it is the right thing to do", one source tells *Medjugorje Today*.

Known for his unusual charisms, inspired preaching and prophetic speech, Fr Jozo has been much sought out by Medjugorje pilgrims ever since the early 1980's. For the past three years, though, only very little has been heard of the world famous priest.

Overburdened with work, Fr Jozo sought and received from his Order a sabbatical year in February 2009. He spent the next six months in charge of the rebuilding of the historical Franciscan convent on the island of Badija off the Croatian coast. Fr Jozo also helped the workers and enjoyed to cultivate vegetables and fruits in the rich convent garden.

With winters slowing down the renovation of the convent and without normal living quarters (Fr Jozo had just a small room with very little comfort on Badija) Father arrived at the Franciscan monastery close to Graz, Austria. Since then Fr Jozo has been going back and forth between

Graz and Badija, according to seasons. Though this brought him back to the European mainland, it did not bring the pilgrims back to him. The three years out of public sight have been quiet and revitalising for him.

“He did not want to bother his brothers at the monastery who had greeted him so warmly, and so he did everything he could to stay out of sight. He

**T**his is wonderful news for those of us who have been incredibly fortunate to have experienced a day at Siroki Brijeg when Fr Jozo spoke to Medjugorje pilgrims. Sadly since he has been “off the scene” for a while he has been missed greatly and so it is really good to hear about him once more. We pray he will be happy at Zagreb. (Editor)

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## REST FOR YOUR SOULS

**M**edjugorje is bright, like always. The light that it diffuses is quite surprising, to illuminate things, people, hearts, even in the most hidden parts; to brighten up the night, so that it might not instil fear.

Here Mary shows Jesus, as she did in Cana of Galilee, where she pointed Him out to the servants, to change that water into wine: “our water” can also be changed into good wine. Here Mary shows the Son, who is the

celebrated Holy Mass with his brothers but also used this special time to pray and he took classes of theology that he took when he was young but now after all these years it was even more interesting, he loved it. Classes like Church history, Christian mysticism and other subjects” a well-informed source tells *Medjugorje Today*.

Good News beyond our imagination.

After a long journey, Jesus seems to welcome us into the parish church of Medjugorje, to the evening mass, to unexpectedly say: “Courage, do not be afraid, because I do not look at your faults, but rather, at your willingness to welcome my love. Forget yourself and look at Me, I am Life, and you will live”.

You feel a new found friendship with

Jesus and it seems to whisper: “I am near you, I love you, I am your aid; mine is not a form of human help, but aid that comes from God almighty, who always lovingly provides, without ever forgetting his creatures... and the soul is filled with hope and gratitude”.

Here everything is dressed in newness, even prayer. In the “Our Father” the word *today* strikes us in a new way, when we ask the Father: Give us this day *our daily bread*, and in the “Hail Mary” the word *now* is striking, when we ask the Mother: *pray for us sinners, now...* And so present actions acquire a new importance, even the most humble ones, even the smallest ones, for which we ask the Father and the Mother for help, to joyfully experience them at every moment, as Mary asks us to do in her messages.

Daily life also becomes dressed in new things, it acquires the look of a “game of love” arranged from the Heavens, in which we are all invited to joyfully play, where the Heavens and the earth play with us, to everyone’s delight. We come to understand that everything is a gift, not a per-

sonal conquest: when we see and experience that everything we possess is all gratuitousness. And we are surprised by the great Gift: Jesus. Here you can see your poverty dressed in light, and you feel happy.

Now my journey in this blessed land is about to come to an end and as I get ready to return to my country, I feel a profound sense of gratitude to Mary, who has been distributing boundless graces from this land for thirty years, much to our joy and the joy of the Heavens, the earth and the entire universe. Medjugorje appears like an immense gift from God, given through Mary, for the salvation of the whole of humanity.

