

Change You, Change Your Family, Signs of the Times

Blessings to All:



I remember a message from Our Lady of Fatima¹ regarding our need to change our lives. "The sins of the world are very great ... If men only knew what eternity is, they would do everything in their power to change their lives."

Then in Lourdes, the spiritual message of Our Lady is that of personal conversion. Mary tells Bernadette that the important thing is to be happy in the **next life**. To attain this we must accept the **cross** in **this life**.

In many of the message of Our Lady of Medjugorje², Mary asks us to change our lives by praying the rosary and fasting. If we change, others will see this change and it will impact their lives in a positive manner.

It is easy to say, "I will change", but it is hard to do. Changing our lives to be more spiritual and loving takes some time. How many times have we been on the road of 'change' when Satan throws us into an argument with our spouse or others? This steals our peace and causes many to harbor ill feelings towards one another. This is Satan's plan. But we must trust in God's mercy and goodness by asking God for help! Satan will not leave you alone but neither will God.

Changing our lives will take some time, but all of us have much to lose if we don't listen to the words of Our Mother. *She loves us so much and knows that through prayer we can change and help others to change.* Eternity awaits all of us and

¹ Full text of "The Message of Our Lady of Fatima see https://archive.org/stream/TheMessageOfOurLadyOfFatimaWithPicture/fatimaSelectionspic_djvu.txt

² The Catholic Church is still studying the reported apparition.

those who we love. *Let us be a Light and humbly accept our roles as messengers for good in this world in darkness.*

Our Lady Queen of Peace of Medjugorje... April 2, 2017 Message

Given through Mirjana on the Day for Non-Believers

“Dear children, apostles of my love, it is up to you to spread the love of my Son to all those who have not come to know it; you, the little lights of the world, whom I am teaching with motherly love to shine clearly with full brilliance. Prayer will help you, because prayer saves you, prayer saves the world. Therefore, my children, pray with words, feelings, merciful love and sacrifice. My Son has shown you the way - He who became incarnate and made of me the first chalice, with His exalted sacrifice He has shown you how you need to love. Therefore, my children, do not be afraid to speak the truth. **Do not be afraid to change yourself and the world by spreading love**, by doing everything for my Son to be known and loved by loving others in Him. As a mother I am always with you. I am imploring of my Son to help you for love to reign in your life - love that lives, love that draws, love which gives life. I am teaching you such love - pure love. It is up to you, my apostles, to recognize it, live it and spread it. Pray with feeling for your shepherds so that they can witness my Son with love. Thank you.

Mary is Our Remedy to Combat Satan And She Will Help Us



Articles written by St Maximilian Maria Kolbe give us insight into the wonderful graces we can receive through Our Mother Mary. **She is also a remedy for those of us who are seriously tempted, or live in the occasion of sin.**

When we turn to Her, as children in need, She comes to our aid. She intercedes for us and obtains special graces to avoid persons, places and situations that test our human weakness.

St Kolbe life ended in the concentration camp of Auschwitz. But it is worth mentioning his last days in this Newsletter as an inspiration to all who suffer from the

hate of others.

Fr. Kolbe celebrated Mass twice daily in the strictest secrecy. Thirty prisoners attended. All of them were able to receive Communion. He exhorted them to entrust themselves to God and the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.

He heard the confessions of all those who approached him. A prisoner who survived named Dziuba confirmed that thanks to being able to go to confession with Fr. Kolbe, he was able to overcome the temptation to commit suicide.



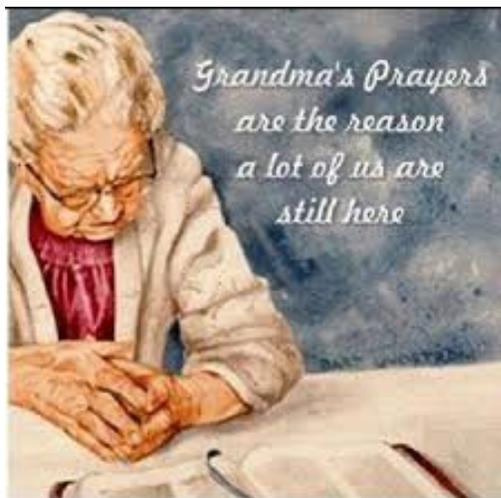
When one of the prisoners of the camp was able to escape, commander Frits ordered that ten prisoners should die of hunger as a punishment. Upon being selected, Francisco Gajowniczek shouted, pleading for mercy because he had a wife and children. Fr. Kolbe got out of line and offered to take his place in the death bunker. "I am a Catholic, Polish priest. I want to take his place because he has

a wife and children." Fr. Kolbe's sacrifice left a great impression in the hearts of all the prisoners. While some refused to give a fellow prisoner a piece of bread, Kolbe offered his life for a prisoner he did not even know.

