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MEDJUGORJE NEWS

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<https://www.medjugorjenuews-nz.org>

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As its name 'Medjugorje News' implies, the aim of this newsletter is essentially **the spreading of the messages received by the visionaries in Medjugorje, according to the wishes of Our Lady.**

The Medjugorje Story

On the evening of 24 June 1981, in the parish of St James in Medjugorje, six young people claimed to have seen the Blessed Virgin Mary on Podbrdo Hill. The next day four of the six alleged another meeting with Our Lady, and said they spoke with her. On this occasion, the four teenagers (three girls and a boy) were joined by another young boy and a teenage girl. These six became the definitive visionaries in Medjugorje; they are Ivanka Ivankovic, Mirjana Dragicevic, Vicka Ivankovic, Ivan Dragicevic, Marija Pavlovic and Jakov Colo.

Since 1981, these six young people have been the centre of world attention, and medical and scientific studies. Their principal claim is that practically every day to the present time, our Blessed Lady has been appearing to one or more of them, and that from her they have received thousands of messages for the parish of Medjugorje and the world. All six still claim apparitions, though only three of them now on a daily basis, and each of the six says that he or she has received, or is in the process of receiving, ten secrets. The first of the secrets is to be revealed to the world through Mirjana Dragicevic, and the third is said to be concerned with a permanent sign that will authenticate the apparitions and be a help to conversion, and will be evident to all at Medjugorje. The visionaries say that Our Lady identifies herself to them as the Queen of Peace.

As a result of these claims, more than forty million people have visited Medjugorje from all over the world and there have been many assertions regarding remarkable signs and wonders, cures and spiritual healing. There is no doubt at all that those millions of people have found a pilgrimage to Medjugorje one of the most spiritually significant experiences of their lives.

We acknowledge and accept that the authority regarding the authenticity of apparitions, locutions and related messages as well as all private revelations from Our Lord, Our Lady or any Saint rests with the Holy See of Rome whose final judgement we will respect and obey. We also affirm our total allegiance to our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, our Priests and Bishops and our Holy Father, Pope Francis.

THE MEDJUGORJE MESSAGE

THE BLESSED VIRGINMARY PROPOSES A SIX-POINT PROGRAMME:

1. **FAITH** - Belief in God and in the supernatural. It is your true vision. Therefore live by it.
2. **COMMITMENT TO GOD** - Let Him direct your life. Begin by turning away from sin in true conversion and repentance.
3. **PRAYER** - Regular Mass, monthly confession, daily rosary and dedication to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
4. **FASTING** - Bread and water on Fridays (and Wednesdays) if you can. If not, at least cut back or practice some other form of self denial.
5. **PEACE** - In your own heart, in your family and neighbourhood and workplace, in all your human relations and reaching ur to the war-stricken world.
6. **THE HOLY BIBLE** - We should read part of the Holy Scripture every day.

*THE MESSAGES OF MARY ARE ADDRESSED NOT ONLY TO CATHOLICS
BUT TO THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE, REGARDLESS OF BELIEFS OR RELIGION*

.....



Our Lady's Messages



AUGUST 25, 2021

“Dear Children!

With joy I am calling all of you, little children, who have responded to my call: be joy and peace. Witness with your lives Heaven, which I am bringing to you. It is time, little children, that you be a reflection of my love for all those who do not love and whose hearts hatred has conquered. Do not forget: I am with you and intercede for all of you before my Son Jesus, that He may give you His peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

“Dear children!

Pray, witness and rejoice with me because the Most High continues to send me to lead you on the way of holiness. Be aware, little children, that life is short, and eternity is waiting for you to give glory to God with your being, with all the saints. Little children, do not worry about earthly things, but long for Heaven. Heaven will be your goal and joy will begin to reign in your heart. I am with you and bless all of you with my motherly blessing. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

OCTOBER 25, 2021

“Dear children!

Return to prayer because who prays is not afraid of the future; who prays is open to life and respects the life of others; who prays, little children, feels the freedom of the children of God and in joy of heart serves for the good for his brother-man. Because God is love and freedom, therefore, little children, when they want to put you in bonds and to use you, it is not from God. Because God loves and gives His peace to every creature; and that is why He sent me to you to help you to grow in holiness. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

News from the Editor:



Greetings and Blessings to all Readers,

Firstly I would like to Sincerely thank all who support this ministry, by way of prayer, donations and sharing your stories and insights to me. I feel truly blessed.

May the Almighty God Bless you generously and may Our Holy Mother keep you close to her Immaculate heart and to her Son Jesus' most Sacred Heart.



This time of Spring fills me with great joy and renewed strength.

We as Catholics have so much to be grateful for. In particular I'm thinking of all the special Feast Days given to us, honouring the different Saints, Martyrs, both Archangels and our own Guardian Angels, Saints of Popes that have lived in our life time and our newly beatified that are of our children's generation. Our Lady's Feast days and of course All Saints day and All Souls day with these continuing all the way to Christmas.

We have so many watching over and praying for us all.

"Why look among the dead for someone who is alive?"

We can look to these for strength, hope and happiness.

These are very strange times, for some difficult, confusing and maybe not happy times.

Our Lady is here to lead us on the way to holiness. She wants us to remember she is always with us and blesses us. At this time when we have so many on our side she is calling us, I believe, very strongly to return to prayer.

So let us not worry about earthly things but long for the love of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and call to those who will keep us on that path.

Both Sarah and I would like to wish you all and your families a very Holy , Happy and Safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year filled with many blessings.

May the new born baby Jesus be born anew in all our hearts.

Love and prayers Bernadette Isaacs (editor)

Excerpts from Children of Medjugorje

From Sister Emmanuel - <http://www.childrenofmedjugorje.com/>

A great friend of Medjugorje has left us. On August 13th, at the Hospital of the Ministry of the Interior in Warsaw, the apostolic visitor for the parish of Medjugorje, Bishop Henryk Hoser, departed for the Father's House, at the age of 78. He had been unwell for several months. Let us pray for him and with him! What he did not have time to complete for the pastoral care of Medjugorje, he will certainly finish in another way, in direct communion with the Queen of Peace whom he loved so much and whom he served with all his heart! His funeral will take place on Friday August 20.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/fr/eglise/news/2021-08/deces-mgr-hoser-pologne-medjugorje.html>

The visionary Ivan Dragicevic wrote some of his thoughts (early September):

"Dear friends, these are difficult times. We have bad leaders. There is a lack of strong moral character in politics. People are disoriented. Programs are moving forward. Humanity is again at a crossroads. Wisdom has gone astray. Common sense is disappearing while subjectivism is in the superficiality of life. Indifference to the great values of the Spirit is the great sin of our time!

"And yet, this is a time for searching, for turning back, for discovery and for understanding the Christian DNA of the origins. This is a time to know Christ better in order to be strong enough to speak the truth and defend the demands of the Truth. Seeking and speaking the truth is a gift of God for every person. It is an exciting journey. We are not afraid!"