### **Learn from Me**

On one occasion Jesus saw that his friends were worried about the trials they had to face continuously, such as misunderstandings on the part of people, difficulties in relationships, poverty, and uncertainty as regards the future. He noticed that they were very sad, to the extent that they no longer even noticed His presence, He who is the Lord of life, whom nothing escapes, who owns joy.

And so He thought about helping them, unveiling the secret of happiness to them, and he said to them: ***“Learn from Me for I am gentle and lowly of heart and you will find rest for your souls”*** (Mt 11:29). He did not say that they had to fulfil great deeds *to find rest for their souls*, that is, to be happy, things that they would not have been able to fulfil, but that they had to be humble like Him, learning from Him. And he also led by example, loving continuously, in humility, to the point of the cross. He also taught them that His love is humble like that of the Father, otherwise it is not love, it is something else.

In the Bible we read that the people near God are the humble ones. In chapter 12 of the Book of Numbers, we read: ***“Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all the men on the face of the earth”***. Moses ***“spoke to God”*** face to face ***“and he saw his face, not like the other prophets, to whom God spoke only in dreams or visions”*** perhaps because he was the most humble of all of them.

It seems almost as though humility is essential for Love, that one cannot do

without the other; it seems as though humility is capable of attracting Love, unlike pride, that fears it and pushes it away. This is why a humble heart is protected against attacks from the evil one. And so the humble ***“shall not be afraid of the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness nor of the destruction that lays waste at noontday”*** (Psalm 90).

And as I contemplate God’s almighty humility, my mind wanders to the humble Mary, who was so pleasing to God that He made her the Mother of His Creature.

**How great** this “smallness” of yours made You, oh Mary, to the extent of containing Your Lord, to the extent of embracing all of us.

**Now, Jesus**, we know that You ask us to learn from You, but you know well that we are not so capable of doing so. And so, take us by the hand and help us to become like You, who are the Humble one, who are Love, who are Joy, and thus we will be able to find rest in our lives, like You promised us, and with us, perhaps many others. *Pietro Squassabia*

## Two fish and a bit of bread

by Pietro Squassabia - Echo of Mary

There is so much hunger and thirst in man today. Hunger for truth, hunger for love... And thirst, so much thirst. There is a deep need for a fullness that might fill the abyssal emptiness created within us by a hedonist, selfish, excessively materialistic world that is devoid of substance. There is an existential need for true nourishment, that might prove to be a form of support for the weakness of a humanity that is constantly on the run, a humanity that is pursuing false goals: unreal images of a virtual life that man has built for himself. **Without God.** And we know, weakness makes us fragile, vulnerable...

**There is only one food that is capable of giving man strength,** that inner energy necessary to face the challenges posed by each day, to fight the evil that threatens us, to remain firmly standing when the winds blowing against us attempt to knock us or at least slow down our walk through life. Jesus knows well where to find it: **“You give them something to eat”** (Luke 9:11), he says to the disciples; and therefore to us.

But how? What can man have before a multitude of men needing to be fed?

Almost nothing. Only **two fish and a bit of bread.** Only a small fruit of his own daily commitment, of sacrifice. Nothing else. Could it ever suffice?

But Jesus continues: **“Bring them here!”** And as though it were the most normal thing, he takes what little we can give him and he multiplies it enormously so that the crowds might have something to eat; so that everyone might get the strength necessary to remain in life.

**Christ is our food...**but it is also true to say that to give himself to everyone, He needs us to do our part, as we bring the bread and wine to him on the altar, that God then transforms into the **food of eternal life.**

**This is what the Virgin Mary asks us to do in Medjugorje.** To make our life, which is *made of very little*, but that is precious, available to her, so that She may give it to her Son: in his hands our *little* will be multiplied to a quantity that is sufficient to feed the multitude of souls that are awaiting the good food of faith and hope in the universe, to live in charity - **“...I want you to comprehend that God has chosen each one of**

*you, in order to use you in His great plan for the salvation of mankind. You are not able to comprehend how great your role is in God's design...*" (Message of 25th Jan 1987).

