



Medjugorje Centre of Canada

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

"Pray with the heart and
surrender yourselves to Jesus in prayer."

— Our Lady Queen of Peace of
Medjugorje's Message August 11, 1984



Preparing your heart for a pilgrimage

(Source: www.childrenofmedjugorje.com)

Jesus, Mary and Joseph went on a pilgrimage three times a year, in order to celebrate the Living God of Israel. It was a major event for the people and a very important "mitzvah"

(commandment) for the

Jews. From Nazareth, they had to walk about 100 miles in order to reach Jerusalem. They had to

leave their daily habits, their schedule for prayer, work, relationships, and be kind of "uprooted" for a while. They never knew exactly what was in store for them on the way, but with joy they faced discomfort and tiredness. They were carried ahead by a wonderful goal: to pray in the Temple, "be seen" by God and fulfill His call! Each pilgrimage allowed them to reach a new height in their spiritual life.



Pilgrimage is an adventure of the soul with several stages. Pilgrimage is the dream made true of a very exciting encounter with God! In a pilgrimage, you explore new ways, you discover new horizons, new people; you enrich your heart with special graces that God gives specifically for this occasion. During a pilgrimage, you allow God to be imaginative with you. Since you make the move to be detached from your comforts and normal frames in life – life's mechanisms - God may surprise you. He may speak to you in a different, unexpected way.

A pilgrim is one who decides to explore. As physical comforts wane and the daily, subtle addictions are not possible anymore, the pilgrim experiences an inner freedom that unveils secrets within his own heart. He realizes that he can live in a different way, with not much, and still be content. Often, when he finds himself blessing the distance suddenly put between his routine at home and this journey that escapes his control, for he experiences how blind he was and how much he needs to re-adjust the direction of his life. Time is given for consideration of his life from another perspective; what a gift this is! Like a plant that is moved to a sun-lit room developing new branches as a result, so the soul, being transferred into another context, reveals wonderful depths and hidden chambers to her outer self.

God has always called his beloved children, and a pilgrimage is an answer to His call. He has many ways to call us but pilgrimages are obviously one of His favorite. From times of old, He set up places of worship in Israel and ordered pilgrimages to be part of the journey with Him. He calls us not for the sake of calling us, but because He has something beautiful prepared that He wants to share with us.

Years of experience in Medjugorje has shown me that the best preparation for a pilgrimage to Medjugorje can be summarized in two actions: expect the unexpected and open your heart, then it will be in a position to listen to God's voice during your journey. Here are a few more pointers that will help us to live the messages in a deeper way while in Medjugorje.

A few simple words of advice:

- We are invited by Grace so let's not take it for granted! Our Lady said to the visionary Marija that those coming to Medjugorje on a pilgrimage are invited by Her personally. It gives us a clue as to what is expecting us!
- Express to God and the Blessed Mother how grateful we are to be invited and thank them in advance for the graces in store for us.
- Start reading a few of Our Lady's messages from Medjugorje at home and prepare our intellects with documents about the apparitions or books holding testimonies, so that the basics are in our minds when we arrive in Medjugorje.
- Make a point to be positive, to never complain and to gladly accept everything that comes our way. This will draw immense graces to us and those we carry in our hearts! The bed is not as good as at home? Remember that 42 years ago the villagers didn't even think having a bed! The food is kind of strange? Remember that 42 years ago the villagers didn't have enough to eat and had to work in Germany to ensure their families' survival! The pansion has no air conditioning? Remember that Jesus never had any all through the torrid summers in Israel. The guide is this or that? Our roommate is this or that? Fine! Try to learn how to love divinely and overcome our natural emotions. I will ask my roommate about his childhood and welcome the beautiful child hidden within that person. A pilgrimage offers so many reasons to praise God when we could be tempted to grumble. A shower of blessings will then fall on us! Our Lady will collect from us all of

these little sacrifices that we have made here and there and she'll use them for amazing graces!

- Have the true purpose of your pilgrimage clearly etched in mind: Our Lady is inviting us to change our hearts and to change the direction of our lives. Because she loves us so much, her plan is our complete conversion! Let's prepare our hearts for a good confession, it may be the most important target we can hit while in Medjugorje as it purifies and cleanses that which blocks us from listening attentively to His voice!
- Be sober and simple when packing your luggage. Many pilgrims arrive in Medjugorje so loaded with earthly things that they are also over-loaded in their hearts. A pilgrimage is an ideal opportunity to experience detachment and a certain poverty that is so good for the soul! Detachment allows the soul to be fully open to grace. Think of Jesus and the Holy Family, traveling by foot three times a year to Jerusalem. They were content with little and therefore experienced a great freedom.
- "Open your hearts!" is the constant message Our Lady gives to pilgrims in Medjugorje. Let us be generous in what we allow God to change in us, for a pilgrimage is a special time when He speaks to our hearts, but according to the measure we offer Him out of freedom.
- Absolutely avoid seeking signs and wonders. Those who seek them are not aiming at the right goal and will be very upset while in Medjugorje to see that the miracles happen on the inside. They

will miss the special graces Our Lady had prepared for them and return home empty.

