Judge with Right Judgement

By A Friend of Medjugorje

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No attempt is intended to pre-empt the Church on the validity of the Apparitions. They are private revelation awaiting the Church's judgment. Private revelations **are** allowed by or for the faithful to have devotion to and to be spread. Devotion and the propagation of private revelations can only be forbidden **if** the private revelation is condemned. Medjugorje has not been condemned, therefore it is in the grace of the Church to spread Medjugorje and its call. By the rite of Baptism one is commissioned and given the duty to evangelize. One does not need approval to have devotions to private revelations or to spread them, as it is given by the church when baptized. In addition to our Baptism, on November 15, 1966 Pope Paul VI …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™ hundreds of booklets, and other publications such as the *Words of the Harvesters* and the *Caritas of Birmingham Newsletter*. He has written more on Medjugorje and its messages 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-Hercegovina. 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."

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

These visionaries are not related to one another. Three of the six visionaries no longer see Our Lady on a daily basis. As of August 2011, the Virgin is still appearing everyday to the remaining three visionaries; that's well over 13,601 apparitions.

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 thirty 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.
or **Medjugorje.com**

Judge With Right Judgement

This past December a letter was placed on the desk of our founder in which a supporter asked him to respond to a few concerns she had after her recent visit to Caritas. It happened that there was a window of time to personally answer her over Christmas. The question asked was not one that could be easily answered with a brief reply. It required going back into our history here, going through philosophies of life, and how those philosophies developed through Our Lady's influence. Our founder, never bothering to go into such detail before, felt, to give this woman an honest answer, he should proceed. While writing it, he realized that perhaps it was time to share with others that which he had kept private up until this time. As those of you know, who have followed this mission through the years, he does not respond to detractors and those who slander because he holds the view that it is a ploy of satan who desires to engage him and this mission in the battle of defending himself, rather than putting his energies into spreading Our Lady's messages. He lets the mission's fruit speak for what is truth. However, after reviewing and contemplating a great deal on the beginnings here, and knowing that the passage of time does much to prove what is true and lasting, he shares with you his response to the following letter in the hope that it not only dispel questions from other people's minds, but that this path Our Lady set him on long ago may help to encourage you to be courageous in following

the inspirations God places in your own hearts. Even though what is covered goes way beyond the scope of the question asked, all that is presented here is connected to the question because the entire explanation speaks of "a way" that covers all facets of life. You may not see it completely, but in the community's viewpoint, the entire response connects to the question.

Dear Friend of Medjugorje, *Dec. 7, 2005*

First let me say "thank you" for all of your work and passion for the Lord. I was fortunate to be there for Our Lady's birthday celebration this past August, and I truly was blessed many times over during those few days. I have some things that I do not understand about you, your mission, etc. Perhaps you could somehow shed some light on these for me, although I don't know if you respond to letters on an individual basis. If not, I understand.

First of all, when I was at Caritas, I was taken in by the beauty of it—the Field, the Bedroom, the grounds were so serene and so peaceful. Your house is beautiful. I want to state this in a way you will understand: I had a hard time with the contrast of your beautiful home, compared with the trailers that the rest of the community lives

in. Don't get me wrong—I do not fault someone for having a nice home. If you earned the money to build a nice home, then by all means, enjoy it. I also know that the community chooses to live there. I have read some of the slanderous internet writings, accusing you of brainwashing, etc. Those accusations I do not believe, as I see the fruits of your mission for one, and I do not believe that anyone is "forced" to live there and live as they do. Ok, so, what I am trying to say is, why the huge contrast in living conditions? It is noticeable and questioned by many. In fact, my sister, who is Protestant, is a sales rep who sells to your gift store. Ironically enough, she is the one who alerted me to the August 2005 events, even though she really did not understand it! Anyway, she too has told me how beautiful the grounds are, and how lovely your house is. She was confused and a bit suspicious, perhaps, when she saw the living accommodations for the rest of the community. So, even though there is probably a good explanation, it does trouble me some and makes me question Caritas concerning that…"

Tennessee

Dear Susan,

Thank you for your letter. I am answering you because your thoughts and questions are sincere and merit an answer. I would like to say, first of all, everything we do and have instituted here can be rooted, directly or indirectly, to a message of Our Lady.

To answer your question about my home and all the homes, and the concern you mentioned, it is a must to first understand what was behind our house and its being built. The background is vital to making an informed judgment of your question. When my wife and I built our home, we did so without the mentality that many young people in our society possess, that mentality being it would be a temporary house that would be lived in for five, ten, or even fifteen or more years until the time came to buy another house. At 23 years of age, we bought the land. We immediately began to plan and design a home that would not be a house but a home—a place we would raise our children, grow old in, and a place our grandchildren would see where their parents were raised. It would be a place where our grandchildren could play in the same creeks, swim in the same swimming hole, hike the trails to aging tree houses which their parent made and will need re-mending by them, the grandchildren. Our plan was not dreamy but to take action, step by step, to build what I termed, "a live and die house," a place to raise our children,

live to the golden age and die to be buried on the grounds that were so familiar to our life's memories, and that afterwards, the spirit of what we gave and established as family would carry on. Heritage, roots, a physical place to call home, a place where my children can know and say "Where I come from," not boastfully, but richly in the knowledge of the security of having roots; that no matter where they are, they have a place called home.

