



A Blessing to Help
Save the World

By A Friend of Medjugorje

ON AUGUST 5, 1985, GOD GAVE OUR LADY A gift, a wonderful gift. Why is it said that this is a gift? Because the above date is the first time we see Our Lady use the words, "Special Blessing." The significance of this is the date. Even though Our Lady's birthday is recognized by the Church on September 8th, Our Lady revealed that the actual date of Her birth is August 5th. On that day, being the generous Mother that She is, She gave us a gift also. She gave this gift unannounced, without fanfare, and simply. Discover within this booklet the wealth contained within this Special Blessing given to us through Our Lady for our conversion and the conversion of our loved ones. A must read!

A Blessing To Help Save The World

by

A Friend of Medjugorje

No attempt is intended 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[®], How to Change Your Husband[™], I See Far[™], Look What Happened While You Were Sleeping[™], It Ain't Gonna Happen[™] 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 Dragičević* and Ivanka Ivanković*. Around 6:40 p.m. the same day, Mirjana and Ivanka, along with four more young people, Milka Pavlović*, the little sister of Marija, Ivan Ivanković, Vicka Ivanković*, and Ivan Dragičević saw the Virgin Mary. The next day, June 25, 1981, along with Mirjana, Ivanka, Vicka and Ivan Dragičević, Marija Pavlović* and Jakov Čolo also saw the Virgin Mary, bringing the total to six visionaries. Milka Pavlović* and Ivan Ivanković only saw Our Lady once, on that first day. 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 June 2011, the Virgin is still appearing everyday to the remaining three visionaries; that’s well over 13,540 apparitions.

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

The supernatural event has survived all efforts of the Communists to put a stop to it, 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-nine 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.

A Blessing To Help Save The World

What would you think if someone told you that God would give a gift, a special gift, which gives you the grace to bless others in the name of the Virgin Mary? This blessing is powerful enough to convert atheists, to heal the soul, or to bring family members back to the Church. Once you receive this blessing with which to bless others, you will retain it for the rest of your life! This is exactly what has happened.

On **August 5, 1985**, God gave Our Lady a gift, a wonderful gift. Why is it said that this is a gift? Because the above date is the first time we see Our Lady use the words, “**SPECIAL BLESSING.**” The significance of this is the date. Even though Our Lady’s birthday is recognized by the Church on September 8th, Our Lady revealed that the actual date of Her birth is August 5th. On that day, being the generous Mother that She is, She gave us a gift also. She gave this gift unannounced, without fanfare, and simply.

August 5, 1985

Our Lady appeared dressed in golden splendor and was indescribable. She said to Ivan:

“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.”

Our Lady blesses at every apparition so no one really grasped that this Special Blessing was anything different from the usual blessing. Except for giving a Special Blessing to Father Petar Ljubicic*, as an individual, on October 25, 1985, there is no other mention of this blessing until four months later when Our Lady hints a Special Blessing coming on Christmas Day is really something special and different from what Christ gives and from Her usual daily blessing.

December 19, 1985

“...I wish in a special way on Christmas Day to give mothers my own SPECIAL MOTHERLY BLESSING and Jesus will bless the rest with His own blessing...”

Here we have Our Lady distinguishing Her blessing and yet little would be known about Our Lady’s Special Blessing for another three and one-half years, even though She continues to give them.

* Fr. Petar Ljubicic is the Franciscan who was chosen by Mirjana to reveal the ten secrets given to the visionaries by Our Lady. He is to receive them ten days before and fast for seven days before revealing the secrets three days before they occur.

The next year there was only one recorded Special Blessing given.

June 24, 1986

“You are on a Tabor. You receive blessings, strength, and love. Carry them into your families and into your homes. To each one of you, I grant a SPECIAL BLESSING. Continue in joy, prayer, and reconciliation.”

There was a crowd of at least 10,000 present. Many were excited about the message and there was a great deal of wonderment and astonishment about Our Lady’s words, but still no clear understanding of what or how this blessing was to be used or even if it could be used by the receiver.

Our Lady’s words, **“You are on a Tabor,”** are full of meaning. The Bible (Judges 4) tells us the following:

A woman of Israel, a prophetess named Deborah, called an Israelite named Barak and told him their oppressors of twenty years and their general, Siseia, would be delivered into the power of the Israelites. Deborah added to Barak, “However, you will not gain the glory because the Lord will have Siseia fall into the power of a woman. She then told Barak to march on top of Mt. Tabor and take 10,000 men. Barak did as he was told.