- Clear all expectations before even leaving. Let's keep our minds and hearts open to the Pilgrimage experience. If we let ourselves go and let Our Lady show us everything we came for (but couldn't even conceive before we left) then surely we won't be disappointed.
- Be excited about having new friends, new brothers and sisters from the group! Very often, the new bonds of friendship that are created during a pilgrimage by the Lord are precious for our future. Our new found pilgrim buddies help us live the messages when we return home. We find that we have new supporters! Many little prayer groups and teams of charity work have been formed from being together on a pilgrimage!
- Before leaving home, many petitions for prayer are entrusted to us from people we love, who are in need or suffer a great deal. Praying for them is a high priority. However, keeping our minds and hearts focused on this list of hardships will not help. The best way to support people in need is to unite ourselves with Jesus so much that we become filled with Him and radiate His light. Therefore, once in Medjugorje, instead of drawing in our mind an endless lists of intentions in order to present them to Our Lady, let's be at peace. Mary knows and loves those friends much more than we do! She knows our list before we start it. She could even tell us who we forgot to add on it! She said once, "Give me your worries, give me your burdens, then your heart will be free for prayer!" Then, let's entrust to her the whole package in one shot, trusting that she'll keep busy with our petitions and do a wonderful

job for those we love. Let us be busy seeking unity of heart with her and with God through prayer.

- If planning to buy religious articles, make a point to set apart a special time for shopping. If shopping preoccupies our thoughts everyday, we may be distracted and dilute the intensity of the grace being offered.
- Be ready to see or not see a visionary, after all meeting them is not within our power. They have their own lives. Keep free of heart about human encounters because praying in Mary's Oasis of Peace is what will make us fully blessed! Since Our Hostess is Our Lady herself, we have nothing to fear or to be frustrated about. The Heavenly Queen will take care of all of our spiritual and material needs! She is thrilled that we have come to Her and She'll reward us! If we cannot see those we find most important, it is because She has another plan for us; She knows how to treat us the best.
- Avoid bringing messages from other visionaries or other private revelations in order to fully benefit from the special gift Medjugorje is offering us today. It also spares our hearts from distraction and confusion. If you are offered to be prayed over, be careful! Make sure this person is under the care of the Church, since spiritual fakers are all over the world and may surely trick you with weird powers not from God that will harm you in the end. Actually, it is prudent to decline any of these offers, especially those having to do with health.

What to put in your suitcase?

- This pilgrims' handbook (with Mass readings)
- Rosary
- A pair of shoes for climbing mountains.
- A flash light if you climb at night (battery be carried in hand luggage)
- A kneeling pad
- If you have medicines or precious items, keep them in your hand-luggage when you travel, just in case your checked luggage is delayed.
- As for money matters, US dollars and Euros are accepted in the Medjugorje market. You don't need to change them into local KM.
- It is prudent to take some cash and not only Visa cards.
- Mini radio with earphone to hear translations of the public witnesses, homily and Gospel (FM 94.3)
- Drinking bottle/cup
- Power sockets (220V)
- Passport and photocopies
- Insurance Info
- Air ticket(s) / itinerary
- Warm jacket
- Sunglasses, cap, sun tan lotion
- Soap, shampoo

A last piece of advice:

Before leaving Medjugorje, consider writing a love letter to Our Lady! May we just pour out our heart as it truly is. We may put it in the special basket for petitions at the Information Center. Our letters will soon be placed at the feet of Our Lady during an apparition.

Our Lady's Invitation

Location:	Medjugorje (The School of Our Lady)
Spiritual Directors:	Holy Spirit and Our Lady
Topic:	Prayer, Peace and Love
Method:	Pilgrimage and retreat
Objective:	To Grow, To be Holy, To be One

Please remember :

A. Our Lady has given you 5 stones to defend against Satan, make good use of them :

1. To pray whole heartedly (to purify the Soul)
2. To Fast and do Penance (to purify the Body)
3. To read the Bible (to purify thinking)
4. To Confess every month (to improve the relation with God)
5. To receive Holy Communion frequently (to strengthen the love for God)

B. Prepare yourself with a pure, humble heart.

C. Open your heart, cleanse all impurities, make room for the abundant gifts that Our Lady has long prepared for you.

Thank you for your response.

Please be ready and wish you to bring home all the blessing.



An Easy Way " TO BE ONE "

Plead guidance from The Holy Spirit in every moment
together with the immaculate Heart of Our Lady
and The Sacred Heart of Jesus

To Live with "LOVE "

to love Our Father with respect
to love Jesus Christ ardently

to love the Holy Spirit passionately

to love Our Mother of God filially

to love Others with care and
concern

To Pray with "The HEART"

to praise with all one heart
to appreciate with a
thankful heart

to plead with an earnest heart

to confess with a distressed heart

to do penance with a
loving heart

Learn from Our Lady

to live extraordinary out of the ordinary

The Messages from Our Queen of Peace

Listen to the messages

Live the messages

Spread the messages

Prayer

“Dear children! Today I invite you all so that your prayer may be prayer with the heart. Let each of you find time for prayer so that in prayer you may discover God. I do not desire you to talk about prayer, but to pray. Let your every day be filled with prayer of gratitude to God for life and for all that you have. I do not desire your life to pass by in words but that you glorify God with deeds. I am with you and I am grateful to God for every moment spent with you.

Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(April 25, 1991)

“Dear children! Today I invite you to respond to my call to prayer. I desire, dear children, that during this time you find a corner for personal prayer. I desire to lead you towards prayer with the heart. Only in this way will you comprehend that your life is empty without prayer. You will discover the meaning of your life when you discover God in prayer. That is why, little children, open the door of your heart and you will comprehend that prayer is joy, without which you cannot live.

Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(July 25, 1997)

Also today, I call you to fill your day with short and ardent prayers. When you pray, your heart is open and God loves you with a special love and gives you special graces.

(July 25, 2005)

Rosary

Today I call you to begin praying the rosary with a living faith. That way I will be able to help you. Dear children, you wish to obtain grace, but you are not praying. I cannot help you because you do not want to get started. Dear children, I call you to pray the rosary, and that your rosary be an obligation which you fulfill with joy.

(June 12, 1986)

Pray and let the rosary always be in your hand as a sign to Satan that you belong to me.

(Feb 25, 1988)

If you so wish, grasp for the rosary. Even the rosary alone can

work miracles in the world and in your lives.

(Jan 25, 1991)

I call all priests and religious brothers and sisters to pray the rosary and to teach others to pray. The rosary, little children, is especially dear to me. Though the rosary open your heart to me, and I can help you.

(Aug 25, 1997)

Fasting

The best fast is on bread and water. Through fasting and prayer, one can stop wars, one can suspend the laws of nature. Works of charity cannot replace fasting - - - everyone, except the sick, has to fast.

(July 21, 1982)

Dear children, today I call you to begin fasting with the heart. There are enough people who fast – but only because everybody else is fasting. It has become a routine which no one wants to discontinue. I ask the parish to fast out of gratitude because God has allowed me to stay so long in this parish. Dear children, fast and pray with the heart.

(Sept 20, 1984)

Today I call you to renew prayer and fasting with even greater enthusiasm until prayer becomes a joy for you. Little children, the one who prays is not afraid of the future, and the one who fasts is not afraid of evil.

(Jan 25, 2001)

Bible Reading

Dear children! Today I call on you to read the Bible every day in your homes and let it be in a visible place so as to always encourage you to read it and to pray.

Thank you for having responded to my call.

(Oct 18, 1984)

“Dear children! Listen, because I wish to speak to you and to

invite you to have more faith and trust in God, who loves you immeasurably. Little children, you do not know how to live in the grace of God, that is why I call you all anew, to carry the word of God in your heart and in your thoughts. Little children, place the Sacred Scripture in a visible place in your family, and read and live it. Teach your children, because if you are not an example to them, children descend into godlessness. Reflect and pray and then God will be born in your heart and your heart will be joyous.

Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(Aug 25, 1996)

I call you to renew prayer in your families by reading Sacred Scripture and to experience joy in meeting with God who loves his creatures infinitely.

(Sept 25, 1999)

Reconciliation

One must invite people to go to Confession each month, especially the first Saturday . . . Monthly Confession will be a remedy for the Church in the West.

(Aug 6, 1982)

Do not go to confession through habit, to remain the same after it. No, it is not good. Confession should give an impulse to your faith. It should stimulate you and bring you closer to Jesus. If confession does not mean anything for you, really, you will be converted with great difficulty.

(Nov 7, 1983)

Dear children! Today I call you to prepare yourselves for the coming of Jesus. In a special way, prepare your hearts. May holy Confession be the first act of conversion for you and then, dear children, decide for holiness. May your conversion and decision for holiness begin today and not tomorrow.

(Nov 25, 1998)

Conversion

“Dear children! Today I invite you to conversion. This is the most important message that I have given you here.”

(Feb 25, 1996)

“Little children, when God is in the first place, then you will, in all that you do, seek the will of God. In this way your daily conversion will become easier. Little children, seek with humility that which is not in order in your hearts, and you shall understand what you have to do. Conversion will become a daily duty that you will do with joy. Little children, I am with you, I bless you all and I invite you to become my witnesses by prayer and personal conversion.”

(Apr 25, 1996)

“Little children, you seek signs and messages and do not see that, with every morning sunrise, God calls you to convert and to return to the way of truth and salvation. You speak much, little children, but you work little on your conversion. That is why, convert and start to live my messages, not with your words but with your life. In this way, little children, you will have the strength to decide for the true conversion of the heart. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(Sept 25, 1998)

“Dear children! Also today I call you to conversion. You are concerned too much about material things and little about spiritual ones. Open your hearts and start again to work more on your personal conversion.”

(Apr 25, 2000)

Mass

I am calling you to more active prayer and attendance at Holy Mass. I wish your Mass to be an experience of God.

(May 16, 1985)

There are many of you who have sensed the beauty of Holy Mass, but there are also those who come reluctantly. I have chosen you, dear children, but Jesus gives you his graces at Mass. Therefore, live Holy Mass consciously, and let your coming to it be joyful. Come to it with love, and make Holy Mass your own.

(Apr 3, 1986)

Let Holy Mass be your life.

(Apr 25, 1988)

Let Holy Mass , little children, not be a formality for you, but life. By living Holy Mass each day you will feel the need for holiness and you will grow in holiness.

(Jan 25, 1998)

Holy Spirit

I invite you to open yourselves to God by means of prayer so that the Holy Spirit may begin to work miracles in you and through you . . . Therefore, dear little children, pray, pray, pray, and do what the Holy Spirit inspires you to do.

(May 25, 1993)

Dear children, today I call you to prepare yourselves, through prayer and sacrifice, for the coming of the Holy Spirit . . . Let your heart be prepared to listen to, and live, everything that the Holy Spirit has in his plan for each of you. Little children, allow the Holy Spirit to lead you on the way of truth and salvation towards eternal life.

