

I Am, and the Journey to the Afterlife

by Rosalie Turton

In *The Spirit of Medjugorje*, Vol 17, #11, Vicka and Jakov's experience with Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory were briefly mentioned. In the early 1980's, Our Lady took 17 year-old Vicka Ivankovic Mijatovic and 10 year-old Jakov Colo, on a very unusual journey.

Vicka claimed, "Our bodies disappeared from Jakov's house. Everyone looked for us. It lasted 20 minutes in all."

Vicka described the experience: "One afternoon, I was with Jakov at his home and Our Lady came, telling us that She was going to take us to show us Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. Before we left, we were wondering how long the journey was going to take, whether we would go up or down, and how many days we would be traveling.

"Our Lady quietly took Jakov's left hand and my right hand, and we went up. We could see the walls moving aside, giving us enough space to go through. It took us just a moment, and we found ourselves in Heaven.

Full Of Joy

"Heaven is one, huge, endless space. There is a special kind of light there that does not exist on earth at all. We saw people dressed in lovely colored gowns. They were all walking, praying, and singing together. We were able to see small angel circling around.

"There is a special kind of joy in Heaven that I have never experienced at any other time. Our Lady told us to observe how overjoyed all the

people are who reside in Heaven, and we are invited to go there.

"Purgatory is also one huge space, but we were not able to see people. We could only see darkness — an ashy color. We were able to feel the physical suffering of the people. They were shivering and struggling. Our Lady said we need to pray for those people, so that they can get out of Purgatory.

"As for Hell, there is one huge fire in the middle. First, we were shown people in their normal condition. Then, as they were being caught by that fire, they became the shape of animals, as if they had never been human beings before. The deeper they fell into the fire, the more they yelled out against God."

This description is very much like what the three young children of Fatima: Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco, saw on their July 13, 1917 vision of Hell.

Salvador Dali, in his painting of that description, which is presently on display in the National Blue Army Center in Washington, New Jersey, depicts a rendition of what the three Fatima Seers described as intense fire, and human animal-like forms being tossed about violently and aimlessly in the flames.

Passers-by On Earth

Vicka said, "Our Lady says that for those who entered Hell, it was their own choice... their decision... to go there. Our Lady says that all those who are living against God's commands on the earth are already living in a kind of Hell. When they die and enter Hell's fire, they simply continue the same life as before.

"Our Lady says that there are so many people who believe that when this life is finished, everything is finished, but Our Lady says, *if you think so, you are very wrong*, because we are just passers-by on the earth.

I believe that no one goes to

Hell on account of their past sins, because God's mercy is far greater than any sin anyone could commit. Many of us live in shame, and it is truly foolish to do so, since all of us are sinners.

God teaches us to say, "Jesus, I trust in You," and therein lies the key to Heaven. He wants us to have trust and confidence in His immeasurable love for us, and He is anxious to have us join Him in Heaven.

He pleaded with the Father (John 17, *read it*) to let us be with Him in Heaven, and to see His Glory, ...and the Father said YES! Jesus has paid the price. Now we should live with Him in joy and peace.

Those who go to Hell are the unrepentant, the people who continue to live in sin apart from God because they love their sin, and those who refuse to ask for the forgiveness of God. If, however, you have overcome those sins and sought God's forgiveness, you are already experiencing a foretaste of the peace and joy of Heaven ...and, *your eternity will be wonderful*, filled with a love that eye or ear have not seen or heard.

I Am

Helen Mallicot said, "I was was regretting the past and fearing the future. Suddenly, my Lord was speaking."

"My name is: I am." He paused... I waited... He continued. "When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there. *My name is not: I was.*"

He continued: "When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. *My name is not: I will be.*"

He continued: "When you live in this moment, *it is not hard*. I am here loving you always. Trust in Me and be happy. *My name is: I AM.*" +++

Maria Simma in Turin

Printed in *Queen of Peace Center Update*, Vol. 6, 12/03

(Refer to the book *Amazing Secret of the Souls in Purgatory* for Maria's life story, by Sister Emmanuel, and carried by the 101 Foundation @ \$5.45 and \$4 postage.)

