



Of Seeds and Flowers



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MEDJUGORJE: LOOK WHAT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING!

I am not a theological or spiritual lightweight. I am not naïve, a gullible or intellectually soft evaluator of reality, nor am I too sophisticated to reject what reasonable faith calls us to believe. You can “go to the bank” with the following. The events happening in Medjugorje (pronounced Med-joo-gore-ee-ah) are REALLY, REALLY, REALLY and TRULY happening. It is trustworthy and worth your time to openly investigate.

OBJECTIVE FACT: Since 1981, in a small village in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Medjugorje, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, has been appearing to six people (visionaries) and has entrusted them with a message that is imploring the human family to return to God because world changing events will soon be occurring. She is telling the visionaries and us that **God has sent her to our world**, and that during these years that she is spending with us are a time of grace granted by God. On May 2, 1982 Mary spoke these words to the visionaries: *"I have come to call the world to conversion **for the last time**. Afterwards, I will not appear any more on earth. I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and peace, you must return to God"*.

Since the apparitions began in 1981, **over 45 million people of all faiths**, from all over the world, have visited Medjugorje and have left

spiritually strengthened and renewed. Countless numbers of people who believe and many who don't believe have been converted and healed.

In addition to her public messages, Mary is giving each of the six visionaries a total of ten "secrets" of happenings that will occur on earth in the near future. Why secrets? God so often entrusts secrets to visionaries to rescue us from fear. Jesus is the Lord of history. He wants us to know that He knows what is going to happen, and it does not matter how bad the events because we can trust in Him. -and so the secrets. Some very difficult days are in the forecast and He wants His people to trust and be at peace when the these days come. For more information check the web site: Medjugorje.com (The Caritas Birmingham Site)



In the third secret, already revealed, Our Lady has promised to leave a supernatural, indestructible, and visible sign on the mountain where she first appeared. Mary said: "This sign will be given for the atheists. You faithful already have signs and you have become the sign for the atheists. You faithful must not wait for the sign before you convert; convert soon. This time is a time of grace for you. You can never thank God enough for His grace. This time is for deepening your faith, and for your conversion. When the sign comes, it will be too late for many."

Three of the six visionaries, Mirjana, Ivanka, and Jakov, have all ten secrets and no longer see Mary on a daily basis. Mirjana received the 10th secret in 1982, Ivanka in 1985, and Jakov in 1998. The other three visionaries, Ivan, Marija and Vicka, each have 9 secrets and still see Our Lady on a daily basis.

MARY: WHAT DOES SHE LOOK LIKE IN THE APPARITIONS? The visionaries usually describe the Blessed Mother as wearing a long gray dress, with a white veil. She has blue eyes, long black hair, and rosy cheeks. On Her feast days, anniversaries, and birthday, she comes dressed all in gold. Each Christmas, she appears in gold with the Baby Jesus in Her arms. All the visionaries say it is very difficult to find the words to describe Mary.

Marija explains, "I consider words

very, very weak to express what we experience with Our Lady. For instance, when we say Our Lady has a gray dress, this is not exact. Our Lady's dress is of a certain color that does not exist on this earth. It has something to do with gray, so we say: 'Her dress is gray.' We have some words we use to describe her, but everything in the experience of Our Lady is beyond words."

On the web site there is a section that deals with the **scientific studies**. From the very first days of the apparitions, the six visionaries were repeatedly examined for evidence of any mental disorder, hallucinations, lying, use of drugs, etc. The visionaries endured the examination of countless number of doctors, committees and commissions, an unimaginable amount of hours, dedicated to testing them to uncover any possibility of deception or digression from their testimony. They were often pressured, tricked, made to repeat over and over again their stories, going through the same tests over and over again by many doctors. Check it out. Medjugorje.com.

HEAVEN, HELL, PURGATORY? - EVER WONDER?? Don't let your pre-judgment, pre-conditioning get in the way. Two of the visionaries have been physically taken by Mary to Heaven, Purgatory and Hell. The other four have had visions of all three places. Don't be too sophisticated, check it out at Medjugorje.com (choose the Caritas Birmingham Site). Remember the recent book and movie: "Heaven Is for Real" and the book "Ninety Minutes in Heaven" - a very moving story. Simply, more of the same truths!

One of the common "little miracles" that regularly happens at Medjugorje is that rosaries carried to

Medjugorje by pilgrims in their pocket or purse that were red, black, blue, crystal etc. turn to gold. Cindy and I have a friend in Glastonbury, Ct. who visited Medjugorje. When she returned home she was mildly disappointed her rosary did not change to a gold color. About a week later, doing the dishes, she looked at her rosary on the window sill above the sink and it was no longer brown but gold. True story!

Another of the more common miraculous events that occurs at Medjugorje is the Miracle of the Sun. An eye witness account of the Miracle of the Sun is printed on the last page of "Of Seeds and Flowers."



Ivan Dragicevic speaks at a Medjugorje conference in Mississippi.

Mary has shared her life story with Vicka. It will be published when Mary gives permission. So far, Vicka has three books of written notes. She has told the visionaries that she was born on August 5th.

Cindy and I went to a Church in Milton, Massachusetts two years ago for the daily apparition of Mary to Ivan Dragicevic. Mary appeared to Ivan for about 10 minutes. - a very moving experience. He and his family live in Massachusetts.

