

“The 1879 Apparition in Knock, Ireland”

by Bill Matthews
from *The Medjugorje Sentinel*
#50, June, 2001

Around 7 o'clock on the evening of August 21, 1879, the house-keeper of the parish priest, Mary O'Loughlin, was on her way to visit the Byrne's family when she noticed the south gable of the church awash with an unusual glow, but in the driving rain she did not investigate.

About 7:30 p.m., Margaret Byrne left home to lock the parish church and saw a light at the southern end of the church, and thought she saw three large figures standing against the gable, silhouetted with light. She thought the figures were the statues purchased to replace those smashed, in a storm, the previous year.

When Mary O'Loughlin was leaving the Byrne's home, Margaret's sister, Mary offered to accompany her, and about 300 yards from the church she noticed three figures resembling those of the Blessed Virgin, St. Joseph, and St. John. The Virgin wore a white cloak which hung in folds and fastened at the neck. She also wore a large crown. St. Joseph had grey hair and beard, and stood on the Virgin's right, while St. John was attired as a bishop and carried a book in his left hand.

Behind the figures was an altar with a cross, and a lamb. Mary ran home to tell other family members while their 18-year-old brother alerted the dozen or so families residing in the town. Many came in the driving rain, and at least 22 saw the “living” figures of the Virgin, St. Joseph, and St. John.

Some attempted to get closer, but in doing so the figures receded out of reach while still remaining in sight. The apparition lasted over two hours, and during this time no words were spoken or message written.

Not everyone is aware that the marvelous appearance on the gable of the Knock Church came on the day when the parish priest, Archdeacon Cavanagh, had finished offering, as he had promised, 100 consecutive Masses for the suffering souls in Purgatory. Surely that extraordinary devotion to the Holy Souls had a part to play in the gift of the vision from Heaven. If such a response came to Archdeacon Cavanagh, then Our Lord and Our Lady must want to encourage all of us to remove the torment of our dead and to seek their help.

The reason the parish priest turned in this way to the holy souls, was that a secret organization resorting to violence had threatened the priest for preaching against their tactics. They resented his condemnation of violence, which prevented them from gaining recruits in Knock parish. In his distress, he turned to the suffering souls and called on his parishioners to pray for and to the souls with 100 days of Masses. They triumphed!

A commission was appointed to investigate the event, and original documentation revealed a negative response. Nevertheless the villagers and those from surrounding districts put their trust in the witnesses and the apparition. Although there was no message, many believed it was Our Lady's way of saying: “I am with you!”

The lamb on the altar represented the “Sacrificial Lamb.” Around this period, the Irish experienced many sacrifices, the starvation caused by the potato famine, the religious persecution, and the poverty which saw the break-up of families resulting in thousands being forced to emigrate to other countries. St. John in his bishop's attire, was, they say, a visual reinforcement of the role of the priest, while St. Joseph's appearance, and role, was to comfort the Irish families.

The first pilgrimage to Knock took place the following year. As these increased, the church was widened but this proved inadequate to accommodate the number of

pilgrims from Ireland and overseas countries.

In 1976, a new church was built, which was essential, to accommodate the tens of thousands of pilgrims traveling to Knock each year. Pope John Paul II's visit to Ireland in 1979 gave a sense of ecclesial sanction, when he said: “It has been my custom to make pilgrimages to the shrines of Our Lady starting with my earliest youth. I know very well that every people, every country, has its holy places...places of special encounter between God and human beings ...places in which Christ dwells in a special way in our midst. If these places are so often dedicated to His Mother, it reveals all the more fully to us the nature of His Church.” +++

Sweet Surprise

by Helen Steiner Rice

*Thank you God, for little things
that often come our way —
The things we take for granted
but don't mention when we pray...*

*The unexpected courtesy,
the thoughtful, kindly deed —
A hand reached out to help us
in the time of sudden need.*

*Oh, make us more aware, dear Lord,
of little daily graces
That come to us with “sweet surprise”
from never-dreamed-of places.*

larification: Mrs. Pat Haffert wishes it to be known that she gave her husband's clothing to friends and was unaware that the 101 Foundation would use it. After we received a number of requests for a remembrance of John, in his honor and to promote the construction of the St. Joseph Great Room, a cause very dear to his heart, we made up prayer cards. You may call for more information. +++

“Little Rose”

by Eugene Szykowski

Marie Rose Ferron was born to devout Catholic parents on May 24, 1902, in the countryside near Quebec. Rose’s mother was seized by labor pains as she toiled the fields, and sought refuge in a nearby dwelling. And so, like her Jesus, Rose was born in a stable.