Maria Simma, the Austrian woman (who died in March, 2004 at the age of 90) who said she talked with the dead and suffered to alleviate their suffering, came to Turin to see the Holy Shroud. The editors of *Medjugorje Torino* met her on May 5, '99 at the Church of Corpus Domini. This is how she answered their questions:

Q. Maria, can you tell us how you were visited by the souls in Purgatory the first time?

A. The first soul came to me in 1940. I woke up in the night because someone was walking in my bedroom. I asked: "Who's walking about?" No reply. I got up and walked towards the person but there was nobody. I said: "Go away. If you are not going to talk, get out." I went back to bed, but could not sleep anymore.

Q. Were you afraid?

A. No, I am not easily frightened.

God's Will For Me

Q. Did the visits continue?

A. When I was a girl, I felt inside me that God wanted to ask something special of me. As a young girl, I said to my mother: "I will not get married." My mother used to reply, "You will change your mind when you are twenty." And, I used to retort: "I will not marry." I did not.

When I finished school, I said to Our Lord: "What do you want from me? Must I go into a convent?" But after three attempts at taking up the monastic way of life, I gave up the convent. In prayers, I always asked God to make His Will known to me. When I was 25 years old, in 1940, the souls in Purgatory came to me

to ask my help. In November 1953, different souls appeared before me and asked me to suffer for them.

From that time on, the souls have appeared every day and every night and ask me to suffer. The Parish Priest of my village, my spiritual guide, told me to offer myself to Our Lord for them, and that Jesus would give me strength. From that moment, I began on my path as an "offered" soul.

Q. Is it God Who sends a soul to Purgatory, or does the soul go straight there because it understands in the light of God?

A. Each soul knows exactly where it must go in Purgatory. Purgatory is different and diverse in a thousand ways.

Q. At the time of death, is God seen clearly or in a confused manner?

A. It varies from soul to soul: some see clearly, others not at all.

Some Go Straight To Heaven

Q. Can you tell us about the value of repentance at the time of death?

A. Before death, the person who repents is saved. He may have to stay in Purgatory. Some souls go straight to Heaven without going through Purgatory. People who suffer a lot in life with patience, and those who offer their sufferings to Our Lord, go straight to Heaven, ...as do those who always carry out God's will.

Holy Water

Q. Does the devil have power to attack souls at the time of death?

A. The devil does everything in order to carry off a soul, but if the soul places itself in the hands of Our Lady, Who entrusts it to God, the devil has no power over our free will.

Q. How can people who are dying be helped?

A. Holy Water sprinkled around the bed of the dying person is very powerful. The devil is afraid of Holy Water. It is not the quantity that

counts, a few drops are enough, but the water should be sprinkled often.

Q. If a loved one is very seriously ill, should we tell him how serious his condition is?

A. Yes, always tell the truth, so that person is able to prepare himself for death.

Purgatory in Many Places

Q. Where is Purgatory? What is Purgatory like?

A. Purgatory is in many places, not in one well-defined place. Some must suffer where they have sinned. In one region of Austria, a man could be seen, with a light, going up and down the fields dragging a boundary stone. They said to him: "What are you doing here?"

He replied: "I don't know where to put this boundary stone."

"Put it down there, where you took it from." He had evidently moved a boundary stone from a field, committing an act of injustice. He put the stone down in the place indicated; at that moment he disappeared, and we understood that he had cleared his debt.

Q. Which sins lead us more easily to Purgatory?

A. Sins against your neighbor, false accusation, defamation, pride.

Mass Helps the Most

Q. What is the most effective means of helping the souls in Purgatory?

A. Holy Mass. Many people overlook Mass and do not understand its value.

Q. Can we ask Our Lord to allow us to suffer Purgatory on earth?

A. Of course. Every sacrifice can be used to reduce the sufferings of Purgatory, if offered to Our Lord. Praying the Rosary is very important.

