

# The Medjugorje Star

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## *Interview with Visionary, Ivan Dragicevic*

**J**n November 2011 Mimi Kelly of the MIR Group in New Orleans interviewed visionary Ivan Dragicevic who has had a daily apparition from the Blessed Mother, Queen of Peace, since 1981. Ivan spoke in English.

**Mimi:** What is the greatest thing that I, as an individual, can do to spread the messages of Our Lady?

**Ivan:** Our Lady is inviting everybody in the world to be an apostle; every faithful person can be an apostle for evangelization. Pray for evangelization, especially evangelization in the family, evangelization for today's Church and for evangelization in the world. This is what Our Lady is asking of all of us. Pray for this intention.

**Mimi:** The best way to evangelize is through our prayer, our example...how?



**Ivan:** Our Lady recommends going to Adoration of Jesus. In Adoration you meet Jesus; and when you meet Jesus, Jesus tells you everything you need. After you start Adoration for Jesus, everything else is easier.

## **Messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje**

**November 25, 2011**

**D**ear children! Today I desire to give you hope and joy. Everything that is around you, little children, leads you towards worldly things, but I desire to lead you towards a time of grace, so that through this time you may be all the closer to my Son, that He can lead you towards His love and eternal life, for which every heart yearns. You, little children, pray, and may this time for you be one of grace for your soul. Thank you for having responded to my call.

**December 25, 2011**

**D**ear children! Also today, in my arms I am carrying my Son Jesus to you, for Him to give you His peace. Pray, little children, and witness so that in every heart, not human but God's peace may prevail, which no one can destroy. It is that peace in the heart which God gives to those whom He loves. By your baptism you are all, in a special way called and loved, therefore witness and pray that you may be my extended hands to this world which yearns for God and peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."

## **Reflection on the Message of Our Lady**

by Fr. Charles Sellars, omi

### **A Time of Grace**

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, means arrival or coming. Something coming and we are commanded by the Lord to watch. At the beginning of Advent, the Church provides scripture readings that point us to Christ's second coming. There need not be any confusion. Advent is, for sure, a preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation.

Since we already possess Christ, whose Spirit dwells within, we possess our own future glory in Him. Our future is Christ. In this sense, eternity is already within us, already part of us, already recreating us and drawing us to the glory that is already ours, though not fully realized. Now is the advent of Christ in our lives — the hidden coming.

We might want to quiet ourselves during this Advent season with more prayer. We might also allow ourselves to become more eager to respond to God's work of transforming this world and drawing it to Himself. Advent is truly a time of grace.



**Mimi:** We are so fortunate in New Orleans to be in an area where there are many Adoration chapels and opportunities.

**Ivan:** First comes family prayer, then Adoration will be much easier. It is important to start Adoration in the family.

**Mimi:** What did you see in heaven?

**Ivan:** In 1984, Our Lady told me I was going to see heaven. She came to me to say she would take me to heaven. It was on a Thursday. On Friday, Our Lady talked with me a few minutes. I am kneeling down, I get up, and Our Lady stays on my left side. Our Lady takes my left hand. I take three steps, and heaven opens. I go another three steps and am standing on a small hill. The hill is similar to the Blue Cross hill in Medjugorje. I see heaven down. I am seeing people walking, smiling, dressed in long robes of red, blue, gold. People ask me how the people look. They are singing with a distant song. It is very hard to describe.

People ask me how old the people are, maybe 30-35 years old, praying, singing, with so many angels. I heard distant songs, angels singing, very difficult to describe. Remember the Gospel speaking: "Eyes have not seen, ear has not heard..."

This is why Our Lady is coming all these 30 years, as a guide for us, reserving for all of us a place in heaven.

**Mimi:** Our Lady has appeared many times and in many places. Has she spoken to you about any other apparition?

**Ivan:** Our Lady has not spoken to me of any other apparition. I can't speak for the other visionaries, Mirjana, Jacov, Ivanka, Vicka, or Marija.

**Mimi:** Do you know if each visionary is receiving the same 10 secrets, or are there many secrets?

**Ivan:** Lots of people ask me the same question. Our Lady does not give six visionaries 60 different secrets. Some secrets are the same. When I stay in Med-

jugorje in the summer when most of the visionaries are there, I talk to some of them during coffee time, especially Jacov and Mirjana. We talk of the same secrets.

