



August 5th

What Are You Doing For Her Birthday?

By A Friend of Medjugorje

Special Statement

The Catholic Church has recognized and designated September 8th as the day to honor the birth of the Virgin Mary. By no means is that being usurped or encouraged to ignore. Rather, Our Lady in Medjugorje has purposely and clearly made it known that the actual date is August 5th. Therefore, honor Her on August 5th and respect the Church and its authority on September 8th. Mary is worthy of two days. God will blend the two days at the right time. We must pray and wait...

Mary has spoken on the apparitions and their approval and the Church's authority. The wisdom of Our Lady is clearly seen in the following message that She gave in 1986:

“One must follow the authority of the Church with certainty. Yet, before she expresses an opinion, it is necessary to advance spiritually, because she will not be able to express a judgement in a vacuum, but in a confirmation which presupposes growth of the child. First comes birth, followed by Baptism, then Confirmation. The Church comes to confirm him, who is born of God. We must walk and advance in the spiritual life, affected by these messages.”

A Friend of Medjugorje

August 5th
What Are You Doing
for Her Birthday?

by

A Friend of Medjugorje

By no means is Caritas intending to pre-empt the Church on the validity of the Apparitions. They are private revelation awaiting the Church's judgment. Because the Queen of Peace Apparitions are ongoing and not yet over, the Church has yet to rule on their authenticity. Caritas of Birmingham, the Community of Caritas and all associated with it, realize and accept that the final authority regarding the Queen of Peace Medjugorje Apparitions rests with the Holy See in Rome. We at Caritas, willingly submit to that judgment. Caritas of Birmingham and its mission is not connected to the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama. The Diocese of Birmingham's official position on Caritas is neutral and holds us as Catholics in good standing.

Published with permission from SJP Lic. COB.

© 2009, S.J.P. Lic. C.O.B.

© 2005, S.J.P. Lic. C.O.B.

© 2003, S.J.P. Lic. C.O.B.

© 2006, S.J.P. Lic. C.O.B.

© 2004, S.J.P. Lic. C.O.B.

© 2002, S.J.P. Lic. C.O.B.

For additional copies write:

Caritas of Birmingham

100 Our Lady Queen of Peace Drive

Sterrett, AL 35147 USA

Call 205-672-2000 press ext. 315 (24 hours a day)

See pages 39-40 for Pricing.

©SJP International Copyright. All rights reserved including international rights. No part of this booklet may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from Caritas who is licensed to use the material. Caritas of Birmingham, 100 Our Lady Queen of Peace Drive, Sterrett, Alabama 35147 USA. None of the mailing lists of Caritas or its entities, including electronic mailing lists, etc., are for sale, nor is permission given to use them in anyway, by anyone. There are no exceptions. All civil, criminal and interstate violations of law apply.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author of this book is also the author of the books Words From Heaven[®], How to Change Your Husband[™], I See Far[™], Look What Happened While You Were Sleeping[™], and other publications such as the *Words of the Harvesters* and the *Caritas of Birmingham Newsletter*. He has written more on Medjugorje than anyone in the world, producing life-changing writings and spiritual direction to countless numbers across the world, of all nationalities. He wishes to be known only as “A Friend of Medjugorje.” The author is not one looking in from the outside regarding Medjugorje, but one who is close to the events - many times, right in the middle of the events about which he has written; a first-hand witness.

Originally writing to only a few individuals in 1987, readership has grown to over 250,000 in the United States, with additional readers in over one hundred thirty foreign countries, who follow the spiritual insights and direction given through these writings.

The author, when asked why he signs only as “A Friend of Medjugorje,” stated:

“I have never had an ambition or desire to write. I do so only because God has shown me, through prayer, that He desires this of me. So from the beginning, when I was writing to only a few people, I prayed to God and promised I would not sign anything; that the writings would have to carry themselves and not be built on a personality. I prayed

that if it was God's desire for these writings to be inspired and known, then He could do it by His Will and grace and that my will be abandoned to it.

*“The Father has made these writings known and continues to spread them to the ends of the earth. These were Our Lord's last words before ascending: **“Be a witness to the ends of the earth.”** These writings give testimony to that desire of Our Lord to be a witness with one's life. It is not important to be known. It is important to do God's Will.”*

For those who require “ownership” of these writings by the author in seeing his name printed on this work in order to give it more credibility, we state that we cannot reconcile the fact that these writings are producing hundreds of thousands of conversions, if not millions through grace, and are requested worldwide from every corner of the earth. The author, therefore, will not take credit for a work that, by proof of the impact these writings have to lead hearts to conversion, have been Spirit-inspired with numbers increasing yearly, sweeping as a wave across the ocean. Indeed in this case, crossing every ocean of the earth. Our Lady gave this author a direct message for him through the visionary, Marija, of Medjugorje, in which Our Lady said to him to witness not with words but through humility. It is for this reason that he wishes to remain simply “A Friend of Medjugorje.”

— Caritas of Birmingham

Medjugorje

The Story in Brief

THE VILLAGE SEES THE LIGHT is the title of a story which “Reader’s Digest” published in February 1986. It was the first major news on a mass public scale that told of the Virgin Mary visiting the tiny village of Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina. At that time this village was populated by 400 families.

It was June 24, 1981, the Feast of John the Baptist, the proclaimer of the coming Messiah. In the evening, around 5:00 p.m., the Virgin Mary appeared to two young people, Mirjana Dragicevic* and Ivanka Ivankovic*. A little later, around 6:40 p.m. the same day, four more young people, Milka Pavlovic*, the little sister of Marija, Ivan Ivankovic, Vicka Ivankovic*, and Ivan Dragicevic saw the Virgin Mary. June 25, 1981, was the first day the six visionaries, Ivanka Ivankovic*, Mirjana Dragicevic*, Vicka Ivankovic*, Marija Pavlovic*, Ivan Dragicevic and Jakov Colo saw Our Lady, or the “Gospa,” on the hill. These six have become known as and remain “the visionaries.” These visionaries are not related to one another. Three of the six visionaries no longer see Our Lady on a daily basis. As of July 2009, the Virgin is still appearing everyday to the remaining three visionaries; that’s well over 12,820 apparitions. The supernatural event has survived all efforts of the Communists to put a stop to it,

* Names at the time of the apparitions, they are now married with last names changed.

many scientific studies, and even the condemnation by the local bishop; yet, the apparitions have survived, giving strong evidence that this is from God because nothing and no one has been able to stop it. For over twenty-eight years, the apparitions have proved themselves over and over and now credibility is so favorable around the world that the burden of proof that this is authentic has shifted from those who believe to the burden of proof that it is not happening by those opposed to it. Those against the apparitions are being crushed by the fruits of Medjugorje — millions and millions of conversions which are so powerful that they are changing and will continue to change the whole face of the earth.

See **mej.com** for more information.