Fr. Kolbe not only wanted to offer his life for another, he also wanted to accompany the other nine men in their last moments. He wanted to go down to the bunker of death with them, share in their agony, and give them hope and encouragement in such a terrible moment.

Witnesses confirmed that prayers and hymns of the prisoners could be heard from the bunker. Fr. Kolbe led the Rosary. As the days passed, their voices became weaker as a result of malnutrition and the lack of water. On August 14th, only four prisoners remained alive. They were exterminated by a lethal injection of carbolic acid. With a prayer on his lips, Fr. Kolbe offered his left arm to his murderer.

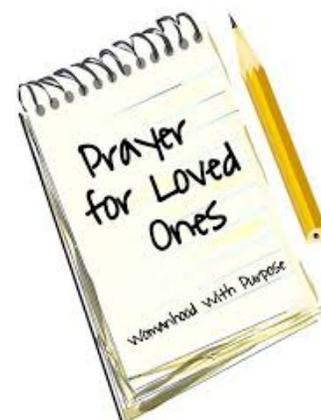
We are not called to die like St Kolbe, but our **hearts die a little each day when we see those who we love live a worldly life and forget about their eternal**



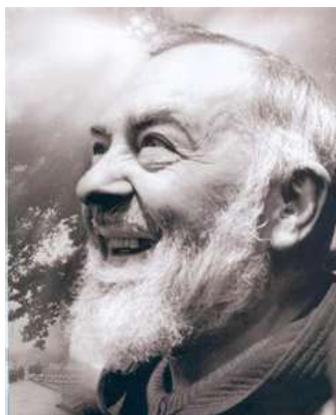
soul. *But there is hope...It is Mary our Mother.* She will not forget your prayers and tears. She understands a parents' heart and she will intercede for you. Trust in her love for you and the prayers of your heart. She will take them directly to her Son Jesus. **And He will not turn down her request.**

Many of you that read this Newsletter are mothers, fathers or grandparents. God has given you a special heart and special graces because you have such a powerful spiritual impact upon your

children and grandchildren. Whether you realize it or not, the good things you say and do are imprinted upon the minds and souls of those you love. There is no heart like the heart of a parent or grandparent. Your prayers for the salvation of a soul **will bring Light** into souls and into a world living in darkness. Continue with your struggles and continue your efforts to become spiritually stronger. Satan will try to bring up your past failures and will continue to work on your weaknesses, but take heart... Jesus will never abandon you and your prayers to Him or through His Most Blessed Mother, **will be answered in time.**



Pray the rosary each day or at least say one Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be for the grace to help change the things in you that need change and for the lives of those you carry in your heart.



St. Padre Pio reminds us...

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer."



Our Lady of Medjugorje Message March 25, 1990

"...God wants to save you and sends you messages through men, nature, and so many things which can only help you to understand that you must change the direction of your life..."



FAMOUS ROSARY MIRACLES



On August 6, 1945 during World War II, an atomic bomb was dropped on the town of Hiroshima, Japan. 140,000 people were killed or injured. There was a home eight blocks from where the A-Bomb went off. This home had a church attached to it which was completely destroyed, but the home survived, and so did the eight German Jesuit

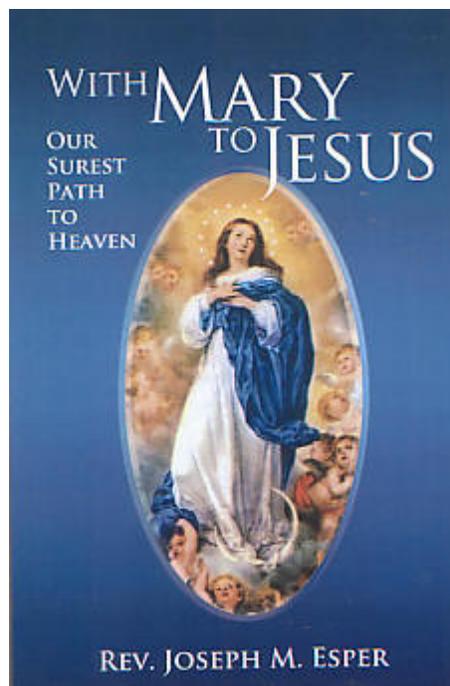
missionaries who prayed the rosary in that house faithfully every day. These men were missionaries to the Japanese people, they were non-military, but because Germany and Japan were allies during WWII they were permitted to live and minister within Japan during the war.