Although she never discussed it openly, Mrs. Ferron had dedicated each of her 15 children to the Mysteries of the Rosary. As the tenth child, Marie Rose honored the Crucifixion. These extraordinary circumstances surrounding Rose’s birth seemed to foreshadow her destiny as a victim soul.

Mystical Life Begins At Four

Rose’s mystical life began at the age of four, when she experienced a vision of the Child Jesus carrying a cross. His sorrowful expression touched her deeply, and the image remained seared in her memory.

One might consider it uncommon for such a young child to have mystical experiences, but history proves otherwise. Saint Therese of the Child Jesus wrote: “The good God blessed me by opening my intelligence at a very early age.” And so it was with Rose.

In childhood, Rose communed with Jesus, the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Gerard Majella, and St. Anthony of Padua. Profoundly humble, she always referred to these ecstasies as “dreams” and was reluctant to discuss them.

“To suffer in silence!” was her motto, and vanity was her greatest fear. A true victim like her Jesus, Rose endured the slanderous remarks of those who considered her a fraud, and never defended herself.

At the age of seven, Rose had already begun to plead on behalf of souls. Jesus taught her the following prayer which she recited every day for the rest of her life. This simple prayer, the “Supplication

for Sinners,” was discovered by the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Montreal, who found it quite mysteriously one morning, lying on a table in the convent parlor:

“Oh Lord Jesus, when I reflect upon the words which Thou hast uttered: ‘Many are called, but few are chosen,’ I fear and tremble for those I love, and I beg Thee to look upon them with mercy; and behold, with an infinite tenderness, Thou dost place their salvation in my hands, for everything is assured to him who knows how to suffer with Thee and for Thee.

“My heart bleeds under the weight of affliction, but my will remains united to Thine, and I cry out to Thee: ‘Lord, it is for them that I want to suffer!’ I wish to mingle my tears with Thy Precious Blood for the salvation of those I love! Thou wilt not turn a deaf ear to my sorrowful cry... And Thou wilt save them.”

She Bore The Stigmata

Though Rose bore the wounds of the stigmata, this mystical quality, in and of itself, is not absolute proof of sanctity. Rather, the true evidence of Rose’s saintliness is to be found in the virtues she embodied.

Those who knew Rose marveled at her childlike simplicity and profound humility. She was at all times charming and sincere. Despite suffering intensely for her Jesus, Rose never sacrificed her radiant smile. Throughout her life, she practiced the virtues of charity, patience, hope, and trust, and never abandoned her faith in God and His Divine Will.

Submission Of Will To Save Souls

For Rose, submission to the Will of Jesus and saving souls were all that mattered. “I will pray hard and my suffering will always be for souls,” she vowed to a close friend. “I give myself to our dear Jesus to do with me just as He pleases... I must ask you to pray for a very important intention. It is for souls, and at any price I must have these. They are so dear to God. Pray, pray, pray!”

Victim Souls

In 1923, Our Lord appeared to Sr. Josefa Menedez of the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and revealed the overwhelming importance of victim souls:

“I will shower My mercies on the world to wipe out its ingratitude. To make reparation for its crimes, I will choose victims who will obtain pardon...for there are in the world many whose desire is to please Me. And there are, moreover, generous souls who will sacrifice everything they possess that I may use them according to My Will.”

As a victim soul, Rose suffered to make reparation for the sins of others. Through her suffering she attained healing—physical, mental, and spiritual—for those in need, regardless of their station in life.

Despite the pain, alienation, and chastisement she endured, Rose embraced her mission joyfully, without an ounce of bitterness. In her “spiritual recipe” she expressed her philosophy of life, and her ability to endure the afflictions of others:

“Spiritual Recipe”

“Grind up all your sufferings in the mill of patience and silence; mix them with the balsam of the Passion of the Savior; make them into a small pill and swallow it with faith and love, and the fire of Charity will digest it.”

Suffered Others Pain

On numerous occasions, Rose endured the pains of childbirth of her sisters and many women she never knew. As one of her sisters was giving birth, she experienced great distress, and cried out to Rose for help. At that moment, Rose appeared in the delivery room and her sister’s pain instantly vanished. At home in Woonsocket, confined to her bed, Rose suffered the anguish of labor in silence, with a glad heart.

During her life, Rose also bore the suffering of those afflicted with cancer, heart disease, blindness, asthma, paralysis, and countless other maladies. Rose clearly under-

stood the nature of spiritual suffering, and cherished her mission of winning souls for Christ.