Simple Daily Life

To anyone on the beach that day, they appeared as a normal family: a husband, a wife, and three little boys romping in the waves. No, there was nothing remarkable about them by appearance. Nothing would cause you to take a second look, as there was nothing special or out of the ordinary to draw your attention to them. As evening came closer, the husband and wife slowly drew away from the other swimmers, away from the shoreline, and led their little ones and a few friends further out into the water, until they were alone and people and voices could only be seen and heard from a distance. The object of this separation was privacy, for the wife and mother of this tiny, seemingly insignificant family was Marija Lunetti, one of the six visionaries of Medjugorje. The day was August 4, 1999, and she and her husband, Paolo, escaped from the endless demands of their life in Medjugorje for some time at the beach to enjoy a few uninterrupted days with each other and their boys. But no matter what they have planned or where they might be, when the clock strikes 6:40 p.m. each evening, they must be ready to receive and stand in attendance to none other than the Queen of Heaven Herself, Mary the Most Holy Virgin.

The beach was crowded that day. They had already looked around for a secluded spot for the apparition but could find none. This left only one alternative, which was to go further into the sea, taking them far enough away that not even curious eyes would be an intrusion. The water was so

shallow in parts that even going out a long distance, they were still in water less than knee deep. Marija and Paolo, with their friends, knelt down in the water and began to seriously pray the Rosary, while their sons stayed near. It was a sign of sorts that God is active in every part of our lives. Regardless of what we are doing, God is there. Even for a visionary, life goes on. The fact that daily life continues, without Marija making a big or false pretense, is what adds to make these apparitions more real and believable. Mary raised God's Son from a baby. There were many life experiences that may appear odd or funny, but life is life. Did Jesus not play with baby chicks, or play chase with friends? Did He not go swimming or have a pet, perhaps a goat, or make a wooden chariot in His Dad's workshop? Did He not step on ant beds and watch them scurry and did not all these things often bring a joy to Our Lady?

Marija and Paolo, of course, knew the situation was an odd one, and even Michele, Francesco, and Marco, the three sons of Marija and Paolo, were curious to know Our Lady's reaction when She appeared before their mother. To the astonishment and joy of them all, when Our Lady appeared in the apparition, She smiled with great delight, so much so that it was a smile, to a soft laugh. Seeing them all there, kneeling in the water, evidently was a funny scene. Paolo and Marija, with their three boys splashing around, perhaps reminded Our Lady of Jesus and His friends and some moments in Her earthly life. We will never know. It is a rare occasion for Our Lady to show this kind of emotion, but to Marija and the oth-

er visionaries, it is these moments with Our Lady that are the most endearing. When it happens, it is always an unexpected surprise. Soon after the apparition, it was time to head out of the water and begin the drive home. The next day promised to be a special one as well, for it was August 5th, Our Lady's birthday.

August 5, 1999 – A Day to Remember

The morning of Our Lady's birthday, a conversation took place in Marija's backyard between one of the Caritas community members, Marija, and a nun from a devout religious order. They were speaking about how Our Lady revealed August 5th as Her real birthday, and the one from our community said that one day the Church would change the celebration of Our Lady's birthday to this day. The little nun spoke up, saying that the Church celebrates Her birthday on September 8th, and it didn't matter so much that Our Lady said Her birthday is August 5th. The Church won't change. He strongly disagreed with this, and Marija herself then entered the conversation and confirmed that one day the Church would change the date of Our Lady's birthday to August 5th, because this is, in fact, Her true birthday. This conversation was seemingly insignificant at the time, but would be later recalled at the end of the day, after the apparition took place that night.

For Marija, feast days tend to bring greater confusion into her life and the life of her family when she is in

Medjugorje. Often times the crowds are bigger in Medjugorje on feast days which mean that Marija will have large numbers of visitors stopping by her house all day long. With every visitor that comes by, there will be just as many, if not more, who will make their way back to her house later that evening with the hope of being allowed into the apparition. Marija understands that this is part of what Our Lady has called her to do, and she accepts this with a gracious heart, but even Marija is in need, on occasion, to enjoy feast days with rest and family. It was for that reason that on this particular August 5th, our founder invited Paolo, Marija, their boys and their extended family and close friends to come to our cabin in Medjugorje to celebrate Our Lady's birthday. Tucked in a wooded area in the center of Medjugorje, our cabin is a little piece of home as it is constructed from our own sawmill from Alabama pine trees. What it affords Paolo and Marija, at times, is privacy.

We, of course, were not only inviting Paolo and Marija and their family to our cabin, but Our Lady as well. After all, it was Her birthday. The apparitions of Our Lady happens in the evening in Medjugorje, at 6:40 p.m., so the day was spent making the preparations for the birthday party. Whenever we have the great privilege of hosting Our Lady for an apparition, we want Her to feel our love, our welcome, and our joy that She is in our home. All our vases were pulled out from every corner and colorful roses, daisies and gladiolas were lovingly arranged in them. An altar was made near the front door inside the cabin where Our Lady would appear. Candles were placed on the altar and around the room. While some

hands were busy preparing the meal, others were busy sweeping and cleaning, and still others were adding finishing touches to the decorations. All the while, we were all keeping a constant prayer in our hearts that we might be able to experience the wonder and grace of Our Lady's birthday that night.

There was definitely an air of festivity when people began to arrive just before 6:00 p.m. The candles had just been lit which caused a soft glow that reflected off the varnished, wooden walls of the cabin. The whole setting was beautiful. Holy Mass had just been celebrated at Marija's house. Perhaps there was an added anticipation knowing that the day before Our Lady had been in such joy with Paolo and Marija, causing us to wonder if Our Lady would be in the same joyous spirit. Her birthday was a much more joyous occasion, so we were all in light hearted spirits. Everyone's hearts that were present that night wanted to give Our Lady a special gift, but it seemed that Our Lady was giving the gift, as the joy was so infectious that no one escaped its influence that night.

We began to pray a special Rosary in preparation of the apparition. Everyone was on their knees. Our small cabin was filled to the brim with children and adults, who felt like children as the anticipation was so great. Marija began praying her final prayers, and then suddenly, her head raised, her lips began to move, with no sound coming forth from them. Our Lady had appeared! Marija immediately and joyfully in a light-hearted way gave Our Lady the salutation, "Happy Birthday," caught up in the joy and festivity of the event and the memory of yesterday's apparition. She, along with us, ex-

pected Our Lady's response to be somewhat in line with what happened the day before. During the apparition, however, Our Lady did something remarkable. She brought Her hands together in prayer, and very deliberately, She slowly nodded with great seriousness, in acknowledgement, saying with such a serious nod, not with words, but with actions, "*Yes...this is my birthday;*" a solemn holy maneuver which contradicted Marija's superficial salutation, creating an awareness of awe, holiness, and reverence within the occasion, a happening of great significance. Our Lady was making a huge statement on this spot, in our little cabin, nodding to the whole world, to establish this date in all our hearts for the "gift" of Her birth. For through this birth of the Second Eve, salvation was gained for man of what Eve lost.