These considerations should put a question in our hearts to which we should answer sincerely: **when we go to Medjugorje do we only want to ask, receive...** or do we feel called to also give something of what we have? Are we those who only open our hands only to

obtain something, or are we ourselves those *outstretched hands* that Mary often asks us to be in her messages? Hands outstretched not to donate some loose change, but to offer our very life... Only in this way can God's plan truly come about, the plan that God entrusted to the Queen of Peace. Only in this way can hungry humanity receive the good bread that might preserve it in life. Only in this way can God make a living Eucharist of us  
*Pietro Squassabia*



## MESSAGE TO MIRJANA SOLDO 2nd November 2011

**D**ear children, the Father has not left you to yourselves. Immeasurable is His love, the love that is bringing me to you, to help you to come to know Him, so that, through my Son, all of you can call Him 'Father' with the fullness of heart; that you can be one people in God's family.

However, my children, do not forget that you are not in this world only for yourselves, and that I am not calling you here only for your sake. Those who follow my Son think of the brother in Christ as of their very selves and they do not know selfishness. That is why I desire that you be the light of my Son, that to all those who have not come to know the Father - to all those who wander in the darkness of sin, despair, pain and loneliness – you may illuminate the way and that, with your life, you may show them the love of God.

I am with you. If you open your hearts, I will lead you. Again I am calling you: pray for your shepherds. **Thank you.**

## I saw

I saw a peaceful and smiling face. An open and friendly gaze; by now he's at home in Medjugorje. You'll quite easily meet him there, among the pilgrims, at the service of confessions or in the celebration of the Eucharist. Father Pietro Zorza is, like many others besides, a direct witness to these many years of grace.



To mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the apparitions of the Virgin, he published a book that contains numerous testimonies; a little journey through time and memories that span the sequence of images that fill the pages of the book:

“Over the years, Medjugorje has silently but inexorably invaded the whole world”, writes the Italian priest. “Over the last few years, I was able to be present, every two months, even during the war, to experience the grace that takes over everyone who goes there. I have seen bishops crying tears of joy, priests changing their lifestyle, taking an interest in a vocation that was almost quenched,

consoling crying sinners. I have seen atheists and nonbelievers find God, men and women of other religions embracing our faith, even political murderers offering themselves to life; I have seen entire families leave behind a pagan lifestyle and become domestic churches full of joy, faith, prayer and thanksgiving to Providence and the Virgin; I have seen the ill be healed, businessmen from all social classes be overturned by grace and choose a life of prayer; I have seen ill people who were condemned to death reacquire physical and moral health.

I have seen young people resume their walk towards holiness, prayer, penance, coming from all cities and towns in the world... An immense formation of pilgrims to follow Our Lady's appeals, accompanied by their priests, to allow themselves to be converted, overturned, sanctified by the gentle breeze that blows from the mountains of Medjugorje”.

(from: *Dear Mother, thanks for calling us*, by Pietro Zorza)

**MIDDLESBROUGH CENTRE FOR PEACE  
MEDJUGORJE EVENING**

**DECEMBER 9th 2011  
JANUARY 13th 2012  
7.30pm to 9.30pm**

*Rosary : Holy Mass : Talk : Witness*

**JOHN PAUL CENTRE  
55 GRANGE ROAD, MIDDLESBROUGH**

For further details please contact:  
Mrs Marie Bedingfield

Tel: 01642 530739

**\*THE MEDJUGORJE APOSTOLATE ANNUAL RETREAT\***  
**(Led by a priest from Medjugorje)**

From 6.30pm on Friday 27 January 2012 to 4pm on Sunday 29 January 2012  
at Emmaus Retreat Centre, West Wickham, near London. BR4 9HH.

**Residents with full board:** Shared room £118 per person, single room £128.

**Day attendance:** Saturday with lunch/without evening meal: £36.50

Saturday with lunch and evening meal: £46.50

Sunday: with lunch £36.50

To book or for further information contact: Paul Spencer

Tel 0116 2128175

pilgrimsmary@hotmail.com