After some time of being gathered on top of Mt. Tabor, Deborah then told Barak, “The Lord will now deliver Siseia into your power. The Lord marches before you.” Barak and the 10,000, blessed in a special way, went down from Mt. Tabor and defeated their oppressors. General Siseia escaped and hid from the Israelites but was mortally wounded in the head by a “woman.”

The words of Our Lady on June 24, 1986 could mean many things. Our Lady said that you receive strength from this Special Blessing. In the Bible, it seems the same happened to the 10,000 on Mt. Tabor. That night in Medjugorje, on Cross Mountain, many were present from very oppressed countries such as Hungary, Czechoslovakia, etc. Now in the 90's, they are free from their oppressors, delivered by a woman, Our Lady! Through love and prayer they were delivered from Communism.

Mount Tabor, in this instance, also symbolizes Our Lady's struggle against the devil. On the day of their victory, Deborah and Barak sang a canticle which contained the words: ***“From the heavens the stars too fought.”*** The stars, in the Bible, symbolize God's Heavenly army, the angels. Our Lady appears always with twelve stars around Her head that shows [symbolizes] God's protection or a kind of body guard assigned by God to fight on Her behalf. They also sang the words, ***“She crushed his head (General Siseia),”*** symbolizing Our Lady crushing the serpent's head as depicted on many statues of Our Lady.

On Mt. Tabor there were many blessings poured out upon the 10,000; and on Cross Mountain, June 24, 1986, there were many **blessings, strength, and love** poured out upon those coming down Cross Mountain. The ten thousand went down Cross Mountain **“blessed in a special way.”** They left “Tabor,” as Our Lady called it. She would not have called it “Tabor” without some significant meaning, tying it to the Scripture quoted. That night, many would say that **THE LORD marched before them**, just as the Scripture quoted earlier testifies.

The following year the Special Blessing, given by Our Lady, is recorded three times.

March 25, 1987

“...I give you my SPECIAL BLESSING and I am remaining with you on your way of conversion...”

Again on **June 24, 1987**, at 11:30 p.m., with over 50,000 people present, Our Lady extended Her arms and prayed over the multitude of people. She said:

“Dear children, I want to lead you to the path of conversion and I wish that you convert the world, that your life be conversion for others.”

This apparition was another milestone because [although Our Lady did not say it in the message, She told Marija a Special Blessing was given] the next day Marija said, *“She is giving us, especially, a gift of conversion so that all of us can take the*

blessing to the homes and truly encourage others to conversion. God gave us a gift last night through Our Lady.”

Even though it may be clear to those reading this now, perhaps because of having information about the Special Blessing, one has to understand that for those present that night, it was still not clear and they did not really understand what a Special Blessing fully meant. On **June 25, 1987**, the next day, Our Lady told the visionaries that She blessed them with a different blessing when She said:

June 25, 1987

“... I want to bless you all today. I am blessing you with God’s Blessing...”

Our Lady tells us, through Her messages on several occasions such as the above, that She distinguishes what kind of blessing She gives: God’s Blessing, Her regular blessing, Her Special Blessing, etc. Some may object theologically, “*This is not correct.*” or “*Only a priest can bless.*” The Church shows otherwise. The Pope, every January, receives thousands of children in St. Peter’s Square. He gives them a blessing and then tells them that this blessing is for their parents, and they are to take it back home and bless them in his (the Pope) name. There are many instances in the Bible of a father blessing his son. So those who would reject Our Lady’s Special Blessing as theologically unsound must reject the Pope as well as Scripture.

It would be a whole year before we would have another Special Blessing recorded. **June 25, 1988**, with about thirty-five people present during Ivanka's annual apparition at her home, something of a surprise happened. Ivanka was in ecstasy, conversing with Our Lady. The room was very crowded and many were standing up. Three-quarters of the way through the apparition, Ivanka suddenly, without coming out of ecstasy, turned to her right and said, "*Our Lady wishes all present to kneel down.*" Ivanka looked as one who is blind, looking toward the people, but not able to focus in on anyone. For those present, it was a strange and beautiful sight to have seen Ivanka speaking to them and yet still be in ecstasy — as if in two worlds. The look on her face will not be forgotten by those who were to her right. After the apparition, Ivanka said when Our Lady asked all to kneel, She prayed over them and gave them Her Special Blessing. With the Blessing She said:

June 25, 1988

“The people here (present) will be witnesses of the love of God.”