(May, 25, 1998)

Pray, little children, that the Holy Spirit may come to dwell in you in fullness so that you may be able to witness in joy to all those who are far from the faith. Especially, little children, pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that in the spirit of love, everyday and in each situation, you may be closer to your fellowmen, and that you may overcome every difficulty in wisdom and love.

(May 25, 2000)

Bless and seek the wisdom of the Holy Spirit to lead you at this time so that you may comprehend and live in the grace of this time.

(May 25, 2001)

Peace

Peace, peace, peace; only peace . . . Peace must reign between man and God, and between all people.

(Jun 26, 1981)

I pray for you and intercede for you before God so that you may understand that each of you is a carrier of peace. You cannot have peace if your heart is not at peace with God. That is why, little children, pray, pray, pray, because prayer is the foundation of your peace.

(Jun 25, 1997)

Only in God is there true peace. Open your hearts and become people who give the gift of peace. Others will discover peace in you and through you, and in this way you will be a witness of the peace and love which God is giving you.

(Jan 25, 2000)

Peace is a precious gift from God. Seek, pray, and you will receive it. Speak about peace and carry peace in your hearts. Nurture it like a flower which is in need of water, tenderness and light. Be those who carry peace to others.

(Feb 25, 2003)

Love

Without love you cannot accept either me or my Son. Without love you cannot give testimony of your experiences to others. Therefore, dear children, I call you to begin to live love within yourselves.

(Mar 27, 1986)

Dear children, today I call you to understand that without love you cannot comprehend that God must be in the first place in your life. That is why, little children, 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 self-interest. You will understand that, out of love, God gives himself to you in the simplest way. Little children, so that you may comprehend my words which I give out of love, pray, pray, pray, and you will be able to accept others with love and to forgive all who have done evil to you. Respond with prayer; prayer is the fruit of love towards God the Creator.

(Sept 25, 1997)

Little children, I desire that you become apostles of love. By your love, little children, you will be recognized as mine.

(Mar 25, 1998)

I call you to love. Little children, love each other with God's love.

At every moment, in joy and in sorrow, may love prevail and, in this way, love will begin to reign in your hearts.

(Mar 25, 2005)

Holiness

Especially, dear children, I call you to begin to live in holiness by your prayers and sacrifices. For I want each of you who has been to this fountain of grace to come to Paradise with the special gift which you will give me, that is, holiness. Therefore, dear children, pray and daily change your life in order to become holy.

(Nov 13, 1986)

Dear children, God wants to make you holy. Therefore, through me he is calling you to complete surrender.

(Apr 25, 1988)

God gave you the gift of holiness. Pray that you may understand it more and more, and in that way you will be able to bear witness for God by your life.

(Sept 25, 1988)

Little children, let holiness be for you always in the first place in your thoughts and in each situation, in work and in speech. In this way you will also be putting it into practice; little by little, step by step, prayer and the decision for holiness will enter into your family.

(Aug 25, 2001)

Salt and Light of the Earth

“Dear children! Today I invite you to open yourselves to God the Creator, so that He may change you. Little children, you are dear to me. I love you all and I call you to be closer to me and that your love towards my Immaculate Heart be more fervent. I wish to renew you and lead you with my Heart to the Heart of Jesus, which still today suffers for you and calls you to conversion and renewal. Through you, I wish to renew the world. Comprehend, little children, that you are today the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Little children, I invite you and I love you and in a special way I implore you: Convert!

Thank you for having responded to my call.”

(Oct 25, 1996)

Messages

Dear children, today I invite you to become missionaries of my messages which I am giving here through this place that is dear to me. God has allowed me to stay this long with you, and therefore, little children, I invite you to live with love the messages I give and to transmit them to the whole world, so that a river of love flows to people who are full of hatred and without peace.

(Feb 25, 1995)

Today I pray for you and with you, that the Holy Spirit may help you and increase your faith, so that you may accept even more the messages that I am giving you here in this holy place. Little children, know that this is a time of grace for each of you; and with me, little children, you are secure. I desire to lead you all on the way of holiness. Live my messages, and put into life every word that I am giving you. May they be precious to you because they come from Heaven.

(Jun 25, 2002)

Also today, I call you to live my messages even more strongly in humility and love so that the Holy Spirit may fill you with his grace and strength. Only in this way will you be witnesses of peace and forgiveness.

(Apr 25, 2004)

**Whoever Listens to me
will never have to blush
Whoever acts as I dictate
will never sin**

(Si 24:30)

Our Lady's Apparitions and the Visionaries

According to the testimony of six visionaries, Our Lady appears to them every day, since June 24, 1981. The first day, the visionaries were frightened and ran away. The Second day, they answered the call, spoke and prayed with the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is why June 25th is celebrated as the Anniversary of the Apparitions of the Queen of Peace.

The Visionaries:



Ivanka Ivanković-Elez

Born in 1966, married and have 3 children. On June 24, 1981, she was the one that first seen Our Lady. At that time, she was only 15 years old. On May 7, 1985, Our Lady confided to her the last of ten secrets, and promised to have an apparition to her once a year - on June 25th, the anniversary of the apparitions. Our Lady asked her to especially pray for the family.



Mirjana Dragičević-Soldo

Born in 1965, married and have 2 children. On December 25, 1982, she had been told all ten secrets. Our Lady promised to have an apparition once a year, on March 18th, on her birthday. From August 2, 1987 to March

2nd, 2020, on each 2nd day of the month, she hears the inner voice of Our Lady and prays for non-believers, and those who do not know God's love (sometimes she also sees Our Lady).