Yes, even before the age of 23, I believed people, no matter how much wealth, were seriously impoverished in their philosophies on life and how to live life. Our home was planned, contained deep thoughts, often in the contemplation about life, not the material aspect. The material, of course, did factor in because both home and house are built out of material matter, but there is a huge difference from a house to a home, and at age 23, I thought about what would be needed at age 73—a home that would hold a future family, but small enough for two to still live in when the children are gone, one bedroom downstairs, two upstairs that could be closed off and not heated when the children are no longer in the home. Not extravagant, but tastefully decorated and very livable. While that may be a logistical part of the plan, a large fireplace would be a place of gathering, a library nearby would feed the hearts and souls near the fire. And today, at any given night, these days during the winter, you will find us all gathered reading, playing, and praying around this fireplace.

At 27, we moved into a much smaller mobile home than those you mentioned in your letter where some members of the community presently live. We would live there for the next eight years, raising and growing our family. During those eight years, my wife and I built our home, step-by-step, as money was earned. We paid as we went. We never had a mortgage. We never went into debt. We worked on the house after work, often late into the night. Once, when clearing some of the land for a garden, in order to save money so we could put more into our house, we, being worn out, laid down well into the night near a large fire where we had been laboriously dragging logs all day to burn. We were filthy, tired, and immediately fell asleep and didn't wake up until later. So worn out, we found it hard just to get up and go to the trailer to shower and get to bed. We did this month after month, year after year, for eight years.

There were some interruptions to the work, and we do not claim the words to the song *"that's a life you can hang your hat on"* where the Dad is telling his son how hard he had it *"walking to school five miles uphill both ways."* But the home did rise up from countless hours of labor. The house would be a home built, every stone with love, not for materialism, but for family, heritage, and roots. God, family, and country are layered into the very "being" of our home, not through money and grandiose ideas, but by what makes loyalty to God, family, and nation—self-sacrifice. Running our landscaping/ex-

cavating business from dawn to dark was more than full time. To build a house the way we did it, few people would choose such a path and declare it too much. It was sacrifice, sacrifice, and more sacrifice. One day, while building, my wife broke down crying, being so exhausted she could not go on. But I did and she did, and literally through blood, sweat, and tears, it bloomed out into more than a home. It became a place not where we just stay, but of living life. Little did we understand these were the ingredients of establishing a home and that during the same time period would parallel a plan being launched upon the earth from Heaven—a plan birthed in the little village of Medjugorje on the other side of the world.

When we moved into our home, we actually felt sorry and remorse leaving our little mobile home because of the memories of life we experienced in it. It is a key to understanding and in making a sound judgment that before the community, before Caritas was up on the hill across the road, years before anyone moved out here, that this "beautiful house," that you wrote of, existed…virtually everything one sees today is the same thing that one saw who visited in November, December, January of 1988–1989. It existed before Our Lady first came. It existed before we knew anything about Medjugorje.

It was then that the Virgin Mary came, appearing to Marija for three months daily in our bedroom. We did not

profit from the apparitions and then build our house, as some individuals have tried to promote when Our Lady came. As the event of daily apparitions unfolded in our Bedroom, we were as surprised as everyone else, especially that She came, every one of those days, as Marija described, very happy, very joyful, smiling often, giving messages every day, all of which also surprised Marija who said Our Lady was not even giving messages in Medjugorje like this. She said it was like Medjugorje in its beginning days. We were confounded by this joy of Our Lady when She visited. It was the Virgin Mary who told Marija during these three months that it was Her desire to establish a community. That community did not evolve until three years later. Did Our Lady see something or see certain ways that would be good ingredients to establish and foundation a community? Our Lady's thoughts and plans manifested and expanded what had already existed in my family. Her community simply grew three years later.

So the contrast of my home and mobile homes cannot be judged as a wrong or as an injustice. It is easy for those of good will to reason that thought away through the time sequence that our home had begun to be built in 1981, was finished in 1987, a year before Our Lady came in 1988. Afterwards the community began. Almost three years elapsed before the community ever existed, which began in 1990! Our Lady came to our house, not just happy, but…very happy!… Everyday. It is simple logic that the contrast you make in

regards to our home vs. mobile homes was non-existent for years. There was no community! When Our Lady asked for the community, it took all the resources that could be mustered to make places to live and mobile homes were the only and best choice that could be made for the funds that would be available. Our Lady asked for it. We did what we could do. The mobile homes were not run down but brand new and very nice and comfortable to live in. Presently, some members also live in houses. Our Lady has continued to come, and noted by Marija, continued to bless what has formed here. It, therefore, is illogical to say there is something wrong with this picture when Our Lady's apparitions give the understanding and answer that She has no problem with what She formed here.