**Mimi:** It will be interesting to learn all of that. Does Our Lady ever give any specific message for any country, especially America?

**Ivan:** Our Lady always talks for the world. She never gives any specific message for a country, nation or any religion. She always gives a universal message. This is why every month on the 25<sup>th</sup> she always says, "My dear children" and ends with "Thank you for responding to my call."

She is a mother who talks to all her children. Our Lady told me a couple of times, "I know my children are trying to live my message. If people are trying, this is a very good step. Living in this world today especially this time, sometimes it is hard, even for me. I am trying every day. We need to be following, following Our Lady's messages. We need to always be fighting to live the messages. We need to put in front of you what is most important. Everything will be easier if we put Jesus first.

**Mimi:** Your particular prayer mission is praying for whom?

**Ivan:** I am praying for priests and vocations for the Church.

**Mimi:** Has Our Lady given you anything to write down for later publication?

**Ivan:** I am working for a long time on my book. The book is half finished. I need more time. So many papers stay on my table. The last couple of years I have been so busy with traveling and speaking in churches. Our Lady gives me privately things especially for priests, young people, family, and children. I give examples from my family and some examples from myself.

**Mimi:** How can we find joy with the state of our world today?

**Ivan:** Joy, joy, joy can only be in Jesus.

Nobody can give joy except Jesus. Reading the Bible, you will see joy. That is what Our Lady is asking, to read the Bible. Our Lady asks for confession to cleanse ourselves of sin. When the Holy Spirit and grace comes in your heart, there is a river of love. A river of joy then becomes your heart. Remove all negative and you will be open for the Holy Spirit.

**Mimi:** Thank you for coming to New Orleans and bringing Our Lady with you so often.

**Ivan:** I think New Orleans is my second home. I come one or two times a year. New Orleans is a foundation for Medjugorje. After the apparitions began in 1981, some of the first pilgrims came from New Orleans. **The relation between Medjugorje and New Orleans is important. It is significant.**



### *11th Anniversary of Fr. Slavko's Death*

On Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, we commemorated the 11th anniversary of the death of Fr. Slavko Barbaric. Fr. Ivan Dugandzic was the main celebrant of the evening Holy Mass in the church of St. James, and there were 25 priests that concelebrated. Fr. Ivan said in his homily: "We are remembering today the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Fr. Slavko, a Franciscan and a priest who was in Medjugorje more than any of us and who served Our Lady through her messages. Fr. Slavko was not the one who taught about fasting and prayer, but he was a genuine example and encouragement to many. He did not have to direct pilgrims to go and climb Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain; he was going before them. Therefore, we are proud and grateful for his life and we pray to our Lord to give him the reward he deserves."

[www.medjugorje.hr](http://www.medjugorje.hr)



*Thank you for your renewal!*

*Happy New Year!*

# From the Heart...Heaven on Earth

By: Hubie Mule (part 1 of 3)

Saturday, November 5, 2011, our local newspaper headline read, "Who is No.1?" That seemed an appropriate title as the No.1 collegiate football team in the country, LSU, was to play the No. 2 team at Alabama University. Indeed it was a big game that LSU won 9 – 6.

The Times-Picayune that morning should have read, Our Heavenly Mother, under her title Queen of Peace, was to visit us that night in Metairie, Louisiana. Notice we say Our Mother, as she is mother of all creation and of every race. Imagine Our Lady personally delivering God's message of hope, peace and love. That's what Mary does, you know! Mary guides us in Our Savior's way in truth and immortality.

On that November 5<sup>th</sup> night, Ivan Dragicovic attended Holy Mass at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Metairie. Did you know that Mother Mary has remarked that Holy Mass is the greatest prayer? Anyway, after a Spirit-filled homily by Msgr. Andrew Taormina and the conclusion of Holy Mass, the overflowing attendees remained in their pews and began the rosary. No one left the after Mass, not a single soul.

