

***THE WAY TO  
MEDJUGORJE***

***ANDREW JEROME  
YEUNG***



***THE WAY TO  
MEDJUGORJE***

*Tenth edition*

*By*  
***ANDREW JEROME  
YEUNG***

## **The Way to Medjugorje**

Yeung, Andrew Jerome, 1938-  
The way to Medjugorje -- 10<sup>th</sup> ed.

Includes bibliographical references.

Includes some text in Croatian

1. Christian life--Biblical teaching. 2. Christian pilgrims and pilgrimages--Bosnia and Hercegovina--Medjugorje. I. Ave Maria Centre of Peace. II. Yeung, Andrew Jerome, 1938, Jesus, gospa, gospel. III. Title.

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Ave Maria Centre of Peace  
P.O. Box 489, Station U,  
Toronto, Ontario, M8Z 5Y8  
Canada

Printed and bound in Canada  
by Ave Maria Centre of Peace

**You can read this book online. Here is the link:**  
**<http://medjugorjeca.org/the-way-to-medjugorje/>**

## ***ACKNOWLEDGMENTS***

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

In late June of 1981, Ivanka Ivanković and Mirjana Dragičević were taking a stroll near their homes in Medjugorje. Suddenly a woman in shimmering light appeared on the hillside. Ivanka looked up at her and cried out, “Look – Gospa!” This was the start of the many years of Mother Mary’s daily apparitions in that tiny village.

“Gospa” in the Croatian language is equivalent to “The Lady” in English.

\* \* \*

Fifteen and a half centuries earlier, in late June of the year 431, a General Council of bishops and theologians assembled at St. Mary’s Church in Ephesus, not too far from Medjugorje, to examine what history now calls the Nestorian heresy. The heresy was that in Jesus Christ were two persons, a divine person and a human one, and that Mary was mother only of the human Jesus. Consequently, she was not to be given the title “Mother of God.” The official resolution of that controversy asserted that Jesus Christ was one person – one person with two natures, a divine nature and a human one. Therefore, since Mary was the mother of Jesus, she was the mother of this one person, God and man. She was rightly to be called “Mother of God.”

In the second half of the “Hail Mary” prayer, as we say, “Holy Mary, Mother of God,” we acknowledge this doctrine.

\* \* \*

When one draws attention to  
the brightness of the moon,  
one is really pointing at  
the brilliance of the sun;  
for the former gets her light  
purely by reflecting the radiance of the latter.  
Nevertheless, I implore you,  
do not ignore her because of that.  
In a sea of darkness,  
in the depth of night,  
many a lost wanderer  
has been guided home  
by her loving and gentle rays.

## ***CHAPTER ONE***

### ***THE CHURCH'S POSITION ON MEDJUGORJE***

#### ***DECLARATION OF THE EX-YUGOSLAVIA BISHOPS' CONFERENCE ON MEDJUGORJE***

At the ordinary session of the Bishops' Conference of Yugoslavia in Zadar from April 9 - 11, 1991 the following was adopted:

The bishops, from the very beginning, have been following the events of Medjugorje through the Bishop of the diocese (Mostar), the Bishop's Commission and the Commission of the Bishops Conference of Yugoslavia on Medjugorje.

On the basis of the investigations, so far it cannot be affirmed that one is dealing with supernatural apparitions and revelations.

However, the numerous gatherings of the faithful from different parts of the world, who come to Medjugorje, prompted both by motives of belief and various other motives, require the attention and pastoral care in the first place of the diocesan bishop and with him of the other bishops also, so that in Medjugorje and in everything connected with it a healthy devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary may be

promoted in accordance with the teaching of the Church.

For this purpose, the bishops will issue especially suitable liturgical-pastoral directives. Likewise, through their Commission they will continue to keep up with and investigate the entire event in Medjugorje.

In Zadar April 10, 1991  
The Bishops of Yugoslavia

The above declaration still continues to be the official stance of the Church on Medjugorje.

The Church rarely approves the authenticity of alleged apparitions until they have ended. For example, Fatima was not approved till 13 years after the reported apparitions stopped.

However, since the latter part of the 1980's, Pope Saint John Paul II had made several statements privately in praise of the events in Medjugorje.

In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI convened a high profile Commission to investigate the phenomenon. The investigation was finished in 2014, and its report was submitted to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. We await the announcement of the final decision by the Vatican.

In 2018, His Holiness Pope Francis appointed Archbishop Henryk Hoser as the Pope's Apostolic Visitor to Medjugorje. On July 22, 2018, he began his official role by celebrating the 7 pm Holy Mass at St. James' Church in the parish.

## ***CHAPTER TWO***

### ***APPARITIONS***

Apparitions have always been part and parcel of the way God communicated with his people. Instances of visions have been reported throughout the Bible in one form or another. Some visionaries come readily to mind: Abraham (at Mamre), Moses (in the desert), Solomon (at Gibeon), Zechariah (John the Baptist's father, in the temple), Peter, James and John (at the Transfiguration), and Paul (on the road to Damascus). Each of these seers did what was requested of him, and thereby became a channel of great graces to descend upon his fellow human beings.

The following are three apparitions described in the New Testament. All occurred at a moment in time when civilization clearly needed the intervention of the loving hand of God.

#### **1. The Angel Gabriel**

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

(Lk 1:26–28, NAB)

Mary was subsequently asked to be the mother of Jesus. Her acceptance of God's word from the angel gave to the world its Saviour, Christ Our Lord.

## **2. Jesus (after His Death)**

They were still talking about all this when he himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you!" In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, "Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts stirring in your hearts?" ... Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, as they were dumbfounded.

(Lk 24:36–41, NJB)

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "You

have believed because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

(Jn 20:24–29, RSV)

Through the disciples’ faith in the resurrected Lord, the sacred and imperishable message of the gospel has been brought to every corner of the globe.

### **3. The Holy Spirit**

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

(Acts 2:1–4, NIV)

Then Peter went outside and addressed the crowd. He co-operated with the Holy Spirit; and through his co-operation, many were converted to the Lord.

As part of his speech, Peter quoted the prophet Joel.

“And in the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”

(Acts 2:17–18, RSV)

“He spoke to them for a long time using many other arguments, and he urged them, ‘Save yourselves from this perverse generation.’ They accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.”

(Acts 2:40–41, NJB)

And thousands upon thousands more would follow as the centuries went by.

### **Mother Mary**

Apparitions may include an invitation to participate in God’s plan of salvation. It may seem too good to be true. Co-operation with God can help save thousands of souls. If Mary has been appearing on earth and relating the Lord’s call to this sinful world to turn back to him and live the gospel, think of the immense good that will occur if we do what God in his mercy is urging us to do!



## ***CHAPTER THREE***

### ***THE WAY TO MEDJUGORJE***

The facts surrounding the apparitions of Our Lady in Medjugorje are well known. We will not repeat them here. If readers desire more information, they can get in touch with one of the many Medjugorje centres around the world. These centres have websites, the latest messages of Our Lady, internet communications, books, newsletters, dates and prices for pilgrimages and conferences.

Here are two organizations you may contact in Toronto, Canada.

The Medjugorje Centre of Canada  
360 Highway 7 East, Lower Level, Richmond Hill,  
Toronto, Ontario, L4B 3Y7, Canada.  
Tel: 416-900-0270.  
E-mail: [admin@medjugorjeca.org](mailto:admin@medjugorjeca.org)  
Web-site: [www.medjugorjeca.org](http://www.medjugorjeca.org)

The Ave Maria Centre of Peace  
P.O. Box 489, Station U,  
Toronto, Ontario, M8Z 5Y8, Canada.  
Tel: 416-251-4245.  
Fax: 416-253-0480.  
E-mail: [letters@avemaria.ca](mailto:letters@avemaria.ca)

For Medjugorje parish telephones and fax numbers, web-site, e-mail address and post-office, see pages 27 and 28 below.

At the Information Office next to St. James' Church in Medjugorje, a flyer is available which contains a map of the village, facts about the parish and the visionaries, plus the prayer programme, telephone numbers, and internet and e-mail addresses. These flyers are printed in various languages and given out for a small free-will donation.