For those of us gathered, we were thrown off kilter, for we had not the slightest expectation of such a reaction. After all, Our Lady's actions the day before proved to us that, for Her birthday, Our Lady could take the gleeful salutation "Happy Birthday" in the same lighthearted way it was said. Instead, just the opposite happened. Profoundly the mood and the spirit was contradicted and elevated to a much more exalted state by Our Lady Herself than we in our humanness ever could have had in our thoughts or imagined. Not even everyone in the cabin understood the significance. But immediately upon the description of the apparition, the founder of the Caritas Community grasped the significance. He went to Marija to recount the apparition and asked her again how she said "Happy Birthday." She relayed that she meant it

from her heart but very lightheartedly. Our Lady very seriously brought the occasion to a different level, a much higher plateau, than where Marija was with her thought. He asked again, “*How did Our Lady act in this gesture?*” Marija relayed again, very seriously. How did She nod? Marija said with Her head and hands folded as in prayer. He asked Marija was Our Lady smiling during the nod? She responded, no, Our Lady was very serious and deliberate in Her action. After Our Lady nodded, She then prayed over everyone present in the apparition for a long time. Marija recommended each of us and our intentions to Our Lady. Our Lady blessed us and blessed all of our religious articles, and then, to Marija’s surprise, Our Lady just lingered and began to smile all the while. Our Lady then began to look at each of us. Normally Our Lady ends the apparition with Her blessing and then leaves without delay. But Our Lady seemed to purposely delay leaving, as if She was acknowledging our gathering as a Birthday celebration for Her. Surprisingly, Our Lady was not praying, rather just present, all the while continuing to smile. As the special guest, you do not just leave when the honor is for you. As we knelt, just beyond us was a birthday cake with actual party decorations and a meal for a feast. The room was filled with flowers for Her Birthday, and Her lingering seemed to be yet another action of emphasizing Her acceptance of what we were doing. Marija, struck by this pause in the apparition, asked Our Lady, “*Is there something else you wish to say to us?*” Our Lady then said, “**Pray, pray, pray.**” Our Lady then broke Her routine and gave a second blessing during the same apparition. Our Lady was clothed and adorned with gold.

She only comes dressed in this fashion on important major feast days of the Church, such as Christmas or the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th. Her being adorned in gold on a day not officially designated by the Church as a major feast day worldwide is even strange in what Heaven is clearly decreeing to inspire the Church, as well as us, in regards to this date. As Marija knelt, the radiating Beauty slowly went up to Heaven, ascending, as we watched Marija's eyes follow Her higher and higher beyond the cabin walls and disappear. Marija bent down and prayed.

The apparition was extraordinary in many ways. Our Lady gave two blessings in one apparition which is extremely rare. Instead of ending the apparition as soon as She had given Her blessing, She *lingered*, as someone would who did not want to leave, and then began looking at everyone in the room. So obvious was this to Marija, that it prompted her to ask Our Lady if She desired to say something to us. Our Lady gave a message. The message, **“Pray, pray, pray,”** though familiar to us all, is not a message that Our Lady has commonly said in the apparitions over the past several years, such as the message, **“Do not forget that I am Your Mother and I love you.”** Therefore, it holds significance beyond words that Our Lady says frequently. The most remarkable and solemn event of the apparition was the reverent and holy nod given by Our Lady in acknowledgement to Marija's wishing Her a Happy Birthday. Recall the conversation that took place in Marija's backyard. A debate had arisen over whether the Church would change Our Lady's birthday from Sept. 8th to August

5th. The nun did not think this important enough for the Church to change the date. But in the apparition that night, Our Lady bowed in response to the recognition of Her real birthday, and She did it with great seriousness and deliberation, indicating that, **“YES! This is my birthday,”** clearly making a statement of Heaven’s future desire for the Church and its recognition. We, in no way, presuppose the Church, but for us to believe in Our Lady’s apparitions, we must also realize that in the event of the Church’s recognition of the Queen of Peace apparitions, they will also recognize Our Lady’s actions and desires for August 5th.

St. Bernadette of Lourdes and Marija of Medjugorje and the Solemnity of Our Lady

To understand the significance of Our Lady’s actions and Her seriously nodding, we have only to look back in time to when the visionary seeing Our Lady was known as Bernadette. The year was 1858. Bernadette was a poor peasant girl from Lourdes, France, who had little schooling and was considered practically illiterate. She had eighteen apparitions in all. Though family and pilgrims immediately presumed Bernadette was seeing the Blessed Virgin Mary, Bernadette would not confirm this because the beautiful Lady had never given Her name. Toward the end of the apparitions, the Lady whom Bernadette saw in her visions told her to go to her priest with the request to build a chapel and have a procession in Her honor. The priest would do no such thing until he, first of all learned, the name of the Lady and secondly, was given a sign

of the rosebush blooming near the grotto (as it was winter time). Bernadette was nervous. Being in the presence of this Lady made her forget everything else. Would she be able to remember to ask Her the questions the priest told her to ask? The following is a short passage from the book Bernadette Speaks written by Fr. Rene Laurentin which describes the apparition of March 25th, the feast of Our Lady's Annunciation.

The joy of being reunited with the Young Lady did not distract Bernadette from the answer she had to get at all cost. During the three weeks of the Lady's absence, she had mentally prepared a beautiful, formal and reverential way of asking her question: "Mademoiselle, would you have the kindness to tell me who you are, if you please?"

But this lovely turn of phrase was too complicated! Bernadette got mixed up and said "willingness" (boulentat) instead of "kindness" (bountat); She had a hard time distinguishing between those two words. The longer word seemed much more polite.

The Young Lady in light smiled. Could She be mocking her, as Monsieur le Cure (the Pastor of the Catholic Church in Lourdes who interrogated Bernadette several times) had said? No. There was so much gentleness and kindness in Her gaze. Bernadette must start over: "Would you have the kindness..."

The Young Lady (the Blessed Mother) said nothing. Nevertheless, She was there, quite close. She had come

down into the interior hollow where She came when She wanted to speak. So why this silence? Bernadette persisted, “Would you have the kindness...”

The Young Lady smiled all the more. But Bernadette was determined. Nothing would stop her. She would try ten times if she had to, since the Young Lady took no offense.

