

Excerpts from  
*Children of Medjugorje*

From Denis & Cathy Nolan and Sister Emmanuel

1 August 2003

**"Dear children! Also today I call you to prayer. Little children, pray..."** I had an experience during my first pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 1986 that, with time, brought home to me the importance of Our Lady's call to pray....

Sitting down to dinner I told my family one night that I had just learned from our next door neighbour that he was going to Medjugorje. With one voice they all said, "You should go too!" The next morning praying with students before class I mentioned my petition out loud: "Pray with me that God will give me 1,300 US dollars by this Friday so that I can go to Medjugorje." An incredible desire welled up within me. I remember the words I used when voicing my petition the following day: "I feel like an animal. I've never wanted anything so badly in all my life! Pray with me so that God will give me US\$1,300 so that I can go to Medjugorje!" By that Friday - the cut off date for getting tickets - I had been given the money!

Knowing the Lord couldn't resist the prayers of teenagers, I made a deal with my students: they'd pray I'd get to see Our Lady - I'd pray for them! It wasn't until our last day in Medjugorje that I learned the apparitions were no longer taking place in the church, but rather in Fr. Slavko's room every evening in the Rectory. So I found myself standing in the courtyard in the midst of many Italians - all clamouring to get in - just before the apparition on our final day in Medjugorje. Instead of raising and waving my hand I closed my eyes, bowed my head to Jesus, and prayed: "When I get back home my students are going to ask me, 'Well, Mr. Nolan, what did you see?'" The gate was closed. The last person had already been let in. But when I opened my eyes the fellow manning the gate beckoned to me and came back down the stairs. Opening it he ushered me through. I was the last person allowed in the room!

I was shocked when Our Lady came and I didn't see her! Looking up where she must have been (judging by the faces of the visionaries) I said, "Mary, just before you go, tell Marija, 'Oh, by the way, turn around and tell the guy behind you that I love him!'" Not giving her any excuse I looked straight at where the visionaries were looking and mouthed the words with my lips! "Of course what you have to say is most important. But when you're finished, just before you go, tell Marija to turn around and tell the guy behind her that you love him!" I was shocked when it didn't happen! After she and Jacov looked up saying, "*Ode*" ("*she's gone*"), Marija rose and went into the side room to write out the message.

That Thursday Our Lady had given a message: **"Dear Children! Today also I want to show you how much I love you, and I am sorry that I am not able to help each and every one of you to fathom my love. Therefore, dear children, I am calling you to prayer and complete surrender to God because Satan plans to take the first place in your life through everyday affairs. Therefore, dear children, pray without ceasing! Thank you for having responded to my call,"** (October 16, 1986).

I'm ashamed to say I never was impressed by this message. Our Lady seemed to me to be saying the same old thing. In fact, I always found it somewhat boring. Only after about 14 years did it hit me one day like a ton of bricks that Our Lady was indeed speaking directly to me! I have no doubt that by now Satan would have been successful in taking the first place in my life - not because I would have all of a sudden one day chosen to commit a great sin or to do something terrible - but simply because in the world in which I live a current of immorality and godlessness has continued all these years with ever increasing force. He would have succeeded by now simply "through every day affairs!" Without the daily influence of Medjugorje keeping my faith grounded - Our Lady's messages keeping me close to the Sacraments - I have no doubt in my case at least what would have happened!

Where would I be - where would our family be today, my wife and I often ask each other - if it wasn't for Medjugorje!? Its grace that comes through Medjugorje - the regular messages of Our Lady - the reminders of her daily comings - that have kept me on track and countered the strong pull through the media, my own flesh and weakness, and the

increasingly secular influences of "everyday affairs." Even if this isn't true for others, *its true for me!*

**A**lthough Our Lady arrayed in a golden gown when she comes with angels on September 8th, and accepts the visionaries' "Happy Birthday" greeting with a smile (heaven respects the authority of the Church) - she confided to them in 1984 that August 5th is the actual date of her birth! (She said that on August 5, 1984 she was 2,000 years old. About that day in Medjugorje, the pastor of the parish, Fr. Vlasic, said, "It was the happiest day of my life because I felt full of joy!" He witnessed so much prayer and saw so many miracles). The visionary Marija tells us incredible graces are available on that day. I've never seen Marija so joyful as on Our Lady's birthday! She'll wear a beautiful dress herself and just before the apparition I've heard her beseech those present not to be afraid to ask much from the Gospa because she is our Mother and all her gifts will go to her children! (If we can't be present for the apparition that's no problem. Just kneel down when Our Lady comes, close your eyes, open your heart to Our Lady and pray!)