I know that some of my dear, dear friends have some difficulty with the role that Mary has played in the

spiritual life of Catholics. The Catholic Church, but more often the **exaggerated devotional life** of some Catholics, has often placed Mary's role out of proper theological perspective. By and large, this over-emphasis on Mary doesn't exist anymore and we have to let the past go. Truly, is there any reason why Jesus couldn't send His Mother to call his people back to His heart? Fresh eyes and hearts!!

I hope that this newsletter has piqued your interest enough to go to MEDJUGORJE.com (the Caritas Birmingham site). The side bar has an index that will satisfy your curiosity: E.G. Questions and Answers, Medjugorje Visionaries, Beginning Days of the Apparitions, The 10 Secrets, Signs and Miracles, Scientific Studies, Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell , Medjugorje messages, etc.etc.... Mirjana has some wonderful interviews on YouTube.

I hear from praying people in many religions and they all know that something big is coming. -34 years of Motherly visits to the planet speak to this. In preparing this newsletter I have felt like a "kid in a candy factory". There is so much serious, urgent, critical information to share. I have written over 325 issues of "Of Seeds and Flowers" in the past 34 years, none more important than this one.

If all of this is true then it is true for everyone, everywhere, just like gravity is true for everyone, everywhere, believers and non believers alike. For the hesitant, perhaps, a good prayer is: "God, I am willing to be made willing to believe, help me". Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for all of the superabundant things God is always doing to break into our lives.

Vision and Reality

You can't change the world
if you spend all of your
time hiding in the bushes.

We used to have a
wonderful group of A.A.
ladies meet at Mary's Field
and they would often say,
"Alcoholism is about 10%
alcohol and 90% honesty."

"The real voyage of
discovery consists not in
seeking new landscapes,
but in having NEW
EYES." - *Marcel Proust*

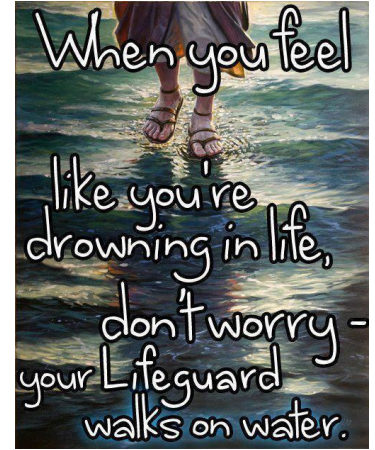
"If one is not loved and
caressed one develops
thorns." - *Beryl*

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS and Share the Message of Peace, Love, and Hope throughout the Advent Season with your loved ones, family, and friends. – BUT ONLY, **TO REMIND OURSELVES AND OUR FELLOW CHRISTIANS, NOT TO CHANGE ANYONE ELSE.**

1. Send only religious Christmas cards.
2. Use postage stamps that feature a religious theme.
3. Hang an Advent Calendar and open a window each day.
4. Display your nativity set in a window or on the lawn where others can see it.
5. Place a candle in the window to symbolize the light of Christ.
6. Listen to traditional Christmas carols that honor Christ's birth.
7. Read Christmas scripture and stories to children.
8. Purchase a gift, wrap it, and give it to the poor - and encourage a child to do the same.
9. Utilize the Mexican custom of the Posadas, a 9-day celebration, ending on Christmas Eve, symbolizing the trials that Mary and Joseph endured finding a place to stay where Jesus could be born.
10. Use decorations and greeting of "Merry Christmas" instead of "Happy Holidays."
11. Have a child place a straw in the crèche for each good deed done as a gift to the Baby Jesus during Advent.
12. Pray for the young, so that when they become adults they will not regard Christmas as just another holiday free from work.

WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM.

"Without God there can be no American form of government, nor an American way of life. Recognition of the Supreme Being is the first-and most basic-expression of Americanism." - *President Dwight D. Eisenhower*



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Speaking Softly

Description by a Pilgrim of the Miracle of the Sun:

Around 6:15 P.M., we headed down to the church courtyard to pray the rosary and await the Blessed Mother's apparition. Pilgrims gathered outside the church where she appears, and pray as she gives messages to the visionaries. While we prayed the rosary, I noticed that it seemed more meaningful than usual. I sort of thought more deeply about Jesus and the Blessed Mother as I was praying. As the crowd neared the end of the rosary, I noticed that part of the group standing on the side of the church began to look up and others began to rush toward them, looking up also. To my amazement, we saw what is called the Miracle of the Sun.

I have to admit, I was entirely skeptical of this being able to occur at all.

But when I looked up, the sun seemed like a full moon. It did not hurt my eyes to look at it! The sun seemed to be wobbling. It was like Jell-O being shaken. Then it began to spin very fast. I have never, ever seen anything like it. Then, the sun had many colors shooting out from it: blue, pink, green, yellow, orange. Some around me not only saw Our Lady in the sun, but also told me that they had somehow received some grace that let them understand Our Lady.

We were all in shock. I was crying, thinking, half praying, 'God, I was a doubting Thomas. I almost believed but needed to see the proverbial wounds in the hands of Christ.' I kept thinking to myself, 'Now I know why God sends signs. To help our weak faith, to encourage us in times of doubt. Or, as for me, to forever erase the need to ask: Do I believe?'

Then I saw a rainbow in the sky though it had not, nor would it rain for weeks.