In the following pages, we offer valuable tips to pilgrims. Please note that not all parts of the book are of interest to everyone. For example, those who have trouble learning new tongues may not want to read the language section.

## **(A) TRAVEL TIPS**

The months from April to October are the busiest for pilgrimages to Medjugorje. Your travel agent can advise you about passports and visas (if required), book flights for you, arrange accommodation, meals, local transportation and guide (if you need one). You may go in a group organized by a Medjugorje centre, or privately.

### **Passport and visa**

Your passport must be valid until at least six months beyond your re-entry back home.

No visas are required by North Americans, but are required by landed immigrants.

Pilgrims from overseas visiting or passing through North America with visas must make sure they have multiple entry visas back to Canada or the USA and in the countries in transit along the pilgrimage route.

### **Children travelling alone or with one parent**

Children under 18 years of age travelling alone need photocopy of birth certificates and a notarized letter of consent from both parents, plus a notarized letter appointing a guardian for the children on the pilgrimage.

Travelling with one parent, children need a notarized letter of consent from the absent parent, plus photocopies of birth certificates.

If the surnames of the children are different from the surname of the parent (the mother, for example) birth

certificate papers and documents with notarized signatures must be produced to prove the relationship between the children and parent.

A widow or widower travelling with children needs to present the death certificate of the deceased spouse.

A divorced parent travelling with children needs to present the divorce document.

### **Insurance**

It is important to have insurance – medical, travel, and trip cancellation. This is purchased at the time of deposit payment for the pilgrimage. Those who have such insurance from elsewhere (such as credit card, work or pension plans) should indicate it.

### **The Weather**

The weather in Medjugorje is best in September and May. Most of late spring and the first few weeks of autumn are pleasant, although one should bring along a collapsible umbrella and a windbreaker with a hood to ward off the occasional blast of cold air from the north.

For comparison, the climate of Medjugorje is similar to that of Siena, near Rome, and that of Roseburg, near Portland, Oregon, in the USA.

Winter is wet and cool. Snow rarely falls in this region as the temperature seldom dips below freezing, and Medjugorje is only 200m above sea level. The average daytime temperature is approximately 10° C (50° F). All rooms are outfitted with heaters.

The summer months are very hot and dry. Most buildings have air-conditioning.

Go to [www.medjugorjeca.org](http://www.medjugorjeca.org); click on “Medjugorje Pilgrimages” then scroll down to “Weather Forecast.” Here is the link: [www.medjugorjeca.org/weather-forecast](http://www.medjugorjeca.org/weather-forecast)

### **Caution**

In the hot months, it is better not to stay in the sun too long, especially between 11am and 4pm. The mornings and late afternoons are refreshing; climb the hills during those periods.

Wear a hat and sunglasses. Put on sunscreen.

### **Time Change**

The time difference between Medjugorje and the East Coast of North America is six hours. Daylight savings time begins in Europe on the last Sunday of March, and ends on the last Sunday of October.

On the airplane, you may be able to catch only a few hours of light sleep. To allow your body to adjust, take it easy during the first couple of days after your arrival.

### **What to Bring**

To guard against delayed flights and temporary misdirection (or loss) of baggage by the airline, you must carry with you onto the plane a small overnight bag which contains your medicines, toiletries, and a simple change of clothes. Your travel documents, money and charge cards should, of course, stay with you.

Use durable but lightweight luggage. A 60 cm (24 inch) suitcase with wheels is best. Some airlines allow only one piece of check-in luggage per ticket. Charges

are levied on more pieces. Be sure the labels provided by the airline are clearly marked with your name and destination. Before the return trip, remove all previous labels so as not to confuse the ground crew.

Do not bring too much clothing. The people who go to Medjugorje dress very simply and modestly. Hand washed clothes will dry in the sun in a few hours. In an emergency, one may ask the householder for the use of washers, dryers and ironing equipment.

There are laundry services in the village. The word for this is *čistionica*.

Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Electric outlets are circular, recessed almost an inch, and of the type that accepts two round prongs. Voltage is 220, as opposed to 110 in North America. Adapters are necessary for hair dryers, electric toothbrushes or razors, and chargers – unless you have dual voltage. Your local hardware store has small adapters as well as extension plugs.

Frizerski salon is the term for hair salon. There are several in Medjugorje.

Pack a flashlight in case you want to be present at the night apparition to Ivan on the hill. (See p.38 below.) Even in summer, the mountain air can be cool in the evening. If you have difficulty with that, take along a light jacket.

During the hot season, a bottle of mosquito repellent is useful, as is medication for disinfecting insect-bites. Against mosquitoes, your hosts may provide a very effective device which is plugged into the electric outlet before you go to bed. It is called "*Aparat protiv*

*komaraca.*” You can buy it at the stores in Medjugorje. Be advised, though, that the chemical it emits may be harmful to people with allergies.

A watch is essential, preferably with alarm. Small packages of paper tissue are handy too, as is a bottle for drinking water, and extra batteries for cameras, flashlights, radios, recorders, laptops and mobile phones.

Do not place batteries in your check-in luggage on airplanes. They are not permitted in the cargo-hold.

Please bring a Misalette with the daily Mass readings, your Bible, Rosary, a book for spiritual guidance, and pen and paper in case you have thoughts to jot down.

### **Airline Security**

In Canada, for what can be carried onto an aircraft, go to [www.catsa-acsta.gc.ca](http://www.catsa-acsta.gc.ca), or call the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority at 1-888-294-2202.

### **The Houses**

The houses are well constructed and clean. All hotels and pensions (similar to ‘bed-and-breakfasts’) have private showers in each room, with hot and cold water.

Towels, liquid soap and paper are supplied for your bathroom needs. Please do not expect 5-star hotel service. The low prices charged do not allow for daily changes of towels and sheets. Please make your own beds, and treat wet towels as you would at home by hanging them up to dry for re-use.

Slide your luggage under the bed; this frees up space for you to move about.

**Showers**

Please be careful that the shower floors can be very slippery, especially when wet soap is present. When soaping and rinsing your feet, it is safest to do so in a kneeling position.

**Hot Water**

Water and electricity are expensive in Medjugorje. Please use the minimum. Do not keep water running in the shower while applying shampoo or soap.

There would be less strain on the water supply if some pilgrims shower in the afternoons rather than everyone doing so at the same hours in the mornings or nights.

**Food and water**

Most house arrangements include two meals.

Breakfast is usually at 8am, and consists of cheese, cold cuts, bread, butter, jam, milk, coffee and tea.

Dinner can be at 5pm or 8pm, but more often at 5pm. This allows pilgrims to attend the 7pm evening Mass and receive Holy Communion. It also frees up the cooks and servers to be home to prepare meals for their own families.

For dinner, there is soup, salad, meat (chicken, pork, beef), fish on Wednesdays and Fridays, bread, potatoes, vegetables and dessert. You or your group may request the food to be prepared according to your taste (e.g. less salt or oil).

The only meal you have to fend for yourself is lunch. There are many very good restaurants in Medjugorje.



The food is Croatian and Italian, and delicious. The ingredients (chicken, pork, beef, vegetables, and fruit) are fresh from the local farms. Fish and shellfish are brought in from the Adriatic Sea every day.

Water from the tap is safe to drink, but if you prefer, there is bottled water, pop, wine, beer, coffee, tea, and sok (a fruit drink).

### **Convenience Stores**

Many stores can be found throughout the village. Here you may purchase fruit, snacks, drinks, and household items such as laundry detergent, hygienic articles and disposable diapers.

### **Currency**

The unit of legal tender in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Convertible Mark (KM). Euros (€), US dollars and other major monetary notes are welcome. At the time of this printing, 1 KM = ½ €.

Money may be exchanged at your home bank, at airports, in the bank (banka) in Medjugorje, and the post office there. Small bills are better to carry – so that stores can make change with less difficulty.

Some hotels, restaurants and services may accept major credit cards.

The currency in nearby Croatia is the Euro.