15 August 2003

**T**he time has come to claim television for the Immaculate, for Our Lady. Incredible opportunities are presenting themselves for Our Lady's call to reach the world through television.... I'm asking you now to join Children of Medjugorje in this important work by offering one decade of your Rosary every day, for its success! (Email to me to let me know if you say, "Yes".) ([dnolan@childrenofmedjugorje.com](mailto:dnolan@childrenofmedjugorje.com))

Just a glimpse of Medjugorje on television can bring the grace of conversion into people's lives. Several examples:

Two days ago Lola Falana (part of the "Rat Pack" with Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin...) told me that in 1988 she was lying in bed suffering from Multiple Sclerosis when she happened to see something about Medjugorje on TV... the Blessed Mother was new to her (she wasn't Catholic) but she found herself blurting out that she'd gladly give back to God all of her fame in exchange for being able to go to that village and climb that mountain herself... She sensed that Our Lady told her she would indeed go to Medjugorje and she would climb Mt. Krizevac! Lola went and was healed. She became a Catholic and has centred her daily life ever since around the Sacraments and praying the Rosary!

Fr. James Wiley has written this amazing story of conversion.

"In June, 1974, I turned my back on God, the Church and the priesthood. The decision to walk away from everything I had once valued did not come overnight. It was several years in the making, and I vowed never to return to the Church or the priesthood. The seventeen years that followed my departure from active ministry were difficult and trying for me. But once I made up my mind there was no turning back. A priest friend of mine once asked if I ever thought of returning. While I appreciated his concern for me, I told him it was impossible because I had stopped believing. Was God real? Was He a force in the universe? Was He a personal God? ... I wasn't sure any more. Spiritually I had hit bottom....

"In August 1988 [...] I was watching a program called '*Pittsburgh Today*.' The afternoon segment was devoted to the strange happenings in a little village in Yugoslavia called Medjugorje... For some unknown reason I decided to tape the show for later viewing. That evening I played the tape, not once, not twice, but three times. I just couldn't get enough. I wanted to know more. I wrote to the station asking for more information.

"Slowly but surely my life began to change. Up to this point, any theology I professed was almost totally opposed to the teaching of the Church. At one point I had denied the whole sacramental system, especially the Church's teaching on the Eucharist. What happened next was difficult to explain because it didn't happen in any sequence. I suddenly realized I believed again. There were no more doubts, no more questioning. I believed. Thank God, I believed!

"I hadn't been to confession for 18 years and I felt the need to tell it all to a priest. I sought out a Franciscan of Our Lady of the Point Church in Pittsburgh. When I walked out of the Church, I was spiritually clean for the first time in many years.

"The thought of returning to active ministry and priesthood had not entered my mind. I was happy and content with my new found faith - what more could I ask for? And then it happened. It was Saturday morning, September 24, 1988, the former feast of Our Lady of Ransom. I woke up about 5:30 AM. The first thing that came into my mind was that I should return to the priesthood!..... [About a year later] I received a call

from the bishop. He had good news. Rome had responded in my favour, and I had been returned to active ministry and priesthood!

"In June, 1993 I made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje to give thanks to God and Our Lady for the many blessings and graces I've received. The high point of the trip was the climb up Cross mountain, where I got on my knees to give thanks. Concelebrating Mass each day in St. James Church was an experience I shall always remember. What happiness - what tears of Joy!