As we prayed, Ivan, a humble, untiring, holy messenger and witness of Our Lady's appearances in Medjugorje, approached the altar. He knelt down and after a few minutes went into ecstasy. Graces poured over the jam-packed, beautiful, new St. Francis Xavier Church. Our granddaughter Abigail Marie Mule, at age eleven, wasted no time approaching the altar to get a closer look. The next day she asked me, "Why can Ivan see Mary and I cannot?" Good question, I thought. I said we simply believe in faith. I mention this only as a way of peering into the mind and heart of a child of God.

After the apparition, Ivan spoke to the people. He said he could see heaven beyond Mary and that it was beautiful with colorful flowers and angels. Awesome, isn't it? Through her messages Mary tells us that God exists. Satan is real and so are heaven, hell, purgatory and, yes, eternal life.

As owners of a religious store, my wife Kay and I are often approached by insurance agents and their package of benefits. My answer is always the same. The only insurance I'm interested in is Eternal Life insurance. That may seem a bit too much for some, however, I am dead serious and so is Mary and the messages she gives through Medjugorje. As mentioned earlier, one of Our Lady's titles is Queen of Peace. I would now like to share with you part one of the Catholic Church's teaching on peace.

## The Promotion of Peace

"Peace is not the mere absence of war or the simple maintenance of a balance of power between forces, nor can it be imposed at the dictate of absolute power. It is called, rightly and properly, *a work of justice*. It is the product of order, the order implanted in human society by justice.

"The common good of the human race is subject to the eternal law as its primary principle, but its requirements in practice keep changing with the passage of time. The result is that peace is never established finally and forever, the building up of peace has to go on all the time. Again, the human will is weak and wounded by sin; the search for peace therefore demands from each individual constant control of the passions, and from legitimate authority untiring vigilance.

"Even this is not enough. Peace here on

earth cannot be maintained unless the good of the human person is safe-guarded and men are willing to trust each other and share their riches of spirit and talent. If peace is to be established, it is absolutely necessary to have a firm determination to respect other persons and peoples and their dignity, and to be zealous in the practice of brotherhood.

"Peace is therefore the fruit also of love; love goes beyond what justice can achieve. Peace on earth, born of love for one's neighbor, is the sign and the effect of the peace of Christ that flows from God the Father. In His own person the incarnate Son, the Prince of Peace, reconciled all men to God through His death on the cross. In His human nature He destroyed hatred and restored unity to all mankind in one people and one body. Raised on high by the resurrection, He sent the Spirit of Love into the hearts of men.

"All Christians are thus urgently summoned to *live the truth in love* and to join all true peacemakers in prayer and work for peace. Moved by the same Spirit, we cannot but praise those who renounce violence in defense of rights, and have recourse to means of defense otherwise available to the less powerful as well, provided that this can be done without injury to the rights and obligations of others or of the community."

(From the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of the Second Vatican Council. [*Gaudium et spes*. N.78] page 470)

The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. renounced violence in defense of rights. He preached non-violence and marched for human rights and peace. He knew his path in this world and gave his life for truth.

*Hvaljen Isus I Marija!*  
(Praised be Jesus & Mary) ✦

## *My Pilgrimage to Medjugorje Saved My Husband's Life*

By Teresa Fama

**L**ittle did I know that my trip with St. Aidan's group would be life-transforming, not only for my husband, Augie, but for me as well.

When our group arrived in Yugoslavia in 1987, we were delayed by authorities, which was quite upsetting. Sr. Marci kept us peaceful and was determined nothing was going to take away from our visit. In 1987, there were no hotels, motels or restaurants in the area. We shared a home with nine people, with only one bathroom. Nothing could take away from the mission we had so looked forward to.

The week we spent away was phenomenal! The church was crowded with people at the 6:00 pm Mass, where the Blessed Mother would appear to the visionaries. Flashing lights would signal her arrival and again when she left. I kept praying for some proof to bring back home to those who did not believe in the daily appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary. My prayers were answered when I looked up at the choir loft and saw her image, from floor to ceiling, in pale pink. I was astounded. I asked the Lord, "Is this Your mother?" She took a step closer and became a deeper, brighter pink. My friend, Lynn, who was standing with me also saw her. We were so stunned, we started crying. It was incredible!