### **Coins**

Please do not bring coins from North America. The banks do not take them for conversion into their own denominations.

Instead of dropping loose change into the collection basket daily, consider giving a bill once every few days.

### **Medical Attention**

The first-aid station, Maltezer, with ambulance, is on the west side of the church, near the washrooms. It is open from 9am to 9pm from the end of April to the end of October. Their doctors are very skillful. No fee is charged, but a donation is greatly appreciated.

If a doctor or nurse is needed at the hotel, your host or tour guide will call one for you in the village.

There is a medical clinic in the nearby town of Čitluk. A hospital is located in the historic city of Mostar, a forty-minute drive away.

A good dentist is Dr. Davor Planinić. Your host can take you to him. His modern clinic is just beyond the Apparition Hill area, on the road to Šurmanci.

The word for pharmacy is farmacija, or apoteka, or lijekarna. The one in the enclosed laneway between the church and the main street is convenient.

Do not forget to bring along your personal medicines.

### **Public Washrooms**

Near the church one can find clean washroom facilities, as well as fountains for drinking water.

The polite word for washroom in Croatian is “toaleta.” The usual sign indicating a washroom is W.C. (pronounced ve-tse.)

## **Taxis**

Taxis are plentiful. The main stop is on the main road beside the church. A sign indicates the prices to local areas, to airports and other places of interest.

If a taxi is needed further from the church, your host or guide can order it easily by phone.

## **Post-office, Telephones, Fax Machines, E-mail, internet, WiFi**

The main post-office is located about 10 minutes' walk straight ahead from the front of the church, and left across the bridge. It provides full mail service, telephones, fax, and computers for e-mail and internet, and money exchange. A branch office is next to the Parish bookstore; money can be exchanged there too.

To phone North America from Medjugorje, dial 001, then the area code and number. To call Medjugorje from North America, dial 011-387-36, and then the local number. All houses have telephones. Long distance calls can be made to them directly.

The parish office telephone number is 387-36-650-206 (or 651-310). Fax: 387-36-651-444. Information Office telephone/fax is 387-36-651-988.

Internet access is available at internet cafes and at some hotels and pensions through WiFi.

Internet computers and fax machines can also be found in some houses, business establishments and travel agencies.

To get weather forecast while in Medjugorje, see the top of page 21 above, and follow the instructions.

**Internet**

Medjugorje web-site: [www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr). For English language, click on the word “English”. Choose your topics from the index across the top of the page.

For information: [informacije@medjugorje.hr](mailto:informacije@medjugorje.hr).

E-mail: [medjugorje-mir@medjugorje.hr](mailto:medjugorje-mir@medjugorje.hr).

You may send your prayer intentions through [molitvene.nakane@medjugorje.hr](mailto:molitvene.nakane@medjugorje.hr).

**Map**

There is a map of the region printed in the flyer mentioned on page 18, and one of the local area on a large board in the church grounds.

**Address**

The visionaries and priests in Medjugorje receive a large volume of mail every day from all over the world. It is better not to write to them because they are much too busy to read or answer letters. But if you really have a need, you may try to reach them through the Parish Office, Church of Saint James: Župni Ured, Crkva Svetoga Jakova, Gospin Trg 1, 88266 Medjugorje, Bosna i Hercegovina.

They will include you in their prayers, but do not expect a written reply.

**Guides**

Trained and authorized guides in all the major languages may be hired by the day.

If you are on your own, after the English Mass (which usually begins at 10 a.m. on weekdays and

noon on Sundays), find and join any group from North America or the British Commonwealth. Failing that, ask for help at the Information Office.

### **The Inhabitants**

The new generation in Medjugorje is quite well traveled. The people are in close contact with the outside world and are very knowledgeable. Do not treat them as ignorant peasants. If you under-estimate them in conversation, you may be making a fool of yourself. As well, they are probably rather wealthy. The price of real estate in this village is comparable to that in many large cities around the world.

### **Car Rentals**

If you go independently and plan to rent an automobile, your travel agent can book it for you. It is best if you can drive a manual stick shift vehicle. Automatic cars are available, but they are hard to come by, and are very costly. In any case, reserve your vehicle and pay for everything before you leave home. Be sure to take along your driver's license, map, and the prepaid car voucher which your travel agent will give you.

### **Calendar**

It is useful to make a one-page calendar for the days of your pilgrimage, and leave space to write down the things you need to do.

Expect large gatherings of pilgrims in Medjugorje at the Youth Festival starting at the end of July, on the

anniversary of Our Lady's first apparition there on June 25th, on the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14th), Holy Week, Assumption Day (August 15) and Christmas.

### **The Church**

The church is the focal point of the village. It has 600 seats inside, and several thousand outside.

The inside is air-conditioned in the summer, and heated in the winter.

### **Portable Camp Stool and Radio**

The evening Mass and Adoration at the Church are often very crowded. It is a good idea to take along a foldable stool. Several varieties are sold in the stores in Medjugorje, and are not expensive.

The evening Mass is in Croatian, but is translated instantaneously into several languages and broadcast over FM radio. If you wish, bring (or buy there) a small radio with earphones.

### **Candles**

A small area just west of the church is where one may light vigil candles. The donations go towards maintaining the church.

### **Prayer Petitions**

It is the practice of pilgrims to Medjugorje to offer to bring with them any prayer intentions that friends and relatives may have. Each person in private lists the petitions on a piece of paper. He or she places the

paper inside an envelope and seals it. On the outside of the envelope is written: "Intentions." No money or cheques are enclosed. No names or signatures are necessary. The pilgrims take these petitions to the visionaries or leave them at the Information Office. At the apparition, the seers will recommend them to the Blessed Virgin. Later, the unopened letters are burned.

### **Spiritual Preparation**

It is also customary for pilgrims to prepare for the trip beforehand by familiarizing themselves with the messages of Our Lady and putting them into practice. An excellent way to enter into her thoughts and guidance is found in the booklet: ***MOTHER MARY SPEAKS FROM MEDJUGORJE***. (For the address from where to obtain the book, please turn to page 77 below.) The paperback is short, non-repetitive, and very easy reading. It contains samples of her messages collected and organized according to subject matter.

Some pilgrims prepare themselves by doing a novena nine days prior to departure. The novena may consist of daily Mass and Rosary, and extra quiet times with the Lord.

## **(B) YOUR PILGRIMAGE**

Go to Medjugorje in a spirit of prayer. Go as on a retreat. Go with your petitions and problems. Go in faith, believing certainly that in his love the Lord will help you. Go in honour of God and his Mother.

In Medjugorje, do participate in all the daily devotions. As long as you genuinely keep Jesus' commandment of faith and love, your prayers will be efficacious.

### **Prayer Book**

The prayers for the Rosary, Holy Mass, and evening programme are found in books sold at the parish store. Book I contains these prayers in Croatian, Latin, English, and five other major European languages.

### **Daily Bulletins**

Outside the Information Office near the church, electronic bulletins display times and locations for Masses in various languages, as well as for talks given by visionaries and priests. Please check every evening.

### **Summer Schedule; Regular Schedule**

The programme times given in the paragraphs below are for the 3 summer months, commencing on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

During the regular schedule months, from September 1<sup>st</sup> till May 31<sup>st</sup> inclusive, all programmes in the evening start one hour earlier. The afternoon Way of the Cross on Fridays and the extra Rosaries on Sundays and Feast days occur at 2 p.m. rather than 4 p.m.



## **Confession**

There are six confessionals inside the church, and dozens more outside on the east and west sides of the church. Confessions are heard from an hour before the evening Mass. Signs indicate the language(s) spoken by each priest.

## **Rosary**

Communal praying of the Rosary is led by a priest in the church, beginning daily at 6 p.m. The Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries are said before Mass (except on Thursdays). The Glorious Mysteries are said after Mass (except on Thursdays and Fridays).

Thursdays are different because the parish wants very much to pay special tribute to the Eucharist which was instituted on Holy Thursday (the Fifth Luminous Mystery). Therefore on Thursdays, before Mass in Advent, Christmas time and Ordinary time, the Joyful and Luminous mysteries are said; during Lent, the Luminous and Sorrowful, and at Easter time, the Luminous and Glorious.

