



Crisis~  
**DISCIPLINE**

By A Friend of Medjugorje

# **Crisis-Discipline**

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.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author of this book is also the author of the books Words From Heaven<sup>®</sup>, How to Change Your Husband<sup>™</sup>, I See Far<sup>™</sup>, Look What Happened While You Were Sleeping<sup>™</sup>, 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.

## **Crisis-Discipline**

Our community members who are working in the Caritas Mission House this summer have attended the last three prayer group meetings with Ivan, the visionary. In those meetings, during Our Lady's apparitions, She has exhorted us to pray for peace. In the early 1990s, when the first war in Iraq broke out, Our Lady asked the prayer group to pray for peace for more than two years. Almost every prayer group message was a request for prayers for peace in that period of time. Our Lady asked for it so often, that people began to almost lose interest in this message...not recognizing that the consistency of Our Lady's request was, in itself, a message, and that She was relaying to us that the world was in a critical condition; that peace was at great risk, and that if we didn't respond to Her requests, we would live to regret our lack of fervency. With recent warnings\* that another terrorist attack has not only been planned for the United States, but that it is reaching maturity, and that it is possibly scheduled for this summer, we know that now is not the time to relax in our prayers. How blessed we are to have Our Lady stand with us in the trials and dangers that we face. We devote this booklet to the subject of peace.

What is Our Lady asking of us when She asks us to pray for peace? In the last 28 years, what has the Queen of

\* This was originally written in 2004. 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.

Peace wanted to teach us about peace? In an interview with the visionary Mirjana, on January 10, 1983, Fr. Tomislav Vlasic addressed the subject of peace.

*Q: Why did the Madonna introduce Herself as the “Queen of Peace?”*

*A: You know very well that the situation of the world is horrible. There are wars in every part of the world. The situation is very tense. Peace is needed — a just and simple peace. First, peace in the soul; then...*

*Q: So the message of the Madonna is a message of peace?*

*A: Yes. Primarily peace of the soul. If a person has it in his soul, he is surrounded by it.*

*Q: Peace comes as a result of faith in God and surrender to Him.*

*A: Yes; as a consequence of prayer, penance, and fasting.*

*Q: The Madonna tells us that peace can be achieved that way; but evil things will happen nevertheless. Why?*

*A: They have to happen. The world has become very evil. It cares about faith very little... Nowadays, people curse God, Jesus Christ, His Mother, day in and day out, habitually. Besides, people have fallen into very evil ways, so that they live in evil routinely. It's no wonder that God is at the end of His patience...*

*Q. Why do you think the Blessed Mother always exhorts the world, over and over again, to prayer and penance?*

*A. When we pray, we pray to God. In return, we receive peace of soul, tranquility. We have opened our hearts to God, so that God can enter, and when we have God in our heart and soul, we cannot cause evil to anybody. We will not curse — do anything evil. We will do good.<sup>1</sup>*

Who is Our Lady speaking to when She calls for peace? Fr. Rupcic, in 1987, asked this question to all the visionaries.

*Q. Of whom does the Gospa speak, when She calls for peace?*

***Marija:** “The Gospa invites all of us to peace. She always invites and insists from day to day. Through it, She does not intend it only of certain groups but of the whole world.”*

***Ivan:** “She, above all, speaks of peace of the soul for all mankind.”*

***Vicka:** “Our Lady has invited all of us to peace, not only certain individuals but all the people of the world.”*

***Jakov:** “All of us; all people.”*

***Mirjana:** “Of the whole world.”*

***Ivanka:** “Of the whole world.<sup>2</sup>*

It, therefore, is clear. Each soul is to be filled individually with peace, thereby the whole world. The question then becomes, “What is peace?” If we are to accept it, live it, and spread it, we must understand what it is. In a homily given in St. James Church on Easter Sunday, April 22, 1984, Fr. Tomislav shared his understanding of peace as influenced by the teachings Our Lady had been giving to the youth prayer group She initiated.

*Through Jelena,\* Our Lady said: “**Love is peace, peace is love.**” When we speak of peace here you must understand it as a deeper spiritual reality, an attitude, a profound gift from which all others originate. Jelena explains this attitude of peace saying: “**Our Lady does not like speaking of sin, but, when She has to do so, She seems to be weeping because from the very beginning of Her life, She has always lived a pure life without sin.**” This is why Our Lady says:*

**“Do not think of wars, punishment, evil, because if you do so you are on the road towards them. Your task is to accept the Divine Peace, to live it and to spread it.”**

*From this, we can see what is meant by peace: it is a totally positive attitude.*

*The majority of people who come here for the first time, remain on a superficial level, on an earthly level, asking*

\* Jelena Vasilj is one of the two interior locutionists of Medjugorje.