Fr. Wiley told me yesterday: "I lost faith in everything. I stopped believing and left the priesthood in 1974. For 17 years I denied everything of the faith. After seeing a program on TV about Medjugorje suddenly I believed! I woke up and I said, 'I believe again! I believe!' I went from no belief to belief overnight! I was given the grace of conversion from seeing that one TV program!" He went to bed an atheist, he said, and the next day found he had received the gift of faith. Later his bishop asked him to come with him to *Christ the King Seminary* in New York and share his testimony with the seminarians.

After having his faculties reinstated he went to Medjugorje, he told me, "for one purpose: to climb the mountain and give thanks at the foot of the cross!" As Fr. Wiley gave me his testimony he couldn't hold back the tears, prompted, he said, by remembering the overwhelming experience ten years ago of giving thanks on his knees at the foot of the cross on Mt. Krizevac!

Jim Jennings, considered incorrigible by prison officials, had spent most of his life behind bars. Serving a sentence for manslaughter in a New Jersey State Penitentiary he happened to see something about Medjugorje flash across the TV screen. In his heart he knew it was true. He immediately believed and at that moment received the grace of conversion! And that fire of conversion spread. It wasn't long before the prisoners themselves consecrated their prison to the Immaculate Heart of Mary! These past 15 years the road hasn't always been easy for Jim (who spent the first 4 months of parole sleeping on the couch in our prayer room). But he has continued on that path and still today the most precious possession for him and his wife, Kathryn, is their Catholic faith!

Though I could go on with many more examples, I'll give only two: A non-Christian pro-abortion Congressman saw one of Sr. Emmanuel's programs on TV in San Francisco and invited her to come to Washington DC and brief the Congressional Human Rights Caucus on the importance of the messages of peace being given to the world by Our Lady in Medjugorje. And as a result of hearing her speak about Medjugorje on the radio in his country, a Hindu Prime Minister officially consecrated his country (85% Hindu) to the Immaculate Heart of Mary!

It's time to take strongholds back from the enemy... You are being asked to dedicate one decade of your rosary starting today (and then continue everyday!) for the success of our new television project bringing Medjugorje to the world!

### 1 September 2003

"Getting to Medjugorje in 1986 was a miracle in itself, the 1000 \$'s might as well have been 10,000 \$'s! I was so alone that year, I was divorced, with 4 children, having lost my parents when the kids were infants. My father, and grandfather had died alcoholics, and I was battling this sin myself. Fourteen years of prayer, the Mass and Rosary, and I kept falling back into alcoholism. Many conferences, prayer meetings and laying on of hands, healing of memories seminars: I wasn't going to give up! I knew the Lord had in mind a complete healing! I was in college, and in counselling for being molested as a child. The statute of limitations had run out, so I was advised to file a civil lawsuit. We settled out of court, a small sum, but it was enough to get me to Medjugorje. I arrived with a prayerful determination, I was going to bombard Heaven, I knew this was a last chance of sorts, as I felt the weight of my alcoholism pulling me towards that slippery slope, and Satan taunting me, you'll end up just like your father!

"I found myself at Vicka's patio, packed with people desperately trying to speak to her, or get her attention in any way they could. I felt so sorry for her, and thought I won't be a part of this, even though I wanted so badly to have her pray over me. I thought there was no chance in this mob, so I saw a cool, shaded empty area near the stairs that led up to her room off the patio. I inched my way over to this area, and leaned up against the railing, closed my eyes, and began to pray. I opened my eyes, and there in front of me stood Vicka smiling as she was inching her way up her stairs. I grasped her hands and placed them on my head, folded my hands in prayer and pleaded with my eyes. She prayed briefly over me, and disap-

peared up the stairs. That afternoon I saw the cross on Mr. Krizevac spin, spinning so hard, I felt a part of it as if I were on a merry-go-round! And during Mass that night I looked up and the moon was pure red, staying that way all evening. I felt such a closeness to heaven, a feeling I had never had before or since. I went home, and began to speak everywhere about Medjugorje, to anyone or group that would listen. It was about 2 months before I realized I wasn't drinking any more, and didn't have any cravings! That was 17 years ago, I have endured tragedies and heartbreak, and never had a temptation to drink, only a deep desire to pray.