For after Mass devotions, please see p.36 below for Thursdays and Fridays.

## **Litany**

After the Rosary, the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary is chanted. The faithful's musical response is: "Mo-li, mo-li za nas." It means "Pray, pray for us".

This is followed by the prayer to the Holy Spirit. The response is "O come, Creator Spirit Blest": "O do-đi, Stvor-če Du-še Sve-ti."

The Medjugorje hymn, *Majci i Kraljici Mira*, then leads into the Holy Mass:

Doš-li smo ti, Maj-ko dra-ga,  
 sa svih stra-na o-ve zem-lje;  
 do-nije smo ti ja-de svo-je,  
 i u nji-ma svo-je že-lje.

Refrain: Po-gle-daj nas ut-je-ši nas,  
 (twice) svo-je ru-ke sta-vi na nas,  
 svo-me Si-nu pre-po-ru-či,  
 Maj-ko Mi-ra, mo-li za nas.

### Daily Masses

The first Mass is at 7:30 a.m., in Croatian. Thereafter, Masses in different languages start from 9 at the top of every hour. For each of these, there may be several priests concelebrating. Most of the priests are needed to help distribute Holy Communion to the large number of people present during the busy season and prominent feast days. The English Mass commences at 10 a.m. on weekdays, and at noon on Sundays.

The main Mass is the one at 7 p.m. In the summer, scores of priests from diverse parts of the world will be seen in the sanctuary behind the main celebrant. The Mass is usually held in the open air. Microphones broadcast the proceedings to the multitude.

At this Mass, the sermon in Croatian lasts about fifteen minutes. For those who do not know the language, this is not an inappropriate time to obtain some spiritual nourishment from the gospel-based book: ***DO WHATEVER JESUS TELLS YOU!*** (See last page for address.) On February 25<sup>th</sup> 1996, Our

Lady said, “Today I invite you to conversion. This is the most important message that I have given you here.” The book will show you what to convert from, and to what you should convert.

### **Simultaneous Translation of the Mass**

One can follow the evening Mass in translation on FM radio. Please ask at the Information Office what the frequency is for English.

### **At the End of the Evening Mass**

Immediately after the evening Mass, these prayers are recited: The Creed, and seven times the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be. These prayers are offered up for Our Lady’s intentions, for peace, for the conversion of sinners and unbelievers, for the souls in Purgatory, and for healing.

Then the hymn “Immaculate Mary” is often sung. Please sing along. The words are given below:

Sred te se pe-ći-ne Ma-ri-ja ja-vi  
 Iz raj-ske vi-si-ne svak je po-zdra-vi:  
 Ave, ave, ave Maria! (x 2)

### **Blessing of Religious Articles and the Infirm**

After that, the priest blesses religious articles, and prays for the healing of the sick. The prayers for spiritual healing may last for about half an hour.

The Glorious Mysteries follow (except on Thursdays and Fridays), accompanied by music.

### **Other Devotions and Activities**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Thursdays (immediately after the evening Mass), and at 10 p.m. on Tuesdays, Saturdays and the 25th of each month.

On the 25<sup>th</sup>, after the Adoration with music and meditations, there is silent Adoration inside St. James Church until 7 a.m. the next morning.

The large host is displayed in a huge monstrance. The lights are turned down, and a priest says short prayers which are translated into several languages. These prayers are interspersed with hymns and moments of silence. The hymns are simple and easy to follow.

Veneration of the Cross takes place on Fridays immediately after the evening Mass. The procedure is similar to the Adoration described above.

Most impressive among the attendants are the many pious men and women in their twenties and thirties.

The Way of the Cross is on Fridays at 4 p.m. on Cross Mountain (Križevac).

Each Sunday at 4 p.m., fifteen decades of the Rosary are said on Apparition Hill (Podbrdo).

Privately climbing up Cross Mountain, pilgrims usually pray the Way of the Cross and the Rosary between each Station.

The Adoration Chapel is near the church. It is open for quiet meditation from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

## **Notice to priests and coordinators**

Masses for small groups may be celebrated in the Adoration Chapel. But this has to be pre-arranged with the Information Office by your official local guide.

The bishop does not permit Mass to be celebrated in the hotels, pensions, houses, fields or hills. He does not allow healing programmes, retreats, Confessions or other such activities to be held in these places.

The Medjugorje parish requires checking the *celebret* of visiting priests. On arrival at the parish, each priest should present his *celebret* to the Information Office where a copy will be made and filed. The Information Office will then issue him a badge which in effect allows him to con-celebrate Mass and hear Confessions in the parish. If a priest does not have the badge, he may not perform these functions officially in the parish.

## **Other Pilgrims**

It is often good to speak with fellow pilgrims. You may learn from each other, and pray for one another.

The custom is to exchange addresses; but please exercise prudence.

## **Distraction**

The approaches to the church are lined with shops and cafes. Do not be dis-edified by them. Entrepreneurs always find their way to places of worship. Some of them are undoubtedly there for the sake of money alone, but many do provide much-

needed services for the hundreds of people present every day.

The wages of workers and shop owners also help to relieve the high number of unemployed men and women in the country. Some of the earnings from foreigners go to support relatives in towns and villages far and near.

Keep your eyes on the Lord, and do not allow any worldliness to spoil your pilgrimage.

### **The Visionaries**

Most of the visionaries live at the foot of Podbrdo. They sometimes meet with pilgrims at designated places. Your local tour guide will take you to these interviews. If you do not have a guide, ask at the Information Office.

### **The Apparitions**

Our Lady appears to the seers privately at 6:40 every evening. During the praying of the Rosary in the church, this moment is solemnized by the priest with a hymn and/or a few seconds of silence.

It should be noted that most attendants at an apparition do not feel anything out of the ordinary. Remember, feelings are not important, but this is: “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe” (Jn 20:29, NJB). Use the moment to honour and thank God and Our Lady, and present your petitions to Jesus through her.

## **Apparition to Ivan**

As well, from May to October, Our Lady sometimes appears to Ivan on Monday and Friday nights at 10 o'clock on or at the bottom of Apparition Hill. Check at the Information Office to find out if, and where, any such apparition will take place.

From about 8:45 p.m., the Cenacolo choir leads the pilgrims in songs of praise at the site. Ivan and his prayer group arrives around 9:30 to prepare the thousands present by praying the Rosary, Creed, and seven Our Father's, Hail Mary's and Glory Be's.

During the apparition, Our Lady may pray the Our Father and Glory Be with Ivan. At the end of the apparition one can hear the prayer group reciting the Magnificat. After that, Ivan will use his microphone to relate in Croatian what occurred, and announce the message given by Our Lady. This is then translated into English, Italian, German, French, and perhaps a couple more languages.

A word of caution: there are no washrooms on the hill; if you plan to be there for 2 hours or more, do not drink too much liquid that evening.

## **My Personal Plea**

I beg all pilgrims to be considerate to the people of Medjugorje. The hours between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. are used as a period of rest for the families. Please do not impose upon them during this interlude. They need to eat lunch, take a nap, pray, spend some quiet moments with God and with each other.

The people are hospitable and polite; they will not complain. But we must not take advantage of them. Is it fair that their lives should be overly disrupted because of us? Jesus said,

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”  
(Mt 7:12, NIV)

Most pilgrims come to Medjugorje with problems. The priests, nuns, visionaries, and people will serve you and pray for your needs; but there is not much else they can do. Please do not pester them. Instead, place your trust in the Lord. He sees your difficulties. He is compassionate. He is loving. He is just. He will reward you for believing. Jesus said,

“Let it be done for you *according to your faith.*”  
(Mt 9:29, NAB)

You have already shown faith by coming to Medjugorje at great expense and inconvenience; do not destroy that by panic and worry. Jesus said,

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.”  
(Lk 11:9–10, NAB)

Some of the favours you requested may be granted in Medjugorje. More will come after you return home. On



later reflection, you will discover that God did for you much more than you had asked.