The perceived contrast of our home and mobile homes is just that, "perceived." I lived with my family in one, was content, and didn't have a problem with it, and those who presently live in them are content and do not have a problem with them. For those who do have difficulty, after knowing these facts and understanding what Our Lady has continued to do with over 100 apparitions, goes against reason and logic that comes by simply reflecting on the thought of "look at what Our Lady has done." Your letter itself states, *"I was taken in by the beauty of it—the Field, the Bedroom, the grounds were so serene and so peaceful."* God is peace. Where there is peace, there is God. Where there is disparity, there is the absence of God and, therefore, no peace. By your statement

you give the answer, by logic, you asked of me. Physically, through human eyes, there is a contrast. But what God sees and man sees can best be explained by a monk who walked past a Bishop's mansion everyday. One day, walking past with his dog by his side, he muttered bitterly, *"Look at that Bishop's life and his castle!"* He was startled when God said to him, *"You are more attached to your dog than the Bishop is to his castle."* It is what is in the heart that is important.

Sometime, during the last year of its construction, after midnight when I was alone and just finished setting the mantle of the fireplace, the spirit of God moved me to prostrate myself on the floor. I felt in union with Him, as if He were present. It was a profound moment for me. I gave Him the house, without limitations, every stone, every corner was to be His, and He answered a little over a year later sending His own Mother. One day, standing in the kitchen of our new home, as stranger after stranger came in, I was looking at the third tile that had been broken by helpers who had accidentally dropped cast iron pots, etc. on the floor, and thought even if the whole house is worn out, I accept it with grace for the conversion of those who are coming and seeking Our Lady. At that moment, one stranger said to me, *"Thank you for allowing us into your home."* I told him, *"I also am grateful because it does not belong to me but to God, and I am as much a visitor as you are."* I have never gotten over that God has given me this home, allowing me to live in it, and much

less, that we are given the opportunity to sleep in the bed the Virgin Mary has appeared over many times. But I am more convinced the heart is what is important in the eyes of God, and my conscience is not troubled that some live in a house, some in mobile homes, and others in a cabin.

In my writing office there is a plaque of a quote from Abraham Lincoln that I received before the community existed here:

Let not him who is houseless
Pull down the house of another,
But let him work diligently and
Build one for himself, thus by
Example assuming that his own shall
Be safe from violence when built.

Abraham Lincoln
March 21, 1864

It is, again, simple logic that if we have shared our home with literally tens of thousands who have come and knelt in our own bedroom, that almost no one would allow such a thing. Pause and think for a moment. Would you in your bedroom? Logically speaking, we have crosses that, in contrast, those of the rest of the community do not have. Each is given the sacrifice God has asked for. Added to the many who have come, the community frequently prays in the bedroom. Our home

is not private. Our home is the heart of our family but, at the same time, it also is the heart of the community—a place of conception, for it was across this bed Our Lady expressed Her desire for the community, which was birthed after a term of three years.

I believe Our Lady was attracted to this place because what was being built, while not known to me, was the message in the heart. Yes, it was full of imperfections, but the foundation of the messages was there. I believe thousand-family churches are too big to be community, that cities do not work, and that what the human heart thirsts for is community. The community is first the family. Then comes the greater community, a small number of people who have shared values, that carry the same ideals and dreams in their hearts for themselves and their children. To live in community is to live in a place where love of neighbor is not a command but a natural result of the way one lives. I care deeply for those who live in community here, those whose hearts have joined in union with me to Our Lady's heart and Her way of life rather than society's rebel call of "diversity." We are one, not individualistic, but community, where the individual is somebody, in contrast to the way society is now, where "one" is all alone, a nobody. Everyone here is somebody. This is best expressed by a quote in the book, Heart of a Small Town: Photographs of Alabama Towns, by Robin McDonald:

"When death visits our little town, each one left knows that he is diminished, by little or much. No man here is nobody. Everybody is a somebody. And sadness at death is genuine. What is more, lonely memories hold the departed in mind and heart. The vacant church pew, the missing face, the voice, the laughter—the good and not-so-good are remembered and missed."

Viola Goode Liddle
A Place of Spring

Boiste once wrote,

"There is no solitude more dreadful for a stranger than a great city. So many thousands of men and not one a friend." [1]

Colton wrote:

"If you would not be known, live in a city."[2]

Cities are uncivilized, anti-community. What God ordained for man is to be connected to the soil. The Book of Genesis states of Adam, *"by the sweat of your brow shall you eat."*

Crowley wrote,

"God made the first garden and Cain the first city." [3]

De Tocqueville wrote:

> *"To civilize a people it is necessary first to fix it and this cannot be done without inducing it to cultivate the soil."* [4]

I've been all over the world. The closer to the 'majestic' city you go, the less of God and community you experience in the people and the ways of the city. The further into the rural areas, the more you will find Godly ways and real community.