"Of course I will give you a decade of the Rosary, to spread Our Lady's message of Medjugorje! Think of just the few people I have been able to reach, and I know my story touched their lives. Think of the millions you can reach through the media!! I think using TV to convey Medjugorje's message to this lost and hurting world is a call from Mary herself! There is something there in Medjugorje, that is directly connected to our times. God Bless your endeavours!"

Colette is French, her husband, British and they have two girls born in America:

"We currently live in Pennsylvania. Our family is, or should I say, was not the religious type. Both my husband and I had had disgruntling experiences with the Catholic Church and we were happy to stay as far from it as we possibly could. And yet, in March 2003, something really weird happened.

"On March 17th, as the war with Iraq was about to start, I woke up absolutely convinced the world was going to pieces, and I needed to do two things; 1) Create a prayer group in my neighbourhood, to pray for Peace. (I had never done such a thing in the past and I couldn't even remember any prayers, and it was a new neighbourhood, people were surely going to think I was totally nuts. But the feeling was so strong and so persistent; I had to give it a try). 2) GO TO MEDJUGORJE. (I had heard about the place through a friend a few years back. I knew what was happening there). The message was so strong I finally told my husband I had to go there straight away.

"I was baffled by what was happening to me, but for some strange reason, I didn't question it. In May 2003, I signed up for a week-long pilgrimage. The moment I boarded the bus, I realized I had a permanent grin pinned on my face, a joy I could not explain. I didn't know why I was going to Medjugorje. In the bus, I was surrounded by very devout Catholics, many of them long term returnees to the place. But instead of feeling alienated, I felt accepted. Nobody rejected me because of my questions, my doubts or my obvious lack of faith. Everybody I met on the trip seemed to have been put there to help me in my quest.

"In Medjugorje, I took in the atmosphere, the people, the events. I was amazed by the grace that seemed to permeate everything and everybody. It felt natural, albeit painful, to go to confession, even though I hadn't done it for 30 years. It felt natural to sit in church many hours a day, some days up to 9 hours. My childhood prayers slowly came back to me, and I surprised myself saying them fervently. All of a sudden, those words took a meaning.

"I was overwhelmed with emotions. I could not be there without crying. I cried a lot about the past spiritual emptiness of my life, on the mediocrity of it all compared to what it could have been. I cried for forgiveness, I cried because I realized I had been very alone for so long.

"In Medjugorje, I met people with Faith. I met priests with Faith. I know, because I saw priests at the altar, crying during Mass. I did not see Mary, I did not see an apparition, but I felt something very strong, something very encompassing. I felt Love, Unconditional Love, All Forgiving Love.

"By the end of the week, I was praying the Rosary with my fellow pilgrims, with my new found Faith growing inside me. Mary had taken me by the hand, and I was clutching it, worried that she might let go of me. The return trip in the bus was full of mixed emotions for me. As we had been told by our pilgrimage leader, the real pilgrimage was about to start upon our return.

"I was worried that I would lose that feeling of being connected to something so big, so powerful. I feared I would be swallowed up by the world and its unrelenting selfishness. But I needed not to worry. As our group leader had said: "Give all your worries to Mary, and she will take care of them". Since my return, my life has been an endless succession of small but significant events that keep me on my path. Here is the latest one:

"I had been estranged from my older brother for more than 30 years. He suffered from schizophrenia and was living alone in Paris, incapable

of working or having any kind of social life. The whole family had finally shied from him after many years of suffering under his uncontrollable violence and terrorizing madness.

"Upon my return from Medjugorje, I found that all my deep-seated feelings of hatred and resentment toward him had suddenly evaporated. It was clear to me I wanted to renew contact with him, make amends and ask him for forgiveness. We started exchanging emails, tentatively sharing details of our present day lives. This was in July. And then on August 12th, I got a phone call that he had died. He had had a heart attack, one of the many victims of the heat wave that hit France this summer.