And when you see how God helped and changed you, though not necessarily in the way you had planned, remember to thank him in gratitude and joy. Do not forget to keep your promises made to him.

### **Be a Learner**

Try to stay in Medjugorje for more than a week. Pray with the people. Fast on bread and water with them on Wednesdays and Fridays. Get into the habit of daily attending Mass, praying the Rosary, spending quiet time with the Lord, reading from the gospel and living it. Adopt the practice of going to monthly Confession.

Learn to move about in peace and stillness, not anxiety and hurry. If any situation arises that calls for you to be unselfish and caring towards someone, be unselfish and caring – even if it takes you away from what you had intended to do. Trust God; he will repay you unexpectedly.

Do not despise your fellow pilgrims, no matter how obnoxious they may be. The Lord said,

“It is by your love for one another, that everyone will recognise you as my disciples.”

(Jn 13:35, NJB)

Regrettably, one can visit Medjugorje and leave without heeding any of the requests asked by God through Our Lady. One can perform many touristy acts and come away with nothing but a handful of stories.

Please, go to Medjugorje with an open attitude. Go to Medjugorje with a listening heart, learning what God wants you to learn, and changing what he wants you to change. Go and experience what it means to live in God's presence. Be respectful towards him. Reverence him; adore him.

In Medjugorje you will find peace. In Medjugorje your faith will be strengthened. In Medjugorje you will encounter healing, miracles, and signs. The healing you seek will be seen first of all in your converted heart. The miracles that you hoped for will begin in your renewed dedication to a deeper spiritual life centred on Our Lord. The signs and wonders you take home will be your changed self, a changed self that inspires to true Christian goodness all those who could not come to this chosen village among the hills.

### **Live Jesus' Gospel**

The apparitions of Mother Mary and her messages may eventually prove to be worthy of belief, but one can argue that they are not articles of faith of the Church, and nobody is bound by them. That is true.

However, Our Lady did say something in the gospel which is certainly and definitely part of our deposit of faith:

“Do whatever he tells you.” (Jn 2:5, NIV)

In this we must believe. This we must carry out. This is the fundamental request of Our Lady of Medjugorje. And because it is in the gospel that Jesus, the Son of

God and Son of Mary, tells us what to do, we unreservedly and emphatically invite everyone to live the gospel.

Let us begin now so that we may be holy and faithful followers of Christ. Let us begin so that God's saving plans may come into effect. Let us begin so that all may reap the fruit of our oneness with the Lord. Let us begin so that peace may come into our hearts, our homes, our relationships, our societies, and throughout the face of the earth.

The book mentioned on p.34 above, ***DO WHATEVER JESUS TELLS YOU!*** will be helpful.

## **Jesus**

In Medjugorje, the person at the centre of attention is Jesus. It has always been Jesus, and it will always be him. Let his words now conclude this section.

“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”  
(Mk 1:15, NAB)

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”  
(Jn 14:6, NAB)

“I am the light of the world; anyone who follows me will not be walking in the dark, but will have the light of life.”  
(Jn 8:12, NJB)

“The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, lest the darkness overtake you.”

(Jn 12:35, RSV)

“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

(Jn 8:31–32, NIV)

## (C) THE LANGUAGE

The native language spoken in Medjugorje is Croatian. For historical and geographical reasons, many of the people who live there have been taught German and Italian too. Although the younger generation in this hamlet now know English, it makes your visit a little more interesting and your bonding with the local people that much quicker if you are familiar with a few of their words, phrases, and prayers.

### Pronunciation

Croatian has a Latin-based alphabet. There are no silent letters. Each letter is sounded out, and in only one way. In most cases the pronunciation is the same as in English, with the following notable exceptions:

<u>Croatian</u> <u>letter</u>	<u>English</u> <u>sound</u>	<u>Example</u>
a	as the a in jar	Marija
c	ts	Vicka
ć	ch	Pavlović
č	tch	Čolo
dj, đ, Dj, Đ	j	Međugorje
e	as the e in let	ne
g	as the g in good	Dragičević
i	ee	Ivan
j	as the y in yes	Jakov
o	as the o in or	dobro
r between 2 consonants	err	Podbrdo

š	sh	nešto
u	oo	Isus
ž	zh	Križevac

### **Names of the Visionaries**

Now, test your understanding of the above by reading the names of the six visionaries. Accent is on the first syllable of each word unless otherwise indicated by an underline.

Vicka Ivanković  
 Mirjana Dragičević  
 Marija Pavlović  
 Ivanka Ivanković  
 Ivan Dragičević  
 Jakov Čolo

### **Some Practical Phrases**

The following are fifty useful sentences. By intermingling the given vocabulary, you can make up many dozens more. But don't try to do too much, as the grammar is extremely complicated. The endings of nouns, verbs, adjectives and pronouns change according to circumstances. In a small number of cases, the correct order of expression in Croatian is slightly different from that of the English. Also, personal pronouns are often omitted.

If you do not want to learn full sentences, just pick out a word or two, and, combined with a bit of miming, you can communicate quite adequately. By trying to

make conversation, you can generate much comradery, and bring a lot of joy and laughter to everyone.

1. Christian way of greeting someone: Praised be Jesus and Mary. – Hvaljen Isus i Marija.
2. Answer to above greeting: Always may they be praised. – Vazda bude hvaljen.
3. Christian way of saying: Goodbye. (Literally, “(Go) with God”.) – Zbogom.
4. How are you? – Kako si? (Familiar, singular.)  
– Kako ste (vi)? (Formal or plural.)
5. Fine! Good. – Dobro.
6. Thank you. – Hvala.
7. You’re welcome. Please. (Literally, “I pray”.) – Molim.
8. Good morning. – Dobro jutro.
9. Good night. – Laku noć.
10. Yes. – Da. (This word is also the conjunction “that”, “so that”, and a particle for other usages, e.g. in questions.)
11. No; no problem. – Ne; nema problema.
12. What is your name? (Literally, “How do you call yourself?”) – Kako se zovete?
13. What is this (object)? – Što je to?
14. Forgive me, but I do not understand. – Oprostite, ali ne razumijem.
15. Do you have bread? – Imate li kruha?
16. May I receive a little ice for the mineral water? – Mogu li dobiti malo leda za mineralnu vodu?
17. I think he needs to eat something hot now. – Mislim da on treba sada pojesti nešto vruće.

18. Maybe they want to drink something cold. – Možda oni žele popiti nešto hladno.

19. I need soap, towel, paper, fork, knife, spoon, plate, cup, serviette. – Trebam sapun, ručnik, papir, viljušku, nož, kašiku, tanjur, šalicu, salvetu.

20. Here you are; please help yourself to it. Go ahead please. Do come in. (This is a very polite word, and used in many situations.) – Izvolite.

21. What does “Dobar tek” mean? – Što znači “Dobar tek”? (“Good appetite,” meaning “Have a good meal.”)

22. How does one say “Cheers” in Croatian? – Kako se kaže “Cheers” na hrvatski?

23. Where is the washroom? – Gdje je toaleta?

24. I am sick. – Ja sam bolestan. (For a man.)

– Ja sam bolesna. (For a woman.)