Jakov Čolo

Born in 1971, married and have 3 children. On June 25, 1981, he first seen Our Lady. He was only 10 years old. He had daily apparitions till September 12, 1998. On that day, Our Lady entrusted to him the tenth secret and promised to continue to have apparition to him once a year on Christmas Day, December 25th. Our Lady asked him to pray especially for the sick.



Vicka Ivankovic-Mijatović

Born in 1964, married on January 26, 2002, and have 2 children. On June 24, 1981, Our Lady first appeared to her. Our Lady had entrusted to her nine secrets, and still has daily apparitions to her. Our Lady asked her to especially pray for the sick.



Marija Pavlović-Lunetti

Born in 1965, married and
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have 4 children, lives in Italy and Medjugorje. On June 25, 1981, Our Lady first appeared to her. Our Lady had entrusted to her nine secrets, and still has daily apparitions to her. Through her on every 25th day of the month, Our Lady directs her monthly message to the world, and asked her to especially pray for the souls in purgatory.



Ivan Dragicević

Born in 1965, married and have 3 children, lives in America and Medjugorje. On June 24, 1981, Our Lady first appeared to him. He was only 16 years old. On July 1982, Our Lady asked him to lead young people's prayer group, twice per week. Our Lady had entrusted to him nine secrets, and still has daily apparitions to him. Our Lady asked him to especially pray for the priests and young people.

Medjugorje

Medjugorje (the name is of Slavic origin and means "the place among the mounts") with the villages of Bijakovići, Miletina, Šurmanci and Vionica, forms a Catholic parish in which approximately 4000 populations live today. This area is located 200 meters above sea level, and because of the warm Mediterranean climate, it has been an ideal environment for growing grapes and fruit.

Since June 24, 1981, Our Lady appeared to six children on Podbrdo, Medjugorje had become an unique place in the world, visited by people coming from all over the world everyday: white and yellow, black and red, rich and poor, young and old. There is not a day in the year and not a season in which one would not hear various languages in Medjugorje. In the last 42 years, more than 20 million pilgrims had visited Medjugorje. Therefore, one can say that this is a world centre of prayer, the capital of prayer.

St. James Church

The parish church was founded in 1892 and served by the Franciscan friars. The first church was built in 1897, but after the First World War, due to unstable ground, it became unusable. Then, the parishioners began to plan for building a new church, with two pointed towers. The new church was consecrated on January 19, 1969.



Considering at that time, the Medjugorje parish only has 400 families, but St. James Church can accommodate for more than two thousand people. Why did they build such a big church at that time, and the church has dedicated the apostle Saint James the Greater, as the patron saints, that is the patron saint of pilgrims, and it is believed that the Virgin Mary had well planned beforehand, in this extraordinary place, in order to better prepare for a perfect parish.

Today, it is the focal point of prayer life and the place of gathering for the parishioners and pilgrims. The Holy Mass and the prayer programme take place in the church, or during the summer, at the

exterior altar. At the entrance of the church ground, the stone statue of the Queen of Peace, the work of the sculptor, Dino Felici, was placed. On the left of the church is placed the statue of St. Leopold Bogdan Mandić, and on the church's right side, a large cross with a space to light the votive candles. To the southwest of the church is the sculpture of the Risen Lord, the work of the sculptor Ajdo Ajdić. Near the church, there are 25 confessionals. In 2012, there were 36 additional confessionals added, with a total of 61 confessionals.



Risen Christ Statue



St. Leopold Bogdan Mandić
(Patron Saint of Confession)

Chapel of Life

This votive chapel was built in 1931, as a thanksgiving to God by the parishioners of Medjugorje, so that God would protect them from bad weather. This chapel was used for a long time as the outside altar where Holy Masses were celebrated when the church was not safe.

Archbishop Msgr. Aldo Cavalli, the Apostolic Visitor with the special role for Medjugorje parish, and Fr. Marinko Šakota, decided



to rename this votive chapel as the Chapel of Life, where the statue of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, holding the child Jesus in her arms is located. The chapel was blessed by Archbishop Aldo Cavalli in 2022.



Memorial for the Murdered Franciscans

“It is right that our offspring can witness to the bright and great deeds of their fathers who were strong in the faith, that they may take up their example, so they would be good and willing to sacrifice for the

common good of their people and the entire mankind, for the holy faith and homeland, that they may be holy and courageous guardians and intercessors of religious and people’s rights.” - Fr. Oton Knezović

This is a memorial for the murdered Franciscans from Medjugorje parish, killed by Yugoslavian partisans.

Franciscan priests born in Medjugorje parish and killed in 1945:



- Fr. Jozo Bencun
- Fr. Marko Dragičević
- Fr. Mariofil Sivrić
- Fr. Grgo Vasilj
- Fr. Jenko Vasilj
- Fr. Križan Galić was killed in 1944, in the parish house in Medjugorje (served in Medjugorje as the assistant parish priest)
- Fr. Bernardin Smoljan was killed in Mostar in 1945 (a priest who built the cross on Cross Mountain and began construction of the new parish church).

At this place, we remember in prayer all those parishioners who were killed or who went missing in the three recent wars:

61 people were killed or were missing after the First World War. World War II took 386 lives and 10 people were killed in the last Homeland War.