On one occasion, a man from Michigan, whom Rose had never met before, accompanied his friend to her bedside. As he observed this young woman, imprisoned in her bed and wracked with pain, he began to weep.

Rose gazed up at him and admonished: "Don't cry for me; you are sicker than I am. You've been away from Jesus for thirty-five years." How could she be aware of this intimate detail of his life? Deeply impressed, he went to confession immediately afterward, and began to attend daily Mass. With Rose's intercession, he was reconciled to Jesus and the Church, and died a peaceful Christian death many years later.

Throughout her life, Rose professed a deep affection for priests, whom she referred to as "other Christs." On one occasion, a pastor asked his friend to appeal to Rose on his behalf. "Ask her prayers for two or three persons of this parish. They are hard cases," he entreated. The friend called Rose and relayed the pastor's request. On his way to say Mass a few days later, the priest was startled to find the very parishioners Rose had prayed for awaiting his arrival on the church steps.

She Dies at 33

After a lifetime of suffering for souls, she died on May 11, 1936, with a beatific smile on her lips. Her death came as no surprise, since Rose herself foretold it at age 26. "How long will I have to live away from You?" she asked Our Lord. "Seven years," He answered. And so Rose died, like Her Jesus, at the age of 33.

Marie Rose Ferron lies buried in the Precious Blood Cemetery in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. A cross crowned with thorns is etched on her gravestone; beneath it rests a dove with outstretched wings, surrounded by sprays of roses. On the white marble headstone, a simple epitaph inscribed in French befits the woman it memorializes:

MARIE ROSE FERRON
SITMATISEE
NEE 24 MAI 1902
DEC. 11 MAI 1936
AL'AGE DE 33 ANS

From her place in heaven, Marie Rose Ferron continues to intercede in the lives of those who seek her help. Favors have been granted, and cures have been reported from all over the world. Many have also testified to an exquisite fragrance of roses emanating from objects associated with Rose.

Rose's mother once testified to the divine origin of these fragrances. "They are perfumes from heaven. You can be sure that when you have a fragrance, Rose is close to you," she affirmed.

In a homily given at the time of Rose's death, Rev. Norman Meunier, a local priest, made an astounding prediction: "You will see, not today, not tomorrow, but in years to come, you will have a little Saint in Woonsocket." Her devotees continue to pray for this recognition she so deserves.

For more information about Rose, contact Eugene N. Szykowski, 3421 East Edsel Ford, Detroit, MI, 48211.
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A Nasty Night with Padre Pio

from *The Life of Padre Pio*,
by Gennaro Preziuso, pp. 98-99

Although Padre Pio was undergoing physical and spiritual trials at the time he left military service for medical reasons, he nevertheless remained calm and serene. He was anticipating the joy of spending Christmas with the community of San Giovanni Rotondo.

How It Happened

But, he had not forgotten his companions from the military, who at that time were at the front.

In fact, God permitted him to "fly" to their side and even to save a soul and a life. This is how it happened.

The supreme commander of the Italian army, Luigi Cadorna, was removed and replaced by General Armando Diaz, after the Italians suffered an overwhelming defeat in the battle of Caporetto (November, 1917). One evening, when he was suffering from depression, he gave orders that he was not to be disturbed under any circumstances.

Unable to sleep, his mind was crowded with deep, dark thoughts. It was raining heavily and the claps of thunder reminded him of the firing of the Austrian cannons in that infamous battle. Going to his desk, he took his pistol out of the drawer and loaded it.

Intent on Suicide

He was fully intent on the desperate act of suicide. Looking up at that very instant, he saw standing before him the solitary figure of a Capuchin friar. He also perceived the aroma of roses and violets. Before he could ask the friar who he was and who had let him in, he felt someone embrace him.

Then he heard a voice speak to him in the name of God, telling him to have courage and to put aside the pistol. Immediately General Cadorna came to his senses, and, ashamed of his momentary weakness, he wanted to speak to the friar, but he had vanished.

The General frequently thought about the strange incident, but it was only after the war, when he saw a photo of Padre Pio in the newspaper, that he recognized him as the friar who had mysteriously appeared and vanished.