*There was no need to go that far. At the fourth attempt, **the Young Lady no longer smiled**. She had just slipped Her rosary over Her right arm. She unfolded Her hands and extended them toward the ground. **She then folded them at Her breast, raised Her eyes to Heaven and said, “I am the Immaculate Conception.”***

To read these two experiences with Our Lady, from two different visionaries more than 100 years apart from each other, it gives a glimpse as to the awe we will one day look back on the apparitions of Medjugorje when they are more than 100 years old. The cabin is a spot made holy, designating an event of Heaven that in the future will be of great significance, and this one particular apparition Our Lady not only confirms Her birthday, but does so in such a way as to assure us that She is to be honored and celebrated on this day of August 5th. In Bernadette’s day, Our Lady revealing Her identity as the Immaculate Conception caused shock waves through the Church, because it was only four years earlier on December 8, 1854, that Pope Pius IX pronounced and defined that the Blessed Virgin Mary “*in the first instant of Her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by God,*

in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved exempt from all stain.” The Church at large was as yet unaware of this dogma, for it was only defined in mostly clerical circles. Bernadette, least of all, would not know anything of this, as she did not even have an ability to understand the term Immaculate Conception. God wanted to lift the veil from Our Lady and reveal a little more of the mystery that surrounds Her and **the seriousness of how Our Lady spoke those words to Bernadette added to the significance of the words themselves. God wanted to confirm that which the Church had already bestowed upon Mary four years earlier.**

There is a time for laughter, a time for a little fun, for life continues even in the apparitions with the Mother of God. But when God wants to reveal something of Who this Woman is, when something arises that speaks of the very essence of Our Lady, when Our Lady is placed in a position to recall in our presence the reasons She spoke the words, **“The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is His name,”** then we see the greatest reverence displayed upon the face and through the gestures of Her whom all generations shall call blessed. When we, therefore, meditate on the gesture of Our Lady during Her birthday apparition on August 5, 1999, we cannot help but be in awe of the importance of this day that God has only decided to reveal now, two thousand years after Her birth. Why was it kept hidden from the Church for so long? And why does God want it known now? These questions and more remain unanswered, adding to the mystery that surrounds these apparitions of Medjugorje.

In the same way, the seriousness of Our Lady in the apparition to Marija contradicted Marija's lighthearted manner. Our Lady's solemn gesture signified without doubt that She was communicating that *“Yes, this is the day of my birth.”*

What Will History Reveal of the Significance of August 5th?

What can we say of the great privilege our community has received from Our Lady that this particular apparition took place in our little cabin in Medjugorje? The privilege has not come without a duty and responsibility to spread the knowledge of this apparition and Our Lady's real birthday to the ends of the earth. For to those whom much is given, much will be expected. We believe that we will discover significant events that have happened throughout history on August 5th, knowing now that this was Our Lady's birthday. For instance, when we look on our Church's calendar, we see that August 5th is the Feast Day of the Dedication of St. Mary's Major Church in Rome, the first Church in the West dedicated to Our Lady. It stands on the Esquiline, one of the seven hills of Rome. It was first built in 358, after the miracle of the snow. In 358 A.D., in Rome, there was a noble senator named John and his wife. They were people of great faith. They were also very wealthy. They were not blessed with children. It was their desire that their worldly goods, at the time of their death, should be given to the Mother of God. They had talked of this distribution of wealth with Pope Liberius. He counseled them to pray to the Blessed Virgin. They asked Her to show

them Her desire with a “sign.” During the night of August 4th, the Virgin appeared in a dream to both John and Pope Liberius. In the dream, She told them to construct a church in Her honor on the crest of the Esquiline Hill. They would know the location for this church, as it would be covered with snow the next morning. Snow is rare in Rome and unheard of in the summer. The morning of the 5th of August, in the midst of a very hot summer, the area of Esquiline Hill was covered with snow. The Pope went out to the miracle and traced in the snow the site for the new church to be dedicated to Our Lady. The present church is the one built under Pope Sixtus III (432-440) to celebrate the Council of Ephesus (431), which proclaimed the Holy Motherhood of the Virgin Mary. Today, St. Mary Major houses, just below the main altar, the actual baby crib of Jesus, the wooden manger from the stable in Bethlehem where Jesus was born. The large relic is encased in glass and gold and one can bow and kneel before it just as the shepherds did on the first Christmas night.

Our Lady’s Two-Thousandth Birthday

It was not until just before August 5, 1984, that we learned August 5th was Our Lady’s birthday. This was Our Lady’s Two Thousandth Birthday which She revealed to the visionaries and the village of Medjugorje. The following description of what took place on this day in Medjugorje was taken from the 11th Edition of the book Words From Heaven[®], the main reference book for Our Lady’s messages in the world.

Three days before the celebration of the second millennium of Mary's birthday, there was fasting and continuous prayer. Confessions were heard by seventy priests without respite; great numbers of people were converted. Our Lady said:

“Never in my life have I cried with sorrow, as I have cried this evening with joy. Thank you!”

In anticipation of this day, Our Lady said:

“The priests who will hear confessions will have a great joy on that day.”

The visionaries say Our Lady was “very joyful” during these three days of fasting and continuous prayer and Our Lady repeated:

“I am very happy! Continue, continue. Continue to pray and to fast. Continue and make me happy each day.”

Later, the priests involved related that never in their lives had they felt such joy in their hearts.

Jakov and Our Lady

Our Lady had announced to the visionaries that Her 2,000th birthday was approaching, and apparently, She desired a great day of celebration. The news that Our Lady had revealed Her true birthday, August 5th, and the village of

Medjugorje, still caught up in the joy of its first conversion, created a great anticipation within the villagers for this day that was coming. There were none so excited as the visionaries themselves. You have read in the text of this writing the joy this day brought to Our Lady. In the apparition that day, the visionaries were beside themselves with excitement and joy to receive Our Lady, but no one's excitement equaled the youngest of the visionaries, who was just 13 years old, Jakov Colo. He couldn't contain his happiness and so, at the moment Our Lady appeared to them, young Jakov, threw his arms around Our Lady and with great exuberance, wished Her a Happy Birthday with all his happy heart. But suddenly, he became conscious of his bold actions, and embarrassed, he quietly slid back into his spot beside the other visionaries, heartsick that he had done something he shouldn't have. Our Lady, such a good Mother, reached for him and picked him up, and embraced him with joy. A special gift for the one child who was an orphan having lost both his parents at such a young age. He saw in Our Lady a Mother who would never leave him.

A Gift to Us on Our Lady's Birthday

Another very significant event that took place on Our Lady's birthday, August 5th, one year later (1985), was that we were given a gift. On that day, being the generous Mother that She is, She gave us what God gave to Her. She gave this gift unannounced, without fanfare, and with great simplicity.

August 5, 1985

Our Lady appeared dressed in golden splendor and was indescribable.

“Praised be Jesus Christ. My children, I’m happy to be with you this evening and to see you so numerous. I bless you with a SPECIAL BLESSING.* Make progress in holiness through the messages, I will help you. Give your utmost and we will go together, sensitive to the sweetness of life, light, and joy. Go in the peace of God, my children, my little children.”

This Special Blessing, we would learn years later, was a grace given to us to help lead souls to conversion. By bestowing one with this blessing we drop a seed of grace in a heart that will eventually lead them to conversion, if we have the faith to believe. The Special Blessing, once received, will last your entire lifetime. The Blessing is to be received by you individually and then given individually to those you encounter for the rest of your life. Our Lady taught us how we are to receive gifts. In August of 1996, as a community we desired to pray a special novena for the visionaries, villagers, and the village of Medjugorje. The summer of 1996 was when we opened the Mission House in Medjugorje and the first time we had community members in Medjugorje almost year round. We felt

* For more information on the Special Blessing stop by the Mission House if you are in Medjugorje, visit us at our Mother house, the *Tabernacle of Our Lady’s Messages*, in Alabama, write to us at 100 Our Lady Queen of Peace Drive, Sterrett, Alabama 35147, USA, or call us by phone 205-672-2000 ext. 315, 24 hours a day.