At this place, we remember in prayer all of the war victims from other countries, all victims of violence, and all those who suffered in any way.

This is a place of prayer and memories that invites us all to live the Gospel, to live in peace, to forgive, and love one another.

Lord, grant eternal rest to all of the faithful departed souls!

(Source: Information Center Mir Medjugorje)

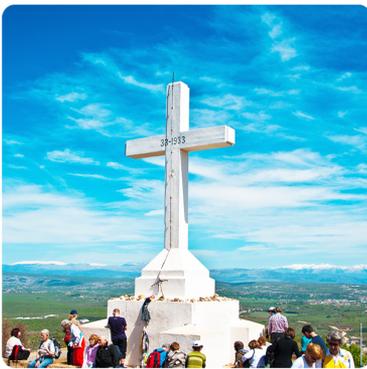


Podbrdo – The Apparition Hill

This is how the place above the village of Podbrdo at Bijakovići is called today, where the visionaries first saw Our Lady. Since then, it is here that the pilgrims gather for prayer of the rosary. Day and night, one can encounter groups of pilgrims who go up towards the place of the first apparitions. On September 8, 2001, a statue of the Queen of Peace was erected and blessed.

In 1989, the reliefs of the joyful and sorrowful mysteries of the rosary were placed along the path, the work of sculptor Prof. Carmelo Puzzolo from Florence. Since July 4, 1982, every Sunday, at 4pm (2pm in winter), a prayer group gathers, leading all parishioners to pray the rosary on the Apparition Hill.

At the foot of Podbrdo – the Apparition Hill – is the "Blue Cross", in memory of Our Lady's apparition at this place to the six visionaries.



Križevac – The Cross Mountain

Križevac is the mount above Medjugorje on which the parishioners constructed a concrete cross, 8.5m tall, built in memory of the 1990 years since the death of Jesus. There is a relic received from Rome, a piece of the cross, venerated by Christians, on which Jesus Christ was crucified. Since 1934, the Mass is

celebrated there on the first Sunday after the feast of the Nativity of Mary (the feast of the Exaltation of the cross). On Mount Križevac, the faithful pray the Way of the Cross in groups and individually by advancing from station to station.

During the first years after the beginning of the apparitions, the stations were marked with wooden crosses. In 1988, bronze reliefs were set up representing the stations of the Way of the Cross, the work of the Italian sculptor Prof. Carmelo Puzzolo. Križevac became the Calvary of the Shrine of Medjugorje. Each Friday at 4pm (2pm in the winter), the Way of the Cross is prayed there.

Our Lady's Messages

Shortly after the beginning of the apparitions, Our Lady started to give messages to the visionaries. On the third day, She said: "Peace, peace, peace and only peace must reign between the man and God, and between men!".

The principal messages of Our Lady at Medjugorje are: Peace, Faith, Conversion, Prayer and Fasting.

From March 1, 1984, Our Lady – the Queen of Peace, as She presented Herself to the children – gave the messages for the parishioners and the pilgrims each Thursday. Since January 25, 1987, the Queen of Peace gives Her messages on each 25th of the month through the visionary Marija Pavlović-Lunetti. These messages can be found in the book: "Messages of the Queen of Peace".

Attention

No candles are to be lit on Apparition Hill or on Cross Mountain. They may be lit only at the place provided on the west-side of the church, near the Wooden Cross. Votive offerings, religious articles,

photos – nothing should not be left on Apparition Hill or on Cross Mountain.

The area around the church, on Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain, are places of prayer. Smoking is not allowed in and around the church. Conscious of the presence of God, and in order to protect the atmosphere of prayer and meditation, it is not allowed to take photos during Mass and during Adoration. It is forbidden to solicit any money, apart from the offerings during Holy Mass.

Related Websites

www.medjugorjeca.org (Medjugorje Centre of Canada)

ourladyspeaks.medjugorjecanada.org (Messages of Our Lady)

www.medjugorje.hr (Official website of Medjugorje)

centermirmedjugorje.com (Official site for the English Speaking Countries)

sremmanuel.org (Sr. Emmanuel's monthly newsletters, videos)

www.medjugorje.org

Special Blessing

(Source: The Way to Medjugorje)

On December 25th 1988, Mother Mary said, "Today I give you my Special Blessing. Bring it to every creature so that there is peace."

From Medjugorje, since August 5th 1985, Our Lady gave this "Special Blessing" to people who were present at about a dozen of her apparitions.

This Special Blessing is not a priest's blessing. A priest's blessing is from Jesus. Mother Mary's is from herself, and given for a person's conversion, for grace to continue progressing in the conversion, for spiritual help, and for peace.

After someone receives the Special Blessing, he/she can extend it to others. Those others who receive it in this way are receiving it as if Our Lady herself is giving it directly. They in turn can pass it on to still others, and so on. The Blessing lasts throughout the recipient's lifetime.

There is no ritual or any set formula for imparting it. For example, you may say quietly, "I give you the Special Blessing that I received from Mother Mary." The person receiving it does not have to be present, or does not even have to know you are giving it.

You can give it to members of your family, or relatives, or friends. You can give to anyone you meet: the sick, somebody in trouble, a beggar on the street, a passenger on the bus... You can give it silently to the one who is angry at you, who insults you, who speaks badly about you every day. You can give it to a stranger, an enemy, a rival - your business rival, or the man who competes against you for the heart

and soul of the woman you love.

