

Pilgrims' Peaceletter

FULFILLING OUR LADY'S MISSION



Our Lady's Message: August & Sept, 2025

December 25, 2025: "Dear children!

Also today – when God permits me to carry to you in my arms little Jesus, the King of Peace, that He may fill you with the ardor of love and peace, so that every heart may be similar to His Heart in this time of grace – be resolute and courageous defenders of the love of your God, that in this time of grace He may give you His peace. Thank you for having responded to my call."

(With ecclesiastical approval)

Message from Pope Leo XIV

Pope Leo XIV gave a direct and personal message to all youth during the 36th annual Medjugorje Youth gathering,

"Walk together, support each other, and inspire one another.

Remember: no algorithm will ever replace an embrace, a look, a real encounter—not with God, not with our friends, not with our families. There is a language stronger than any barrier: the language of faith, nourished by the love of God."

August 4, 2025

[More...](#)

Pilgrims' Peace Center
4125 103rd Ave SE, Lake Stevens, WA, 98258
206.931.1865
pilgrimspeacecenter.org

Dear Brothers & Sisters,



St. Cecilia, Clearwater, FL



Lee Callaghan



Henry Libersat, Jr.



Mike & Sandy Tobin



**Annie & Sr. Briega McKenna
in Medjugorje, 2024**



Our Lady of Medjugorje

In the wake of Vatican II, the Catholic Charismatic Renewal began to gather strength across the United States. By the 1970s, Florida had become a hotbed of this movement, with numerous conferences, prayer groups, and healing ministries emerging.

In April of 1975, 50 years ago, my father and mother, Bill & Lee Callaghan, with their board of directors, formally incorporated the non-profit, Spirit of God Community, Inc., which we all now recognize as Pilgrims' Peace Center!

At the time, the organization grew to 500 active members, and 50 different ministries, including feeding the poor, providing homes for children without parents, and managing a bookstore where revenues were reinvested into the needs of the ministries.

It's hard to believe I was 11 years old when the Spirit of God community started converging in Clearwater to pray, and to pray in tongues no less! I remember the kindest people in and out of our home on a regular basis, especially Sister Briega McKenna, Father Michael Scanlan, Father Richard Rohr, and Sister Anne Williams. They played a big role in my little life back then. Bishops, Monseniors, and Cardinals were our regular guests. These figures were not publicly so well known at the time, but each truly exuded the love of God back then as they continue to do so now. To this day, for those still alive, you will hear them speaking of this special time in history where the re-igniting of the Holy Spirit led them each to their growing and ongoing ministries.

My father and mother passed the organization onto Henry Libersat, then Henry passed it back to my mother, then she passed it again, onto Mike and Sandy Tobin. Over these 50 years the organization grew from a local prayer community, to hosting 3000 person conferences, to speaking across the USA, to 37 years of international pilgrimages to Medjugorje. All the while this community has had humanitarian works at its core, thanks be to God.

Now, the torch is passed once again. In September, 2024 Sandy and Mike asked that I lead it forward. After prayer and signs, I was compelled to say, 'Yes'. My mother, Lee, is still alive, and on our board of directors. In her immense wisdom, she has reminded me many times, "Expect to be surprised by the Holy Spirit and go where it leads."

So we go, all of us together, listening to the Holy Spirit, and doing the best we can to be obedient. May Our Lady pray for us and cover us with Her Mantle. May this community continue to grow, and may the souls we serve be drawn closer to Our Lord.

- Annie Callaghan Dorgan, Executive Dir, PPC

"Expect to be surprised by the Holy Spirit and go where It leads".

- Founder, Lee Callaghan

Mother's Day in Medjugorje

Deepening the Faith One Pilgrim @ a Time

In May, 2025, Pilgrims' Peace Center traveled once again to Medjugorje, in service to the mission of our Mother Mary. Mary's mission is simple, to lead souls to Her Son, Jesus.

The experience is different for each Pilgrim who travels to Medjugorje, but over the many trips we've guided, there are a few consistent themes.

- ✦ A deepening of one's faith
- ✦ Unexpected surprises, even miracles
- ✦ An overall great experience
- ✦ A desire to become part of Her mission

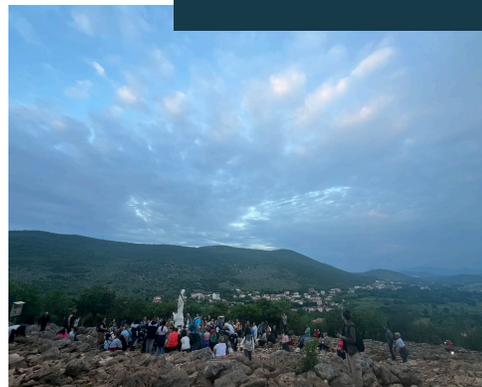
Indeed there were surprises during our May pilgrimage! On Mother's Day, not only did Zlata and her whole team treat us to a special Mother's Day brunch, we were also treated to a **private** mass celebrated by our spiritual director, Father Michael Dion, in the recently built Surmanci-Devine Mercy Chapel! As if that weren't enough, at the Croatian evening mass, the **NEW POPE, LEO XIV**, was elected!