Q. Have souls that destroyed themselves by drugs and other addictions also visited you?

A. Yes, they must stay in Purgatory

for as long as they would have lived on earth, because our life span and time of death is determined for each human being.

Q. There are so many evils in society and young people often pay the price. What can you tell us about this?

A. Not only do drugs ruin life, but to some extent, immorality can shorten it, as well as abortion and the pill.

Babies who die who are not baptized live happily, but they do not enjoy a beatific vision of God; however, they do not know this, and so they are happy.

If a woman who is expecting a baby is afraid it might not be born alive, she can desire that the baby be baptized, and so the child receives a Baptism of Desire.

Q. What do the souls say about people who are divorced?

A. That they can be helped by prayer. Divorced people who live together cannot take the Sacraments. On the other hand, if they live like brother and sister, they may receive the Sacraments.

Q. What can you tell us about euthanasia?

A. You cannot kill, not even out of compassion. If people have to suffer much, and they offer their sufferings to God, they can save themselves, obtain much happiness in Heaven, and save other souls. Suffering is invaluable.

I knew a nice teaching sister. When I went to see her, she said: "Why doesn't Our Lord listen to me? They need me at school."

I said: "Pain and suffering are the proof of God's love." She replied: "I wish God loved me less."

If we were to get ill or suffer for other reasons, let us try to give maximum value to our sufferings and offer them to Our Lord, placing them in Our Lady's hands. She knows where rewards are most urgently needed. In Heaven we shall see many souls that we have saved through our suffering.

Q. What do you think about suicide?

A. We need to know why they do it. Sometimes those who push someone to suicide are more responsible. Someone can be pushed to suicide by false accusation, defamation, or a refusal of love. Of all the souls of people who had committed suicide, and of whom I was asked if they were lost, none was lost. However, I cannot say for certain that all the souls of people who have committed suicide are saved.

Q. What role does Mary, Mother of Jesus, play in Purgatory?

A. Our Lady comes down often and the souls are very joyful. Purgatory is different from soul to soul; some souls must stay in Purgatory until the Last Judgement, those that only just escaped going to Hell.

Q. What did you experience, Maria, when the souls for which you suffered were freed?

A. A deep satisfaction, together with great joy that I was able to help others. There is very little love for our neighbors today. Every little act of love for our neighbors is generously compensated by Our Lord.

Can Souls Help Themselves?

Q. Maria, how is it that when you make reparation, days and hours of your suffering are enough to alleviate years of Purgatory?

A. In the early years, the souls often asked me to help them by suffering, by prayer, by Holy Mass. Now that I travel round the world going to conferences, many people help me to pray for the souls.

I have understood that the souls are pleased for me to speak of them and their needs. I also accept offerings which I use to have Holy Masses celebrated.

Q. Why can rewards no longer be obtained in Purgatory?

A. Because the souls have finished with life, but *WE* can help them.

Q. What do the souls say about the stormy times we are living in?

A. We have sunk very low because we have distanced ourselves from God. But soon, much will change through God's intervention. The Church will also be renewed.

Q. What must we do for our priests?

A. Today, more than ever, we must pray for priests and bishops, and offer up sacrifices for the whole Church.

Q. What do you think about the suffering of children?

A. They are expiatory souls, and with their suffering they can obtain very great favors. Expiation is invaluable.

Q. Is the suffering of children valued, even if parents do not accept it?

A. Yes, it is of equal value.

Q. Can you tell us the value of Gregorian Mass?

A. A Gregorian Mass is of great value. However, the benefit does not always go to the soul for whom it was intended for reasons known to Our Lord. The Communion of Saints helps many souls. Even someone of another religion can be saved, provided he lives his faith with conviction and an upright conscience.

Q. We often dream of the dead, is this a sign of need?

A. Yes, it can have this meaning. If you see that your relatives are sad, then help them with suffrages. If you see them happy and content, you can assume they are happy.