Presently, godless France's most rural and, what is viewed by the metropolitan as the "backward" region, is Brittany. It is referred to as backward, a bunch of farmers. We have actually heard Parisians mocking and imitating in the French language the French "country talk" of those who live in regions such as Brittany. While it was quite humorous, it displayed an underlying truth of what the general metropolitan society holds as worth and what people of the soil and animal husbandry holds are two different things. Rural Brittany is said to generally be the only place in France where its people still reverence God, recognized as a Godly region. What does this tell us? We have close friends in the middle of Paris. One of them told us that the media did not say what really happened in France with the riots of 2005. He said, *"Actually it was a civil war."* The media reported they burned thousands of cars each night. Our friend said in the cities they burned hundreds and hundreds of beautiful Catholic churches. No one is reporting this. The

media is mute on what happened in the cities. The people, knowing what happened, are shamefully silent. *"It's horrible,"* said our friend. I have spoken all across France, from Paris to Brittany, and I've seen this in my own experience. Cities replace God with humanism, its achievements, and man's existence, while the more towards God's creation one lives incites the reality of God's existence. In the Book of Romans it states:

> ***"Whatever can be known about God is clear to them (men); He Himself made it so. Since the creation of the world, invisible realities, God's eternal power and divinity, (are)… recognized through the <u>things</u> He has made."***
> Romans 1:19–20

This means there is no excuse for humanism and atheism. There is no excuse for those who profess disbelief in God and His sovereignty. God is revealed through His Creation, and anyone with an open heart will find Him there. But it is not just through *visiting* creation that we experience God. We are to form our life amidst God's creation, not man's creation. Are these just my words, my thoughts? Then read the Woman who is Queen of the World and what She has to say:

April 25, 1993

> **"…Go into nature and look how nature is awakening and it will be a help for you to open your hearts to the love of God the Creator…"**

October 25, 1995

"…I invite you to go into nature because there you will meet God the Creator…

August 25, 1999

"…Also today I call you to give glory to God the Creator in the colors of nature. He speaks to you also through the smallest flower about His beauty and the depth of love with which He has created you. Little children, may prayer flow from your hearts like fresh water from a spring. May the wheat fields speak to you about the mercy of God towards every creature…"

July 25, 2001

"…Find peace in nature and you will discover God the Creator Whom you will be able to give thanks to for all creatures; then you will find joy in your heart…"

April 25, 2002

"…Rejoice with me in this time of spring when all nature is awakening and your hearts long for change…"

1984

> **"If you want to be very happy, live a simple, humble life, pray a great deal, do not delve into your problems, but let yourselves be guided by God."**

There are many more such messages of Our Lady. Is it any wonder that August 1–5, 2005, thousands spent five days here at Caritas in the heat, in sacrifice and prayer, but in the midst of how we live with creation, and that their lives were profoundly changed forever? Some spent only a portion of those days here and testified to the same. One pilgrim wrote us:

> *"…The entire week was life changing. I have continued with the three hours of daily prayer, daily Rosary, Mass, Confession and my new favorite, the hourly three Hail Mary's for Our Lady's intentions…Our Lady has answered many of my petitions and is working miracles within our family. My husband that has been away from the Church for 40 years asked to go to Mass with me…"*
>
> *Menominee, Michigan*
> *August 30, 2005*

It was a choice that this place be structured in the way of the messages, in harmony with God's ways, and testimony after testimony parallels the above letter, confirming that God blessed this choice. You must realize what your choices have begotten. Our Lady said you've created or structured your world in the wrong way. She said you've built a whole world without God.

January 25, 1997

> **"…I invite you to reflect about your future. You are creating a new world without God, only with your own strength and that is why you are unsatisfied and without joy in the heart…"**

I wanted to create a new world with God for my home, family, and work. Some try to do this but their environment will not allow it. The structure of the work place reflects the world without God. It has evolved in its creation in which most of its performance is without God. Home schoolers are the primary segment in preserving America's heritage and values who are not being conditioned by the school systems. The system teaches students to have their own value system, a very clever move by the changers of society because it sounds good for many to accept the idea of *"Your values are yours. No one should impose upon you their values."* Yet, this is a great deception, making many think they will be deciding their own values when, in fact, the idea is to get them to reject the values

and morals of their forefathers so that everything in society will form their values. Something always shapes values, and the world is very active to impose its anti-God value system. But even home schooling is not enough to counter these actions. Great effort has occurred to change the work place in the last decades. The work place itself has become a place to form political correctness, impose values on the worldwide work force. This value system has become for many their own value system, not realizing it has been imposed upon them. One of the Caritas community members heard a talk about values and family. The following is part of its content.

> *"A person's morals and values are formed through work above any other means. Traditionally, for thousands of years, the family has been a working unit. The family needed to work for survival. It was essential, and every member was important (self-esteem). The larger the family, the greater the wealth. This is God's plan for the family. What is the family today? How do we spend our time? It is for leisure time, for pleasure, entertainment, and you can always find more or better entertainment somewhere else. The family is no longer important. The individual is no longer valued, so there is nothing to hold the family together—if you become dissatisfied, you just move on.*

Where then are our children's morals and values found? When do they 'work'? School. And not only school but sports, drama, homework, extra-curricular activities, after school projects, events, etc. Schools are controlling all of the children's time, dictating what will be done. The parent's have little or no control.

But even in the secular world you will find better morals and values in larger families, because more work at home by all is required to keep the home and family fed, clothed, and sheltered which is especially true of people living in rural areas because more family work is required because of physical circumstances.