The visionaries told us when the Blessed Mother would be appearing to them on Mt. Podbrdo, which would be an evening event. The weather was rainy on that particular night, but, as we climbed the small mountain, we all sang, "Ave Ave, Ave Maria." It was a struggle to keep from falling on the wet, muddy and slippery rocks, while carrying umbrellas and flashlights. When we reached the top, we were disappointed to find that the Blessed Mother had already spoken to the visionaries with Baby

Jesus in her arms on a huge rock, and then she left. Standing by the rock, we felt it was so sacred! While on the mountain, I offered my umbrella to a woman who was there for hours. She looked up at me and said, "I'm not getting wet." Also, the candles were still burning during this very wet night. It was such a humbling experience.

The next day, the visionaries showed us the rock the Blessed Mother stood on. Her message was ... Peace, peace, peace ... only achieved through personal and universal repentance, prayer and fasting, plus a deeply-rooted faith. This will lead to true peace in oneself, as well as peace in the world.

The peace we felt all week was amazing. I lost ten pounds that week. Food did not interest me. That alone was a little miracle. We witnessed the miracle of the sun. It was pulsating like a beating heart, coming down toward us and then returning to the sky again. The people we saw included a blind man climbing Krizevac barefooted. I kept thinking, "What must heaven be like," when this awesome feeling of the presence of Jesus and His beloved mother is so great here in this rural village.

The day we were to fly home, I felt that I had to go back to Mr. Podbrdo to touch the "rock" the Blessed Mother had stood on. I had this uneasy feeling. My friends tried to talk me out of going back. They were petrified that I would miss the bus taking us to the airport. I prayed that I could do it all in time, running up the hill, never falling. When I got to the very huge "rock," I noticed a piece of rock on the ground. I picked it up and molded it into the "rock" like a puzzle piece. This I took with me when I left the mountain. I did get back in time to go to Mass. My intention was to break the stone into small pieces and give them to my fellow travelers, but they had other thoughts. They

told me that the stone was my reward for going back, plus it had the letter T etched all over it. My name is Teresa.

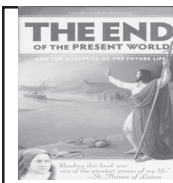
On the plane home to New York, I was deep in thoughts of the supernatural events that had occurred in Medjugorje. I felt very close to Jesus and His beloved mother, looking out the window and thinking that just above the clouds is heaven! Then a very strange thing happened: I kept hearing a voice saying, "Take him to the doctor, take him to the doctor."

My husband, Augie, was only 60 years old at the time. He seemed to be in good health. He never smoked, drank or ever complained of pain. Why would he need to go to a doctor? I could not let this go. He made an appointment to see a cardiologist who could not understand why we were insisting on a test to check his heart. During the test, it was found that Augie had five blocked arteries in his heart. The cardiologist would not let him get out of bed and performed surgery the next day. The doctor was astonished and told us that my husband could have had a fatal heart attack if the surgery was not performed immediately. That was 24 years ago. Augie is now 85, we are retired, live in Florida, enjoying the extra years the Blessed Mother gave us.

I share my story with you now because I experienced the heavenly intercession of our Blessed Mother. She is only interested in bringing the faithful back to her Son. Her blessing remains alive not only within my heart, but with all who feel her love. The urgent message is to reconcile with Jesus Christ and bring peace to a dangerously troubled world. God bless you.



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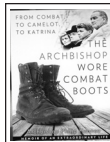
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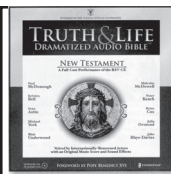
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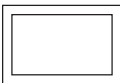
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By Mimi Kelly, Director Emeritus of The MIR Group



## “THE SOJOURNERS”

### AN EXTRAORDINARY MEDJUGORJE FILM – WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

This production of The MIR Group and filmmaker, Steve Scaffidi, is a unique story as told through the eyes of a curious filmmaker and his son about a pilgrimage of 47 youths on a 10-day journey to the other side of the world to discover one of the most mysterious places on earth. Along their journey both are faced with situations that challenge their faith and their fundamental beliefs. Others on the trip have questions of their own, most notably, whether visionaries are actually receiving messages from the Virgin Mary. In spite of their doubts and many conflicts, this father and son seek to find common ground while attempting to discover the truth about this sacred land and the devout believers in their group. What lies ahead is not what you would expect.