Q. Can the souls do anything for us?

A. Yes, very much so. The souls can help us a lot, very much indeed, and they can become our friends. +++

A “Contract” With Jesus, and His Face Glowed

by Sister Emmanuel
from, *Medjugorje, The 90's*, p 194

One day, a large crowd had gathered in Marija’s courtyard. Her friend and translator, Kath, could barely find enough space next to her. As Kath’s eyes swept through the crowd, she was struck by a face which stood out sharply from the others. This face was so bright that it radiated like the sun piercing the mist. What joy!

An inexpressible joy shone from this face, so much so that Kath had trouble concentrating on the translating. She could not keep her eyes off him. Never had she witnessed such joy before! Yet this man stood humbly leaning against the wall, and there was nothing about him that was otherwise remarkable.

She Headed Toward This “Sun”

As soon as Marija had finished, Kath dropped her like a hot potato, leaving her in the midst of the “dear” pilgrims, hungry for photos, autographs, and everything else that could serve as a souvenir. She headed straight toward the “sun” that was shining next to the wall. He was actually very small, a tiny little priest, and so old that he could have belonged to another century!

“Please excuse me, Father, if I am being nosy, but I would really love to know what makes you so radiant with joy? You must have a secret.” Kath asked.

The priest was Italian. She looked at the expression in his eyes. Despite his advanced years, he had the innocence of a little child.

I Made A Contract

“I will tell you, ma’am,” he answered. “I am 95 now. But, at the age of 5, I discovered with great sadness that people were always complaining. They would complain for trifles, and find 100 good reasons to feel frustrated, and this shocked me as a child.

“I also felt that Jesus was saddened by this. I wanted very badly to console Him, so I decided to make a contract with Him.

“I promised Him that during the first 100 years of my life, I would not complain once. On the contrary, I would *thank Him for everything*, for the good and the not-so-good, but above all, I would always celebrate the gift of life.

“And you know, ma’am, I must say that I have kept my promise! During all these years that I have spent celebrating life, no evil could ever touch me; I have avoided all demons!”

...“Incredible! But since you are now 95, your contract will come to an end soon!” Kath exclaimed, smiling.

“Well, yes, I have thought about that, too. But it is okay; I told Jesus the other day that I was ready to renew the contract for the next 100 years of my life!” +++

a ticket. In what ways are you traveling without a ticket?

Maybe you jump on the subway without a ticket; maybe you drive at ten or fifteen miles over the speed limit; perhaps it is telling a lie, or maybe you don’t let the IRS know about a couple of dollars you earned on the side. Whatever form it takes, traveling without a ticket fills our lives with fear and anxiety. You are worried that the ticket inspector is going to catch you; you are anxious about the possibility of the police pulling you over; you are afraid of your lie being found out; you are concerned that the IRS will audit you.

So why do we do it? Well, in most cases, probably just to get what we want or to get there quicker. But what is the cost? Fear and anxiety. A high price to pay. These twin impostors can rob us of the peace and joy of life faster and more effectively than anything else. Is it really worth it?

We do not speak much about it anymore, but there is something wonderfully liberating about “a clear conscience.” A clear conscience is a luxury item in our modern culture, and yet, one that is accessible to us all.

My favorite prayer in the Mass is during the Communion Rite, immediately after the Our Father, when the priest prays, “Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.”

My whole being responds to this plea. This prayer resonates with every desire within me that is good, true, noble, or beautiful. You see, I want to be delivered from every evil.

I want to live with the peace of a clear conscience. I don’t want to be burdened by fear and plagued by worries. I want God in His mercy to free me from sin. I want to be protected from all anxiety... and I want to wait in joyful hope. I don’t want to travel without a ticket anymore... or ever again. +++

Traveling Without a Ticket

by Matthew Kelly
from *the Beacon*, #11, Fall 2002

I was in Rome last week and I had to catch a bus, but in Italy you cannot buy a ticket on the bus. You have to buy the ticket before you get on the bus... only I didn’t have time to buy a ticket, and I didn’t have time to wait for the next bus. So, I just got on. I looked around to see if there was an inspector on the bus; there wasn’t. At each stop my heart rate increased, wondering if an in-spector would get on.