It's interesting to note that Mirjana the visionary, emotionally upset after a miscarriage said, *"You will understand one day why it's important to have big families."* Many Christians are jumping in and out of a world, one without God and one with God, in their effort to create within their personal environment a world with God. Many are trying to make the best of this in and out situation, but it doesn't work and many are *unsatisfied and without joy*. Some of you may be thinking, what does this have to do with living in trailers? Everything. Everyone has to make sacrifices in order to have this way of life. Ready made trailers gave the possibility for

those who are now in the community to come immediately and begin **"living a new life as of today."** In February 1994, Our Lady returned here in the apparitions. It was Her first apparition here since the community began. I, with my family, were the only ones gathered in the bedroom for that apparition with Marija and her husband Paolo. There were four trailers housing the families of the community by this time, and the community members were gathered in the Field for the apparition. I had asked Our Lady, in my heart, to confirm our direction, because we were suffering from so many attacks from those against what I was doing. Our Lady's first words upon returning were:

February 1, 1994

> **"I am happy to be here."**

Marija said Our Lady smiled. With these words and beautiful smile, I was greatly strengthened to continue. So, what does that mean for those of you in regards to the new world created without God? Ivan, in an interview he gave in 2004, paraphrasing Our Lady, said,

> **"Dear children, this world, this humanity, resides in a great danger and threat that it will destroy itself."**

Ivan also said Our Lady told him, *"…the secrets are not good for the world."* [5]

So what it means when Our Lady comes to save the world and that the secrets will not be good for the world is that we are in restructuring time, tearing down time, of the ways against God in our society. How? Our Lady blesses the world each day. This has occurred for 29 years.* This blessing is exorcistic in value. Everyday for 29 years, Our Lady has slowly, steadily, profoundly performed an exorcism, which, that of late, is radically manifesting everywhere in the world: in nations, families, nature, governments…everywhere struggles. The positions darkness has rooted itself in do not want to give way to Our Lady's way, just as we see in an exorcism with a person a demon does not want to let go of. Except in this case we are speaking of the whole world. To clarify more, so again, what does this mean? It's simple. God is going to restructure the world back to Himself and to *"fix it…it will not be done without being induced to 'cultivate the soil',"* through the secrets—just as man was ordained from the beginning. The "City of David" was agrarian. Agriculture was the life of their city. When close to nature, community thrives. That is the "biblical" city and the only city the world can have and thrive as community, with God's sovereignty over its way.

* This was originally written in 2006. 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

Find one city council and/or county commission whose actions place God's sovereignty over their city and county! You will not find it. You will find Christians on these councils, but you will not find the council's actions placing God's sovereignty over their own as governances over man. A working, agrarian society depends upon God for rain, soil, the birth of animals, milk and so forth, satisfying the spirit, vs. the great city whose dependence depends upon the police forces, ordinances, consumerism, entertainments, and pleasures and leaves the spirit empty. Emerson wrote:

> *"Cities force growth and make men talkative and entertaining, but they make them artificial."* [6]

The spirit of present society is egoism. Our Lady said:

July 25, 2000

> **"…Do not forget that you are here on earth on the way to eternity and that your home is in Heaven. That is why, little children, be open to God's love and leave egoism and sin…"**

All of the above is important to reflect upon why I built, why I moved, where I moved, why Our Lady said to **"reflect upon the world you built,"** and why this world of man is falling apart. It is clear; we are on a schedule to be restructured. We

can act upon it now, in this time of grace, or be forced into it when what comes to pass, as Ivan said, *"…will not be good for the world."* Aside from Our Lady's apparitions here, one of the things that make us the richest is our own cemetery. Our 6th son died in my wife's womb at four months. My wife gave birth to him two days after he had died. John Jacob's tombstone marks his grave at the end of the Rosary Trail, leading from our home to the Field. Bridget, our 7th child, but 1st daughter, was conceived just before John Jacob would have been born. Her big brother's death allowed her to be. Everyday on the way back from Rosary in the Field, we pray three Hail Mary's for his intercession. Bridget, as well as the rest of us, speaks his name everyday at the end of these Hail Mary's. *"John Jacob, pray for us."* He is actively a part of our family. He is not forgotten. He gave his life and his sister lives. Society's structure does not permit this remembrance. Cemeteries are commercial ventures to make money, with quick visits devoid of contemplation, and as time goes by become more and more infrequent. Those that formally walked the earth are not part of one's life schedule, and loved ones in time are only remembered more and more faintly, rather than becoming part of the lives of those who were left behind It is the result of a world created without God. If my wife dies before me, remarriage will not be a part of my life's equation. I will continue on with my relationship with her and, in a way, experience more harmony than we could ever achieve on

earth. I have a special relationship with Our Lady. She is in Heaven. Why could I not continue one with my wife? Daily, in our own cemetery, I still could discuss the family, address situations everyday, she helping the family from Heaven and I from earth. Remember at the beginning of Our Lady's apparitions, Ivanka's mother, who had just died two months before, appeared with Our Lady and told Ivanka to help her grandmother and that she was proud of her (Ivanka)! Why did Our Lady allow this? She wants to establish a live connection between Heaven and us! This tells us that loved ones are not closed off, enjoying Heaven at the expense of forgetting us on earth. No, they are interested in helping grandmother! We can benefit greatly by remembering our loved ones as our own saints and advocates. Our structure is a life created with God. We are not in and out of a world, sometimes with and sometimes without God. Our cemetery was part of building our house. We planned it with the house—our whole world with God, with the thought of Heaven and our connection with it. It is not strange to us that cemeteries have to do with life and are a major part of a thriving community. We are rich, rich in a way of life, shown to us by Our Lady.