*for healing, solving of marital problems, for their children, for the solution to various problems, but always on an earthly level. Divine peace cannot be found on this level because on this level we are still in the condition of bearing our fears in our heart.*

*I know for sure that soon I will undergo a catastrophe: in a few months' time, in a few years, in hospital, at home, on the road or by an atom bomb, the effect is the same for me: I will die. This is my catastrophe. The only catastrophe of my earthly life. I believe that you, too, are certain of undergoing this catastrophe. If we shut our eyes and pretend death does not exist for us, we are deceiving ourselves and we will try to protect ourselves, to save ourselves from this catastrophe. Instead, we Christians will not undergo a catastrophe because, for us, life consists primarily in eternal life. This life is only a transition. I say this in a very special way after the experiences I have had here because, in a certain sense, through the visionaries, we have been able to touch Heaven, Paradise, because they have all seen Paradise. Three of them have had the experience of being taken up to Heaven. If we truly accept eternal life, a catastrophe does not exist for us any longer. This life is only a transition. We must truly accept this essentially Christian fact and then all fear will vanish, there will be no more fear of the future and we will be capable of accepting Divine Peace, of living it and spreading it as Our Lady tells us.*

*Otherwise, we cannot be true messengers when we speak of peace and the apparitions of Medjugorje. We will talk of punishment, troubles, secrets, and we will spread fear. Our Lady has repeated several times: “Your task is to receive Divine Peace, to live it, and to spread it.”*<sup>3</sup>

Peace is the subject of the sixth chapter of Words from Heaven. A segment is offered here to again help to explain and describe what peace is:

*The first call and invitation of Our Lady is peace. She said on the third day of Her apparitions:*

**“Peace, peace, peace! Be reconciled! Only peace. Make your peace with God and among yourselves. For that, it is necessary to believe, to pray, to fast, and to go to Confession.”**

*Peace is harmony between God and man. But real happiness, joy, and prosperity can come only through this peace, which comes from God and is a direct gift from the Holy Spirit:*

October 1984

**“When the Holy Spirit comes, peace will be established.”**

*Our Lady says:*

Christmas Day message — 1988

**“...Live peace in your heart and in your surroundings, so that all recognize peace, which does not come from you, but from God...”**

*Peace is a relationship between God and man. God in the Highest, Who incarnated Himself to become Man, reestablished harmony between Himself and man who receives peace and blessings from above. Christmas has a lot to do with unity and harmony between Heaven and earth. Peace is a blessing from God. Our Lady wants us to extend Her own blessing to all to help the harmony to come to reality. On Christmas Day, 1988, She said:*

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

*Before we start to speak about the path of holiness, we have to realize that a holy person or a saint is one who has achieved peace in his heart, which means one has achieved a high degree of harmony between himself and God. Peace — harmony — is a gift from God; only God can give it:*

December 25, 1988

**“...peace, which does not come from you, but from God...”**

July 31, 1986

**“...I call you always to bring harmony and peace...”**

(End of excerpt from Chapter Six of Words From Heaven)

In understanding and knowing what peace is, it is then up to us to maintain peace. How do you apply “peace” to your life? Especially in the difficult times we live in, how do we maintain peace? Our Lady told us that peace will not come through the presidents.

December 31, 1985

**“Next year is the year of peace; not because men have named it so, but because God has programmed it. You will not have peace through the presidents but through prayer.”**

Our Lady also told us that wars can be stopped through fasting and prayer.

January 25, 2001

**“Dear children! Today I call you to renew prayer and fasting with even greater enthusiasm until prayer becomes a joy for you. Little children, the one who prays is not afraid of the future and the one who fasts is not afraid of evil. Once again, I repeat to you: only through**

**prayer and fasting also wars can be stopped — wars of your unbelief and fear for the future. I am with you and am teaching you little children: your peace and hope are in God. That is why draw closer to God and put Him in the first place in your life...”**

This message was given nine months before September 11, 2001. Do we want peace in our world? Then we must accept peace in our lives. The two are directly related. It is not what president we will elect that will bring peace to the world. It is our commitment to living peace and being peacemakers that will translate into grace that will move our president’s heart. We receive the leader we deserve by how we are living our own lives. Since peace means harmony with God, if we personally are living with sin that we do not break from, then we are helping to create terrorism in the world. Sin creates disorder in our lives. Disorder that goes unchecked brings about crisis in our lives. If we want peace, we must give up sin. Following is an excerpt from a Field Angel Newsletter from November, 1995. This is strong direction about how to maintain peace.