The bus ride lasted only ten minutes, but the anxiety completely drained me of my energy. It got me thinking about all the times and places I have traveled without a ticket in my life.

Do you ever feel like you are traveling without a ticket? The people at Enron were traveling without a ticket. The people at Arthur Anderson were traveling without

Jesus, the Boys, & the Birds

from *Poem of the Man-God*, pp. 438-9

It is a warm summer evening at sunset in the market place in Jericho. The large square is empty. There are few passers-by... some quarrelsome urchins throwing stones at the birds perched on the trees... some women go to the fountain... nothing else.

Jesus arrives from a side street, and looks around. He does not see His apostles yet. He waits patiently, leaning against the trunk of a tree, and finds the opportunity of speaking to the boys about charity that starts with God, and from the Creator descends to all creatures.

Do Not Be Cruel

“Do not be cruel. Why do you want to annoy the birds of the air? They have their nests up there, and their little ones. They do not harm anyone. They give us their chirping and cleanliness, because they eat the rubbish left by men, and the insects that are harmful to crops and fruit. Why wound them or kill them, depriving their little ones of their fathers and mothers, or the latter of their little ones?

“Would you be glad if a wicked man came into your house and destroyed it, or killed your parents, or took you away from them? No, you would not be happy. Well then, why do, to these innocent creatures, what you would not like done to yourselves? How will you refrain one day from doing harm to men if, children as you are now, you harden your hearts, and hurt defenceless, kind little creatures such as these birds?

He Who Does Not Love His Neighbor, Does Not Love God

“Do you not know that the Law

says: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself?’ He who does not love his neighbour, does not even love God. And who does not love God, how can he go to His House and pray to Him? God might say to him, and *He does say it in Heaven*: ‘Go away. I do not know you. ...You, My son? No, you are not. You do not love your brothers, *you do not respect in them the Father Who created them*, so you are not a brother and a son, but an illegitimate child: a stepson to God... a stepbrother to your brothers.’

See How God Cares For The Birds

“See how the Eternal Lord loves? In the cold months, He makes His little birds find the barns full of hay, so that they may nest there. In the hot months, He protects them from the sun with the foliage of trees.

“In winter, the corn in the fields is just covered with earth, and it is easy for them to find the seed and nourish themselves. In summer, they quench their thirst with the juice of fruits, and they build solid, warm nests with hay and the wool left on brambles by sheep.

“And, He is the Lord. You, little men, created by Him like the little birds and therefore their brothers in creation, why do you want to differ from Him and think that you can be cruel to these little animals?

He Will Give You Everything That You Need

“*Be merciful with everybody, not depriving anyone of what is due to one*, both amongst men and animals, your servants, your friends, and God... and God will be merciful with you and will give you everything you need, as He does with these innocent creatures. Go and take the peace of God with you.”

Jesus makes His way through the boys, as He sees some of his apostles coming from another street. +++

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Pilgrimages

from *The Diary of Sister Emmanuel*

This comment, which at first sounds right, is often heard: "Why go so far on a pilgrimage and spend all that money when God is everywhere and the Blessed Mother is constantly with Her children?"

Throughout the Bible we learn that pilgrimages are part of the spiritual life, and special blessings are attached to them. It is sometimes necessary to step outside of our usual lifestyle and experience the unknown, both interiorly and physically, by making a pilgrimage, a literal journey toward God (health permitting).

God sees our effort in these moments when we have set apart time dedicated especially for Him, and He speaks to us in a privileged way.

Together, St. Joseph and Our Lady set the example for us. Didn't they have the Son of God, in fact God Himself, in their home in Nazareth?

They could have thought, "Let our Jewish brothers go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem, for the Glory of God is dwelling in the Temple, and it is good for them to go there!"

"But for us, we live with Jesus, and our very home is a tabernacle of God's presence. We speak with the Son of God everyday. What more could we gain by going to Jerusalem?"