Our Lady desired us to be in prayer for Medjugorje. We happened to have the grace to present this novena directly to Our Lady in an apparition through the visionary, Vicka. Our Lady gave us a private message for our community in this apparition. She said on August 26, 1996:

“Whatever you are doing with the heart, it is all precious to Me.”

What a gracious response to a gift. She tells us “whatever” it is that you give Her, She regards it dear to Her heart, no matter how big, no matter how small, as long as it comes from the heart.

What Are You Going to Give Our Lady for Her Birthday?

There is a song that we play every year on Thanksgiving Day that reminds us so much of Our Lady. The song is called “The Gift.” Though it is a secular song and one that could be taken as a lover’s song, the words strongly suggest what Our Lady has done for us in our lives. On Thanksgiving Day, we finish the day with a Rosary of thanksgiving for the gift God has given in sending us His Mother all these years, and then we play the song. The chorus is as follows:

All I want is to hold you forever.

All I need is you more everyday.

You saved my heart from being broken a part.

You gave your love away

*And I'm thankful everyday
For the Gift!*

On August 5, 2009,* Our Lady will be celebrating Her 2025th Birthday. It is Her ninth birthday of the New Millennium, and we desire to give Her a gift that will bring Her great joy. What gift would most please Our Lady? What task could we perform or prayer could we pray that would bring the greatest happiness to Her heart?

Mary lived Her whole life without committing one sin. In everything, She was mindful of God and His will. Mirjana, one of the six visionaries of Medjugorje, once said that Our Lady never once put Herself first, but always placed the needs of others before Her own. She was a servant to all, and She accomplished this without ever committing one sin. We can't even begin to imagine the purity of the heart of Mary. Four years ago, in contemplating this trait of Our Lady, an inspiration rose up in directing Caritas to ask all in community to give, as a gift to Our Lady on Her birthday, a sinless day. This had been done the previous year on August 5th by one community member as an individual gift to Our Lady, but what if the whole community did it? We each made a strong commitment to avoid, to the utmost of our ability, committing a single sin or fault, in thought, word or action on August 5th. It was not such an easy task, as we couldn't control entirely the events that occurred throughout our day. Nor could we

* This was originally written in 2002 with only a few updates in putting it in booklet form. How it applies to the present, although written seven years ago, displays Our Lady's messages are always for the present, but also, always for the future.

lock ourselves in a room away from everyone and everything so as to eliminate most anything that could be an occasion of sin. We found that it took constant thought on our objective, to avoid even the smallest of venial sins, making wrong judgments, having a thought against charity, not allowing one selfish act. No, it was not an easy thing to accomplish, but we persevered so as to give this gift to Our Lady to honor Her life Who lived all Her days the way we wished to live just this one. And we felt the grace of this gift. We understood in living it, that Our Lady was tremendously pleased. We felt Her message to us of August 26, 1996: **“Whatever you are doing with the heart, it is all precious to Me.”** If we, so small in number, could please Our Lady with our simple, but heartfelt gift of giving Her a sinless day, what joy would thousands of Her children bring to Her by making this same commitment on Her birthday this year? We believe it would be a gift beyond compare!! It was an investment hour by hour. The investment of every sinless hour brought more attention to the next hour, that you did not want to mess up and sin. The day had to be a day of perfection. We all began to realize Our Lady did this everyday. Our amazement increased for Her, and our determination to give at least one sinless day to Her became stronger. We know this gift made Our Lady very happy, for it makes us the same.

As you read earlier, on August 5, 1984, Our Lady celebrated Her two thousandth birthday. For three days before the great event, there was fasting and continuous prayer throughout the village of Medjugorje. With the confessions

being heard, the village of Medjugorje had probably never experienced such purity and cleansing of their hearts in who can say how long? Our Lady's joy of seeing Her children so purified radiates from Her words. No time in the twenty-eight* years of apparitions was Our Lady's happiness so evident. Seeing Her children sinless is the cause of Her greatest joy. The inspiration that welled up in our community, we believe, was from the Holy Spirit to spread a sinless day, August 5th, to the whole world; that annually our numbers will swell in giving Her this gift. The event of Her 2000th birthday and what She said gives hints of what it is that pleases Her. But, perhaps, as for a gift on Her own birthday, She wanted it to come through inspiration and prayer. Who wants to tell another outright what gift to give yourself? The effort to come up with a gift brings more joy to the gift because it comes more from the heart, and we believe the Holy Spirit expressed something profound in this inspiration because few actions could surpass the giving of Our Lady a sinless day.

What should you do? We invite you and encourage you to participate in this very special birthday gift for Our Lady. It is a very special privilege to be able to bring joy to Our Lady through the offering of ourselves in sacrifice. Every angel in Heaven envies us in the opportunity that is before men who walk the earth. We do not comprehend what it means to give Our Lady such joy.

* This was originally written in 2002. We only updated the year in our reprinting. Often many of these writings are foreseen, even prophetic, by realizing when it was originally written - which the update could make you think it was written in hindsight rather than foresight.

“To give joy to My Heart...It is a very great thing.”

On December 11, 1999, Our Lady appeared to Marija in our Field.* Fifteen thousand people were present and they each came bearing a flower, which they presented to Baby Jesus in the manger as a sign of dedication to Him. Our Lady was more than pleased in this apparition. So happy was She that She came with three angels, and She lingered so long in the apparition, looking over each face present, that Marija, began to offer to Our Lady all present; first the small ones, then the large ones. Our Lady smiled happily, almost teasingly, and finally, because Our Lady still lingered, Marija asked Her if She had something that She wanted to say to us. Our Lady responded by saying:

“Thank you with all my heart.”

Marija said later that in all the years of apparitions, more than nineteen years at that time, she never heard these words from Our Lady, “with ‘all’ my heart.” She said there was a fullness to Her message, a completeness. It is not a little thing to bring joy to Our Lady. She said this Herself in February, 1985–March, 1985:

**“...Dear children, I came again to thank you.
You have not yet understood what that means,**

* The Field is a large meadow between two foothills at the end of the Appalachian Mountains in Alabama. A lone pine tree, a stone altar, and a statue of Our Lady mark the spot where the Queen of Heaven has visited on several occasions through the apparitions of the Medjugorje visionary, Marija Lunetti. It is a Field of conversion, of grace. The Field and the Pine Tree were consecrated to Our Lady before the apparitions first came here in 1988.

to give joy to my heart. It is a very great thing. I ask you only to persevere in prayer. As long as you pray, I will have words for you. Good-bye, I thank you dear children. My love for you is unlimited; be happy with me, because I am happy with you.”