He wasted no time in going to San Giovanni Rotondo. There, dressed in civilian clothes, the General waited in the midst of the crowd. When Padre Pio passed by, he felt a sudden throb in his heart, as he heard him say: "General, that was a nasty night we spent together." +++

Penance and the Third Secret of Fatima

by Prof. Courtenay Bartholomew, M.D.
from *Her Majesty Mary*, p. 235

Now, the third part of the secret of Fatima begins with the vision: “We saw, at the left of Our Lady and a little above, an angel with a flaming sword in his left hand; flashing, it gave out flames that looked as though they would set the world on fire, but they died out in contact with the splendor that Our Lady radiated towards him from Her right hand.”

In concert with Sr. Lucia’s parallel of this part of the secret with the Book of the Apocalypse, John Haffert, the co-founder of the Blue Army and a great American ambassador of the messages of Our Lady of Fatima, recently wrote before he died: “The angel with the flaming sword recalls the images in the Book of Revelations. This represents the threat of Judgment over the world.

“Today the prospect that the world might be reduced to ashes by a sea of fire is no longer pure fantasy. Man himself, with his inventions, has forged the flaming sword. The angel of God’s justice was about to strike the world with fire, but the Mother of God (the Mother of Mercy), standing beside the angel prevents the strike. However, the interpretation by Sr. Lucia would seem to indicate that we are nearing a deadline, after which it could be too late.”

Indeed, I see the “*angel with the flaming sword in his left hand*” as representing God’s left hand of justice and “*the splendor that Our Lady radiated towards him from Her right hand*” as representing God’s right hand of mercy. And so, mercy tempered justice!

Pertinent to Message of Akita

Probably pertinent to all of this, in the land where the first atom bomb was dropped in 1945, the Blessed Virgin is said to have given this warning to the world 28 years later,

in 1973 in Akita, Japan: “As I told you, if men do not repent and better themselves, the Father would inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It would be a punishment greater than the flood, such as one would never have seen before. *Fire will fall from the sky* and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead. The only armor which would remain for you will be the Rosary and the sign left by My Son. Each day, recite the prayers of the Rosary. With the Rosary, pray for the Pope, the bishops, and the priests...”

Undoubtedly, a heavy nuclear exchange would certainly “set the world on fire.” That Akita warning was given on October 13, 1973, the anniversary date of the “miracle of the sun” in Fatima on October 13, 1917 when the nuclear reactor which we call the sun retreated to its celestial abode, as it were, in contact with “the splendor of Our Lady.” This was symbolically akin to the Jewish Queen Esther of the Old Testament who saved her people from annihilation on the 13th day of the month (Esther 9:17).

Now, the third part of the secret should also be placed in the context of the first two parts of the secret. So said, on July 13, 1917, the Lady of the Rosary of Fatima warned: “The war is going to end soon. *But, if people will not stop offending God*, another and more terrible war will begin during the reign of Pius XI.”

People did not stop offending God, and World War II came to pass. Later on in the warning, mention was made of “*the annihilation of various nations*.” Fifty million people died in World War II, but there was no *annihilation of various nations*. In fact, I believe that this word “annihilation” should be taken literally, as it implies a much greater cataclysmic “fire” to come. Impossible in 1917, this tragic threat is no longer far-fetched for us in today’s nuclear age.

The third part of the secret continued: “Pointing to the earth with his right hand, the angel called out in a loud voice: “Penance,

Penance, Penance!” And so, thrice the angel called for “Penance.” But, to appreciate and fully understand the angel’s cry, I believe that it is necessary to detail the full meaning of the word “Penance.”

Confessing One’s Sins

Section Two, Chapter Two, Article Four of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* does so: “Those who approach the *sacrament of Penance* obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offenses committed against Him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church which they have wounded by their sins...”

It is called the *sacrament of conversion*, the first step in reuniting with the Father from Whom one has strayed by sin... It is called the *sacrament of confession*, since the disclosure or confession of sins to a priest is an essential element of this sacrament... a confession of the holiness of God and of His mercy toward sinful man. It is called the *sacrament of forgiveness*, since by the priest’s sacramental absolution, God grants the penitent ‘pardon and peace.’”

This then is about what the angel was calling. It is all about God’s merciful response to penance and repentance. It is all about confession of one’s sins which is being practiced less and less by more and more of the faithful.

But, it was not only “the angel of the third secret” who has thrice called for “Penance.” In one of Her apparitions to Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes on Friday, February 26, 1858, Our Lady said three times to Bernadette: “Penance! Penance! Penance!” She then made this request to her: “You will kiss the ground for sinners.” In his book, *We Saw Her*, B.E. Sandhurst wrote: “We knew later that it was an act of penance asked for by the Lady on behalf of sinners.”