Through His Prophets, God Asked For Pilgrimages

In those days, every practicing Jew had to go to Jerusalem for three Feasts of Pilgrimage: *Pesar* (Easter) around April, *Shavouot* (Pentecost) around June, and *Soukot* (Feast of the Tabernacles) around October. These trips were accompanied by a beautiful liturgy.

For everyone, it was an opportunity to straighten things out with God. There, in Jerusalem, the pilgrim was "seen" by God, Who granted him special graces.

Through His prophets, the Lord instituted the pilgrimage, asking His people to *make these journeys*

as a prayer. If Mary and Joseph insisted on making a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, three times a year by foot (over 100 miles), despite the insecurity of the roads and the discomfort and fatigue it entailed, who are we to start a new spirituality where pilgrimages are not necessary anymore?

Many Graces Granted

Testimonies of many graces, conversions, healings, and blessings granted through pilgrimages abound! Has God informed us in any recent message that He has changed His mind... that the shower of graces are shut down in the Shrines, and that really there is no point in going to them anymore?

On the hill, during the evening apparitions, how many times did the Gospa tell us: "Dear children, tonight your Mother is so happy to see you in such large numbers!" She is inviting us!!

And when we invite someone to our house, we want to converse with him heart to heart... to share the best we have... to show him our love! We prepare a surprise for our guest, and usually he doesn't leave empty-handed!

Often It Is A New Beginning

According to the testimonies of many, their pilgrimage to Medjugorje (or another Shrine) marked a new beginning in their lives that they would not have missed for anything!

Do we have our Mother at home everyday? Yes indeed! Do we have the Eucharist in our parishes? Yes.

But still, why not answer the invitation of Jesus and Mary to take us by the hand and travel with Them to these Shrines? We will discover new aspects of Their personalities on the way, and welcome the amazing things They have prepared for us in these places of graces. In today's spiritually dry desert, can we ignore a place where the Divine Shepherd has created an oasis for us? +++

The Angelus

by Raymond de Souza (Director of St. Gabriel Communications)

from *The Medjugorje Sentinel*, #61, 3/04

Do you know why Islam is gaining momentum in the West? Do you know?" asked the fast-speaking, well-dressed chap in his thirties at the Cathedral Parish Centre in Perth, Western Australia, during the tea break of a St. Gabriel Communications Apologetics Seminar.

Before I could articulate a single sound by way of a response, he said: "I know. It is because Muslims are not afraid of praying in public. They do not care a hoot about what other people may think about their prayer life. From wherever they may be, when the time comes to pray, they will bow down in the direction of Mecca and invoke the name of Allah. And, that is the end of it. If any passer-by does not like it, well, tough! That's why Islam is gaining momentum in the West."

He sipped on his tea and, finally, gave me a chance to say something about the reasons for the fast growth of Islam.

"That is one of the reasons, albeit a pretty good one," I said. "Islam is growing in the West because of many reasons, with the following three being among the most important, on my assessment:

- a) They do not practice contraception or abortion;
- b) They lead a family-centered life;
- c) Their family lives are centered on religion, not on sport television, weight loss, or the share market.

These last words attracted the attention of the people around us. As more people came round, bringing with them their cups of tea and biscuits, necessary elements in any Catholic meeting in Australia, my first interlocutor, the well-dressed chap who affirmed the importance of public prayer, interjected: "Surely, there is more to it to explain the growth of Islam. What about the lack of faith in the West?"

"You are quite right," I said, a trifle annoyed with his habit of asking people a question and answering it before they had a chance to say anything. "Yes, there is

another reason, perhaps the most important of the lot: the once Christian West is morally and doctrinally rotten to the marrow of its social bones, and the crisis of Faith within the Catholic Church has assumed catastrophic proportions.

“Since Islam - or New Age, or fundamentalism, or Mormonism, or any other ‘ism’ of the day seems to provide an answer to anguished minds and hearts, growth is the end result.”

Third Secret of Fatima

A young lady raised her hand to attract my attention and said, “Is it not about the crisis in the Church that the third secret of Fatima is all about?”