Can you imagine that moment? Thousands of people gathered for mass, bells ringing, shouts of singing and rejoicing in gratitude that the Holy Spirit had lead us to a new chapter! [Here is a video clip](#) capturing that moment in time when the bells were sounding. What a gift it was!

JOIN US on our next trip in JUNE, 2026! For more trip details and for a downloadable registration form, go to pilgrimspeacecenter.org



Climbing Apparition Hill



Praying on Apparition Hill



Local Lunch Time!



Fr. Michael @ Divine Mercy Chapel, Mother's Day



Archbishop Aldo Cavalli



Zeljka guides @ the Blue Cross

“To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek Him the greatest adventure; to find Him, the greatest human achievement”.

- St. Augustine



Next Pilgrimage: June 3rd -12th, 2026

*You are warmly invited to join us on our next
Pilgrimage to Medjugorje!*

OUR PILGRIMAGE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- **Round Trip Airfare:** Includes taxes and luggage fees to Croatia, and private moter-coach to Medjugorje.
- **Accommodations:** Air-conditioned in twin-bedded rooms with private baths, double occupancy, at the beautiful Pensione of Visionary Vicka's family. (A few single rooms are available with an added charge of \$350: **First come, first served.**)
- **Two Meals Daily:** Two delicious, home-cooked, large family style meals are provided daily. (The third is on your own.)
- **Spiritual Direction & Guide:** All pilrimages are accompanied by a Priest who provides Spiritual Direction. Excellent English-speaking local guide/interpreter with first-hand knowledge of the apparitions: Željka Rožić is a first cousin of the visionary Vicka, and has 40 years' experience guiding pilgrims in Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **Prayer and Activities:** Daily Mass, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, Prayer of the Rosary, Presence at the Church during Our Lady's apparitions, Prayers for Healing, Climbing Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain, Talks by visiting and local priests, and visionaries when available. Other activities are exclusively part of PPC and may be during the week. You will have plenty of personal time for self-prayer and reflection, shopping, and rest.
- **Optional humanitarian works:** Participation in hands-on humanitarian activities in and around Medjugorje through Pilgrims' Peace Center will be announced.
- **Croatia:** One late afternoon and night in Croatia; hotel (no meals), included.
- **TOTAL PACKAGE PRICING:** varies based on your departure city & payment date; call Annie @ 206.931.1865 to get your specific package pricing. For those departing from Tampa, FL your package price is \$3,900.00 and for those leaving from Seattle, WA your package price is \$3,999.00 (10% off all packages for Pilgrimage Tours' Alumni who bring a person that has never been to Medugorje!). To secure this reservation pricing, full payment is due by April 1, 2026, otherwise additional charges may apply. Absolute deadline is May 27th, 2026; prices may vary significantly.

For more details and to download your reservation form go to pilgrimspeacecenter.org

The Power of the Blessed Rosary Beads: A Pilgrim's Testimony

In Medjugorje, I purchased a bag of Rosaries and had them blessed by Our Lady and by Father Michael Dion. When I returned home from the pilgrimage, I gifted the rosaries to several friends and family members. Within the following months, several events transpired that were nothing short of miraculous. One friend had a mass surgically removed, and her doctors were baffled that the mass came back benign. Another finally got physical custody of his child after many years of estrangement. I, myself, experienced the healing of family relationships that had been strained for years. I believe wholeheartedly that all of this is fruit from my trip to Medjugorje, from Our Lady, and Her Son Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

- Shannon Reese, Medjugorje Pilgrimage, May, 2025

PPC Humanitarian Work

Fulfilling Her Mission to Bring Us to Jesus



Youth Scholarships

Tens of thousands of young people attend the Medjugorje Youth Festival every year! In 2025, youth from nearly 80 different countries traveled to unite in faith and prayer.

Pilgrims' Peace Center strives to award an annual scholarship to one youth between the ages of 18 and 23 to attend the Youth Festival.

If you want 100% of your donations to go to youth scholarships, donate below with the message **#100%toYouth**, or let us know by emailing annie@pilgrimspeacecenter.org



Works of Mercy

Our Catholic faith explicitly asks us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, and bury the dead. (CCC 2447)

For the past 50 years, PPC has attended to these particular struggles people face. If you want 100% of your donations to go to these acts of mercy, donate below with the message **#100%toMercy**, or by emailing us at annie@pilgrimspeacecenter.org



Projects

Whether contributing funds to the addiction recovery center, Cenacolo, or providing wheelchairs to St. Joseph the Worker facility for children with disabilities, or in the future, restoring the Stations of the Cross @ the Oasis of Peace, you have the opportunity to participate firsthand while on your pilgrimages with us!

If you want 100% of your donations to go PPC projects, donate below with the message **#100%toProjects**, or email us at annie@pilgrimspeacecenter.org

Your general donations will be allocated to Scholarships, Works of Mercy, Projects, & Administration.

PILGRIMS' PEACE CENTER

Your support and contributions will enable us to provide pilgrimage scholarships and improve living conditions for the poor and underserved in Medjugorje. Your generous donation will fund this mission, thank you!