25. Which restaurant is best? – Koji je restoran najbolji?

26. How does one get to the post office? – Kako se dođe do pošte?

27. I hope it is not far from here. – Nadam se da nije daleko oдавde.

28. Please recommend to me a less expensive souvenir shop. – Molim, preporučite mi jeftiniju suvenirsku trgovinu.

29. How much does this cost? – Koliko to košta?

30. Ask him where I can change money. – Pitaj ga gdje mogu promijeniti novac.

31. She must buy a beautiful present today. – Ona mora danas kupiti lijepi dar.

32. Can you drive me to the house? – Možete li me odvesti do kuće?



33. Why? – Zašto?
34. Why not! Good idea! – Zašto ne! Dobra ideja!
35. We are going to the room to get (our) passports. – (Mi) idemo u sobu da donesemo putovnicе.
36. Every prayer group for youths knows that the following things are important: peace, prayer, conversion, faith, fasting, Mass, Confession, Rosary, adoration, and love. – Svaka molitvena grupa za mlade zna da su slijedeće stvari važne: mir, molitva, obraćenje, vjera, post, Misa, ispovijedanje, krunica, klanjanje, i ljubav.
37. Yesterday the pilgrims visited the visionaries. – Jučer su hodočasnici posjetili vidiocе.
38. Who collects the prayer petitions here? – Tko ovdje sakuplja preporuke u molitvu?
39. Is that priest a Franciscan? – Je li taj svećenik franjevac?
40. May we speak with Alexandra and James, Sophie and Chloée, Zoe and Noah tomorrow? – Možemo li sutra razgovarati s Aleksandrom i Jakovom, Sofijom i Klojom, Zojom i Noom?
41. What time (hour) is it? – Koliko je sati?
42. When will the apparition be tonight? – Kada će noćas biti ukazanje?
43. Let it be, leave it alone. – Neka, neka.
44. Just one moment (please). – Trenutak.
45. (I will serve you) right away. – Odmah.
46. It will be so; it will happen. – Bit će.
47. I will return next year. – Vratit ću se iduće godina.
48. Have a good journey. – Sretan put.

49. I love my friends in Medjugorje. – (Ja) volim svoje prijatelje u Medjugorju.

50. God bless you! – Bog te blagoslovio!

### **Some Prayers and Holy Mass Responses**

The following prayers, and more, can be heard on the website [www.medjugorjeca.org](http://www.medjugorjeca.org) in the section called “Audio Croatian prayers.”

#### **(a) The Rosary**

1. The Sign of the Cross. – U ime Oca i Sina i Duha Svetoga. Amen.

2. The “Our Father”. – Oče naš, koji jesi na nebesima, sveti se ime tvoje, dođi kraljevstvo tvoje, budi volja tvoja, kako na nebu, tako i na zemlji. Kruh naš svagdanji daj nam danas. I otпусти nama duge naše kako i mi otpuštamo dužnicima našim. I ne uvedi nas u napast, nego izbavi nas od zla. Amen.

3. The “Hail Mary”. – Zdravo Marijo, milosti puna, Gospodin s tobom; blagoslovljena ti među ženama, i blagoslovljen plod utrobe tvoje, Isus. Sveta Marijo, Majko Božja, moli za nas grešnike, sada i na čas smrti naše. Amen.

4. The “Glory Be”. – Slava Ocu i Sinu i Duhu Svetomu. Kako bijaše na početku, tako i sada, i vazda, i u vijeke vjekova. Amen.

5. Prayer after each decade of the Rosary. “O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of Hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who are most in need of your mercy.” – O moj Isuse, oprosti nam naše grijehe. Očuvaj nas od paklenog ognja, i dovedi u raj sve duše, osobito one kojima je najveća potreba tvoga milosrđa.

### **(b) Holy Mass Responses**

6. The Lord be with you. – Gospodin s vama.  
And with your spirit. – I s duhom tvojim.

7. Lord, have mercy. – Gospodine, smiluj se.  
Christ, have mercy. – Kriste, smiluj se.

8. Lord, hear us. – Gospodine, usliši nas.

9. Peace be with you.

– Mir s tobom. (Familiar, singular.)

– Mir s vama. (Formal or plural.)

### **(c) Prayers after Mass**

10. The Apostles' Creed. – Vjerujem u Boga, Oca svemogućega, Stvoritelja neba i zemlje. I u Isusa Krista, Sina njegova jedinoga, Gospodina našega, koji je začet po Duhu Svetom, rođen od Marije Djevice, mučen pod Poncijem Pilatom, raspet, umro i pokopan; sašao nad pakao, treći dan uskrsnuo od mrtvih, uzašao na nebesa, sjedi o desnu Boga Oca svemogućega; odonud će doći suditi žive i mrtve. Vjerujem u Duha Svetoga, svetu Crkvu katoličku, općinstvo svetih,

oproštenje grieha, uskrsnuće tijela, i život vječni.  
Amen.

11. Queen of Peace. – Kraljice Mira.

Pray for us. – Moli za nas.

12. Go in peace. – Idite u miru.

Thanks be to God. – Bogu hvala.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE EVENING PROGRAMME**

**(1). The evening programme begins with the Joyful mysteries of the Rosary, plus the Sorrowful mysteries,** (except on Thursdays: replaced by the Luminous mysteries, or other variations during Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.)

Our Lady said: “Every evening pray the rosary.” (10/08/1984, *Jakov*)

“Every day pray at least one Rosary: the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries.” (08/14/1984, *Ivan*)

**(2). Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

(‘Moli, moli za nas’ means ‘Pray, pray for us.’)

Our Lady said: “Dear children! During these days my Lord is allowing me to be able to intercede for more graces for you.” (06/19/1986)

“Ask me to pray to my Son for you.” (03/02/2017, *Mirjana*)

**(3). Prayer to the Holy Spirit.**

Our Lady said: “Pray to the Holy Spirit for enlightenment.” (11/08/1984)

“I call you, dear children, to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit.” (04/17/1986)

**(4). Holy Mass.**

Our Lady said: “By living Holy Mass each day, you will feel the need for holiness and you will grow in holiness.” (01/25/1998)

**(5). After Holy Mass, praying of the Creed, plus the 7 Our Father’s, Hail Mary’s and Glory Be’s.**

Our Lady said: “There are many souls in Purgatory. There are also persons who have been consecrated to God: some priests, some religious. Pray for their intentions, at least 7 Our Father’s, Hail Mary’s and Glory Be’s and the Creed. I recommend it to you. There is a large number of souls who have been in Purgatory for a long time because no one prays for them.” (07/21/1982)

“For the cure of the sick, it is important to say the following prayers: the Creed, 7 Our Father’s, Hail Mary’s and Glory Be’s.” (07/25/1982)

“There are many Christians who are no longer faithful, because they do not pray anymore. Have them begin again to recite each day, at least, 7 Our Father’s, 7 Hail Mary’s, 7 Glory Be’s, and the Creed.” (12/-/1983)

**(6). Blessing of religious articles.**

Our Lady said: “I call you to place more blessed objects in your homes and that everyone put some blessed objects on their person. Bless all the objects and thus Satan will attack you less because you will have armour against him.” (07/18/1985)

**(7a). Prayers for healing** (except Thursday and Friday).

Our Lady said: “Ask of Jesus to heal your wounds.” (03/25/1997)

**(7b). Thursday: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.**

Our Lady said: “Spend all the more time in prayer and Adoration of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar, for him to change you and to put into your hearts a living faith and a desire for eternal life.” (03/25/2008)

No (8). See below.

**(7c). Friday: Veneration of the Cross.**

Our Lady said: “Dear children, I want to tell you that the cross should be central these days. Pray especially before the crucifix from which great graces come.” (09/12/1985)

No (8). See below.

**(8). Finish with the Glorious mystery of the Rosary.**

**(9). Tuesday and Saturday, two hours after the end of Holy Mass: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.**

Our Lady said: “Adore my Son Jesus who has given his life so that you may live in eternity – where he desires to lead you.” (05/25/2018)



## ***CHAPTER FIVE***

### ***ENTRUSTMENT TO MARY***

#### **God the Father**

In union with the Holy Spirit, God the Father entrusted his Son to Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, "Rejoice, you who enjoy God's favour! The Lord is with you." She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, "Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Look! You are to conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High."

(Lk 1:26–32, NJB)

#### **Jesus**

When he was twelve years old, well after the age of reason began for him, Jesus confirmed this entrustment by continuing to live in obedience to Mary and Joseph.

He went down with them then and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with people.

(Lk 2:51–52, NJB)

### **The Disciples**

As part of his last will and testament, Jesus also entrusted his disciples to her.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, this is your son." Then to the disciple he said, "This is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

(Jn 19:25–27, NJB)

In the gospel, when Jesus speaks to or about someone, he is not necessarily speaking to or about that person alone. More often than not, he is addressing or referring to all his followers. For example, at the Last Supper, when he broke the bread and said, "Take and eat; this is my body" (Mt 26:26, NIV), he was not giving the instruction only to the twelve apostles gathered together in the upper room. When he commanded, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt

22:39, NIV), by “neighbor” he meant much more than the person living next door.