Why doesn't Our Lady give the Blessing directly? Because when you give it on her behalf, something happens inside you. You begin to change your view towards the one to whom you are giving it. Do it and you will see.

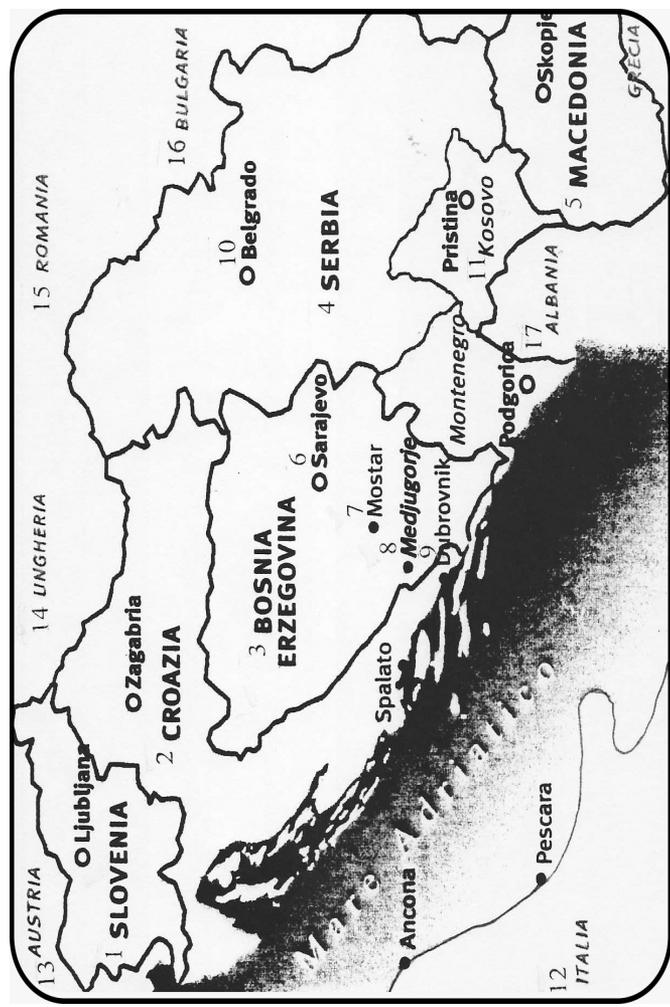
Dear reader, I now communicate this Blessing to you:

**I pass on to you the
Special Blessing
which Mother Mary gave me.**

Please remember that as lay persons we do not bless as an ordained priest blesses.

LOCATION OF MEDJUGORJE

Pray with heart to come to Medjugore, let Our Lady Queen of Peace cleanse our soul and lead us to her Son Jesus. Reconcile with God, reconcile with people, with



Medjugorje — meaning "in between the mountain," a small village located in the Midwest of the former Yugoslavia, in Bosnia.

1. Slovenia
2. Croatia
3. Bosnia
4. Serbia
5. Macedonia
6. Sarajevo
7. Mostar
8. Medjugorje
9. Dubrovnik
10. Belgrade
11. Kosovo
12. Italy
13. Austria
14. Hungary
15. Romania
16. Bulgarian
17. Albania

Activities

Introduction of Medjugorje:

- St. James Church, Adoration Chapel, confessional rooms, the Risen Christ statue, the statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje

Morning Holy Mass and Prayers:

- Daily Mass in English (10a.m. and 12pm on Feast days and Sundays) in St. James Church

Prayer and Activities:

- 2pm-5pm: Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel
- **Cross Mountain (Mt. Krizevac):** Stations of the Cross
- **Apparition Hill:** Virgin Mary first appeared on the Apparition Hill. We might go up in the evening, if Virgin Mary appears to Ivan and invites the pilgrims to the apparition, and pray & sing along with the prayer group. (please bring your flash lights).
- **Blue Cross:** Located at the bottom of the Apparition Hill. Our Lady sometimes appears to the visionaries at the Blue Cross.

Visit or Witness the Sharings:

- Attend the witness of visionaries or priests in Medjugorje
- **Cenacolo:** testimonies of young people (former drug addicts) of how they have been converted
- **Mother's Village**
- **Castle:** witness the testimonies of Patrick & Nancy Latta
- **Sr. Emmanuel Maillard:** spiritual teachings

Evening Prayer Program:

Summer Schedule (June 1 – August 31)

- 6pm: Prayer of Rosary in different languages (joyful, luminous or sorrowful mysteries)
- 6:40pm: Apparition of Our Lady (please kneel in prayer)
- 7pm: Holy Mass (with English radio transmission FM 94.3)
- Peace rosary
- Healing prayers
- Blessing of religious articles
- Prayer of Rosary (glorious mystery)
- 8pm-9pm (Tuesday & Thursday) / 10pm-11pm (Saturday): Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 8pm-9pm Veneration of the Holy Cross (Friday)

Winter Schedule (September 1 – May 31)

- 5pm: Prayer of Rosary in different languages (joyful, luminous or sorrowful mysteries)
- 5:40pm: Apparition of Our Lady (please kneel in prayer)
- 6pm: Holy Mass (with English radio transmission FM 94.3)
- Peace rosary
- Healing prayers
- Blessing of religious articles
- Prayer of Rosary (glorious mystery)
- 7pm-8pm (Tuesday & Thursday) / 9pm-10pm (Saturday): Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
- 7pm-8pm Veneration of the Holy Cross (Friday)

Consecration to Jesus

O Jesus, we know that You are
merciful and that You gave
Your Heart for us, that was
crowned with thorns by our sins;
We know that even today
You are still pleading
with us so that
we will not be lost. Jesus,
remember us when we are in sin.

