

Sunday January 26, 2020

PASTOR'S CORNER

Medjugorje Visionary to visit at St. Francis

Several times in her history, the Catholic Church has affirmed that God has sent Mary, our Blessed Mother, from heaven on a special mission of care for her earthly children. At places like Tepeyac in Mexico, Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal, Mary has appeared to visionaries. She has delivered a message that God loves us, that we must stop sinning, and that we must pray and fast to experience true peace in our hearts and in our world – all core gospel messages.

Because these messages were given privately to individuals, we call them “private” revelation. They are not part of the public teaching of the church and do not need to be embraced but can be accepted as a source of faith.

Many people believe that since 1981, in the country of Bosnia-Herzegovina, in a village named Medjugorje, Mary has been appearing and giving spiritual messages from God to the world through visionaries. The Church has been investigating these appearances for years but has not yet approved the apparitions or messages as authentic. For a time, the Church prohibited pilgrimages to Medjugorje. Last year, Pope Francis gave approval for visits to Medjugorje while the Church’s investigation continues; he did so because of the extensive fruits of conversion and faith in many who have visited there.

As faithful Catholics, we await a definitive judgment by the Church on the apparitions of Medjugorje. Some say that the Church’s investigation can’t conclude until all of the principal parties in the story are deceased. So, we could be in for a very long wait.

Mary reportedly continues to give messages to several Medjugorje visionaries, including Ivan Dragicevic. Ivan was a child when the apparitions began in 1981; today, he is a married man and father in his 50’s. He claims to receive apparitions from Mary every evening.

Ivan is a friend of New Orleanian Catholics. With the approval of Archbishop Aymond, our Church will host a visit by Ivan on Saturday, February 1. Ivan will be with us for the 4 pm Parish Vigil Mass. After Mass, there will be a reception, a talk by Ivan and the recitation of the rosary. Ivan expects to receive his evening apparition from Our Lady in our Church and will share some words with the community afterwards. All are invited to be part of the visit by Ivan.

Let us pray for the Church as she evaluates the happenings in Medjugorje, and let us thank God for the role of Our Lady in the life of our Church.

God bless,
Fr. Joe