In the pronouncement, “Woman, *this* is your son”, “this” beloved disciple represented all whom Mary would be invited to look after as son or daughter. Similarly, “This is *your* mother,” was an injunction for all to take Mary as mother.

### **How?**

How do we go about taking Mary as our mother? The following passage suggests the way.

Now Jesus’ mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.”

He replied, “My mother and brothers are those who *hear God’s word and put it into practice.*”

(Lk 8:19–21, NIV)

That is, we become Jesus’ brothers and sisters by listening to God’s word and carrying it out; and with Jesus as brother, his Mother is our mother too.

Entrustment to Mary is not done simply by saying some form of prayer. We must live and act according to what God says.

And what does he say? In the gospel, he speaks from the mountain of Transfiguration, directing us to Jesus:

This is my Son, my Chosen; *listen to him!*  
(Lk 9:35, RSV)

Mary's statement at Cana completes the command:

*Do whatever he tells you.*

(Jn 2:5, NIV)

## **Your Mother**

Entrustment to Mary was not an invention by some pious and sentimental soul. It was commanded by Jesus. He chose the most dramatic moment before his death on the cross to proclaim this integral part of God's plan. He wanted all to come to Mary as her children; he wanted all to turn to her for guidance and protection; he wanted all to honour her, to cherish her, and to love her.

"This is your mother." What did the disciple do when he heard Jesus say this? "And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." If you hear Jesus saying to you today, "This is your mother," we hope that you, too, like a true and beloved disciple, will, from that hour, welcome her into your home, and into your heart.

## **Act of Consecration to Mary**

Mother Mary, since Jesus from the cross gave you to me, I take you as my mother. And since Jesus gave me to you, please take me as your child. All that I am and have and do, I entrust entirely to your care.

I make this act of consecration with full knowledge and understanding that it entails commitment to a way of life, a way of life like that of Jesus at Nazareth, a way of life which he commands in the gospel. It is when your children become firmly dedicated to this life, it is when enough of your sons and daughters respond wholeheartedly to your call, it is when they listen to Jesus and do what he says, it is then that your Immaculate Heart will triumph, and an era of peace will begin to reign throughout the whole of Creation.



## ***CHAPTER SIX***

### ***SPECIAL BLESSING***

From Medjugorje, since August 5<sup>th</sup> 1985, Our Lady gave her “Special Blessing” to people who were present at some of her apparitions.

On December 25<sup>th</sup> 1988, Mother Mary said, “Today I give you my Special Blessing. Bring it to every creature so that there is peace.”

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

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

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

You can give it to members of your family, or relatives, or friends. You can give to anyone you meet: the sick, somebody in trouble, a beggar on the street, a passenger on the bus... You can give it silently to the

one who is angry at you, who insults you, who speaks badly about you every day. You can give it to a stranger, an enemy, a rival – your business rival, or the man who competes against you for the heart and soul of the woman you love.

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

The first time I received it was on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 1988, the great feast day of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. At 11 p.m., Our Lady appeared to Ivan on Apparition Hill. As usual, I prayed – thanking God for sending His Mother to us, thanking her too, and asking favours from God through her intercession.

The apparition lasted a long time. Ivan explained afterwards that Our Lady came with angels; she was dressed in gold; she was very happy, and presented our petitions to the Lord. Then she prayed over each one of us, bestowing on us her Special Blessing, and instructing Ivan to tell us to convey it to others.

Dear reader, I now communicate this Blessing to you:

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

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



## **CHAPTER SEVEN**

### **HOW I GOT INVOLVED WITH MEDJUGORJE**

In 1962, the idea came that I should write a book which quoted Jesus, and Jesus alone. The work began in 1970, but it took until the year 2021 before I considered it finished. The name of the book is ***Do Whatever Jesus Tells You!***

Now, go back to March of 1984. I had printed what was erroneously thought to be the finalized version – 2500 copies. They were supposed to be given away, or sold (if possible). But five months later, 2000 copies were still in the basement of my house. What was to be done with them?

It so happened, earlier that year, I had been made aware of Medjugorje. This place of Mother Mary's apparition was mentioned at several charismatic group meetings which I had been attending regularly every month. In addition, half a dozen published articles written about her apparitions were given to me by members of the same prayer-group. I read all of them.

By August, the 2000 left-over copies of ***Do Whatever Jesus Tells You!*** weighed so heavily on my mind that, in desperation, I decided to go to Medjugorje to ask for help from Mother Mary.

That was the reason I travelled to Medjugorje the first time in 1984.

Some weeks after my return, Henry Kovačić at the Ave Maria Centre of Peace, having heard about my journey to Medjugorje, invited me to join his organization in Toronto. This institution aimed at promoting the apparitions of Mother Mary. From then on, together with Henry, we spread Our Lady's messages throughout Ontario and Canada, and took small groups of pilgrims to Medjugorje every summer.

Henry decided to print all my books, and distributed them from his Centre.

Two years later, a Chinese group in the north part of Toronto got interested in Medjugorje as well. We held meetings to share information about Our Lady's apparitions, and organized pilgrimages to the holy village too. Later, the group incorporated itself as the Medjugorje Centre of Canada. (Anyone can connect with them here: <http://medjugorjeca.org/>.)

My books are posted on its website under the heading "Spiritual Readings".

The titles are:

*Mother Mary Speaks from Medjugorje*

*The Way to Medjugorje*

*Parents, Peace!*

*The Rosary, A worried parent prays*

*The Fruitful Servant*  
*Various Writings*  
*Do Whatever Jesus Tells You!*

The original compilation of Our Lady's messages in the book *Mother Mary Speaks from Medjugorje* had only 50 pages and few commentary words; the messages were presented simply in chronological order. Over the years the book became richer, with commentaries, and was organized into categories under topical headings. For the sake of the Chinese pilgrims and their contacts, it was soon translated into Traditional and Simplified Chinese. That brought ever more Chinese community Catholics (in Canada, and Hong Kong and China) to appreciate and love Mother Mary.

Without saying, it brought me to greater love and appreciation towards her. It led me to greater love and appreciation for God. It led me to learn to live the following important guidance with increasing understanding and faith: "Little children, how many graces the Most High has given to you and how many graces he desires to give to you!" (12/25/2015)

If my memory serves me correctly, from 1984 to 2020, I have visited Medjugorje at least 70 times. Each time, like other pilgrims, every

morning I participated at the Mass in the language of my choice in the church, and attended the talks presented by local and visiting priests and pilgrimage group leaders during the day. Whenever there were bus trips to events at nearby churches and shrines (like Mostar, Široki Brijeg, Tihaljina, ...) I would go along. And of course, the evening programme with Rosary and Mass was a must, as well as the late night Adoration exposition of the Holy Eucharist and sharing by the priest conducted from the outside altar.

Medjugorje attracted me predominantly because of the holiness which could be felt everywhere around the shrine, especially in the people who were seen praying inside the Church, in the chapel, on the roads, on the mountains, in front of statues at the many locations of worship on the Church grounds, around the parish, and at the homes of friends whom I visited.

I was deeply inspired and moved by the prayerfulness and holy conversations of the locals and pilgrims, and felt very comfortable doing the same at every opportunity which presented itself. And so, besides attendance at all the programmes in the parish, what took up quite a bit of my time during each pilgrimage was praying, conversing, and writing down how I would spread Our Lady's messages. I wanted very much that everyone in

the world would do the same as the people of Medjugorje. How could I keep my mouth shut about such prayerful conduct and behaviour as found in this sacred place?

And back in Toronto, at the Ave Maria Centre and the Medjugorje Centre of Canada, when the Lord gave me the opportunity to write about and propagate these activities, I did just that! What great gifts these two organizations turned out to be. Through them, the means and channels were there for me to promote Our Lady's apparitions and her messages around the world.