(Translated from Italian)

Vicka remains invisible, she is praying for us a great deal, she is suffering and offering everything to Jesus. She had to undergo an operation on her spine again, for the sixth time! It is up to us to support her on this Way of the Cross that she has been walking for years, which she is transforming into a true path of joy!

The visionary Marija was very present in Medjugorje this summer, and thanks to her we were able to be present at a few apparitions. Marija is admirable in her desire to share as much as possible the graces of Mary's visits. Moreover, according to Vicka, wherever you may find yourself, if you keep silent at the moment of the apparition to welcome Mary into your heart, you will receive the same graces as the visionaries do. Mary is happy to see our hearts wide opened to her!

Medjugorje, September 18, 2021

Dear friends, praised be Jesus and Mary!

On August 25, 2021, visionary, Marija, received the monthly message:

"Dear children! With joy I am calling all of you, little children, who have responded to my call: be joy and peace. Witness with your lives Heaven, which I am bringing to you. It is time, little children, that you be a reflection of my love for all those who do not love and whose hearts hatred has conquered. Do not forget: I am with you and intercede for all of you before my Son Jesus, that He may give you His peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Medjugorje, summer 1985...

An Italian priest told me about this unique experience.

In those days, confessions mostly took place on the lawns surrounding the church. Here and there you would see 2 chairs facing each other, and people were queuing in the fields, at a distance.

A woman came and sat in front of him. The priest greeted her with a smile, blessed her and prayed inwardly for her. Very quickly, however, he realized that this woman had something in mind other than a confession.

“How handsome you are!” she said to him. “But what are you doing here?”

And she started making fun of him in a loud voice, so everyone could hear her. The priest waited for her to calm down, thinking to himself: “If I chase her away as Padre Pio would probably do in my place, she will lose herself.” He waited in vain... but the woman continued to insult him rudely, and her vocabulary was enough to make a regiment blush. Then came the blasphemies. People were looking and rather scandalized by what they were hearing. Increasingly humiliated and powerless to find a way out, the priest begged Our Lady to show him how to handle the situation. He couldn't let her leave in such a bad state. The minutes ran by, and the whole scene had already lasted 30 minutes... there had to be a way out!

Suddenly, a small bell started ringing. It was 6:40 p.m., the time when the Blessed Mother appears.

At that precise moment, against all odds, the woman bursts into tears! Very loud tears! This wounded heart, which had found only sarcasm to express its distress, was turned upside down by grace. The dam burst. It was as if she had transformed into another person. While crying, she barely managed to whisper her confession. And that confession seemed to have no end, it lasted... until 2 o'clock in the morning!

The priest was overjoyed: “On that day,” he told me, “I experienced the most beautiful confession of my life!”

Like a decaying corpse?

Jesus told St. Faustina: “... Tell souls where they are to look for solace, that is, in the Tribunal of Mercy. There the greatest miracles take place, and are incessantly repeated... [...] it suffices to come with faith to the feet of My representative and to reveal to Him one's misery, and the miracle of Divine Mercy will be fully demonstrated. Were souls like a decaying corpse so that from a human standpoint there would be no [hope of] restoration, and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full... (Diary, 1448)

A true shepherd!

If I appreciated the overwhelming conversion of this woman, I also appreciated the remarkable attitude of this priest who did not want to leave this soul to its misery without having done everything in his power to bring her back to God. He endured the worst humiliations, vexations and sarcasm without allowing himself to be defeated, so great was his faith in the power of divine mercy, especially for those who are completely lost. He somehow provoked the Savior by His perseverance in faith. What a magnificent example! It reminds me of the Siro-Phoenician woman in the Gospel who ended up winning her case with Jesus for her daughter who was tormented by a demon, after being rebuffed 3 times! “O woman, great is your faith! it shall be done for you as you desire.” (Matthew 15:28)



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The Studio of John the Baptist

A priest who prays obtains miracles! There is a reason why Mary prays and begs us to pray for our shepherds. They have a great responsibility before God. Even if seminary studies do not always prepare them to face the most difficult situations in our "lost world", they hold within them the power of Jesus's priesthood that has been conferred upon them in the sacrament of Holy Orders. A priest who prays can work wonders. A priest who walks hand in hand with the Blessed Mother and who dwells in her Intimacy is a happy priest who radiates peace. He will be safely guided and will emerge victorious from the attacks of the Evil One. Through our prayers and sacrifices on their behalf, it is up to us to form walls of fire around our priests for their protection.

An inescapable emergency.

Changing the direction of our lives and entering into true conversion is an absolute emergency. Nowadays, where uncertainties about the future are increasing, there is one certainty that we all have, namely that we will one day move from this world into the next. May that day find us in a state of grace! Yes, this is a real emergency: turning back to God, **being in a state of grace and remaining there at all cost.** May our hearts always be at peace with God. Father Slavko Barbaric was a great example: every day he tried to convert himself on a specific point. The world is suffering from a dense darkness of consciences because the essential values of human life are being trampled underfoot. However, this is not necessarily fatal. Let us not be deceived by confusion! The Word of God is unchanged, it is the Light on our path, it is divine truth, our unshakable rock. In the storm raging now, we need this blessed lighthouse!

To the pilgrims who come to us, we hand out a small card with the "10 Words" (The biblical term for the 10 commandments). Pilgrims are invited to perform a good examination of conscience. How? By contemplating Jesus on the cross, at length and with all their heart, in order to better understand what love they are loved with and to what extent Jesus took upon himself our iniquities to deliver us from them. Looking at Jesus on the cross gradually awakens in us deep compassion for him. This compassion of the heart is a priceless treasure that will make us hate our sin and allow

contrition to spring forth within. In the sacrament of Reconciliation, receiving absolution from a priest with sincere repentance is to allow the Blood of Jesus to flow in abundance over our soul, to purify and strengthen it. What a liberation! What a joy!

A good confession restores in us the "peace of God which surpasses all that can be conceived", according to St Paul's word (Phil 4:7).

Who does not long for this peace of heart today?

The 10 Commandments

1. *I am the LORD your God. You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.*
2. *You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.*
3. *Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.*
4. *Honour your father and your mother.*
5. *You shall not kill.*
6. *You shall not commit adultery.*
7. *You shall not steal.*
8. *You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.*
9. *You shall not covet your neighbour's wife.*
10. *You shall not covet your neighbour's goods.*

Sister Emmanuel + (Community of the Beatitudes)

The Exaltation of the Cross!

September 14, 2021

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Dear Family of Mary!

On September 12, 2021, Fr. Goran Azinovic, a parish priest from Citluk, gave the homily for the Mass celebrated on Cross Mountain, in honor of the Triumph of the Cross. It was a beautiful day in Medjugorje, with a brilliant blue sky. The Cross on the mountain was white as snow, and the entire hill was packed with people! Pilgrims and parishioners were together, praying in that most holy spot.