Troy Broussard, the film’s executive producer (and the President of The MIR Group), said that at 14 years old, he reluctantly took a trip with his family and a group from New Orleans to a remote village in what, at that time, was communist Eastern Europe. They were there to see firsthand whether there was any truth to claims that a local group of children were, in fact, actually seeing visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He went as a skeptic. But what he experienced on that pilgrimage to Medjugorje changed his life and still serves to this day as a profound reference point in his own journey of faith.

25 years later, millions have made the same trip. And the impact on those who still travel to Medjugorje is no less profound today.

Several years ago, he became acquainted with a group of young adults in metro New Orleans who pray together as The Sojourners of The Burning Heart. Many of them have committed themselves to a life of prayer, worship, service to the church and enjoy a deep sense of peace and fellowship. Led by Tammy Dupuy and a spiritual director, what they accomplish as a group is inspiring and gives hope that the next generation will carry the future in caring hands.

When, in 2011, the opportunity came to follow the Sojourners on their own faith walk, he felt it was a perfect opportunity to show the world one facet of modern spirituality in its young people. In attaching seasoned Director and friend Steven Scaffidi to the project, Troy knew that the film would have heart. And true to Steve's other movies, he expected the final work would also be honest.

In short order, the focus of the movie became less about the peace of The Sojourners, and more about universal questions of belief. True to form, in the course of shooting many hours of footage, Steve's eye caught stories within the stories- what about the doubters on the trip? How would the faith of those around them affect them, if at all? What about those struggling with the concept of God and His place in their lives?

What makes the film particularly poignant and personal is the fact that part of its main focus is on the relationship between Steve and his own son, a young man asking life's big questions - questions that he doesn't want his father to answer for him. As the final cut of The Sojourners emerged, Troy realized that they had a documentary that was uplifting, unbiased, joyful, real and timeless. The first screening before an at capacity theater in New Orleans produced tears, laughter, and life reflection among its viewers. Since that time, there have been requests to screen the film from Boston to Los Angeles, the UK to Mexico and Australia.

The plans are to make this film available sometime in the spring of 2012. Please continue to monitor the news in the Medjugorje Star and on The MIR Group’s website [www.themirgroup.org](http://www.themirgroup.org) for more details on the film’s release. If you are interested in showings in your area please contact: Troy Broussard, Executive Producer (504)388-8895-Email: [sojournersmovie@aol.com](mailto:sojournersmovie@aol.com) or the Director/Producer, Steven Scaffidi (504)669-0189-Email: [grpictures@aol.com](mailto:grpictures@aol.com). To view a clip of the movie, go to:

[www.thesojournersmovie.com/video.html](http://www.thesojournersmovie.com/video.html)

#### WHO IS A SOJOURNER OF THE BURNING HEART?

*“A Sojourner of The Burning Heart is someone who journeys with purpose, mission and love to The Sacred Heart of Jesus while making a difference for Him and bringing the love of Christ to all others”. Tammy Dupuy*

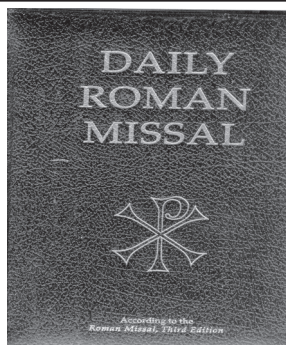
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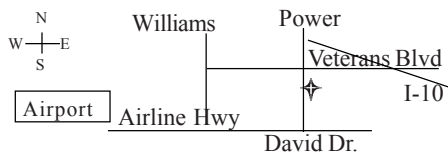
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**§ Visit the Silver Chapel §**

The Medjugorje Star is located near the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Join us for prayer in the Silver Chapel – noon–Angelus, 3 pm–Divine Mercy Chaplet.



**The Holy Father's**

**Intention for January 2012**

That victims of natural disasters may receive the spiritual and material comfort they need to rebuild their lives.

**Intention for February 2012**

That all peoples may have access to water and other resources needed for daily life.