Two months later on **August 15, 1988**, the Feast of the Assumption, Our Lady again gave a Special Blessing, and finally Marija revealed publicly and made clear just what the Special Blessing meant and how it was to be used. While talk-

ing to a group of pilgrims,* Marija explained the details of the Special Blessing.

There would not be another Special Blessing recorded until November 1988. Starting on **November 11, 1988**, Our Lady did something unusual. She gave four Special Blessings in approximately forty days. One of those Special Blessings is the inspiration for this booklet.

On **November 11, 1988**, Vicka received a special apparition which lasted 30 minutes from Our Lady who appeared to her with five angels. During the apparition Our Lady gave a Special Blessing. Then on November 14, 1988, Our Lady gave the following message to Vicka:

“Dear children, I bless you with my Motherly Blessing, and I ask you to be the carriers of my peace and to pray for peace in the world.”

The next three Special Blessings occurred while Marija Pavlovic, who is now married and is Marija Lunetti, was in America for almost three months. She lived with a family she was close to near Sterrett, Alabama. On **November 21, 1988**, the Feast of the Presentation, Our Lady with three angels extended Her

* Marija was with a group of pilgrims from Caritas of Birmingham and publicly announced the details of the Special Blessing which was first published by Caritas of Birmingham in their September 1988 Newsletter.

arms, prayed in Hebrew over the people present, and gave a Special Blessing to all those gathered for the apparition.*

On Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 1988, Our Lady said She would appear by a tree in a field near the home in which Marija was staying. The day before Thanksgiving, Our Lady invited all to come. From that day forward people gathered by the tree to be blessed by Our Lady while the apparitions occurred in the home. A few days later, Our Lady did something unexpected. This apparition took place on **November 29, 1988**, at 10:30 p.m. It is a significant apparition because most Special Blessings are given on special occasions. Everyone was taken aback when, after the apparition, Marija said Our Lady gave a Special Blessing. All were surprised and joyfully delighted at the same time. When the message was read, everyone's joy turned to sheer elation because Our Lady spoke specifically about the Special Blessing, saying we could pass this to others and that those present could bless others with it and She desired them to do so.

November 29, 1988, 10:30 p.m.

With both arms outstretched, Our Lady especially blessed and prayed over everyone and said:

* While Marija was living with her host in America, Our Lady took charge and did many beautiful things during the apparitions. She gave many messages. She blessed. She changed the apparition times, sometimes appearing in the morning, in the afternoon, or late at night. Many could attend the apparitions from all walks of life, regardless of job schedules. Thousands would come to the apparitions, and Our Lady gave many miracles and signs to the people. Our Lady, on one occasion, said She would appear outside and asked for the public to come. In this apparition, She blessed the spot with Her appearance and promised to carry all the intentions to God's throne of those who came there. Since that time, thousands have pilgrimaged to the spot in Alabama.

“Bless [with my Special Blessing] even those who don’t believe. You can give them this Blessing from the heart to help them in their conversion. Bless everyone you meet. I give you a special grace. I desire you to give this grace to others.”

Those waiting at the tree were awed at once when the message was read to them. No one really expected this because the Special Blessing is usually given only on a feast day or special occasion and also it was the first time Our Lady gave a message to the public giving specific information about the Special Blessing, even stating to bless everyone you meet. Everyone was elated and felt this message carried a particular commission to go out and give the Special Blessing. This message is the reason for this booklet.

While it cannot be said that there are strict guidelines to be adhered to and that everything is precise, through Marija we understand the following:

- This is a blessing which has the power to convert and to help people.
- It may be used on believers and non-believers to help them convert or to help them progress in their conversion process.
- Once Our Lady gives it to you, it lasts your whole life.