“I do think so,” I agreed. “A careful reading of the vision of tragedy depicted by Sr Lucia does indeed suggest that the many dead around the Cross were not merely physically dead, but also spiritually dead.

“A great return to the Faith of our Fathers is the only solution for this crisis. More concretely, to heed the requests of Our Lady of Fatima is a must, if the world is to know the meaning of peace, both spiritually and socially.

“Prayer and Penance — that is the key that opens the gates of divine Grace,” I concluded.

The Angelus

That Muslims are not afraid of praying in public is a good point. Unfortunately, Catholics have forgotten that we, too, also used to pray the Angelus three times a day, to honor the greatest intervention of God in History — the Incarnation.

We used to stop working as 12 noon and at 6 p.m. to pause for a moment, collect our thoughts, place ourselves in God’s presence and utter the beautiful prayer of thanks-giving, the Angelus.

Many centuries ago, after the Church had decided that Christmas would be celebrated on December 25, She also chose the day of March 25 for the Incarnation, exactly nine months prior

to Jesus’ birth.

Between those dates was the time in which Our Blessed Mother carried the Word of God within Her sacred womb, thus fulfilling the Old Testament figure of the Ark of the Covenant, which carried the word of God in stone. Mary carried the Word of God made flesh.

It was at the Incarnation when “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (Jn 1:14). Then the Archangel, St. Gabriel, brought to the Blessed Virgin Mary the great news that God would become Man, and that She was called to be the Mother of that God-Man. She was going to give birth to God in human flesh!

Have you noticed how the Morning Star, which is the same as the Evening Star, commonly known as the planet Venus, both precedes and follows the sun? It is the symbol of Our Lady. She shone in the darkness of human history before the birth of Her Sun — Her Divine Son. You can still see it at dawn.

While He was shining in His preaching mission, She disappears. That is the zenith. After He leaves us and goes back to the Father, She appears again, gradually, as the last ray of hope to us poor sinners at the end of our lives — that is the twilight. See how the Sun, such a big luminary in God’s Creation, used to be used as a reminder for our prayers?

The Angelus, 3 Times a Day

(Dawn:) at 6 a.m. (or when you first wake up) — We give thanks to God as our Creator and praise the masterpiece of His Creation: Mary, the Beloved Daughter of God the Father, the First Person of the Blessed Trinity. Mary was already in His Mind since the dawn of Creation.

(Zenith:) at 12 noon, (when the sun is at its zenith) — We give thanks to God as our Redeemer, and praise the first one to be redeemed: Mary, the Admirable Mother of God the Son, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. Mary was the chosen one who conceived the Word of God made flesh and gave birth to Him. That is how the zenith reminds us of God living in Mary.

(Twilight:) At 6 p.m. (when the sun is at its twilight) — We give thanks to God as our Savior, and praise the greatest one to be saved, who is already body and soul in Heaven: Mary, the Faithful Spouse of God the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Blessed Trinity.

Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit, Who overshadowed Her to create the human body and soul of Jesus Christ, True God and True Man, in Her virginal womb. That is how the twilight reminds us of God glorified in Mary.

The Angelus Prayer:

The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary...

And she conceived of the Holy Spirit
Hail Mary...

Behold the handmaid of the Lord...

Be it done to me according to Thy Word
Hail Mary...

And the Word was made flesh... (Kneel here)

And dwelt amongst us.
Hail Mary...

Pray for us, Oh Holy Mother of God...

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, Oh Lord, Your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may, by His Passion and Cross, be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ, Our Lord. Amen. +++

Patience

Patience is not the ability to wait, but the ability to keep a good attitude while waiting. +++

The Mob

by Fr. Edwin J Duffy
from *Fr. Duffy's Reflections*, p. 5

When Mother Teresa opened her first hospital for the sick poor in Calcutta, a mob of orthodox Hindus believed she was trying to Christianize the sick. Stones and bricks were hurled at the hospital and at the nuns.

LaPierre, in his book, *City of Joy*, reported that Mother Teresa threw herself at the feet of the mob, and cried, "Kill me, and I'll be in Heaven all the sooner!"