It is not only for this year that we make this strong request, and for you to spread it, but it is our belief that this gift to Our Lady can easily become a tradition worldwide in celebrating Our Lady’s birthday. Each year, through the spreading of this devotion, we hope that the numbers will increase so that the offering a “sinless day” to Our Lady for Her birthday will birth a greater joy for Her each year, every year of this new millennium that has been dedicated to Her in a very special and particular way. It will be up to each one of you to **first live this yourself**, and **then**, spread this information to as many others as you can. We recommend to you that you go to confession before Our Lady’s birthday, and then begin praying in preparation for the strength to live out this day without sin. Offer your fasting days (Wednesday and Fridays), the week before, for this intention and keep a continuous prayer in your hearts. Better yet, for the message in the cabin, **“Pray, pray, pray,”** give Our Lady, prior to August 5th, a three day fast. This could be on the preceding Wednesday and Friday fast, adding Thursday or three days before the 5th. This three day fast correlates with Our Lady’s 2000th birthday when there were three days of fasting preceding Her birthday. Perhaps **“pray, pray, pray”** is the invitation of what Our Lady

would love to have. Oh, to give Our Lady such a gift, a pure sinless day, on Her birthday. After hearing the words of Our Lady to Ivanka during her annual apparition on June 25, 2001, is to receive great hope that Our Lady will have something powerful to go before the throne of God to help achieve the success of Her plan for the salvation of the world, all of which will come back to our loved ones in our families and neighbors and nation. The words Our Lady spoke to Ivanka on June 25, 2001:

“Dear angels! Thank you for your prayers, because through them my plan is being realized. This is why, angels, pray, pray, pray, so that my plan may be realized. Receive my motherly blessing.”

In the midst of all of our burdens and trials, all of our sufferings and sorrows that have made it difficult to maintain joy, let us not lose sight of these words of Our Lady that say to us that Her plan is not failing, but is being realized through our prayers! Children consecrated to Our Lady must persevere. Our Lady continues to ask for us to pray, pray, pray. You, as an individual, can take part in this day that comes, August 5th annually, and make it a great day of prayer. To make this be a beautiful gift for Our Lady, it must be done from the heart, with real love and a desire to please Her, just as a child who makes something for his mother and happily gives it to her. On March 18, 1994, Our Lady appeared to Mirjana and said these words:

“Dear children! Today my heart is filled with happiness. I would like for you to find yourselves in prayer everyday, as today, this great day of prayer. Only thus, can you proceed towards true happiness and true fulfillment of body and soul. As Mother, I want to help you in this. Allow me to do so. I am telling you again to open your hearts to me and allow me to lead you. My way leads to God. I invite you that we may precede together because you see for yourselves, that with our prayers, all evils are destroyed. Let us pray and hope.”

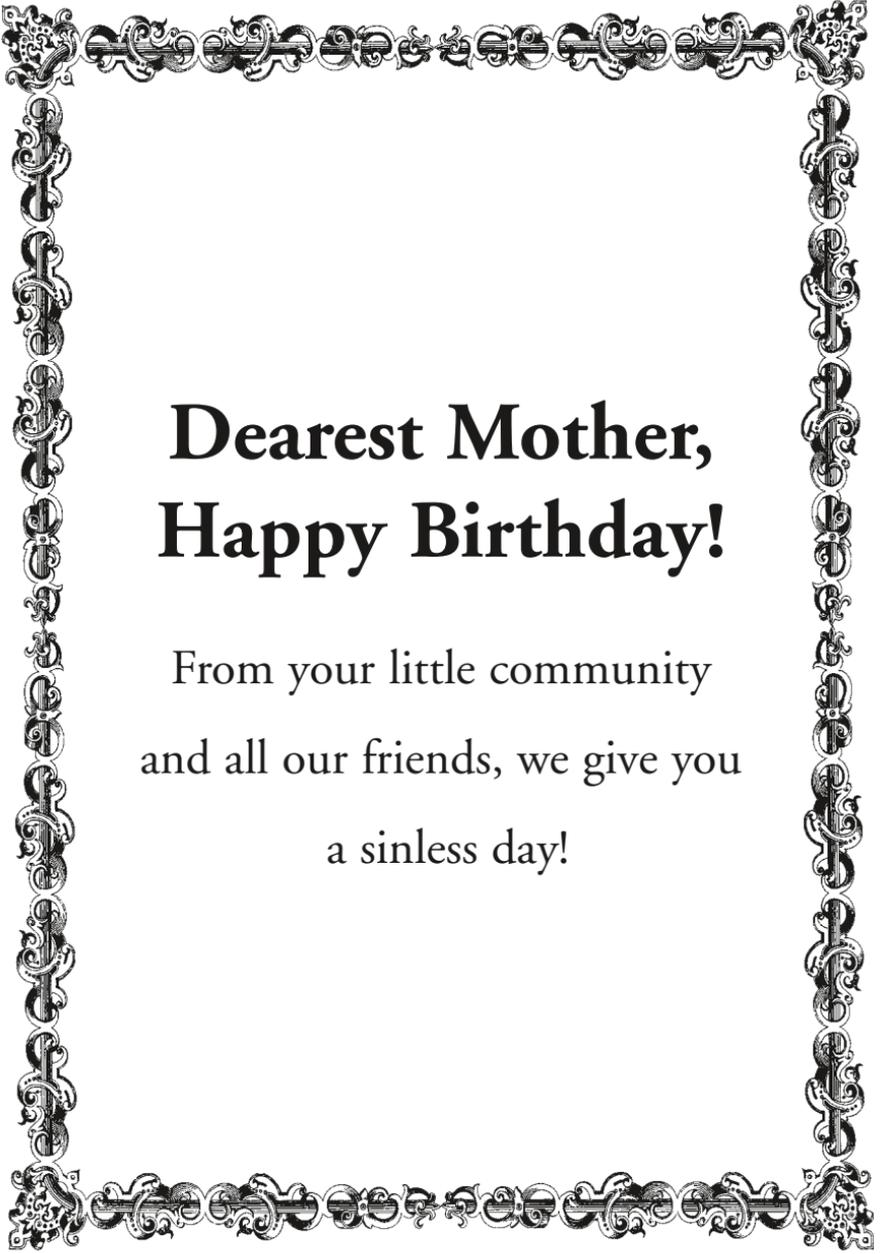
What constituted this day being a great day of prayer? We asked Mirjana this at the first opportunity, and she said what pleased Our Lady so much was that this one group of pilgrims who came to the apparition that day, prayed with great fervor for hours before and after the apparition! If these few (about 50 people) were the cause for Our Lady to refer to it as a great day of prayer upon the earth, then again, we ask you, what would She consider thousands of Her children living “a sinless day” in Her honor, prepared through confession, fasting, and continuous prayer? Few times in history has man heard from their God in such a way and then be able to respond, and then hear Heaven’s reaction. At Mirjana’s apparition, that is exactly what occurred. We live in great and wondrous times!

For years, Our Lady has been calling us to become Her little children. In the Christmas song, the Little Drum-

mer Boy, the little shepherd was in great sorrow because he had nothing to give the newborn King. And yet, his “desire” was so great to give a gift, that he gave the only thing he knew to give: he played his drum for the Christ Child. The story touches us not because the gift that was given had any special worth, especially when compared to the great material gifts that were already laid by the manger by distinguished person-ages. Rather, the story touches us because of the love that is poured out of a child’s simple and pure heart. The gift was not the drum, not the song, but his “desire.” And love responded to that gift turning a poor shepherd boy into a boy with the greatest treasure. God, Himself, became his friend.