Fr. Goran gave a powerful homily that day. It is more powerful to hear him speak than to read it. You can watch him speak at this link on the Mary TV website:

<https://marytv.tv/more-from-medjugorje/?smid=iYfHu3s0PV5&slid=iNOPuXnisQF>

But I have transcribed a portion of his homily for you. Fr. Goran spoke powerfully about the glory and power of the Cross. Today in the broader Church we celebrate the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Thanks be to God for the Cross, the sign of our salvation!!

Fr. Goran Azinovic - excerpt from his Homily

We need the people who built this cross. We need Wyszynski and Stepinac (holy martyrs of our time). For in the valley of the world we only worry about what we buy, what we have, everywhere in the world this is so. But that is why Our Lady has appeared on Podbrdo. And people are climbing to this Cross. Because Our Lady tells us to come out to the Hills from the valley and you will see that you have enough. God gave you even more than you need!

This Cross couldn't be built in a valley. This Cross couldn't be down there because people wouldn't see it. Though it is about 8 ½ meters high, people wouldn't see it if it was down in the valley. But here (on top of Mount Krizevac) people see it. Many times, I drive down from Citluk and I look up at it! As in the first reading for today, I say, "Jesus help me!"

This is the same cry as when the people in the desert were being bitten by the snakes. What are the snakes today? Career, money, lack of prayer, curses, those who say, "My son is living somewhere with someone. And when someone says, Mother, did you try to stop him? And she says that she didn't want to fight." Look, these are the serpents. Today we die because of these snake bites.

Sister Faustina was once called outside by the Lord – "Let me show you something!" Jesus said. She saw a fight behind her convent, between the angels and the devil, and Jesus said to her, "I need your prayer. If you do not pray and love and adore the Cross, your convent will be closed, and you will have to leave." And she began to pray, humbly and sincerely. The same applies to you and your families. Outside your homes it is a constant fight between the angels and the devil, so if you do not pray you will lose the faith...

So many people live formally. They have a house but there is no home. There is no love, no living faith, no prayer. This Cross we built, that is the living faith. That is why the message to us parishioners here is that we cannot give up on the Cross. Everything would be much better if we loved and adored the Cross more, that the Cross would become the center of our life.

Often, we come to our house, and we look around and we see all we have, and we see the comfort, the big kitchen, two refrigerators, and we create comfort, but we will not be comfortable in the biggest house you can find, if Jesus is not inside. You will not have joy. Jesus wants you to make a home in which He can be present. That is why Our Lady says to make a little altar, put up a Cross, put the Bible there. More than ever, we need the Cross. Through the Cross the victory comes.

Father Marinko said about this Cross, "It was the women who were carrying the cement blocks up the mountain to build this Cross. Grandmas were bringing the cement blocks up this mountain so that this Cross would be built. That was the faith.... Our Lady said this Cross was in God's plan. This was meant to be built so that you could continue to believe. So that you would remain united.

November 2, 2021

All Souls Day

Dear Family of Mary!

Now think of this, if every pilgrim who has come here had brought a little cement block, this Cross would go all the way up to heaven, through those 40 years...this Cross would reach Heaven. Why? Because that many people have passed through Medjugorje and that many people have converted. A priest once said, "It is Our Lady, using Cross Mountain and Apparition Hill, so that many, many people here are converted through the stones, not through us, priests. It is not us. If you ask pilgrims how they were touched, they will not say it was the food they ate, or the welcome they received from us, they will say, "Yes, it was Apparition Hill with the thorns, it was the Cross on Cross Mountain with the stones! It is Our Lady who is still today using the thorns and the stones. Why? We did not become prophets. We are not the ones evangelizing.

From this place, Gospa, Mary, Our Lady, thank you! Because despite the silence, You are the one speaking to us! Despite us, who are not witnessing, you are witnessing! Go try to make another hill, with a path, but people will not go there. Take any mountain in the world, but the people will not go there. No, it is this hill where people want to be broken before God. (The Hill where Our Lady has come.)

That is why Jesus said, "Every knee will bend before Me!" That is why you must make your decision! Will you give Jesus glory during your life, or when you die? If it is only when you die it will be too late.

That is why when you come home, as a Father or a Mother, and your child asks you what you are doing, you must kneel down. And the child will ask why? Before whom are you kneeling? Then put the Cross up and pray before the Cross. Say "I want to be mother or father to you, my child, in that you see I kneel before the Cross. I want you to do the same." The Cross is not a decoration. The faith is not in words but in deeds. So, show your deeds.

Be holy!... Like Wyszyński, like Stepinac , like Fr. Slavko. Amen!

In Jesus, Mary and Joseph!
Cathy Nolan
Mary TV 2021

Today we pray for the souls in Purgatory, especially our family members. Our Lady asked the parish to pray for the deceased in these two messages:

Wednesday, July 21, 1982 **"There are many souls in Purgatory. There are also persons who have been consecrated to God: some priests, some religious. Pray for their intentions, at least 7 Our Father's, Hail Mary's and Glory Be's and the Creed. I recommend it to you. There is a large number of souls who have been in Purgatory for a long time because no one prays for them."**

November 6, 1986 **"Dear children! Today I wish to call you to pray daily for souls in purgatory. For every soul prayer and grace is necessary to reach God and the love of God. By doing this, dear children, you obtain new intercessors who will help you in life to realize that all the earthly things are not important for you, that only Heaven is that for which it is necessary to strive. Therefore, dear children, pray without ceasing that you may be able to help yourselves and the others to whom your prayers will bring joy. Thank you for having responded to my call."**

Her words are urgent and powerful. It is in our hands to help the deceased who are waiting to enter Heaven. Their prayers are no longer effective for themselves. They depend on us. It is amazing that even the 7-7-7 prayer can help them! The parish prays the 7-7-7 after evening Mass every day!
Think of all the souls we could help if we prayed those prayers for the deceased.

Here is a short litany that might be useful to pray every day as well:

“Little Litany of the Holy Souls”
*by Dr. Blanche Jennings Thompson,
Franciscan Tertiary.*

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.

Holy Souls, Pray for us.

For the souls of our families,
We pray Thee, O God.

For the souls of our friends,
We pray Thee, O God.

For the souls of our enemies,
We pray Thee, O God.

For the souls of all pagans,
We pray Thee, O God.

For the souls of all priests,
We pray Thee, O God.

For the souls of all religious,
We pray Thee, O God.

For the souls of the just,
We pray Thee, O God.

For the souls of all sinners,
We pray Thee, O God.

For the Holy Souls in Purgatory,
We pray Thee, O God.

For those who have none to pray for them,
We pray Thee, O God.

O Almighty and Eternal God, we beg Thee to have mercy on the Holy Souls in Purgatory, especially those for whom we are bound to pray; and we ask Thee also to listen to the prayers of the Blessed Souls in our behalf.
Amen.

This is something else we could pray every day!!

In Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!
Cathy Nolan
Mary TV 2021

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**PRIEST ATTRIBUTES TO ST JOSEPH
MIRACLE OF PLANE THAT BROKE IN HALF
WITH NO ONE KILLED**

ACI Prensa Staff, Mar 17, 2021 / 11:45 am

Fr. Gonzalo Mazarrasa, a Spanish priest, credits Saint Joseph for the survival of all passengers of a plane his brother Jaime was piloting in 1992 that split in two upon landing in Granada.

Mazarrasa, a seminarian at that time, was studying in Rome and had just completed 30 days of prayer to St. Joseph for "impossible things" when that same day his brother's plane broke in half on the runway.

According to the local press, 26 of the 94 passengers were injured and no one was killed. The Spanish television program El Hormiguero called it "the miracle plane."

In a recent article published on the Catholic social media Hozana, Mazarrasa told the story of the Aviacos Airlines McDonnell Douglas DC-9 "miracle plane" that greatly strengthened his devotion to Saint Joseph, the saint who "has great power before the Throne of God."

In those days, the priest said, "I was studying in Rome in 1992 and residing at the Spanish College of Saint Joseph, which that year was celebrating its centenary."

"I was finishing a 30 day prayer to ask the Holy Patriarch for impossible things and a plane broke in two when landing (in Granada) with almost a hundred people aboard: the pilot was my brother."

"There was only one seriously injured man who, thank God, recovered. That day I learned that Saint Joseph has a lot of power before the Throne of God," the priest said.

"This year I have once again prayed the 30 day prayer to the Spouse of Mary in March, which is his month; I have been doing it for

thirty years now and he has never let me down, on the contrary he has far exceeded my hopes," he stressed.

"I know in whom I have placed my trust. To enter this world, God only needed one woman. But it was also necessary for a man to take care of her and her Son, and God thought of a son of the House of David: Joseph, the Spouse of Mary, from whom Jesus was born, called the Christ," the Spanish priest explained.

"In a dream, the angel told Joseph, who did not believe himself worthy to take into his home the Mother of the Lord and Ark of the New Covenant, to not hesitate to do so because he would have to name him Jesus, since He would save his people from their sins. With his fears dispelled, Joseph obeyed and took his wife into his home."

The priest encouraged people to ask "Saint Joseph to teach us to bring Mary with Jesus into our home so that we always live to serve them. Like he did."

**Will he, the great saint whom Jesus
and Mary obeyed, who provided Jesus
and Mary with their daily bread, be
invoked in vain? No!**

– St. Luigi Guanella

**I have taken for my advocate and
protector, the glorious St. Joseph, to
whom I have recommended myself
with all the fervour of my heart, and by
whom I have been visibly aided. This
tender father of my soul, this loving
protector hastened to snatch me from
the wretched state in which my body
languished, as he had delivered me
from greater dangers of another
nature, which threatened my honour
and my eternal salvation.**

– St. Teresa of Avila

D I V I N E M E R C Y

"A relatively young priest is in a hospital visiting some of his parishioners. He is walking down the hallway, and a nun stops him and says, "Father, can you go into this room? There's a man on his deathbed. He's been here for days. We've asked priests to go in, but he chases everyone away. He doesn't want to talk about Jesus. But he's dying. Could you please visit him?"

The priest goes in and introduces himself to the patient. The guy erupts and starts cursing at him. He is so angry: "I don't want anything to do with you. Get out of here!"

The priest says, "Okay" and goes out into the hall.

The nun is still there. She says, "Could you go back in?"

The priest replies, "He doesn't want anything I have to offer."

"Just give it another chance," pleads the nun.

The priest reluctantly re enters the room. "I'm not going to ask if you want to go to confession. I'm not going to ask if you want Holy Communion. But is it okay if I just sit here next to your bed and pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy?"

The old man replies, "I don't care. Do whatever you want."

The priest sits down and begins softly praying the words of the Chaplet: "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world...."

Suddenly the man bursts out, "Stop it!"

Startled, the priest looks up and asks, "Why?"

"Because there is no mercy for me!"

"Why do you think there is no mercy for you?" asks the priest.

"It doesn't matter," responds the old man.

But the priest persists: "Why do you think there is no mercy for you?"

"I'll tell you... Twenty-five years ago, I was working for the railroad. My job was to lower the crossing guard arm when a train would come to prevent cars from going on the tracks. But one night I was drunk. I didn't lower the crossing guard arm, and a couple and their three young children were on the tracks as a train came, and they were all instantly killed. That was my fault. So there is no mercy for me. I have failed. It is over."

The priest just sits there staring at the rosary in his hands. Finally he asks, "Where was this?"

The man tells him the name of the Polish town.

The priest looks up and says, "Twenty-five years ago, my mom and my dad were taking my little siblings on a trip. I couldn't go with them. They were driving through this small town. For some reason the railroad crossing guard arm wasn't lowered. As they were crossing the tracks, a train came and killed them all. I lost my whole family that night." The priest gazes intently into the man's face, and he says, "My brother, God forgives you. Not only that, I forgive you."

The man realizes that God's mercy is for him.

The priest asks, "Would you let me hear your confession and give you the Eucharist?"

The man makes his confession and receives Holy Communion. Two days later he dies.

Mercy wins. His failure is not final.

The story goes on. It's kind of cool.

After giving the man Communion, the priest goes into the hallway in search of the nun. He can't find her. The administration tells him, "We don't employ any nuns at this hospital."

For years the priest does not know who this nun is. Eventually he goes to the town of Vilnius, which is where Saint Faustina lived. He goes to the convent to say Mass for the nuns there. He sees a painting on the wall of Saint Faustina, and he says, "I've met that nun a couple of years ago."

"No, Father, you did not," replies one of the nuns. "She's been dead since 1938."

The priest then realizes it was Sister Faustina who told him to go into the patient's room, told him to go back again into that room.

Failure is not final. Not when it comes to Jesus.

Jesus, is no longer dead. He is risen, and He is ruling over His creation using His almighty power to direct everything in the world to get you safely to that eternal life."

H/T Truth of Catholicism

.....
**Story shared by Francis, a reader of
A Moment with Mary, from Pyla-sur-mer,
France
July 1, 2021**

It was late afternoon on a beautiful fall day, 25 years ago. I was riding my bike home from work. As I was approaching a hill, facing due west, I became blinded by the glare of the sun. I knew I was exposed to traffic (this was before dedicated bike lanes) and instinctively felt the danger.

Suddenly I was hit violently from behind, thrown about 10 meters in the air by a fast moving car whose driver, also blinded by the sun, did not see me. When I came back to my senses, I was lying on my back, with people leaning over me, frozen in fear, thinking that I was dead.

I slowly moved each part of my body...my head – I didn't have a helmet at that time –... my back... I finally got up, unhurt. I saw my bike, completely bent by the accident. Someone put me inside the driver's car, who drove me home then went on his way without leaving any information...