The angel, therefore, was simply repeating the call sixty years earlier, of his Queen, Her Majesty. The Church recognizes Mary as the Queen of the angels because Her mission is higher than theirs. They are God’s servants, whereas, She is the Mother of God.

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A Man For All Seasons

by Dan Lyons
from *The Spiritual Newsletter*,
Sept., 2000

ne of the most popular films in many years was *A Man For All Seasons*. Surprisingly, it was popular in England as well as America. It portrays the life of St. Thomas More, who was beheaded by Henry VIII. The king had him put to death because More would not go along with Henry's plan to replace the Catholic Church in England with his own church, so he could divorce his Catholic wife and marry Ann Boleyn.

"Because you have been such a good friend," Henry wrote to Thomas More, "and served the Crown so well, your body will not be cut into the usual four pieces after you are beheaded."

"I hope none of the king's other friends meet with such kindness," More commented in prison.

I Interviewed Guinness

When I saw the play on Broadway many years ago, England's finest actor, Sir Alec Guinness, played the role of Thomas More. Guinness became a Catholic at age 41. I interviewed him after the play.

Like most people in England, Guinness was baptized an Anglican. He lost interest in Anglicanism, however, by the time he was a teenager. After he and his wife, Merula, moved out of London, their 11-year-old son, Matthew, was suddenly paralyzed by polio from the waist down.

Jesuit Boarding School

Somehow believing that God would hear him best in a Catholic church, Alec visited a Catholic church several times, and struck a bargain with God: "Let him recover," he prayed, "and if he wants to become a Catholic, I will not put any obstacle in his way." By Christmas, the boy was playing football.

The only good boarding school available on short notice was Beaumont, a Jesuit school. The Rector, Father Lewis Clifford, S.J., agreed to take Matthew. But Fr. Clifford said to Guinness: "We have only three non-Catholic boys. We will not put pressure on him, but by the time he is 16, he will most likely want to become a Catholic. Would you object?"

Remembering his promise, Guinness said he would not. True to the prediction, at age 15, Matthew told his parents he was "going to join the Holy Roman and Apostolic Church."

Before long, Alec told the Catholic pastor where they lived that he, too, wanted instructions so he could join the Church. Determined to know the Church better, Guinness visited a Trappist monastery several times, staying overnight.

Alec became a Catholic, and when he was making a movie in Sri Lanka, his wife became a Catholic without telling him. She flew to join him at Christmas, so they could celebrate together as Catholics.

Guinness told me that when their son, Matthew, visited Boston College, the Jesuits there had a student show him around for several days. In appreciation, Alec later sent the student to London, so Matthew could show him around.

Most Beautiful Voice

Alec met several Popes, including John XXIII and Paul VI. When he attended Easter services at St. Peter's in Rome in 1994, he found the voice of John Paul II "the most beautiful and dignified voice I have ever heard."

I found Mr. Guinness to be a delightful person. When the press announced he was joining the Catholic Church, hundreds of well-wishers wrote him from all over England.

Acted In 84 Films

If you want to see any of the 84 films he acted in, try your local video rental. He died in August, 2000 at the age of 86. +++

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The Swap

by June Kilns
from *The Spirit Of Medjugorje*
Vol. 15, # 5, May 2002, pp 4-5

Keep making the swap with Our Lady. She will take care of everything. I made the swap about my job last week. Today I got a promotion. Wahooooo! It works!”

After reading this note from my friend Christine, I wrote back to her and asked, “Did I miss something? What is ‘the swap?’”

Christine wrote back and told me that “the swap” is giving your troubles, worries, and intentions to our Heavenly Mother, while you pray for Her intentions—the conversion of unbelievers, peace in the world, priests, youth, healing of the sick, etc. Christine told me that she had 3 “swaps” taken care of in 2 days. “I can not believe how fast She handles things,” Christine said. “Sister Emmanuel taught this to me. It is so easy, and it works!”

Christine gave me permission to share another of the “swaps” she made with Our Lady that week. This one involved her husband, who she said had been displaying a grouchy and mean temperament at the time. She said, “Thankfully, he has a spiritual life and that is what kept me from digging a hole out back and throwing him into it. I gave him to Mary and really wished Her the best of luck!”

Not long after she made the swap, Christine and her husband went to a talk about Saint Padre Pio and had the opportunity to have religious items blessed with Padre Pio’s glove. Christine’s husband surprised her by taking off his wedding ring and laying it on the glove. Then he asked the priest to give their marriage a special blessing. He was transformed!