Recently, a 46-year-old man moved into the community. He has lived in several places, been in the Marines, experienced life in all forms and said after being here only a month, living in community, that it was the best month of his entire

life. He lives in the consecrated men's trailer. Jesus did not blatantly say not to judge. Rather, He said:

> ***"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."*** John 7:24

The mobile homes we have are not run down, and all who enter into them are shocked at how nice and livable they are. It is dangerous to make judgments. It's best to avoid doing so altogether, without a complete picture. It is a known truth that every leader will encounter slanders simply by the virtue of the position held. Anyone who takes a strong stance will be both loved and opposed. The shepherds drive the wolves from the sheepfold, for which the sheep thank the shepherd as a liberator, but for which the wolves denounce him for the same act, as a destroyer of the wolves' liberties. You will not please everyone and more so if you are commissioned with a mission from God. We walk in a special way with Our Lady. We, therefore, will be persecuted, falsely judged, and looked on with suspicion. Your letter was correct in stating, *"Those accusations I do not believe as I see the fruits of your mission for one and I do not believe that anyone is "forced" to live there and live as they do."* However, you are in error to state the judgment of *"why the huge contrast in living conditions?"* By appearance, this judgment is made. By logic of what Our Lady has done, it is nullified. Reasoning, with prayer, brings the right conclusion.

Lastly, and since I have never responded to anyone in regards to these issues, because I understand through Our Lady's promptings that time was my friend and a history trail would lead to the ability of what I am now writing. Perhaps now is the time to reveal other information, which can help form proper judgments about this mission, my intentions, and the community. Recently, someone said to a community member, when upon finding out that they were a part of Caritas, stated, *"Oh, Caritas, the second largest non-profit organization in Alabama, behind only EWTN."* He sarcastically added, *"Where's all the money go?"* I have directed Caritas, the community, and its international mission work for 20 years.* In that period of time, never did I feel inclined to defend myself, even amidst all kinds of attacks and pressures, often of which were veiled attempts to force me to answer in order to create a scandal. When money issues were raised, my quietness was often interpreted by those of bad will as "something I'm hiding," when, in fact, it was of little interest for me to defend myself. God justifies and God defends. After 20 years of letting God act, He has always brought us through the storms of any who would do us harm. Those 20 years of silence is testimony of my lack of concern in answering bad willed judgments. Mirjana, one of the Medjugorje visionaries, stated during the beginning days of the apparitions when so many were accusing them of trying to make money, or saying that they

* This was originally written in 2006.

were on drugs, were lying, etc., that Our Lady taught them *"to let the people talk."* That was my path. Let people think what they want and let them go with their bad judgments. But the following is revealed for you of good will and though many know us, some new people, such as yourself, may not have known us but for a short time, so I give you the following information. I believe that Caritas possibly, and very likely, would be ranked at the top, if not #1, for what it produces with every dollar donated. No Medjugorje center or community in the world comes close to giving away the material Caritas does. Throughout the years, millions of different pieces of Medjugorje materials that Caritas produced have been scattered in homes across the world. Look in the back of any of our booklets valued at $3.00, and you can get it free and in volume purchases for 15 cents. That's less than the cost of the paper of the booklet. My commitment to Our Lady and this mission to sacrifice my future is not words or a showy appearance. No benefactor has given more money to the mission of Caritas than I have. In 1986, Our Lady told me through Marija to **"live in humility."** Afterwards, the two-bedroom guesthouse we planned to build next to our home I cancelled; the garage, the same. After Our Lady gave me this message in 1988, I quit everything for myself. No retirement, no savings, no investments. Everything I had was to be used for Our Lady. St. Therese said, *"Humility is truth."* So, I reveal to you a truth. In 1990, the Board of Caritas studied comparable

organizations and gave me a salary that I did not need. Since I owned my home and lands and was not in debt, I refused the greater portion of the approved salary and have voluntarily given up every year $60,000.00. Over the last 16 years,* that totals over $960,000.00. I knew these funds would be vital to strengthen and catapult Caritas, to make the mission grow quickly. God called me to disregard my interest and personal security to trust Him that He provides, just as so often happened before, such as Abraham was provided the ram after being stopped from slaying his son Isaac. Our Lady said:

September 25, 1997

> **"…I call you all to love, not with a human love, but with God's love. In this way, your life will be more beautiful and without an interest…"**

I've refused royalties on millions of books, booklets, tapes, CD's that most Christian writers accept. All lands, some of which I began purchasing 30 years ago, are at the 100% disposal of Caritas and its mission to be successful. Never has my interests, or my family interests, been placed above Our Lady's mission of Caritas. I do not tithe 10%. I tithe over 90% and formed my life and its needs to fit the mission of Our Lady's call to propagate the messages to the world. How

* This was originally written in 2006.

many people would freely make such a choice? And on a continued basis?

Am I doing something extraordinary? NO. Clearly No. I am doing only what I am called to do. I am only doing my duty. God has given everything. We all are only stewards of what He lets us use. The mission of Caritas is extraordinary in what it *does*. But what it *does* is because of Our Lady, Who is extraordinary. All you and I do is our duty.