Not only did they all survive with relatively minor injuries, but they all lived well past that awful day with no radiation sickness, no loss of hearing, or any other visible long term defects or maladies. Naturally, they were interviewed and examined numerous times by scientists and health care people about their remarkable experience. They replied... "we believe that we survived because we were living the message of Fatima. We lived and prayed the rosary daily in that home."

The Rosary stops a serial killer 1978

At 3: 00 am on January 15 Bundy entered the Chi Omega sorority house at Florida State University and murdered two girls before heading off to search for more victims. When he entered a third girl's room with a bat for a weapon, he saw a rosary clutched in her hand, dropped the bat and fled.

Later the girl told authorities that before she left for college she had promised her grandmother that she would pray the rosary every night for protection, even if she fell asleep in the process. This is what she had done that night, and she was still holding the rosary when the murderer entered her room. Bundy later confessed to over thirty murders.



Father Joseph M. Esper says in his book *With 'Mary to Jesus'*, "Ironically, when Ted Bundy was on death row, awaiting execution for his crimes, he asked Monsignor Kerr to serve as a spiritual counselor, and the priest took the opportunity to ask about that terrible night. Bundy explained that when he entered the girl's room, he had fully intended on murdering her; some mysterious power was preventing him."

Father Esper adds, "And not only does it (the rosary) aid our own spiritual growth -- it also undermines the kingdom of Satan. The famous Vatican exorcist Father Gabriele Amorth testified, 'One day a colleague of mine heard the devil say during an exorcism, "Every Hail Mary is like a blow on my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end.'"

Pray the rosary daily for protection and to defeat the forces of Satan! Our Blessed Mother will defeat Satan in the world and will protect you and your family.

Rosary at Rock Bottom



A Mother's Story of Her Drug Addicted Son

My 22-year-old son, "Max," has been a drug addict since he was 13. He went to rehab at 17, got out, and was using again within a month.

The past year and a half, however, has been the most difficult time. He was like a walking zombie. To feed his addiction, he started stealing from his employer and everybody in

our family. Last February, Max broke into my neighbor's apartment for cash. He was jailed on a felony burglary charge. I bailed him out. He promised he would go to rehab and change. The night I bailed him out was the first night that he shot heroin. When somebody's on that drug, they're not themselves. He sank into the world of heroin — which is a nightmare — and continued to steal from me, my younger son "Matt," anywhere he could get money. Eventually, I couldn't allow him into my home anymore because we didn't feel safe.



And it just progressed. Max was skin and bones. He got arrested several times. Finally, in October, Max came into my home and stole from me. Matt was home, though Max didn't know. I made the decision that I was going to put a stop to it, so I had Max arrested. He went to jail and asked me to bail him out. I said, "I'm not going to let you out. If you're in jail, I know you're safe. I know you're not using." For a couple weeks, he was mad that he was in jail. That's where his recovery

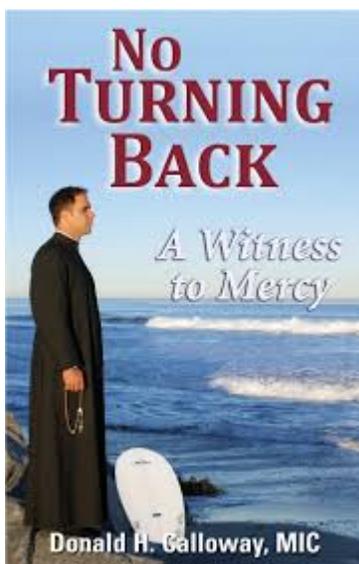
began.

I'm friends with Mary-Kathryn (faith based singer) , whom I know as Mary Kay. One day during the summer when this was at its worst, Mary Kay said, "You need to just hand him over [to Jesus through Mary]," so that's what I did. It took time, but I've handed him over ***so that Our Lady can take care of him. I asked Mary Kay, "How do you pray the Rosary?" I'm a Lutheran — we don't pray the Rosary. But I prayed the Rosary for him every day for guidance and protection.***

Now, throughout his life, Max had no faith whatsoever. Whenever he went to rehab before, they were always talking about "your higher power." God was not his

higher power. He's a hiker, so he would always say, "Mother Nature's my higher power."