Origin of the Swap

I was intrigued. I wanted to know more. So I wrote to “Children of Medjugorje,” the organization with which Sister Emmanuel is affiliated, and asked how I could learn more about the “swap.” I was informed that I could learn more about it on one of Sister’s audio tapes, “True

Consecration to Mary.” I immediately ordered the tape.

Sister Emmanuel reveals on the tape how the idea of the “swap” originated. She was with Ivan’s prayer group on the mountain one night when Our Lady’s message was, “Dear children, give Me all your worries, all your problems. Then your heart will be free to pray. And pray for My intentions.”

As Sister reflected on this message, she thought Our Lady was suggesting that we make a trade with Her. We give Her our worries and we pick up Her worries. A similar message was given to Mirjana in March of 1991, when Our Lady said to her, “Help Me, and I will pray to My Son for you.”

“You Take Care of My business; I’ll Handle Yours.”

The idea of a “swap” is hardly a new one though. Over 600 years ago, Jesus said to St. Catherine of Siena, “You take care of My business; I’ll handle yours.”

Sister Emmanuel tried the swap herself and said it worked perfectly. Soon after, Sister met a man named Albert who came to Medjugorje and had a conversion. On his last day there, he was very dejected and Sister asked him why. He said that he was sad because he would not be able to live the message Our Lady gave about praying in the family.

His wife, at home in France, was an atheist, and had even threatened him when he left for Medjugorje. He also had hoped to return to Medjugorje, but said he would have to save for many years for that. Sister Emmanuel suggested to Albert, “Let’s make a deal with Our Lady.” So, Albert did.

A New Problem!

He said, “I give You my wife, and I wish You all the best. And I will pray for Your intentions instead of worrying about my wife.” Three months later Albert was back in Medjugorje, but this time his wife was with him! He said, “She forced me to come to Medjugorje. That deal works tremendously.” Albert said that now he had a new problem though...

his wife prays so much that he cannot keep up with her!

In a later note, Christine told me that there was also a reference to the “swap” in Sister Emmanuel’s book, *Medjugorje in the 90’s*, which my son had bought in Medjugorje last summer. It was easy to find the story because it was titled, “Theresa’s Swap.”

This story was about a woman named Theresa who was worried about her daughter Vera’s family. Her son-in-law, an atheist, was constantly fighting with and criticizing Vera. On the same day that Theresa left for Medjugorje, Vera made an appointment to file for divorce.

In Medjugorje, Theresa heard about the “swap,” and decided to try it. She went to the Blue Cross and prayed for unbelievers, young people, families, priests, those without peace in their hearts, etc. On that very night, she found out that Vera canceled her meeting with the lawyer.

Theresa returned each night to the Blue Cross to pray. When she returned home, she found that her son-in-law was a totally changed man. Vera and her husband have converted, and with their daughter Harmony (no coincidence in that name!) the family began to pray together every day.

She Wants Your Problems

In further explaining the “swap,” Sister Emmanuel said that Mary, in the role of our Heavenly Mother, wants to help you, to make your life peaceful and joyful. She wants to take all the pressures and crosses in your life.

She wants to pick up your problems—all those things that prevent you from being peaceful with God and peaceful with other people. She wants you to give the problems to Her so that She can take care of them.

She knows much better than you do how to take care of your problems. After all, She has been a Mother for a very long time! So, once She picks up that problem, you will be free of it. Instead of your heart being focused on a problem which will obsess you all the time, you will be able to open up your heart to the whole world.

Your Heart Becomes Like Hers

For instance, if you are praying for the conversion of one of your children, and make the “swap” with Her, then instead of your heart being focused on your child alone, your heart will become like Her Motherly Heart, taking care of all the children of God. You enlarge your heart to the dimensions of God’s Heart!

But, it is not as if you have stopped praying for your own intention either, because your intention will be included in Our Lady’s intentions. If you think about it, almost every intention that you pray for can be included in any one of Our Lady’s intentions. Perhaps you are praying for a friend who is very ill. Our Lady’s intentions include prayers for the sick.

So, when you pray for Her intentions of the sick, you are praying for your friend as well. Maybe you are praying for your teenagers. Our Lady’s intentions include prayers for young people. Maybe you are praying for a job situation. Chances are that the people causing you grief at your job are unbelievers, so when you pray for unbelievers, you are in essence, praying for your own job situation. The list goes on.

Covers Every Good Thing

In my Medjugorje prayer group, when we state our intentions before we start our Rosaries, one of our members always says, “I pray for Mary’s intentions, which covers every good thing.” And she is right.