Recently, I talked to Tom Monaghan, the billionaire and builder of Domino's Pizza chain. He, in the 1970's and early 80's, was spending money on $600,000.00 cars and owned a baseball team worth hundreds of millions of dollars, along with many other things. He went to Medjugorje around 1984, for one day—only one day. He told me it was the high point of his life. He changed everything. Everything he does now, all his wealth is used to build up God's Kingdom. His corporate offices have within them a private chapel in which four Masses a day are held, a Catholic credit union, and a Catholic bookstore. Hundreds of images and large pictures of Our Lady adorn the hallway of the mile-long office building. I thanked him for what he was doing for the Catholic faith. He responded to me, *"I've got a lot of making up to do."* Tom Monaghan is not doing anything extraordinary. He is only doing his duty. God gives means or positions to advance His Kingdom. Not only will these individuals be persecuted,

derided and slandered for what they do, but, on the other side, they are viewed as doing something great. God is great, not man. Yes, you are free to decide what to do with the means and wealth God gives you with your own free will but…and this is a big thought…you are responsible for how you use what God has given you. One is not free to spend $600,000.00 on a car without neglecting duty, no more than I can use my lands for my desires and interests, negating God's desires and interests. Everything is God's, and especially you who are wealthy are not free to just save it, hoard it or use it to just build more wealth and keep feathering your own nest, for you must do right, using it for what you were given it for by God. In Maria Valtorta's book, The Poem of the Man-God*, Jesus said:

> *"I only say to you that rich people are only the depositaries of the wealth granted to them by God with instructions to distribute it to those who suffer. Consider the honor, which God grants you by calling you to be partners in the work of providence in favor of poor and sick people, of widows and orphans. God could rain money, garments, food on poor people. But in that case He would deprive rich people of great merits:*

* The Poem of the Man-God is the work of an Italian mystic who allegedly received visions and dictations of Jesus and Mary concerning their life on earth. When the visionaries from Medjugorje asked Our Lady if people could read this book, Our Lady highly recommended its reading.

those of charity towards their brothers. Not all rich people can be learned, but they can all be good. Not all rich people can take care of sick people, bury the dead, visit invalids and prisoners. But all rich people, and even those who are not poor, can give…He is poor who lacks what is necessary to live. Remember! Charity and mercy are rewarded forever. Remember! Charity and mercy are absolution from sins. God remits very much to those who love. And love for the poor who cannot reciprocate is the most deserving in the eyes of God. Remember these words of mine until the end of your lives and you will be saved and blissful in the Kingdom of God."

As our age is different from 2000 years ago, the question must be asked who are the poor? The orphans of today are children of divorce, who grieve in a worse way. Which among them would not happily choose poverty with two loving parents than comforts without their parents being one? The list goes on and on. Who are poorer than poor sinners? It is Our Lady's messages that define the poorest of the poor: they are the spiritually impoverished. We live in an age so malnourished in feeding of the soul that never has the world grown so cold and harsh as it is now, mainly because of the worldwide explosion of divorce which is the tree which gives fruit for most of the sins of the world. Our Lady's call is to

help poor sinners, the spiritually impoverished, those who do not know how to hold their marriages together, those whose lives are destroyed by godless society. The elevation of the spiritually impoverished in today's world is the need that most urgently must be met. How you live and the use of your means, your position and wealth determines your eternal fate and the amount of Heavenly blessing you will be rewarded for. You cannot go through this life and at death's door buy your reward. Napoleon's mother tried to do that. Before she died, using all her wealth that she refused to use on the poor during her life, she paid her fortune for thousands of Masses to be said for her soul after her death. Did God hear those Masses to her benefit? She should have used her means to help people along the way as Tom Monaghan realized, *"I've got a lot of making up to do."* Our Lady asked me to be a witness. I want my life to be a challenge, especially to those whom God has blessed, that you are not free to do as you will but to do with your means what God wills. Not grudgingly or stingily, thinking because you have given a lot of money already that you have satisfied God's will. You haven't. A pastor was approached by one of his wealthy church members who said to the pastor *"I can't tithe because I make too much. It would be a fortune I would have to give."* The pastor immediately broke into prayer. *"Father, please help John here not to make so much money so that he can afford to tithe…"* John interrupted, *"Stop, stop praying! I'll give. I'll give!!"* I have

not given out of abundance but rather out of my means, and that is what Our Lady desires. Use your means, your position, your wealth. Now. Now for Our Lady's plans. For some who are rich to tithe 90% while they are alive will still not stop them from living the same life they are accustomed to living with 10% of their wealth.

Today, everyone, no matter what means they have, be they rich, middle class, and yes, the poor themselves, must help alleviate the crisis of faith that kills the family, destroys society, uproots heritage, and fosters perdition for so many.

Would you open up your personal property, let people come on your land, or use your entire means to help Our Lady? I have done so and been greatly blessed. It is not a great thing or deed I've done. It is a great thing what Our Lady has done by simply doing what is duty. If everyone did their ordinary duty, the peace on earth would be extraordinary. I have experienced that peace, and it comes with giving everything over to God and His use. It doesn't mean to go sell everything. It means to turn everything over to advance the Kingdom of God and in our time, until the last age, it is Our Lady's plans and messages that God wants fulfilled and everyone is to participate in building a Kingdom of Love.