My wife met me at the door, shocked at seeing the shape of the bike and... a grin on my face! I felt an immense peace fill my soul. This feeling lasted just a few seconds but I was left with the certainty that "someone" had lifted me in his arms at the moment of the accident then gently put me down on the road. I am convinced that person was Mary!

It probably wasn't my time. I still had much left to do, people to love and to serve according to the Gospel. For 25 years now, I have been singing the Magnificat in my heart with Mary!

O Mary, my joy,

I walk with you,

O Mary, my joy,

always there and discreet,

step after step in the secret of my life,

holding time by the hand.

You come to visit me on the way

as you did on the hills

where your cousin Elizabeth lived.

My heart, heavy with the burdens of life,

leaps with gratitude.

I repeat your name on the road,

my prayer blossoms in May flowers,

you help me to meditate the Word

that inhabits my silence

at the children's table.

You help me to breathe,

I feel at peace with you,

you lead me to the beloved Son

who fills us with his presence,

O Mary, my joy.

Jacques Gauthier

By the Rosary you can obtain everything.

According to a graceful comparison, the Rosary is a long chain that links Heaven and earth. One end of it is in our hands and the other end is in the hands of the Holy Virgin.

As long as people pray it, God cannot abandon the world, because this prayer moves His heart powerfully.

The Rosary prayer rises like incense to the feet of the Almighty. Mary responds at once like a beneficial dew, bringing new life to human hearts.

St Therese of Lisieux

MEET SANDRA SABATTINI, A NEWLY BEATIFIED 22-YEAR-OLD

*Philip Kosloski published on 10/10/19 - updated
on 10/22/21*



Sabattini was full of life and wanted to serve the poor as a medical missionary.

Alessandra (“Sandra”) wasn’t content with living an ordinary life. From the time of her early childhood, she desired a life of holiness, a desire fostered by her parents Giuseppe and Agnese Sabattini.

Starting when she was 10 years old, Sandra kept a diary, in which she wrote, **“A life lived without God is just a way of passing time, whether it’s boring or fun, time to be filled in while waiting for death.”**

Two years later in 1974 she met Servant of God Oreste Benzi, founder of the Pope John XXIII Community in Italy. That summer she spent time volunteering at the Madonna delle Vette home in Canazei, helping young people with disabilities. It left a profound mark upon her soul and she later said to her mother,

“We worked till we dropped, but these are people I’ll never leave.”

As a teenager she would frequently use the “pocket money” from her parents to give to the poor, leaving almost nothing for herself. Sabattini’s heart was focused on the most vulnerable of society and wanted to help them in any way possible.

She graduated from high school in 1980 and then attended the University of Bologna to study medicine. It was her dream to be a medical missionary in Africa, tending the needs of those who didn’t have anyone to care for them.

While attending a meeting of the Pope John XXIII Community, she met a young man named Guido Rossi, and they fell in love, sharing the same ideals. They became engaged to be married and were joined together by their love of God and the poor.

Sabattini always made a point to pray on a daily basis, often getting up early in the morning to pray in the silence of a nearby church. She would kneel or sit on the floor in an act of humility, spending an intimate time with Jesus.

She wrote, **“Charity is the synthesis of contemplation and action, it is the point at which heaven joins earth, where human beings join with God.”**

Then in April 1984 she was on her way to attend a meeting of the Pope John XXIII Community and after leaving her car, she was hit by another car and died in the hospital on May 2, 1984, at the age of 22.

She left a profound legacy of a youthful heart on fire with God’s love. Her life has inspired many, because of her apostolic zeal and love of the poor.

On October 2, 2019, Pope Francis approved a miracle through the intercession of Sandra, paving the way for her future beatification. One more miracle is required before she can be declared a saint.

Sandra was set to be beatified on Oct. 24, 2021, by Pope Francis.

EXCLUSIVE: CARLO ACUTIS AS SEEN BY HIS MOTHER

What was the boy's secret? His mother reflects ...

What was Carlo Acutis like up close? What was it like to live with him? His mother, Antonia Salzano, tells us in an interview with Aleteia. "You could feel Christ's presence near Carlo," she says.

Both she and her husband realized early on that he was very special. "When he was very small, I used to joke around, calling him 'little Buddha' because I used to say he was enlightened... He was always so generous, so good, so altruistic, polite, and obedient..."

He also had a deep faith, which was unusual given that his parents hadn't been to church in years.

His daily life

Carlo went to Mass every day, went to Eucharistic adoration, and prayed the Rosary daily.

In addition, of course, like all boys of his age, he went to school, did his homework, and played soccer—"but very badly."

"But this ordinary life became extraordinary because everything he did, he did in Jesus, for Jesus. In everything he did, he asked himself: 'Will this please Jesus?' 'Can I do it for Jesus?'"

In everything he did, he asked himself: 'Will this please Jesus?' 'Can I do it for Jesus?'"

Carlo "was aware that God is always by our side," and "anyone who was near Carlo sensed Jesus."

Antonia also returned to her faith thanks to her son's example, and to his embarrassing questions....

"Since he was a little boy he'd ask me questions about Jesus, about Our Lady, about the guardian angels, or the lives of the saints, and I was terribly ignorant..."

Carlo Acutis had many talents and always put them at the service of others. He was especially attentive to the needs of the weakest and poorest, both from the material point of view—he helped fellow students and took blankets and food to the homeless, even depriving himself of some "extras" and reprimanding his "wasteful" mother—and from the spiritual point

of view: he was a catechist, and made exhibitions on the Internet including one about Eucharistic miracles, which became popular around the world and made him famous.

"What animated him was this love for Jesus. He wanted to infect others; he wanted to help others."

His death

His death when he was just 15 years old revealed to everyone who Carlo Acutis really was, and how a simple faith can really change the world. His mother recounts: "Witnessing the death of my son I actually thought to myself: 'this is a saint.' He never complained, he was always smiling... Carlo truly experienced his death as an encounter with the Beloved."

Carlo truly experienced his death as an encounter with the Beloved.

Fifteen years later, Carlo Acutis was beatified, and his body was found whole (though not technically incorrupt), in particular his heart.

"The heart is the symbol of love" and "Carlo's secret is Christ, Love."

Love moved him to open himself to whomever he met, even with a simple "hello."

The Love with which he nourished himself in the Eucharist, the source of love, wanted everyone to know him.

At the funeral of Carlo Acutis the church was so full that many had to remain outside.

"I thought: How did he know these people? They were all friends that Carlo had made in his daily life, when he went to buy something at the supermarket or passed by on his way to school."

Here's the secret:

"If you put Christ at the center and act out of love for God, it's as if your whole life were illuminated, as if the sun suddenly made everything shine. That was Carlo's life. That was Carlo."

Marinella Bandini published on 10/21/21



THE MIRACLE ATTRIBUTED TO CARLO ACUTIS' PRAYERS

<https://angelusnews.com/author/catholic-news-agency/>

The beatification of Carlo Acutis took place Oct. 10, 2020 after a miracle attributed to his prayers and the grace of God. In Brazil, a boy named Mattheus was healed from a serious birth defect called an annular pancreas after he and his mother asked Acutis to pray for his healing.