**Whatever it is that we do with the heart, it is all
precious to the One through whom Love came
into the world.**

*All I want is to hold you forever
All I need is you more everyday
You saved my heart from being broken a part
You gave your love away
And I’m thankful everyday
For the Gift*

A decorative border with intricate scrollwork and floral patterns surrounds the text.

Dearest Mother, Happy Birthday!

From your little community
and all our friends, we give you
a sinless day!

Help Spread the Devotion of a Sinless Day **On August 5th Annually**

Reach as many people as possible before August 5th. Speak to people about this; order more copies of this booklet and distribute them to family, friends and parishioners. Plan to fast three days before Her birthday (or choose three days out of the week before Our Lady's birthday), go to confession, do special sacrifices, offer more prayers, ready your heart to re-consecrate yourselves to Her Immaculate Heart. On August 5th, individuals, families, prayer groups, or parishes can prepare a cake for the birthday celebration after the praying of all three mysteries of the Rosary and consecration to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. The Holy Spirit will guide you, but whatever is chosen, it counts most if it is from the heart.

Celebrate Our Lady's birthday with the heart by giving Her your heart.

We have made posters to promote Our Lady's birthday. We in no way usurp the Church's September 8th celebration. These accusations are bound to come up for satan will hate and agitate all actions of this project by you who join the Community of Caritas to bring honor to Our Lady's birth, even more so because of the prayer and sacrifice and hearts which will be given over to Our Lady.

The following is taken from a writing on the philosophies of our community written by its founder. On December 25, 1988, Our Lady gave the 25th message to the world from his home in Alabama concerning creation. Reading this will help bring meaning to what is described on the opposite page about our cabin in Medjugorje.

“...I give you my Special Blessing. Bring it to all creation, so that all creation will know peace...”

What did Our Lady mean by this? I went out in the woods in front of my house and blessed the trees, made the Sign of the Cross on them. I didn't know what it meant or what result it would have. But here were words of Our Lady that were to be incorporated into life. So I did it. How this would bring peace to trees, I didn't know. But I still don't know why Our Lady asked Bernadette to eat grass, and if she could do that, I certainly am willing to be obedient to Our Lady's invitation in blessing, not only plants and animals, but the mountains themselves. Slowly, however, I began to see God more in His creation. If it was worthy enough to deserve Our Lady's blessing, it, therefore, must be because it was God's wish for it to be made holy, in order to guide man towards its use and that, with man's collaboration, all creation be used in a holy way. Years later, we would end up with our present sawmill. We made countless uses of wood to build up our mission in order to bring more conversions. The blessing of God's creation in this valley and the use of these temporal goods have, through God's grace, resulted in tens of thousands of conversions through our mission by blessing God's creation and using it only for purposes that lead to a holy way of life.

From Alabama to Medjugorje

Who could have known the little seedling pines growing in the Alabama soil would be destined for so great a glory? As they grew, they housed squirrels merrily chasing each other in their play, offered shelter to baby birds learning to fly, shaded deer playing nearby. O little pines, now grown, swayed by the wind, made strong by their search as they twisted and bent toward the sun. And then Mary said on that Christmas midnight to carry Her blessing to all creation. O trees, you received Her touch of delight nearby in the cold winter



woods that sparkling night, the pine needles glistening, covered in frosty crystals. And you sang your tunes as creation's wind blew. O wind that sung loud and clear, the Queen of Heaven's heart beat near, gentle Her love as She said to all "I'm your Queen...of the wind, and of the trees, and of you, the people on your knees." Midnight struck and the Queen of Peace spoke and who then could have fore-seen the pines final fate? Far from home they now stand sturdy again. The glory that came in being part of creation, touched holy by that night of Birth. But O... now it's about another birth...one that again will give life to the earth...

A Friend of Medjugorje

Pines from the woods around the House and Field where Our Lady gave the following message at midnight, were shipped to Medjugorje and made with love into a cabin; a place where Europeans have visited and said it's like a fairy tale. Marija has said she feels like she's in Alabama when in the cabin. As for the Queen in the cabin and Her holy bow...you know the story; not a fairy tale, but real, with a wonderous ending that only could be through Heaven's decree.

“Dear children, I call you to peace. Live it in your heart and all around you so that all will know peace – peace which does not come from you but from God. Little children, today is a great day! Rejoice with me! Glorify the Nativity of Jesus through the peace that I give. It is for this peace that I have come as your Mother, Queen of Peace. Today I give you my Special Blessing. Bring it to all creation, so that all creation will know peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.”December 25, 1988

**FOR INFORMATION
ABOUT
MEDJUGORJE**

Caritas of Birmingham is an organization committed to being a voice for Our Lady. Those individuals on our mailing list receive up-to-date information on all the messages and happenings in Medjugorje. Our material is read by well over 250,000 people throughout the United States and has spread to over 130 countries around the world.

If you would like to receive information about our mission or want to be placed on our mailing list and receive vital and crucial information concerning Our Lady and the apparitions in Medjugorje. Please write to:

*Caritas of Birmingham
100 Our Lady Queen of Peace Drive
Sterrett, AL 35147 USA
or call
205-672-2000*

Check us out at:

www.mej.com

Daily updates about Medjugorje

Ostali naslovi o Gospinim porukama!

(Tiskano na hrvatskom)

- BK1051 Razumijevanje Gospinih poruka (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1052 Međugorje: Ispunjenje svih Marijinih ukazanja (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1053 Nova arka (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1054 Kriza–disciplina (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1055 Međugorje, Mirjana, otkrivena tajna (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1056 Čednost (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1057 Gospin recept za pobjedu: Molite, molite, molite! (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1058 sotona želi uništiti Međugorje (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1059 Pogled na 2000 godina kršćanske povijesti (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1060 Vrijeme odluke (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1061 5. kolovoza: Što činiš za Njezin rođendan? (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1062 Ulazak u novo vrijeme (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1063 S Gospom pred raspelom (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1064 Pripremanje za oluju (prevedeno na hrvatski)
- BK1065 Ne volim svoj križ (prevedeno na hrvatski)

*Da biste nabavili još primjeraka knjige, posjetite Misijsku kuću Caritasa u Međugorju.
(Upute su na unutarnjoj stranici zadnje korice ove knjižice)*

Other Titles About Our Lady's Messages!

If you would like more copies of this booklet for distribution at your church, prayer group, or for family or friends, etc... please contact your local bookstore, call Caritas of Birmingham—24 hours a day, or fill out the order form at the end of this booklet.