March 25, 1986

"Dear children, pray, so that in the whole world may come the Kingdom of Love. How mankind would be happy if love reigned."

Susan, I know this is much more than you thought you would get for an explanation to your question, but it's been 20 years in the waiting, and 30 plus years in the making, and at only 52 years, a lot more still yet to be done. May God bless you and all who seek the reign of the Kingdom of Love.

With Love to Encourage You
To Live a New Life as of Today,

A Friend of Medjugorje,COCI

Endnotes::
1. The Dictionary of Thoughts; A Cyclopedia of Quotation, 1960
2. Ibid
3. Ibid
4. Ibid
5. Glas Mira, 2004
6. The Dictionary of Thoughts; A Cyclopedia of Quotation, 1960

Bvm / Caritas
Medjugorje Pilgrimages

Think about it. If you could combine every single event for the past thirty years that occurred in Washington D.C., New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Paris, London and every other place in the world, it would be dwarfed by the event of one single day in Medjugorje. Our Lady, Mary, Mother of Christ, comes to the Earth, blesses the whole world with Her presence and speaks to us with words conveyed directly from God. Wouldn't you like to be part of one of the most important events in the history of Creation?

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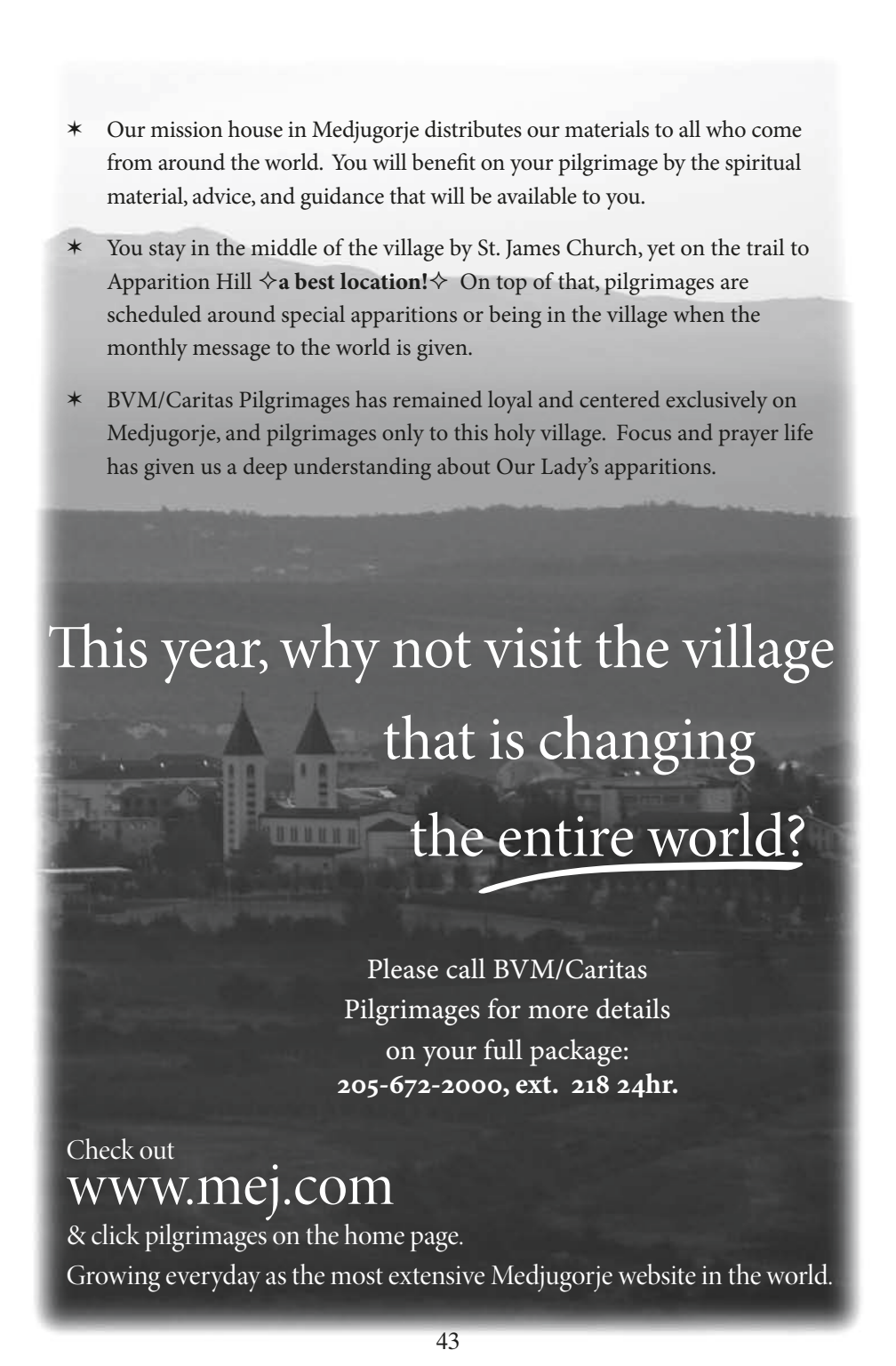

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