By means of Your Sacred Heart,
grant us, that all men love one
another; Cause hatred to
disappear from among men.

Show us Your Love,
for we all love You,
and want You to protect us
with your Shepherd's Heart
and free us from all sin.

Jesus, enter into each heart.
Knock on the door of our hearts.
Be patient and unwearied with us.
We are still closed,
since we still have
not yet understood
Your love for us.

Knock persistently and grant,
O Good Jesus,
that we open our hearts
to You, at least when we will have
remembered the Passion
You suffered for us. Amen.

Consecration to Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary,
overflowing with goodness,
show us Your love for us.
May the flame of Your heart,
O Mary,
descend upon all mankind.

We love You so.
Impress true love in our hearts
that we may have a continuous
desire for You.

O Mary,
meek and humble of heart,
remember us when we are in
sin.

You know that all men sin.
Grant to us by means of
Your Immaculate Heart,
to be healed
from every spiritual illness.

In doing so, we then will be able
to gaze upon the goodness
of Your Maternal Heart,
and thus be converted through
the flame of Your Heart. Amen

Consecration to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace

Our Lady's message on January 1, 2001:

"My dear children, now that when satan is unchained,
I desire you to be consecrated to My
Heart and the Heart of My Son Jesus.
I bless you with my Motherly blessing."

IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL THE HEAVENLY COURT
I CHOOSE THEE THIS DAY
FOR MY MOTHER AND MISTRESS.
I DELIVER AND CONSECRATE TO THEE, AS THY SLAVE,
MY BODY AND SOUL, MY GOODS,
BOTH INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR,
AND EVEN THE VALUE OF ALL MY GOOD ACTIONS,
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE;
LEAVING TO THEE THE ENTIRE AND
FULL RIGHT OF DISPOSING OF ME,
AND ALL THAT BELONGS TO ME,
WITHOUT EXCEPTION,
ACCORDING TO THY GOOD PLEASURE,
FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD,
IN TIME AND IN ETERNITY.*

* From St. Louis de Montfort

Many people are praying the above three prayers for daily consecration. With all of your sacrifices, prayers, fasting and frequent confessions, recite with the heart these three prayers of Consecration, offering your heart to Jesus and Our Lady.

St. Louis de Montfort: Total Consecration

Act of Consecration

O ETERNAL and incarnate Wisdom! O sweetest and most adorable Jesus! True God and true man, only Son of the Eternal Father, and of Mary, always virgin! I adore Thee profoundly in the bosom and splendors of Thy Father during eternity; and I adore Thee also in the virginal bosom of Mary, Thy most worthy Mother, in the time of Thine incarnation.

I give Thee thanks for that Thou hast annihilated Thyself, taking the form of a slave in order to rescue me from the cruel slavery of the devil. I praise and glorify Thee for that Thou hast been pleased to submit Thyself to Mary, Thy holy Mother, in all things, in order to make me Thy faithful slave through her. But, alas! Ungrateful and faithless as I have been, I have not kept the promises which I made so solemnly to Thee in my Baptism; I have not fulfilled my obligations; I do not deserve to be called Thy child, nor yet Thy slave; and as there is nothing in me which does not merit Thine anger and Thy repulse, I dare not come by myself before Thy most holy and august Majesty. It is on this account that I have recourse to the intercession of Thy most holy Mother, whom Thou hast given me for a mediatrix with Thee. It is through her that I hope to obtain of Thee contrition, the pardon of my sins, and the acquisition and preservation of wisdom.

Hail, then, O immaculate Mary, living tabernacle of the Divinity, where the Eternal Wisdom willed to be hidden and to be adored by angels and by men! Hail, O Queen of Heaven and earth, to whose empire everything is subject which is under God. Hail, O sure refuge of sinners, whose mercy fails no one. Hear the desires which I have of the Divine Wisdom; and for that end receive the vows and offerings which in my lowliness I present to thee.

I, _____, a faithless sinner, renew and ratify today in thy hands the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works;

and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before. In the presence of all the heavenly court I choose thee this day for my Mother and Mistress. I deliver and consecrate to thee, as thy slave, my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future; leaving to thee the entire and full right of disposing of me, and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God in time and in eternity.

Receive, O benignant Virgin, this little offering of my slavery, in honor of, and in union with, that subjection which the Eternal Wisdom deigned to have to thy maternity; in homage to the power which both of you have over this poor sinner, and in thanksgiving for the privileges with which the Holy Trinity has favored thee. I declare that I wish henceforth, as thy true slave, to seek thy honor and to obey thee in all things.

O admirable Mother, present me to thy dear Son as His eternal slave, so that as He has redeemed me by thee, by thee He may receive me! O Mother of mercy, grant me the grace to obtain the true Wisdom of God; and for that end receive me among those whom thou lovest and teachest, whom thou leadest, nourishest and protectest as thy children and thy slaves.

O faithful Virgin, make me in all things so perfect a disciple, imitator and slave of the Incarnate Wisdom, Jesus Christ thy Son, that I may attain, by thine intercession and by thine example, to the fullness of His age on earth and of His glory in Heaven. Amen.

Notes



Medjugorje Centre
of Canada

Website: www.medjugorjeca.org