"His death was such a shock. I felt sorrow and at the same time I felt he had been allowed to go to a better place, where there would be no suffering, no loneliness, no pain, no rejection anymore. I thanked Mary for taking him with her, and for this immense grace of having given us this special time of reconciliation. All in my family were amazed at the connection between my unexpected trip to Medjugorje, my reconciliation to my brother and his sudden departure.

"I know all this could be looked at as just coincidences. But when you have lived your life under the threat of a sick mad man that you learned to fear and hate, and that by some inexplicable grace you feel compelled to ask and to offer him forgiveness, and that this person just dies weeks later, it puts into light a grander scheme of things.

"I now go to daily Mass! My life is filled with hope and peace. I am glad people like you are actively promoting Medjugorje and the messages of Mary. I wish for everybody to go there and experience for themselves the power of what is happening there. Let's use the Media to offer Mary's message of Love and Hope to all!"

### 15 September 2003

He took out a picture from his carry-on. "This is me before!" He had a ring in his ear and his hair came down to his waist. He was holding a guitar. "My whole life was drugs, sex and rock and roll!"

I had introduced myself to this handsome young priest three days ago in the airport as we were standing in line to receive our boarding passes. "This is my first trip to Medjugorje. But...", he said with a smile, pointing to his Roman collar, "Medjugorje is responsible for this!" Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C., Assistant Rector of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass. (USA) told me his story:

"The picture is of me in 1992 when I was 20 years old. My life was a mess. The distress I caused my parents had driven them to become Catholics. One night that year I saw a book lying on the coffee table, *The Queen of Peace Visits Medjugorje*, by Fr. Joseph Pellitier. Picking it up I couldn't put it down! I finished reading at 3:00 AM and then just waited for my mother to get up. I knew I needed to see a Catholic priest. It was hard for me to get the word "priest" out when I asked her where to find one.... I kept forming it in my mouth but could hardly say "priest." I was very prideful.

"When I found a priest that morning he told me he had to first say Mass and then we could talk. And so I sat in the back of the Church and witnessed my first Mass, and found myself telling the priest afterwards: "That was Jesus on the altar, wasn't it!!! That was really Him!" *I received my whole formation as a Catholic in one night by reading that book on Medjugorje!* It's really true. I got everything! For instance, I knew then the Pope is our father, he is "Papa!"

"I lost all my friends when they heard I was becoming Catholic. I wrote for information right away on all the orders of priests in the Church. I chose the one that had Mary's name in it twice: "Marians of the Immaculate Conception." I had dropped out of high school and so they made me study for 10 years to become a priest! I was ordained three months ago!"

Fr. Calloway added: "Right now we have nine men in formation back in Washington DC, and Medjugorje has played a major role in most of their vocations!" He also said something that my wife and I very much believe: "Mary has formed an incredible army of little ones throughout the world. Right now they're hidden. One day she's going to let her Army loose and on that day all the enemy's victories will be taken back from him! It will be incredible! Her army is already there - it's just lying in wait!" You can feel from this young priest a serenity - a strength - a discernible peace. With a faint smile Fr. Calloway pointed to his shoulder: "I still have my tattoo!"

In response to Our Lady's call many are offering the first Our Father and three Hail Mary's of their Rosary every day for the health of Our Lady's

**"most beloved son, who suffers and whom I have chosen for these times,"** (8/25/94). Recently it's being reported that the Holy Father is requesting prayers from the faithful because he draws his strength from our prayers - and because he knows his time among us is limited. According to the "world rulers of this present darkness," (Eph.6:12) the life of the Pope of the Secret of Fatima was to have ended 22 years ago! October 16th (the climax of the Year of the Rosary) marked the 25th year of his Pontificate, soon to be (in a few months) the third longest in the history of the Church! We have much to be grateful for! Let's not grow slack. Five years before Our Lady started appearing in Medjugorje, Pope John Paul II said: "We are now standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has gone through. I do not think that wide circles of the American society or wide circles of the Christian community realize this fully. We are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-Church, of the Gospel versus the anti-gospel. This confrontation lies within the plans of divine Providence; it is a trial which the whole Church ... must take up," (from Cardinal Wojtyla's farewell speech after visiting the US in 1976, quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 9, 1978).