## **CHAPTER EIGHT**

### **SONG IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY**

The lyrics of the following song, *To Mary, Queen of Peace*, are based on the main messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje. The words to the second song, *Mariji, Kraljici Mira*, are the Croatian equivalents.

Here is a brief history. The *Merry Widow Waltz*, a famous piece composed by Franz Lehár in 1905, came to mind in the Spring of 1996. For two weeks it stayed in my head, and I hummed it every day while driving in the car. On a beautiful Saturday morning, these words came suddenly in the Croatian language: “Kraljice Mira, mi svi te častimo.” It was so compatible with the first line of the melody that I began singing it.

The following Saturday, another beautiful day with no clouds in the sky, a second set of words came to mind: “Silnom ljubavlju te, Majko, hvalimo.” It fit the second line of the tune exactly. So I sang both lines repeatedly with great joy.

A month later, in May, also on a cool dry Saturday morning with clear blue skies, a third line came: “Blagoslovljena ti, medju ženama” (the actual Croatian phrase from the ‘Hail Mary’ prayer – “Blessed art thou among women”). It matched up with the third line of the melody perfectly, and I sang it in utter amazement, with tears rolling down my face. It was then that I realized a song was being written for Our Lady,

without my asking for it, and coming in a language I knew only very little.

During the next few months, the rest of the lyrics for the first three verses came line by line.

Two years later, this preliminary set of lyrics was translated into English.

The Lord then sent me a linguist eminently fluent in both Croatian and English to help time and time again. His name: Jozo Kraljević. He became an immensely reliable friend. He was instrumental in helping me with the correct vocabulary and the grammatical usage of this complicated language. As an example, the word-change in the second line to “nješnom ljubavlju te, Majko, ljubimo” was largely his contribution.

The lyrics and the music worked together extremely well, but I kept fighting the Lord over this: the tune was secular; it would never be sung in a church. So in 2006, I turned to a hymn which was, according to many parishioners in Medjugorje, a traditional Croatian one. But seven years later, a friend discovered the real composer of that hymn. I applied for permission to use it, but the authorization was not granted.

Then the *Merry Widow Waltz* came to mind again.

Once more, for days, I fought the Lord over the non-spiritual origin of this melody. On January 28th, 2014, a question came into my heart: “Do you want a melody which is formal and liturgically acceptable and sung in a church once every few months, or do you want a beautiful song which many people know and will sing – remembering the words?” My answer was, “Both; if



possible. But if I had to make only one choice, I would pick the latter, since the purpose of the song was to remind people to do the things that Mother Mary and Jesus wanted. Hopefully, the lyrics might inspire them to pray with the heart, go to Mass often, trust God, live peace; seriously practise monthly Confession, work on their personal conversion, do penance and fasting, strive for holiness, put God in the first place, obey Jesus' commands, and love God with heart and soul and mind."

That morning, I decided: "Let's go ahead with the song!"

So here it is.

# To Mary, Queen of Peace

Melody: Franz Lehár (1905)  
Lyrics: Andrew Yeung (2014)

*Moderato*

1. Queen of Peace, we greet, and praise and  
2. We beg you, help us to your of ten  
3. We've res - pond - ed; 4. Thanks for your words: "Let my Son call with your

1. hon - our you  
2. come to Mass  
3. se - rious - ness  
4. life re - new

1. With most ten - der love, O Moth - er, and  
2. and to pray with your - vent hearts and  
3. to live peace Lord and first; all do your what - lov - ing er  
4. Put the Lord and first; all do your what - lov - ing er

1. we love you  
2. glad - ly fast  
3. mes - sa - ges  
4. he tells you



# Mariji, Kraljici Mira

Melodija: Franz Lehár (1905)

Tekst: Andrew Yeung (2014)

*Moderato*

1. Kra - lji - ce - Mi - ra, mi - svi - te  
 2. Maj - ko, po - mo - zi nam sr - cem  
 3. O - da - zva - li smo se tvo - me  
 4. Hva - la za Kri - sta i ri - je - Ći

1. Ća - - - sti - - - mo;  
 2. mo - - - li - - - ti,  
 3. po - - - zi - - - vu:  
 4. naj - - - ljep - - - še:

1. njež - nom lju - bav - lju te, Maj - ko,  
 2. po - si - ti, na mi - su - sto  
 3. zi - vje - ti oz - bilj - no tvo - ju  
 4. Sto - vam god za - po - vje - di, u

1. lju - - - bi - - - mo,  
 2. ho - - - di - - - ti,  
 3. po - - - ru - - - ku,  
 4. Ći - - - ni - - - tel'

1. Bla - go - slov - lje - na - ti  
 2. vr - šit - po - ko - ru, is  
 3. "Ja - sam s to - bom, lu - - - - - bim  
 4. "lju - bi Go - spo - di - na

1. me - du že - na - ma,  
 2. po - vije - da - se,  
 3. te', ti ka - ti mi,  
 4. Bo - ga', go - vo - ri,

1. ti - si u - vijek, Go - spe, na - ma  
 2. cvr - sto vje - ro va - spe, ti, o - bra -  
 3. "Pri - di bli - ro - ti, o - bra -  
 4. "sr - cem svo - že, jim ne svim, boj - du - se, - po -  
 i

1. naj - - - dra - - - za,  
 2. ča - ti - se,  
 3. ma - - - žem - ti,  
 4. pa - me - ti,

Zdra - vo, zdra - vo, zdra - vo Ma -

ri - - - - - jo.



## To Mary, Queen of Peace

Queen of Peace, we greet, and praise and honour you.  
 With most tender love, O Mother, we love you.  
 Blest among all women, and eternally  
 dearest in our hearts, Our Lady, you will be.

Refrain: Ave, ave, a-ve Mari-a.

We beg you: help us to often come to Mass,  
 and to pray with fervent hearts and gladly fast,  
 to believe God firmly and our sins confess,  
 to do penance and convert in holiness.

Refrain: Ave, ave, a-ve Mari-a.

We've responded to your call with seriousness,  
 to live peace and all your loving messages.  
 You cry out: "I love you; I am near to you.  
 Do not fear, stay close to me, I'm helping you."

Refrain: Ave, ave, a-ve Mari-a.

Thanks for your words: "Let my Son your life renew.  
 Put the Lord first; do whatever he tells you!"  
 He said: "Love God with your heart, your soul, your  
 mind.  
 If you love me, follow all commands of mine."

Refrain: Ave, ave, a-ve Mari-a.

**Mariji, Kraljici Mira**

Kraljice Mira, mi svi te častimo;  
 nješnom ljubavlju te, Majko, ljubimo.  
 Blagoslovljena ti među ženama.  
 Ti si uvijek, Gospe, nama najdraža.

Refren: Zdravo, zdravo, zdra-vo Mari-jo.

Majko, pomози nam srcem moliti,  
 postiti, na Misu često hoditi,  
 vršit pokoru ispovijedati se,  
 čvrsto vjerovati, obraćati se.

Refren: Zdravo, zdravo, zdra-vo Mari-jo.

Odazvali smo se tvome pozivu:  
 živjeti ozbiljno tvoju poruku.  
 “Ja sam s tobom; ljubim te,” ti kažeš mi.  
 “Priđi bliže, ne boj se, pomažem ti.”

Refren: Zdravo, zdravo, zdra-vo Mari-jo.

Hvala za Krista i riječi najljepše:  
 “Što vam god zapovjedi, učinite!”  
 “Ljubi Gospodina Boga,” govori,  
 “srcem svojim svim, dušom i pameti.”

Refren: Zdravo, zdravo, zdra-vo Mari-jo.







***OTHER BOOKS BY ANDREW JEROME YEUNG***

*Do Whatever Jesus Tells you!*

*The Fruitful Servant*

*Parents, Peace!*

*The Rosary – A Worried Parent Prays*

*Mother Mary Speaks from Medjugorje*

*Various Writings*

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**Reminder, you can read this book online.**

**Here is the link:**

**<http://medjugorjeca.org/the-way-to-medjugorje/>**