- You do not have to be in the presence of the one you are blessing.*
- You can only give it individually from you to the individual, whereas a priest can bless a crowd with Christ's blessing. Our Lady's blessing is from one person to the next.
- If you receive this blessing from Our Lady and in turn bless another with it, that person has it to the same degree you first received it from Our Lady. This second person may then give it to a third, and the third to a fourth, etc. All will receive this gift to bless others just as if Our Lady gave it directly. This blessing will last your entire lifetime.
- You must be at the site of the apparition to receive it directly from Our Lady.
- To bless someone, a spontaneous prayer is fine. You can say, "*I extend to you the blessing of Our Lady.*" If you choose to say more, it is acceptable. When giving this Special Blessing to a non-believer, a family member, friend, or non-acquaintance, you may do so silently, in his presence or from a distance. You may extend this blessing everyday, even several times a day, to help this person to convert.

This Special Blessing is Our Lady's blessing. The blessing from a priest is Christ's blessing. **YOU SHOULD NOT THINK OF YOURSELF AS A PRIEST**, blessing as a priest does. Use this blessing in a humble way and extend it to even

* See Special Note from Author on Page 25 regarding this.

those you pass on the street. The Blessed Mother has given us a great gift and She desires us to use it.

The next Special Blessing occurred while Marija was still near Sterrett, Alabama. On Christmas, Our Lady, gloriously dressed, appeared with Baby Jesus, (moving and with rosy cheeks.)

December 25, 1988

**“...Today I give you my SPECIAL BLESSING.
Bring it to all creation, so that all creation will
know peace...”**

The several Special Blessings and Our Lady’s desire to speak to Marija directly about it, while She appeared in America, seemed to those associated with the apparitions during the three months that Our Lady particularly was seeking its propagation.

In 1989 there are three recorded Special Blessings. In Medjugorje, **February 6, 1989**, Ivan related that Our Lady gave a Special Blessing and would be with us and accompany us during Lent.

On **August 14, 1989**, The Eve of the Feast of the Assumption, on Apparition Mountain Our Lady gave a Special Blessing. There were several thousand present.

The last Special Blessing of 1989:

December 25, 1989

“Today I bless you in a special way with my MOTHERLY BLESSING and I intercede for you to God for Him to give you the gift of conversion of the heart...”

The next Special Blessing occurred on the Anniversary of the Apparitions.

June 25, 1990

“...I am blessing you with my Special Motherly Blessing...”

In August, 1988, Our Lady called for a year of the youth. It was the close of the Marian Year. One year later, 1989, to close out the year of the youth, young people from all over the world gathered in Medjugorje. The next year, a second year in a row, youths from all over the world gathered and Our Lady gave a Special Blessing on **August 3, 1990**. Many thousands were present.

August 3, 1990 — To the Prayer Group

“Dear children, tonight again your Mother wants to encourage you to pray all the more during this time. Join together in prayer with the young people. Especially, dear children, your Mother wants you to renew prayer in today’s family.”

Our Lady told the visionaries that She gave the Special Blessing. Since that time, Our Lady has continued to give Her Special Blessing on special feast days or for particular reasons such as She did in the Field near Sterrett, Alabama.

The Special Blessing is really a mirror of the whole plan of Our Lady in Medjugorje. Our Lady's plans in Medjugorje do not seek conversions of the world through world leaders, church leaders, or governments. Our Lady said:
December 31, 1985

“...You will not have peace through the presidents but through prayer.”

Conversion brings peace, and Our Lady seeks the conversion of the world through one conversion, your conversion. Once you've started this path, once you've changed and become light, those closest to you will want to imitate that which they like in you. Shiny things attract notice. They will become attracted to the light.

August 12, 1988

“...be a light that shines...”

There has not been enough light; therefore, many have become seduced by darkness. There is not enough light to see clearly. The world-wide interest in satanic rock stars, many of whom have no values or morals, yet whom millions follow, is just one example. Many imitate and follow their idols. What

is ugly, many “see” as pretty. This blindness is not just regarding rock groups. It’s easy for many to see this type of darkness, but it also comes in disguise. Today, many times darkness walks around in suits and ties. People don’t always recognize it because the world is too dim.

July 30, 1987

“...darkness reigns over the whole world...”

Our Lady wants us to light up this darkness.

July 30, 1987

“...be a light for people in darkness...”

This is the plan: to become light, to become love, to learn to do things you despise with joy and then you will convert your spouse, your children, your friends, and the world. This is how leaders and governments will be changed, not from the top down but from the bottom up by individuals.