*It is interesting to note that Our Lady said these words the third day of the apparitions. Marija, walking down the hill, mysteriously was physically pushed to the side and shown by Our Lady a cross, pointing to it saying, “Peace, peace, peace.” Is it not strange that the violence*

*of the cross, blood, torn flesh, a terrible atrocity is shown by Our Lady to represent peace?*

*This important lesson teaches many things. When we struggle and are in the midst of turmoil, it is then that we turn to prayer the most, seeking peace. And so, it is these struggles that will give way to peace, just as Jesus' cross brought us peace. Strange that, peace can be experienced the greatest in the heart even when fire surrounds us. One man, who was praying on Apparition Mountain three years ago, relays:*

***“I was looking over the village of Medjugorje toward late afternoon when out of the corner of my eye, I saw a streak moving silently above the ground. It was low enough that I, sitting on Apparition Mountain, was higher in altitude. By the time I focused and realized what it was, it was to my right, stunning, silent, eerily peaceful. It came from the direction of the cross and was now turning, disappearing behind Apparition Mountain. As I focused, the sound hit me. It was a Serbian fighter jet thundering through. Within a few moments, behind Apparition Mountain, bombs went off. I sat there, unafraid, on the spot of Our Lady’s podium, where so frequently She’s called the world to peace. I experienced peace to such a degree it was as though I was immersed in it.*”**

***The contrast of both spectrums was to such a degree that I would never trade the experience for anything.”***

*Many times we experience the greatest peace in the midst of trials, suffering, persecution, etc. The contrast is so vast that it is easily distinguishable. Struggles and conflicts are sometimes the greatest contributors to peace because they put us on our knees, and through these strong prayers from the heart, we receive the grace of peace in our hearts which eventually leads to peace in our surroundings.*

*In a sense, peace can be a danger for us. The Israelites had a difficult time dealing with it in that they grew slack in their worship and negligence of God. They, many times, turned against Him. Human nature always tends toward laziness and the easy way. Difficulties make it easy to conquer those tendencies, giving us incentive toward prayer, while peace, over time, can lead to ingratitude and even the tendency that God is not needed. In short, peace is a gift from God but tends not to bring us to our knees as a crisis would. It, therefore, should be of no surprise why so many who convert and follow Our Lady’s message soon discover after their conversion and honeymoon is over that many struggles, difficulties, catastrophes, and crosses cover their path. These things win for us peace and a straightening out of our lives. Once we receive peace, then our holding on to it*

*can only come through discipline. Crisis, the incentive to pray in the midst of unpeace, is to be replaced with discipline as the incentive to pray in the midst of peace once it is attained. Crisis and struggles, once alleviated, must give way to discipline and self-control. If not, you will find yourself back in crisis and struggles. The lack of peace in our hearts is what leads to crisis of the heart. Holding on to resentment, anger, selfishness, etc. will lead to the banishment of peace in our hearts. In doing so, we are taking God out of our hearts. When we allow impure actions or thoughts in, we are allowing satan in our hearts. satan is unpeace. God is peace. It is we who drive God away, placing ourselves back in struggles. Our Lady said on February 25, 1991:*

**“God is peace itself.”**

*Therefore, we lose God and go away from Him when we lose our peace. Our Lady said on February 25, 1991:*

**“...Distance from God is the fruit of the lack of peace in your hearts.”**

*So when this happens we will always find ourselves in the midst of great turmoil and struggles. To stay close to God, peace, therefore, must be guarded in the heart with discipline and prayers through love.*

*The song, “America The Beautiful,” states: **“Confirm thy soul in self-control.”** In the midst of peace we must*

*not take the complete freedom that is available, but place limits upon ourselves. Our time must be disciplined, devoting time to both spontaneous and structured prayer and sacrifices and thanksgiving. Holding on to a self-disciplined prayer life is the only way to hold on to peace. If we do not, it will be as an elusive butterfly, here and then gone without realizing it. Peace can take years of prayer to achieve because of many errors in our lives that take time to correct, but takes only a short time to lose, even overnight. Through lack of discipline in prayer and sacrifice, satan can move in without notice and fill that void. Once serious sin is committed, peace cannot flourish. Our Lady said on September 5, 1988:*

**“...In this time satan desires you and is looking for you! A little spiritual emptiness in you is enough for satan to work in you. For this reason your Mother invites you to begin to pray. May your weapon be prayer. With prayer with the heart you will overcome satan...”**