Mattheus was born in 2009 with a serious condition that caused him difficulty eating and serious abdominal pain. He was unable to keep any food in his stomach, and vomited constantly.

By the time Mattheus was nearly four years old, he weighed only 20 pounds, and lived on a vitamin and protein shake, one of the few things his body could tolerate. He was not expected to live long.

His mother, Luciana Vianna, had spent years praying for his healing.

At the same time, a priest friend of the family, Fr. Marcelo Tenorio, learned online about the life of Carlo Acutis, and began praying for his beatification. In 2013 he obtained a relic from Carlo's mother, and he invited Catholics to a Mass and prayer service in his parish, encouraging them to ask Acutis' intercession for whatever healing they might need.

Mattheus' mother heard about the prayer service. She decided she would ask Acutis to intercede for her son. In fact, in the days before the prayer service, Vianna made a novena for

Acutis' intercession, and explained to her son that they could ask Acutis to pray for his healing.

On the day of the prayer service, she took Mattheus and other family members to the parish.

Fr. Nicola Gori, the priest responsible for promoting Acutis' sainthood cause, told Italian media what happened next:

"On October 12, 2013, seven years after Carlo's death, a child, affected by a congenital malformation (annular pancreas), when it was his turn to touch the picture of the future blessed, expressed a singular wish, like a prayer: 'I wish I could stop vomiting so much.' Healing began immediately, to the point that the physiology of the organ in question changed," Fr. Gori said.

On the way home from the Mass, Mattheus told his mother that he was already cured. At home, he asked for French fries, rice, beans, and steak - the favorite foods of his brothers.

He ate everything on his plate. He didn't vomit. He ate normally the next day, and the next. Vianna took Mattheus to physicians, who were mystified by Mattheus' healing.

Mattheus' mother told Brazilian media she sees in the miracle an opportunity to evangelize.

"Before, I didn't even use my cell phone, I was averse to technology. Carlo changed my way of thinking, he was known for talking about Jesus on the Internet, and I realized that my testimony would be a way to evangelize and give hope to other families. Today I understand that everything new can be good, if we use it for good," she told reporters.

PIONEER

The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was founded by Fr James A. Callan S.J. in Dublin on 28 December 1898

AIM OF THE ASSOCIATION

Peace and Harmony in the Home

THE PIONEER CONTRIBUTION

The spread of the Christian virtue of temperance throughout Ireland and abroad

MEANS

- Prayer, an alcohol-free life style and public witness to the infinite love of the Sacred Heart by wearing the pin
 - Support for the young and victims of drug and alcohol abuse
 - Alternative social and cultural activities
 - A monthly family magazine and use of other media

Promoting Pioneer membership worldwide **CONTACT JOHN 09 522 1728 OR ELAINE 09 634 1412**

Entrust your daily activities to the Lord.

No matter what your planning looks like, follow the advice of the saints.

♦ **St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross**

“Let go of your plans. The first hour of the morning belongs to God. Tackle the day’s work that he charges you with, and He will give you the power to accomplish it.”

♦ **St. Mary MacKillop**

“We must often feel weary and tired yet God brings us through all these things.”

♦ **St. Ignatius of Loyola**

“If God sends you many sufferings it is a sign that He has great plans for you, and certainly wants to make you a saint.”

♦ **St. Francis de Sales**

“Do not fear what may happen tomorrow. The same loving Father who cares for you today will care for you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, and put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginings.”

♦ **St. Edith Stein**

“Lay all your cares about the future trustingly in God’s hands, and let yourself be guided by the Lord just like a little child.”

♦ **St. Gianna Molla**

“The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day.”

♦ **St. John Bosco**

“God will provide.”

♦ **St. Faustina**

“A humble soul does not trust itself, but places all its confidence in God.”

♦ **Pope St. John Paul II**

“The Eucharist is the secret of my day. It gives strength and meaning to all my activities of service to the Church and to the world.”

♦ **St. Mother Teresa**

“We cannot all do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

♦ **St. Thérèse of Lisieux**

“Jesus, help me to simplify my life by learning what you want me to be – and becoming that person.”

♦ **Venerable Fulton Sheen**

“You will never be happy if your happiness depends on getting solely what you want. Change the focus. Get a new centre. Will what God wills, and your joy no man shall take from you.”

The community of saints is watching over us, never ceasing to intercede for us. It comes to remind mankind that in all our planning, we should make sure that our trust is placed in God and our efforts point others to Heaven.

God wants to make us holy where we are. If we truly believe and abandon ourselves to his will, we too one day will share in the heavenly banquet together with the Saints who have gone before us.,

So, when planning this next year, make sure to entrust your week to the Lord, because there is no such a thing as a perfect way to plan. Unforeseen situations will come our way, and schedules will be broken, whether accidentally or purposely. Unexpected expenses will need to be noted down, and joyful events marked or colourfully recorded. But those who stay in the plan of God will never be shaken, because they will find strength in the Lord, and refuge for all the days of their life.

WHY NOT TRY PRAYING THE ROSARY

We weren't the rosary-praying kind, but it is changing us

My husband and I agreed: It's not that it's magic, or anything. It's definitely not magic. But it's unmistakable: Saying a decade of the rosary together every day is changing our lives. Not drastically. Just a little bit. But undeniably.

We are not the kind of couple you'd look at and say, "Oh yeah, they're big into the rosary."

I never liked the rosary. I was never sure if I was supposed to be focusing on the mystery, or the prayer, or my intentions, or some combination. It was what you did as a penance, or because your parents made you. I never knew if I was supposed to be coming up with some brilliant new insight into the life of Mary, or finding some kind of spiritual comfort in the familiarity of the *lack* of brilliant new insight, or what. And darn it, I always lose track and end up saying either nine or eleven Hail Marys.

But more and more often, dealing with the problems that naturally come with full lives, we found ourselves saying, "I don't know. I don't know anything. I just don't know what to do." And while there is some relief that comes with realising your own limitations, sometimes we really did have to do something, and we were just at sea. We do both know how to work our way through a set of beads, though, so at very least it seemed like a rosary couldn't hurt.

We already go running together most days, so we decided to make a decade of the rosary part of the routine. Since we've made it a daily practice, literally come rain or shine . . . well, things have been better.

Surely, part of the improvement is attributable to human psychology: When you decide to commit to doing something to make your life better, that in itself helps. By making an effort, you're signaling to yourself that you're worthy of effort and worth taking care of; and this is a thought that, repeated often enough, is very likely to improve your outlook on life. It's a self-fulfilling self-help routine.

But that doesn't explain everything. Since we started praying together regularly, we are less prone to fight, less likely to fall into misunderstandings, and more hopeful about the tasks that lie before us, and more at peace about things which should, by all rights, be over-

whelming. I don't think it's just the power of positive thinking, powerful though that may be. I think it's just grace.