At night as we look out our windows the cross on Mt. Krizevac is aglow with light...a gift from the parish for the Solemnity of the Exaltation of the Cross, celebrated yesterday. Throughout the valley these days you hear the constant echo of prayer. Pilgrims have come from all over the world (including many Americans) ... thousands of Croatians from all over the country. It has been an incredible sight. Multiple simultaneous translations on FM frequency and big TV screens on either side of the outside altar assure liturgies will be accessible to all. The Franciscans and parish staff are truly amazing. I know from experience the work and time it takes to prepare to care for several thousand people for a conference just one weekend in the year, *where everyone speaks the same language* ... yet serving the spiritual needs of thousands from all over the world is the normal every day experience of this parish!

### 1 October 2003

In confirmation of "**the gift of my presence here among you,**" (Sept. 25th message) I witnessed grace overflowing during my recent pilgrimage to Medjugorje. On September 20th, at the conclusion of English Mass in St. James, I saw a woman from Ireland get up from her wheel chair - where she later said she had been confined for 25 years - and walk out of the church! And, for example, during the homily at the English Mass the following day, Fr. James Casadia from America testified:

"My family brought me to Medjugorje when I was 13 years old. I celebrated my 14th birthday here and will forever be touched by the experience. I knew then I was being called by Our Lady to be a priest. And now to be able to come back and celebrate Mass in St. James is incredible!"

Fr. Papineau had come in the same group with Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC (see PS). I hadn't realized the scope of Fr. Calloway's conversion. (His testimony will be show #55 in our TV series.) By the age of 14 he was committing felonies... "I went through about everything a young man could go through, beginning when I was a little boy of 11 years old doing drugs [...] I was doing opium, heroin, crack, LSD - and I was doing these drugs every day! By the age of 20 I had experienced all the sinful sides of life. I wanted to satisfy everything sensually in my life and if that meant sleeping with a different girl every night, so be it! I was living a life cycle of death!" At the time of his conversion he not only wasn't a Catholic, "I didn't even know there was a Blessed Virgin Mary! I had no idea who Jesus was. I thought Jesus was like Santa Claus, something to make the kids happy!" One night he made a 180 degree turn and gave his life to Our Lady. After returning last week to Stockbridge, Mass., Fr. Calloway, writes: "Medjugorje was a dream come true. After having been converted from hedonism at the age of 20 as a result of reading a book about Medjugorje, I have been trying to get to Medjugorje for 11 years. I just returned from my first trip. Being there as a newly ordained priest was amazing. I knew it would be a great trip, but I never imagined that it would be like it was. That place is blest and consecrated as a source of renewal in the Church and in the world!"

The founder of the Community of the Beatitudes, Ephraïm, likes to tell a key event of his discovery of the saints when he converted from Protestantism. (Perhaps his testimony might also encourage some in the Catholic media not to be ashamed of Medjugorje.) In 1974, the small

founding group lived in a rectory in Provence (France). One day, as he was in a train, he was reading a book that had been strongly recommended by a "Catholic" friend. It was about St. Seraphim of Sarov, certainly the greatest Russian saint. Ephraim had forgotten to take a meal along and was savouring each word of the Staretz! He understood that he should not buy food but fast in order to be attentive to the Holy Spirit, who did not take long to manifest Himself to him.

While he was alternating prayers and readings, he heard an inner voice: "Kneel down in the middle of the compartment, you should not be ashamed of Me in front of men." In front of men?? But there were also women, and pretty ones at that, and then there were young people and a soldier! He pretended not to hear. The voice kept insisting. Resisting again, he realized on the third time that he could grieve the Holy Spirit and that he must overcome his pride and humiliate himself for the love of his Beloved. So he knelt down, joined his hands and closed his eyes. Conscious of being watched annoyed him and disturbed his prayer...

But connecting himself to a Russian saint had opened, for Ephraim, the doors to the extravagances of being "a fool for Christ", for nobody had actually noticed him! After going back to his seat, he heard the inner voice say: "Since you obeyed, ask what you want." After a moment of hesitation, he asked for the gift of continuous prayer for the Community.