DONATE NOW!

PPC Humanitarian Works: *Mended Hearts*

by *Sandy Tobin*



Twenty-eight years ago (1997), I had a “chance” meeting with a woman I had never met in a Medjugorje restaurant called, 'Columbo's'. She gave me a postage stamp size photo of a 2 year old who was dying from a hole in her heart. There was only a last name and she was “somewhere in Central Bosnia” where there was still fighting going on due to the war. The woman said the child would be impossible to find and was probably dead by then anyway. Obviously, she didn't know that when Our Lady gets involved, nothing is impossible!

We found little Nermina! Our daughter Christy flew back over to get mother and child as soon as everything was arranged; travel and surgery. When they arrived in Tampa, FL, Nermina's lips and fingernails were blue. The open heart surgery saved her life!

Days later, she was playing in our living room and starting to speak English. A year later, we got political asylum for Nermina, her 6 yr old sister, and their parents.

Nermina excelled in school, was Valedictorian of her high school class, got a scholarship to college and earned a Bachelor's Degree, Masters Degree and finally a PhD in Chemistry! Today Nermina does medical research! Nermina is a sweetheart, the most thoughtful, loving young woman you'd ever like to know.

On June 11, 2025, Nermina got married to an equally wonderful young man and we were 'guests of honor'. That distinction, as we all know, goes to Our Lady, because the obstacles along the journey could only have been overcome with her Motherly Intervention. Look what Our Lady did....starting with only a tiny picture of an angelic face that belonged to a child whose mother had been told to “just let her die!” The distinction also goes to you, each donor who provided the means to bring, not only Nermina, but her whole family, to America, and provide her a life-saving surgery.

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and love for those of you who contributed to mending Nermina's heart, and the hearts of her family. What a privilege it has been for all of us to be a tiny part of Nermina's story and to work so closely with Our Lady on the things that matter most!

PILGRIMS' PEACE CENTER
[DONATE NOW!](#)

Guiding Pilgrims

'PILGRIMAGES EVOKE OUR EARTHLY JOURNEY TOWARDS HEAVEN' CCC NO. 2691



Pilgrims' Satisfaction Survey 2025

ALL respondents gave Željka



A Pilgrims' comment answering the survey question, "I'm just disappointed that there's nothing above excellent."

We agree Željka, you're above excellent!!



Pilgrims' Peace Center Guide, Željka Rožić !

One of the most unique and valuable aspects PPC pilgrimages is our guide who accompanies us each day, Željka Rožić. When Vicka Ivankovic-Mijatovic, started seeing the apparitions of Mary in 1981, her first cousin, Željka Rožić, was close by. Dreaming of being a journalist at the time, Željka knew that her path would be taking a different direction. Hundreds, and quickly thousands, of people started pouring into her small village, with no parking lots, no hotels, no eateries...so what's a girl to do? Well, as we would hope any good Catholic would do, she, and all the surrounding families, received people into their homes! They never charged anything and sacrificed their own bedrooms and food for the sake of their guests, even to the point of going hungry themselves. The force in numbers demanded infrastructure be built; utilities, sewage, water, garbage, paved roads, expanded housing, places to eat HAD to be provided for the sake of pilgrims traveling from all over the world. Like most of the locals, Željka's hospitality was organic and eventually turned into a life-time of service. Pilgrims consistently comment on how extraordinary it was to be guided by someone who had lived the Medjugorje story since the very beginning, who had a breadth of knowledge that only a family member of a visionary could have. They said Željka led so lovingly and cared so deeply about their personal experiences. THANK YOU ŽELJKA!!!

We Need Your Updated Contact Information!

Postcard

To:
Pilgrims' Peace Center
4125 103rd Ave SE
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

From:

Address:

Yes, I would like to stay in touch! Here is my

Email address:

Phone #:

Other preferred contact method:

*Please return this postcard to Pilgrims' Peace Center
with your updated contact information.*

If you have been a loyal member of Spirit of God Community and Pilgrims' Peace Center, or are brand new to the Community, please confirm your contact information by either subscribing on our website, emailing annie@pilgrimspeacecenter.org, or cut out, fill out, and mail the above postcard back to us!

If you'd like to make a donation via mail, please make checks out to Pilgrims' Peace Center and mail to:

Pilgrims' Peace Center
4125 103rd Ave SE
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Your general donations will be allocated to Scholarships, Works of Mercy, Projects, & Administration.

PILGRIMS' PEACE CENTER

Your support and contributions will enable us to provide pilgrimage scholarships and improve living conditions for the poor and underserved in Medjugorje. Your generous donation will fund this mission, thank you!

DONATE NOW!

Fulfilling Mary's Mission to Bring Us to God.

Join Us!!!



Your general donations will be allocated to Scholarships, Works of Mercy, Projects, & Administration.

PILGRIMS' PEACE CENTER

Your support and contributions will enable us to provide pilgrimage scholarships and improve living conditions for the poor and underserved in Medjugorje. Your generous donation will fund this mission, thank you!

DONATE NOW!