I think God likes it when you show up with an empty bowl and say, "I got nothing; please feed me." It doesn't have to be fancier or more skilled than that. In fact, the less fancy and skillful, the better. I think grace is more likely to come when you know profoundly just how much you need it.

IT HELPS. THERE'S AN ANCHOR. THERE'S A CONSTANT. THERE'S STABILITY. THERE'S A REASON FOR HOPE, AND IT DOESN'T LIE WITH US.

I have spent an awful lot of my life not praying because I knew I was praying wrong. I knew I would be focusing so much on my intentions that I wouldn't really thinking about God at all, but just myself. I knew I would be letting my mind wander and, even while I was mouthing words of praise and adoration, I would only be giving God about a tenth of my actual attention. I knew I would be drifting into a utilitarian frame of mind where completing the self-assigned prayer was just checking off a box, and I would be expecting God to fulfill his part of the business transaction once I had fulfilled mine.

I knew I would be wafting off into transitory emotionalism that would evaporate like the dewfall the minute it met the heat of something sexier to think about. I knew I wouldn't fully mean everything I was saying. I knew I would be insincere, and motivated mostly by guilt. I knew that if I prayed, I would be praying wrong.

And I was right! But for whatever reason, we decided not to let all that stop us this time. Maybe it's because we're in our late forties, or maybe it's because it's the year 2021, but at a certain point, you just have to look around and conclude that you're helpless. We're out of ideas. We're failures. Might as well say the rosary every day.

And what do you know: It helps. There's an anchor. There's a constant. There's stability. There's a reason for hope, and it doesn't lie with us.

Well, that's my ground breaking Catholic essay for the day: Maybe you should pray the rosary every day, too. It's not a brilliant new insight, but those are overrated anyway.

By [Simcha Fisher](#) August 6, 2021



A Spiritual Christmas Crib: Preparing Our Hearts for Christ's Coming

CatholicCompany.com *Because Faith Matters*

THE DEVOTION YOU'LL LOVE

There is a devotion that can transform your Advent. It's called the Spiritual Christmas Crib—and it's a wonderful way for us to prepare our hearts for Christ's birth!

Written by Fr. Frederic Nelson, this spiritual exercise is meant to build a "crib" for Jesus Christ in our hearts so that they will be worthy of His presence come December 25th.

We invite you to partake in this spiritual journey with your families (or on your own).

December 1: The Stable

Frequently during the day offer your heart to the little Infant Jesus. Ask Him to make it His home.

Prayer: Sweet Jesus, take my heart and make it meek and pure.

December 2: The Roof

See that the roof of the stable is in good condition, so that the Infant Jesus is protected from rain and snow. This you will do by carefully avoiding every uncharitable remark.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to love my neighbour as myself.

December 3: Crevices

Carefully stop every crevice in the walls of the stable, so that the wind and cold may not enter there. Guard your senses against temptations. Guard especially your ears against sinful conversations.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to keep temptations out of my heart.

December 4: Cobwebs

Clean the cobwebs from your spiritual crib. Diligently remove from your heart every inordinate desire of being praised. Renew this intention at least three times today.

Prayer: My Jesus, I want to please You in all I do today.

December 5: Fence

Build a fence about the crib of your heart by keeping a strict watch over your eyes, especially at prayer.

Prayer: Sweet Jesus, I long to see You.

December 6: Manger

Fix the best and warmest corner of your heart for the manger of Jesus. You will do so by abstaining from what you like most in the line of comfort and amusement.

Prayer: Mary, use these sacrifices to prepare my heart for Jesus in Holy Communion.

December 7: Hay

Supply the manger of your heart with hay, by overcoming all feelings of pride, anger or envy.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to know and correct my greatest sins.

December 8: Soft Straw

Also provide your manger with soft straw by performing little acts of mortification; for instance, bear the cold without complaints; or sit and stand erect.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, Who suffered so much for me, let me suffer for love of You.

December 9: Swaddling Clothes

Prepare these for the Divine Infant by folding your hands when you pray, and praying slowly and thoughtfully.

Prayer: Jesus, let me love you more and more.

December 10: Blankets

Provide the manger of your heart with soft warm blankets. Avoid harsh and angry words; be kind and gentle to all.

Prayer: Jesus, help me to be meek and humble like You.

December 11: Fuel

Bring fuel to the crib of Jesus. Give up your own will; obey your superiors cheerfully and promptly.

Prayer: Jesus, let me do Your will in all things.

December 12: Water

Bring fresh, clean water to the crib. Avoid every untruthful word and every deceitful act.

Prayer: Dearest Mary, obtain for me true contrition for my sins.

December 13: Provisions

Bring a supply of food to the crib. Deprive yourself of some food at mealtime or candy as a treat.

Prayer: Jesus, be my strength and nourishment.

December 14: Light

See that the crib has sufficient light. Be neat and orderly about your person; keep everything in its place in your room.

Prayer: Jesus, be the life and light of my soul.

December 15: Fire

Take care to have the crib of your heart warmed by a cozy fire. Be grateful to God for the love He has shown us in becoming man; behave with grateful respect towards your parents and relatives.

Prayer: Jesus, how can I return Your love; how can I show my gratitude to You?

December 16: The Ox

Lead the ox to the crib. Obey cheerfully without making excuses and without asking "why."

Prayer: I will obey for love of You, Jesus.

December 17: The Donkey

Bring the donkey to the crib. Offer to the Divine Infant your bodily strength; use it in the service of others.

Prayer: Jesus, accept my service of love; I offer it for those who do not love You.

December 18: Gifts

Gather some presents for the Divine Infant and His Blessed Mother. Give alms for the poor and say an extra decade of the rosary.

Prayer: Come, Jesus, to accept my gifts and to take possession of my heart.

December 19: Lambs

Strive to bring some little lambs, meek and patient. Do not murmur or complain.

Prayer: Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like Yours.

December 20: Shepherds

Invite the shepherds to pay homage to our newborn King. Imitate their watchfulness; stress in your speech and thoughts the idea that Christmas is important because Jesus will be born again in you.

Prayer: Jesus, teach me to love You above all things.

December 21: The Key

Provide the stable with a key to keep out thieves. Exclude from your heart every sinful thought, every rash judgment.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, close my heart to all that hurts You.

December 22: Angels

Invite the angels to adore God with you. Cheerfully obey the inspirations of your guardian angel and of your conscience.

Prayer: Holy Guardian Angel, never let me forget that you are with me always.

December 23: St. Joseph

Accompany Saint Joseph from door to door. Learn from him silently and patiently to bear refusals and disappointments. Open wide your heart and beg him to enter with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Prayer: Saint Joseph, help me to prepare for a worthy Christmas Communion

December 24: The Blessed Virgin

Go meet your Blessed Mother. Lead her to the manger of your heart and beg her to lay the Divine Infant in it. Shorten your chats and telephone conversations and spend more time today thinking of Jesus and Mary and Joseph.