The Police Were Called

An officer was called to expel the "foreign nun." When he saw the horrible and pityfull cases whom the nuns were caring for, he told the mob, "Tell your mothers and sisters to come here to continue this same work. When they come, then I will expel these nuns." +++



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

Shrines of Italy — Wed., Sept. 7, to Fri., Sept. 23, 2005 (17 days) \$2699. Visit **Milan, San Damiano, Montichiari, Fontanelle** (Rosa Mystica), **Padua, Venice, Florence, Siena, Cotrona, Assisi, Loreto, Osimo** (St. Joseph Cupertino), **Cascia, San Giovanni Rotondo, St. Michael's Cave, Avellino, Pietrelcina, Mugnano** (St. Philomena), **Pompeii, Rome, & Civitavecchia.** +++

Medjugorje & Prague — Mon., Nov. 7 to Wed., Nov. 16, 2005 (SOLD OUT). +++

Guadalupe, Mexico — for Feast Day celebrations. Dec. 6 thru 13, 2005 (8 days) \$1299 (Land only, \$899). Feasts of the Immac. Concep., Juan Diego, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and visits to **Ocotlan, Puebla, St. Michael's Well, & Our Lady of Good Remedies.** +++

Medjugorje & Prague — Mon., March. 6 to Wed., March 15, 2006 (10 days), \$1298. (One day in Prague.) +++

Betania, Venezuela — Tues., March 21, to Mon. March 27, 2006, (7 days) \$1689. We will be there for the March 25 anniversary celebration.

Fatima — Tues., April 18, to Tues., April 25, 2006 (8 days) \$1399. Visit **Aljustral, Lisbon, Santarem, Coimbra, Fatima, Ourem**, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Nazareth at **Nazare.** +++

Shrines of Italy — Wed., May 8, to Fri., May 24, 2006 (17 days) \$2899.

Fatima — Marian Conference and Retreat. (Topic: *Our Lady and the Reality of Heaven, Hell, & Purgatory.*) **International guest speakers.** Fri., July 7, to Friday, July 14, 2006 (8 days), \$1799 (Land only, \$1299.) July 13 anniversary celebration. +++

Fatima and Lourdes — Thur., July 20 to Sat., Aug. 5, 2006 (18 days) \$2699. Our most popular pilgrimage. Feast Day visit to **Santiago Compostella** (Shrine of St. James), **Pontevedra, Zaragosa, Avila, Braga, Santarem, Covadonga, Fatima, Ovieto, Lourdes, Garabandal, etc.** +++

Ireland — Sat., Aug. 12, to Thurs., Aug. 24, 2006 (13 days) \$1998. **Knock, Inchigeela, Ballinspittle, Melleray Grotto, Attymass** (Fr. Patrick Peyton), **Achill House of Prayer, Dublin**, visionaries Mary Casey, & Tom Lennon. +++

Poland Shrine Tour — Sat., June 10, to Fri., June 23, 2006 (14 days), \$2699. Includes **Warsaw, Zoliborz, Krakow** (Corpus Christi Procession), **Niapokalonow, Zakopane, Zelazowa Wola, Wagnivniki** (Divine Mercy Center), **Wadowice** (birthplace of John Paul II), **Kalwari Zebrzydowska**, and the beautiful Shrine at **Lechen.** +++

France — Mon., Sept 11, 2006, to Wed., Sept. 27 (17 days), \$2899. Visit **Paris, Chartres, Paray-le-Monial, La Salette, Ars, Chateaufeuf-de-Galaure** (Marthe Robin), **Pellevoisin, Nevers, Lourdes, Normandie, L'ile-Bouchard, Mont St. Michel, Pontmain, Lisieux, St. Baume, Carcasson** & more. +++

Germany, Austria, & Switzerland— (PassionPlay) **Ulm, 2008, \$3399, Oberammergau**, in 2010, \$3699. +++

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

VISIT FATIMA HOUSE
and the St. Joseph Great Room.
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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