When he entered the Rectory, it was already late that night but he found all the brothers and sisters in prayer. This event initiated a very special grace for the Community, a type of grace that the visionaries of Medjugorje have also experienced in the early 1980's: the grace of sleeping very little and spending nights in prayer!

This year 2003, marks the centenary of Saint Seraphim's canonization (in the Orthodox Church). As you know, we have received him as protector of Children of Medjugorje for 2003, the year of the Rosary!! And the Gospa tells us to **pray, pray, pray!** Isn't it high time for us to take courage and say **yes!?** And to put that **yes** into practice, with the help of the saints?

**15 October 2003**

It is seldom that Mirjana Soldo shares a message from Our Lady after Her apparitions on the 2nd of the month - but it happened on October 2nd! Mirjana reported that the Blessed Mother gave her the following message, (and she said Our Lady cried when she gave it - though she didn't cry during the rest of the apparition):

**"Dear children, give me your hearts completely. Allow me to take you to my Son, Who is the true peace and happiness. Do not allow the**

**false brightness that is surrounding you and being offered to you, to deceive you. Do not allow Satan to reign over you with the false peace and happiness. Come to me, I am with you!"** (October 2, 2003).

Mirjana once told me that no one can say they have the authoritative interpretation of a message from Our Lady - each person can only say what it means for them - Mirjana putting herself into that same category. Since many are speculating about the meaning of this message I'll share what my wife wrote about it yesterday in her daily reflection posted on our web page <[www.childrenofmedjugorje.com](http://www.childrenofmedjugorje.com)> Every message should be discerned, of course, through the prism of the teaching of the Church:

"This is the request of a mother who longs to gather her children in under her protective care. She wants us to trust her with our entire lives. She wants us to give her 100%. Then she will lead us to Jesus, who is our true God. But Our Lady knows we are surrounded by false gods, false lights and joys that would lead us away from Jesus.

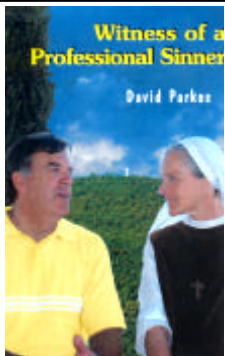
Fr. Don Calloway, spoke about discernment in an interesting way. He said that after he became a child of Our Lady, through Medjugorje, he began to read everything he could about religious subjects. He was so hungry for God. But he could tell right away if what he was reading was truth or not. He said he could tell if the writer was showing him the Jesus that Our Lady had shown him or if it was a false Jesus. I find that very interesting. Who would know the real Jesus better than His Mother. Of course this was a gift given to Fr. Calloway. But it is not so far out. The Jesus that the Church Fathers defined for us in the early councils was the Jesus who was the Son of Mary. It was Mary's motherhood of God that was the linchpin in the understanding of the dual nature of Christ as true God and true man. So it was through Our Lady that the Church grew to understand who Jesus really is. Why wouldn't it be through Our Lady that we grow to really understand Jesus today?

Our Lady wants us to have sound discernment. She wants us to know what is of God and what is of the false gods of our day. We need to be able to choose God in every situation. So she is begging us to come completely under her mantle. There we will find ourselves completely under the authority of Christ and His Church. And then we will be safe from the dangers that surround us.

Pray for discernment. Study the teachings of the Church. And most importantly, live your consecration to Our Lady. It is a matter of life and death these days.

Denis Nolan

**We wish to remind our readers that all articles published in past issues of 'Medjugorje News' can be reprinted separately. Please send a stamped self-addressed envelope (114x225mm) and particulars about the requested article: Issue number, page and title.**



**Myriam Tape Ministries**

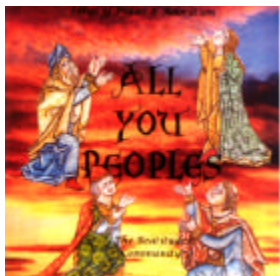
- We have a full range of audio & video tapes of all Eucharistic Conventions
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