Prayer: Come, dear Jesus, come; my heart belongs to You.

Pope Francis decries abortion and euthanasia as treating human life like ‘waste’

Pope Francis gave a powerful message on abortion and euthanasia.

Vatican City, Sep 27, 2021 / 09:00 am

Pope Francis decried abortion and euthanasia in a speech Monday in which he said that today’s “throwaway culture” leads to the killing of children and discarding of the elderly.

“There is the discarding of children that we do not want to welcome with the law of abortion that sends them to the dispatcher and kills them directly. And today this has become a ‘normal’ method, a practice that is very ugly. It is really murder,” Pope Francis said Sept. 27.

Vatican Media.

In a live-streamed address to members of the Pontifical Academy for Life, the pope said that to understand what abortion is, it helps to pose two questions.

“Is it right to eliminate, to take a human life to solve a problem? Is it right to hire a hitman to solve a problem? That’s what abortion is,” the pope commented.

Vatican Media.

Pope Francis said that the elderly today were also viewed as “waste material” and “of no use” in today’s throwaway culture.

“But they are wisdom. They are the roots of wisdom of our civilization, and this civilization discards them,” he said.

Vatican Media.

“Yes, in many parts there is also the law of ‘hidden euthanasia,’ as I call it. It is the one that makes people say: ‘Medications are expensive, only half of them are needed,’ and this means shortening the life of the elderly.”

The pope added that both abortion and euthanasia “deny hope” by negating “the hope of children who bring us the life that keeps us going and the hope that is in the roots that the elderly give us.”

Vatican Media.

Pope Francis underlined that this was not a path for Catholic universities or hospitals to follow.

“This is a road on which we cannot go: the road of discarding,” he said.

The speech marked the second time this month that Pope Francis has spoken out strongly about abortion.

Vatican Media.

During a press conference on his return flight from Slovakia on Sept. 15, the pope repeatedly said that “abortion is murder” and compared the acceptance of abortion to “accepting daily murder.”

In New Zealand and Australia

Over 200 Catholics are offering Catholics “B & B” for \$35.00 one person, or \$30.00 per person for 2 or more persons per night, includes continental breakfast. This is a wonderful way for Catholics to meet and enjoy the company of other Catholics. If you wish to become a host or if you wish to purchase a book with all the details of hosts, the cost is \$15, includes postage, contact or order from:

Marie Anderson, 2 Brent Place, Christchurch, 8053.

Phone: 03 3595 541,

email: marie.ian@xtra.co.nz.

POPE EXPLAINS HOW TO REBOOT OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

When a thousand problems and thoughts assail us, the solution is actually pretty easy ...

“If we lose the thread of the spiritual life, if a thousand problems and thoughts assail us, let us heed Paul’s advice,” Pope Francis said on October 27, as he continued his reflection on the Letter to the Galatians in his weekly general audiences.

To reboot the spiritual life, the path is simple. Here’s what he recommends:

Let us place ourselves in front of Christ Crucified, let us begin again from Him.

Let us take the Crucifix in our hands, holding it close to our heart. Or we can even take some time in adoration before the Eucharist, where Jesus is Bread broken for us, Crucified, Risen, the power of God who pours out his love into our hearts.

And now, still guided by Saint Paul, let us take another step. Let us ask ourselves: What happens when we meet Jesus Crucified in prayer?

THE SPIRIT FLOWS FORTH

What will happen, Pope Francis said, is “the same thing that happened under the cross: Jesus gave up his Spirit (cf. *Jn* 19:30), that is, he gives his own life. **And the Spirit which flows forth from Jesus’ Passover is the origin of the spiritual life.** He changes hearts, our works [don’t]. He is the one who changes the heart, not the things that we do, but the action of the Holy Spirit in us changes our heart!”

The Pope said that it is always thanks to the Holy Spirit that we “continue to engage in our spiritual battle.”

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Pope Francis FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY ~ JULY 25, 2021

“Let us try to read a page of the Gospel every day, to pray with the psalms, to read the prophets! We will be comforted by the Lord's faithfulness. The Scriptures will also help us to understand what the Lord is asking of our lives today... I was called to become the Bishop of Rome when I had reached, so to speak, retirement age and thought I would not be doing anything new.

The Lord is always – always – close to us. He is close to us with new possibilities, new ideas, new consolations, but always close to us.

You know that the Lord is eternal; he never, ever goes into retirement.”

Pope Francis ANGELUS OCTOBER 17, 2021

“God is love and love is humble, it does not exalt itself, but comes down like the rain that falls to the earth and brings life.

But how can we adopt the same direction as Jesus... Dedication is needed, but that is not enough. It is difficult alone, but not impossible, for we have a strength within that helps us...

It is a grace, a fire that the Spirit has kindled in us that needs to be nurtured.”

Pope Francis ANGELUS OCTOBER 24, 2021

“God always listens to the cry of the poor... When we ask for God's grace, in our prayer do we also include our own history, our wounds, our humiliations, our broken dreams, our mistakes and our regrets?... Do I take my story and life experience to Him? Or is it anaemic, superficial, made up of rituals, without feeling and without heart? When faith is alive, prayer is heartfelt: it does not beg for spare change, it is not reduced to momentary needs. We must ask everything of Jesus, who can do everything. Do not forget this. We must ask everything of Jesus, with my insistence before Him. He cannot wait to pour out His grace and joy into our hearts; but unfortunately, it is we who keep our distance, through timidity, laziness or unbelief.”

Pope Francis ANGELUS OCTOBER 31, 2021

“Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord is not so much looking for skilled Scripture commentators, as He is looking for docile hearts which, welcoming His Word, allow themselves to be changed inside.

This is why it is so important to be familiar with the Gospel, to always have it at hand – even a pocket-size Gospel in our pockets, in our purses to read and reread, to be passionate about it.

When we do this, Jesus, the Word of the Father, enters into our hearts, He becomes intimate with us and we bear fruit in Him... So each one of us can become a living, different and original “translation” not a repetition but a living, different and original “translation” of the one Word of love that God gives us.

This is what we see in the lives of the Saints for example.

None of them is the same as another, they are all different, but with the same Word of God.”

Questionnaire

WE REMIND READERS THAT, IN ORDER TO REMAIN ON OUR MAILING LIST, THEY SHOULD CONTACT US AT LEAST EVERY TWO YEARS.

We would appreciate it if all readers WHO HAVE NOT DONE SO would fill in the questionnaire below. Any comments, requests or criticisms will be welcome.

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- NAMES & ADDRESSES MUST BE IN CAPITAL LETTERS, BLOCK LETTERS

- ✓ Have you enjoyed reading this issue? ✓ Is it helping you in your spiritual life?
- ✓ Do you think others would benefit from reading it?

What about passing it on to someone or leave it in any church porch/foyer or anywhere else, so others can read it too.

From: PO Box 287, Dargaville, 0340