Other titles in this series by A Friend of Medjugorje:

- BK1001 Whose Opinion is Right?
- BK1002 Twenty Years of Apparitions
- BK1003 American History You Never Learned
- BK1004 Changing History
- BK1005 Patriotic Rosary (1=FREE, 10=90¢EA, 25=75¢EA, 50=60¢EA, 100=40¢EA, 1,000=30¢EA)
- BK1006 August 5th, What Are You Doing for Her Birthday?
- BK1007 Medjugorje—The Fulfillment of all Marian Apparitions
- BK1008 A New Ark?
- BK1009 As Go God's People, So Goes the World
- BK1010 Medjugorje, Mirjana, A Mystery Revealed
- BK1011 A Time for Decision
- BK1012 satan Wants to Destroy Medjugorje
- BK1013 Fasting
- BK1014 Modesty
- BK1015 In Front of the Crucifix with Our Lady
- BK1016 Treasure Chest
- BK1017 Entering A New Time
- BK1018 Understanding Our Lady's Messages

Title list cont. on next page

See order form in back of booklet for pricing

Other titles by A Friend of Medjugorje continued

- BK1019 A Blessing to Help Save the World
BK1020 Fallen Field Angel
BK1021 Don't Tell Me What to Do!
BK1022 Spanning 2000 Years of History
BK1023 When You Decide for Change
BK1024 Have You Become Complacent or Fallen Asleep?
BK1025 I Don't Like My Cross
BK1026 What Do We Do Now?
BK1027 Thy Will Be Done? And Hand to the Plow
BK1028 Our Lady's 7 Steps to...Set the Captives Free
BK1029 Who's Driving?
BK1030 "I Don't Have to Go to Medjugorje." Reasons Why One Must Go to Medjugorje
BK1031 The Seven Novenas in Preparation for the Five Days of Prayer for the Reconciling of
Ourselves, Our Families, and Our Nation Back to God
BK1033 Calling on Heaven (Caritas' prayers)
BK1036 Our Lady's Formula for Victory: "Pray, Pray, Pray"
BK1037 A Miracle from the Field for Our Nation
BK1038 Crisis-Discipline
BK1039 Quietism
BK1040 Wedding Booklet
BK1041 Why So Many Disasters?
BK1042 How the Early Church Learned...
BK1043 Be Strong! Do Not Relax!
BK1044 Some Remarkable things About Our Lady's Messages
BK1045 You Have Been Called
BK1046 Surrender Your Problems to Me
BK1047 Two Americas
BK1048 Ready"ing" for the Storm
BK1049 Judge with Right Judgement
BK1050 Confession of a Big Sin
BK1051 Razumijevanje Gospinih poruka (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1052 Međugorje: Ispunjenje svih Marijinih ukazanja (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1053 Nova arka (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1054 Kriza–disciplina (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1055 Međugorje, Mirjana, otkrivena tajna (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1056 Čednost (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1057 Gospin recept za pobjedu: Molite, molite, molite! (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1058 sotona želi uništiti Međugorje (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1059 Pogled na 2000 godina kršćanske povijesti (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1060 Vrijeme odluke (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1061 5. kolovoza: Što činiš za Njezin rođendan? (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1062 Ulazak u novo vrijeme (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1063 S Gospom pred raspelom (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1064 Pripremanje za oluju (prevedeno na hrvatski)
BK1065 Ne volim svoj križ (prevedeno na hrvatski)

Suggested Donation

	FREE (pay only S&H)
I COPY	
10 COPIES	\$4.00 (40¢ EA.)
25 COPIES	\$8.75 (35¢ EA.)
50 COPIES	\$15.00 (30¢ EA.)
100 COPIES	\$25.00 (25¢ EA.)
1000 COPIES	\$150.00 (15¢ EA.)

Volume orders can be made up of different booklets.

More booklets are being produced monthly at Caritas of Birmingham, call 205-672-2000 for new titles.

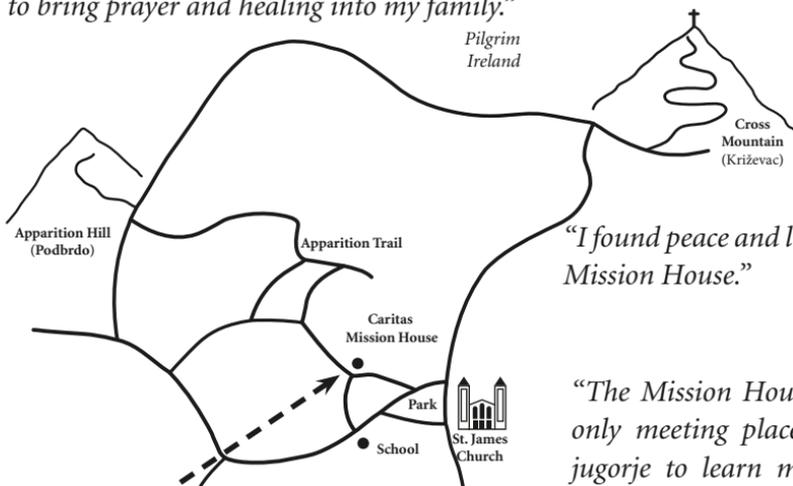
Don't Miss a Visit to the Caritas Mission House

Apparition Hill, Cross Mountain, the Visionaries, St. James Church, and Caritas Mission House, these are the five “**must do’s**” to have a complete Medjugorje pilgrimage. Throughout the years, pilgrims from every nation have made the Caritas of Birmingham Mission House in Medjugorje a part of their pilgrimage. Countless numbers have relayed to us it is there, in the Mission House, where they came to understand more fully Our Lady’s messages and plans for the world. It is why people, who have returned home from their pilgrimages, have told others going to Medjugorje to go to the Caritas Mission House, stating that the Caritas Mission House was a high point of their pilgrimage and a “**must do**” to make a pilgrimage to Medjugorje a complete and more profound experience.

“After coming in the Caritas Mission House, I decided not to leave my husband and seek to bring prayer and healing into my family.”

*Pilgrim
Ireland*

Medjugorje



“I found peace and love in the Mission House.”

*Pilgrim
South Africa*

“The Mission House was the only meeting place in Medjugorje to learn more about and discuss the Messages.”

*Pilgrim
England*



“Following Caritas’ mission for several years and observing their work in spreading Our Lady of Medjugorje’s messages, it’s no wonder to me as to how they became the largest Medjugorje Center in the world.”

*Pilgrim
Scotland*

Look for the St. Michael statue.

Caritas of Birmingham Mission House is operated by the Community of Caritas.

The Mother house is located at: 100 Our Lady Queen of Peace Drive • Sterrett, Alabama 35147 USA

www.mej.com Extensive up-to-date information on Medjugorje as it happens.

IT TOOK 2,000 YEARS TO FIND OUT. MANY have read this writing with fascination. Why? Man has always been enthralled at the revealing of a mystery. How much more so when Heaven opens up and reveals what has been its secret for 2,000 years? Learn the story that will captivate you from the moment you begin to read it, awe you when you have finished it, and thrill you at what you can do about it. A writing that should be calendared to read annually the week before August 5TH.



100 OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE DRIVE • STERRETT, AL 35147 USA
205-672-2000 USA

mej.com *all your Medjugorje information*

Printed by Caritas of Birmingham. Made available to you by our Field Angels.