Sister Emmanuel says that when you enlarge your heart to the dimensions of God’s Heart, you feel the love of God penetrate you in a new way, a deep and strong way. You become like Mother Teresa, whose heart was open to the whole world. Everybody you meet becomes very dear to you because you have God’s Heart in your heart instead of being focused on your own problems.

Freedom Alleviates Worries

Not only does this freedom alleviate you of your worries, but it also frees you up for deeper prayer of

adoration, contrition, and thanksgiving. It frees you up to listen to what God wants to say to you, too. That is an important part of prayer often overlooked.

POWERFUL SOLUTION: Everytime You Think About the Problem, Say a Hail Mary For Mary’s Intentions

A few months ago I decided to try a “swap.” This may seem like a trivial intention, but I was having trouble with my computer. It looked like it was a lost cause, so I told Our Lady, “You get my computer fixed so I can continue to do Your work, and I will pray for Your intentions.” Everytime I would start to think about my problem with the computer, I would say a “Hail Mary” for Our Lady’s intentions.

That night, my husband worked diligently on the computer and was able to fix it. As of this writing, it is working better than it has ever worked before! Our Lady is a powerful intercessor! So, you can bet I will be giving Her some more challenging projects in the future.

An added benefit of the “swap” that Sister Emmanuel did not mention, is that you become more youthful looking and also healthier. Think about it. It makes sense. It is no secret that stress causes lines in your face and causes damage to your body. So, if you give your problems to our Heavenly Mother, it is OK because her glorified body can handle it.

The visionaries say that She is so beautiful because She loves, and She would love to have your problem. Don’t be surprised if your problem is solved in a way different than what you had planned though, because She and Her Son always know what is best.

We Could Change The World

As my friend Christine says, “Imagine if we were all praying for our Blessed Mother’s intentions instead of worrying about our own problems! Imagine what could be accomplished!” We could change the world! +++

No One Needs Thee More Than I!

*Dearest Jesus, all Thy creatures
Are more worthy of Thy grace,
Than the vile and wretched sinner
Who now kneels before Thy face.
Yet one claim I have upon Thee,
Which Thou never will deny;
In the bounds of Thy creation
No one needs Thee more than I!*

*Other souls have been more faithful
And have served Thee better far,
Many spotless hearts more fitting
For Thy gracious presence are;
Many lips devout a greeting
Far more fervent can supply,
But, dear Master, well Thou knowest,
No one needs Thee more than I!*

*Many loving hearts have carried
Richer offerings to Thy shrine,
Many generous hearts have loved Thee
With a purer love than mine.
These, Thy choicest ones, approach Thee
As the doves to covert fly,
Although utterly unworthy,
No one needs Thee more than I!*

*Sins unnumbered unatoned for
Have made havoc in my soul
And against me stands as witness
The recording angel’s roll.
All untilled has been my vineyard,
And its soil is hard and dry,
O my God!...my only refuge,
No one needs Thee more than I!*

*For without Thee, I am helpless,
Fast in sin’s strong fetters caught,
Blinded by my evil passions,
Swayed by impulses untaught.
I could do no good unaided,
It were worse than vain to try,
Come Thyself to me, sweet Jesus,
No one needs Thee more than I!*

*Thou didst leave the Father’s bosom
To reclaim and save the lost.
Thou didst take upon Thee freely
Our redemption’s awful cost.
Thou Thyself hast called me to Thee,
Thou will harken to my cry;
In the bounds of Thy creation
No one needs Thee more than I!*

You Can Secure Eternity

by C. Alan Ames.
from Messages to Carver Alan Ames
from the Holy Spirit, 12/18/94

In a moment, a moment that is your life, you can secure eternity. You can secure it in love, or you can secure it in hate; it all depends on how true your spirit is to its Creator, the Father in Heaven. Over your life, you must decide to be in God or to be away from Him; it is your free choice.

Each decision you make in your life becomes a decision for God or against God. Each step you take becomes a step to God, or a step from God. Each action becomes an action of God, or an action of ignoring God. Each thought can be a thought of God, or a thought that takes you away from God.