*Peace, therefore, must be guarded by self-control through a disciplined spiritual life with the same effort which comes easily in the midst of suffering and struggles. As little children of God, He will grant you one or the other to keep you on your knees. The Israelites' past history proves this, just as in our time, Medjugorje proves the same, for they had peace and lost it. Our*

*Lady told them they were a chosen people, later telling them:*

March 25, 1992

**“...You have taken a path of misery, a path of ruin...”**

*Of Medjugorje, Our Lady said:*

April 25, 1992

**“...Medjugorje is a sign to all of you...”**

*Indeed, Medjugorje is a sign, as Israel was, that peace must be experienced with discipline and continued thanksgiving, if not, it will flutter away as a butterfly without notice, leaving in its midst war, just as Medjugorje has suffered for the last several years. That war can be in your heart, family, or nation. If years of struggle will win for you peace, once that is achieved, it is absolutely necessary that your prayers continue for “peace” in your heart, “peace” in your family, and “peace” in your nation. The cross Our Lady pointed at to Marija will bring you “peace, peace, peace.” You will have this cross either through crisis or discipline. As Our Lady’s child, you will receive one or the other.*

(End of Excerpt from Field Angel Newsletter #12, November 1995)

As we are in the days of celebration of Our Lady's 25th Anniversary of Her apparitions as the Queen of Peace, it would be wise for all of us to take time to reflect upon how much we have accepted and lived peace in our lives. Peace does not depend upon the nation's leaders. It depends upon Our Lady's children, how we respond to Her messages, how we accept them in our lives. It is *our* response that is important. *We* have the power to stop wars. Our individual peace, our harmony with God, supports our leaders, wins grace for them to be moved by God and His Holy Spirit so they can make the right decisions. However, if we are unwilling to be reconciled with our neighbors next door, how can God grant peace and reconciliation between our nation and other nations? God forgives us according to how we forgive others. It is, therefore, worth repeating the words of Our Lady that She has repeated several times, Herself:

August, 1984

**“Your responsibility is to accept Divine peace,  
to live it and to spread it, not through words, but  
through your life.”**

With the hope of peace for you,

A Friend of Medjugorje<sup>COC1</sup>

1 What They Say About Medjugorje, Thul, 1991

2 Eight Years, Laurentin, 1989

3 Open Your Hearts to Mary Queen of Peace, Vlastic, 1985

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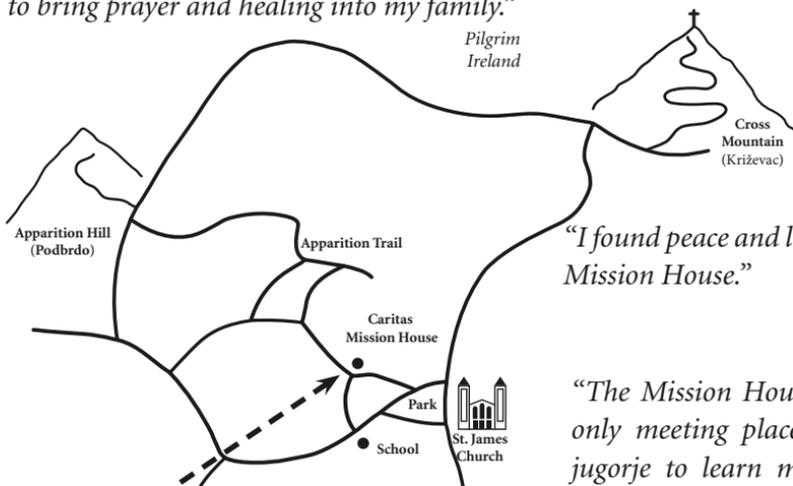
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Apparition Hill, Cross Mountain, the Visionaries, St. James Church, and Caritas Mission House, these are the five “**must do’s**” to have a complete Medjugorje pilgrimage. Throughout the years, pilgrims from every nation have made the Caritas of Birmingham 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

*Cross  
Mountain  
(Križevac)*

*“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.

WE SEEK IT AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO FIND it. While seeking, we look in all the wrong places to find peace. Peace does not depend upon the nation's leaders. It depends upon Our Lady's children: how we respond to Her messages; how we accept them in our lives. It is our response that is important. The key to peace lies within ourselves. We gain it by our response to Her call that She has given us to answer. Our Lady said in August of 1984:

**“Your responsibility is to accept Divine peace, to live it, and to spread it, not through words, but through your life.”**

This booklet, *Crisis-Discipline*, will help you see what you now cannot.



**CARITAS**  
OF BIRMINGHAM

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

**mej.com** all your Medjugorje information

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