June 24, 1987

“...I wish that you convert the world, that your life be conversion for others.”

The Special Blessing is a reflection or mirror of this same plan of conversion. By our lives and witnesses we are to convert others, resulting in the conversion of the world. This is also true regarding the Special Blessing. By giving it individually, we bring grace to that person. That person brings

grace to the next, and so on. Marija said the more it is given, the more powerful it becomes. Does not more blessing bring more grace and strength? Many lights are brighter than one. Perhaps this is why Our Lady wants this blessing passed on individually rather than by the use of a group blessing. In 1986, to those gathered, Our Lady said She gives it to each one.

June 24, 1986

“...To each one of you, I grant a Special Blessing...”

This helps to explain why the Special Blessing is so powerful — your whole attention, thoughts, and prayers are for that one individual.

Plain concrete is hard but is weaker than concrete with many stones. We might think the Special Blessing might be good if we could bless whole groups, but it would be as concrete without stones which has no real strength even though it appears strong. The Special Blessing passed on individually (each an individual stone) becomes stronger as each blessing is given (more stones added to the concrete) and becomes a base, a foundation, in which conversion happens, bringing more grace to the world and, thereby, bringing about a more favorable environment for conversions, even for non-believers. This Special Blessing follows Our Lady’s plan of conversion. Individual conversions will bring about the conversion of the world. Special Blessings will bring blessings, strength,

and love for the world. All this happens through individuals, one to another. Marija has also said that **Our Lady wishes, through this, to create a chain around the whole world — that as each person is as an individual link and not strong on its own, it becomes very powerful once linked together as a chain of which has many good uses.** This gives greater understanding why Our Lady wants this to be passed from one person to the next just as a chain is linked from one to the next, then village to village, region to region, nation to nation, the world to Heaven.

We still do not know everything about the Special Blessing or in all the ways it works. We do not know what part this Special Blessing has played in even our own conversion. Many non-believers who have converted to God through Our Lady's plans would say, "*I believed when I first heard about Medjugorje.*" How many times were these conversions brought about by perhaps family members who were silently invoking the Special Blessing for their loved ones or even someone passing by, a stranger, and invoking this Special Blessing on all he meets. How many times has this Special Blessing enabled converts to receive the necessary grace to hear and receive the truth when told about Medjugorje? There are many stories of conversions attributed to the Special Blessing. One thing is certain. It is an unwarranted gift from God's mercy which we do not deserve and which we should not be lax or lazy in using.

June 24, 1986 — Mt. Tabor — Cross Mountain, Medjugorje,
Bosnia-Herzegovina

**“...You receive blessing, strength and love.
Carry them into your families and into your
homes...”**

November 29, 1988 — From the Bedroom and the Field near
Sterrett, Alabama, next to a lone pine tree

**“Bless [with the Special Blessing] even those
who don’t believe. You can give them this Bless-
ing from the heart to help them in their conver-
sion. Bless everyone you meet. I give you a
special grace. I desire you to give this grace to
others.”**

A FINAL NOTE: Our Lady conveys information about different topics to each visionary. For example: with Vicka, much suffering is discussed; with Mirjana, non-believers; etc. The information about the “Special Blessing” has been given to Marija. All the visionaries have stated that Our Lady gives a blessing every day; however, Marija has stated that Our Lady told her that Her “Special Blessing” is an extraordinary blessing given on rare occasions. This has caused some confusion because Ivan has stated at Mountain apparitions, *“Our Lady has given a special blessing today.”* To Ivan (and us), every blessing of Our Lady is special. However, according to Marija, the “Special Blessing” is given on Feast Days and spe-

cial occasions and is an **extraordinary blessing**, different from Her other daily blessing. We have recorded only the dates which we can verify first hand that this extraordinary “Special Blessing” was given, others may have occurred.

* * * * *

* SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

The Special Blessing is an invitation to bless others. There cannot be, nor should there be, any kind of movement or apostolate to spread the Special Blessing. It has to be more intimate and without ritual. An apostolate would tend to build up and in time, giving way to human weakness, making the blessing more of an event rather than a purely spiritual gift. This blessing has to be spread through the heart and be maintained only in a spiritual, personal manner. All other efforts would tend to make it impure. Therefore, all structure which innocently could build up around the Special Blessing must constantly be torn down.