Each prayer can be a gift to God, or can become a thoughtless sentence, a meaningless phrase, a nothing. Each person can become the true spirit God created, or can become the dark spirit God despairs over. The choice is yours. Make the right one. +++



In Akita, Japan, on September 28, 1981, Sister Agnes suddenly felt the presence of the Angel at her side during the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. She did not see the Angel in person, but a Bible appeared open before her eyes and she was invited to read a passage (Genesis 3:15)...the voice of the Angel was heard explaining in sort of a preamble that the passage had relationship with the tears of Mary, then continued:

"There is a meaning to the figure one hundred and one. This signifies that sin came into the world by a woman and it is also by a woman that salvation came to the world. The zero between the two signifies the Eternal God Who is from all eternity until eternity. The first one represents Eve, the last the Virgin Mary."+++

Pilgrimage Program:

SEND FOR COMPLETE ITINERARIES

Guadalupe, Mexico — for Feast Day celebrations. Dec. 6 thru 13, 2002, (8 days), \$1299 with flight from Newark, N.J. (Land only, \$899) Includes Feast of the Immac. Concep., Juan Diego's Feast, and both the Eve and Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Ocotlan, Puebla, St. Michael's Well, and Our Lady of Good Remedies. +++

Medjugorje & Prague — Sat., Feb. 15 to Sat., Feb. 22, 2003, (8 days), \$999. +++

Betania, Venezuela — Sat., Mar. 22 to Fri. Mar. 28, 2003, (7 days), \$1689. +++

Fatima — Tues., April 22, to Tues., April 29, 2003 (8 days), \$1199. Visit Aljustral, Lisbon, Santarem, Coimbra, Fatima, Ourem, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Nazareth at Nazare. There is much to do in Fatima, yet we stay in one place, providing a relaxing spiritual experience. +++

France — Fri., May 9, 2003, to Tues., May 27 (19 days), \$2899. Visit Paris, Paray-le-Monial, Taize, La Salatte, Ars, Chateaufort-de-Galaure (Marthe Robin), Nevers, Aix, (St. Eugene Shrine), Lourdes, St. Anne d'Auray, Mont St. Michel, Pontmain, Lisieux, & more. +++

Akita, Japan — Fri., May 30 to Thur., June 12, 2003, (13 days), \$5699. +++

Poland Shrine Tour — Sun., June 15 to Sat., June 28, 2003 (14 days), \$2199. Includes Warsaw, Zoliborz, Krakow, Niapokalonow, Zakopane, Zelazowa Wola, Wagnivniki (Divine Mercy Center), Wadowice (birthplace of John Paul II), Kalwari Zebrzydowska, and the beautiful Shrine at Lechen. +++

Germany, Austria — (Passion Play) Sat., July 5, to Wed., July 16, 2003, (12 days), \$2799. +++

Fatima and Lourdes — Sat., July 20 to Tues., Aug. 6, 2003, (18 days), \$2399. Our most popular pilgrimage. Feast Day visit to Santiago Compostella (Shrine of St. James), Pontevedra, Zaragosa, Avila, Braga, Santarem, Covadonga, Fatima, Ovieta, Lourdes, Alba de Tormes, and Garabandal. +++

Ireland — Sun., Aug. 17, to Fri., Aug. 29, 2003 (13 days), \$1898. Visits to Knock, Melleray Grotto, Ballinspittle, Inchigeela, Attymass (home of Fr. Patrick Peyton), Achill Sound House of Prayer (Fr. McGinnity & Christina Gallagher), Dublin, & more. Meetings with visionaries Mary Casey, Tom Lennon, and others. +++

Shrines of Italy — Wed., Sept. 3, to Fri., Sept. 19, 2003 (17 days), \$2699. Visit Milan, San Damiano, Montichiari, Fontanelle (Rosa Mystica), Padua, Venice, Ferrara, Bologna, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Loreto, Osimo (St. J. Cupertino) San Giovanni Rotondo, St. Michael's Cave, Pietrelcina, Mugnano (St. Philomina), Pompeii, Rome, & Civitavecchia. +++

Australia — Thur., Oct. 2, to Wed. Oct. 15, 2003, (14 days), \$5499. +++

Medjugorje — Tues., Oct. 21, to Tues., Oct. 28, 2003, (8 days), \$1979. +++

Holy Oil — Thur., Nov. 13, to Tues., Nov. 25, 2003 (13 days), \$2599. Visit in Beirut, in Lebanon, Damascus in Syria, and Cairo in Egypt. +++

All pilgrimages include: priest on each bus, daily Mass, three Rosaries, breakfast and dinner, and a blue 101 jacket. Non-refundable deposit is \$150 per person.

Spend a few quiet days near the Blue Army Shrine in Washington, NJ.
Call 101 Foundation for details.

Write for information regarding the Garabandal Miracle Flight.

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