Caritas of Birmingham has become respected and recognized as one of the most complete sources in the world for information on Our Lady’s messages of Medjugorje. Therefore, they receive large numbers of calls about the Special Blessing. Many individuals want Caritas to give them the Special Blessing. In an effort to avoid becoming a factory dispensing Special Blessings, which could belittle the Special Blessing, they have been giving out the following information. This informa-

tion addresses those who inquire why Caritas cannot give out Special Blessings since both Our Lady and Marija have said that you do not have to be in the presence of the person you are blessing. Hopefully, Caritas' information will help you to better understand. It states:

Dear Friend,

We received your letter requesting information on the Special Blessing. We hope that this letter will answer your questions.

When the visionary, Marija, came to Birmingham, Alabama (November 1988 – January 1989), on three occasions Our Blessed Mother gave a Special Blessing. At this time, not much was known about this blessing. The fact that Our Lady gave it three times while in the United States drew attention to it. When studying the messages of Medjugorje, it was discovered that the Blessed Mother had given the blessing for the first time in 1985; yet, no one, to our knowledge, had ever asked Marija what this special grace meant. In the summer of 1988 and on several other occasions, a community member interviewed Marija about the blessing and we began to slowly realize the tremendous gift Our Lady was giving us.

As more and more people learned about the Special Blessing, we began receiving phone call after phone call from people wanting the Special Blessing over the

phone. Letters poured into our mother house (and continue to do so) with the same request.

We understand that those who contact us in order to receive the Special Blessing have a deep desire not only to obtain this grace but to spread it — and yet, we are unable to comply with these requests simply because we feel in our hearts that Our Lady does not wish Her Special Blessing to be given in such an impersonal way.

All of us at Caritas feel very strongly our responsibility of being a voice for Our Lady. We, therefore, never act upon our own but wait for Our Lady to direct us in prayer, in order that by our actions, She is presented with dignity and honor.

*We, of course, realize that **we are** capable of giving the Special Blessing to those who are not actually in our presence. However, **we believe firmly** that it is not Our Lady's wish that a structure or "**organization,**" etc. such as Caritas spread or give the blessing in this way. For those who call or write **our community**, we feel that giving the blessing to those who request it over the phone or in a letter belittles this precious gift. If this were the policy of Caritas, we could very easily become just a factory in which Special Blessings are dispensed. Although this would be the easiest pathway to take, in all actuality, we would be placing the Special Blessing at risk because*

we would be opening the doors to lessening the dignity and reverence that this special gift from God must be afforded by us all if we desire His continued kindness to us through this blessing.

*We have also come to discern in our prayer that Our Lady does not desire an apostolate to be created in any way, shape, or form to spread Her blessing.** We have realized that if any kind of structure surrounds this Special Blessing, it would be difficult to prevent certain abuses from developing, and we would, again, be placing the Special Blessing at risk. It is a gift to be simply passed on from one person to another, just as a kiss or hug is given, and the spreading of this Special Blessing must be left up to the Holy Spirit and Our Lady. We have a very clear understanding of this and even though we realize that this may disappoint many, we cannot compromise what has become known to us through prayer.

We ask that you pray and sacrifice for the intention of receiving the Special Blessing. We feel certain that Our Lady will direct you to someone in your area who has received the blessing. Please know that if you are ever in the Birmingham area, a community or staff member of

* Our founder actually traveled to Medjugorje to ask Our Lady about this through Marija. Our Lady answered him — She does not want an apostolate, but that She does want everyone to spread it.

Caritas would be only too happy to extend the blessing to you when you visit us. Many have pilgrimaged to the Field just to receive it.

It is not always an easy job discerning Our Lady's desires. It takes time and a lot of faith as we wait for Our Lady to direct and confirm to us the inspirations we receive from Her. And yet — when we wait upon Our Lady, we are never disappointed. That has been our experience. We believe it will be yours as well.

*Yours in Christ and Mary,
The Community of Caritas of Birmingham*

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(Tiskano na hrvatskom)

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*Da biste nabavili još primjeraka knjige, posjetite Misijsku kuću Caritasa u Međugorju.
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“After coming in the Caritas Mission House, I decided not to leave my husband and seek to bring prayer and healing into my family.”

Medjugorje.



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

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



“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.”

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
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All that needs to be said is just read it.



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