Max spent two months in jail. A social worker came into his life who helped him get into a rehab center in Saranac Lake, N.Y., which has a great emphasis on spirituality and a family program. Max went there in December. That just deepened his faith further. Faith and spirituality is an essential part of the whole recovery process. Without it, I don't think he could have gone as far as he has.



I bought Fr. Donald Calloway's book '*No Turning Back*' last summer. When Max went into rehab in December, I sent him the book. He read it in a day and loved it. He started passing it around to other residents to read. I think he felt he could relate to the story, and it showed him there was hope.

Max asked me if I could get him a rosary. I got a St. Benedict Rosary and asked Mary Kay, "Can you have this blessed?" She said, "Yeah, guess who's here: Fr. Calloway!" So



Fr. Calloway blessed it, and he blessed me. When I talked to Max a few days later — I only got to talk to him twice a week — I said, "I got you a rosary. You're never going to guess who blessed it!" He was so ecstatic. ***Our Blessed Mother works miracles everyday through graces she is allowed to give.***

If I could speak to other parents facing the same situation, I'd say, "Keep praying for them and ask Our Lady to intercede for you."

Father Donald Calloway's Conversion Story



From Drug Addicted Pagan To A Priest Of Mercy!

Heroin, cocaine, opium, marijuana, excessive alcohol, not to mention hallucinogenic drugs like mushrooms (psilocybin) and LSD — he consumed most of these before the age of 18, many before he turned 14, the addictions

growing stronger as the existential emptiness deepened. Fr. Donald Calloway of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception retells his dramatic and heart-wrenching life story in *'No Turning Back: A Witness to Mercy.'*

As a destructive youth, Calloway spent his adolescence succumbing to temptations large and small, from sins of the flesh with constant promiscuity, to crimes against the law with thousands of dollars of grand theft in stolen merchandise, as well as nightly partying with friends consuming all forms of drugs and addictives while listening to heavy-metal music.

"On one occasion, I even found myself in a crack house, crawling around on the rug on my hands and knees looking for any cocaine that might have fallen on the floor. There were cockroaches running around and maggots in the sink from all the unwashed dishes. A crying baby could be heard, unattended in a back room. Yet there I was on the floor, right along with the baby's mother, searching frantically for white specs on the floor. If we found anything white, we'd put it in the bowl and smoke it, even if we didn't know what it was."

It all began one night in March 1992 when, to the surprise of his friends, Donald decided not to go out partying, as was the usual routine, but to stay at home for the night. He felt immensely depressed, a longing and emptiness occupied his very being. "I found myself sitting there alone in my room with nothing to do and no one to turn to. My existence was laughable. My life was a waste, and I was hoping it would somehow come to an end...I hated my life. I was restless and anxious about everything." Looking for a way to fill the time, he began browsing his parents' bookshelf, not to find anything to read but, preferably, land on a National Geographic for the pictures. Instead, his hand landed on something else, an odd book about a subject so alien and obscure to the teenager that it was intriguing enough to read. The book was called *'The Queen of Peace Visits Medjugorje.'*



Essentially, it was the story of the Marian apparitions in Medjugorje which brought on the crisis of his conversion. "This book showed me a side of things I had never really heard of or experienced before, but I certainly could relate to the radical nature of the message...It wasn't long before I realized this book was presenting me an offer to **change my life** and surrender to something greater than myself – to believe in God and be different. It was a revelation that required a revolution in my thinking. Could this be the way out I was looking for?"

He spent the whole night reading the book, until the early hours of the morning. In the process, the inner

beings of his soul were transformed from the anxiousness and restlessness he previously experienced to a deep serenity and peace that radiated and pervaded his spirit. The messages of Medjugorje touched him on a higher level, the return to prayer, peace, fasting, reconciliation with God and the need for conversion. ***For the first time, something offered him hope from his abusive past, from his life of sin and despair.***

“The Virgin Mary was saying things that were so clear and captivating that I found myself moved and literally experiencing emotion in a deep way. This was a kind of emotion I hadn’t experienced since I was a little boy who really loved his mother and wanted to make her happy. ***And yet the Virgin Mary was saying that she was my mother, that she was the mother of those who had gone astray and was calling us back to God, to Jesus.*** She made it clear that she was not God, but she was pointing to her Son and saying He is the Messiah, the Savior of the world. I found myself totally falling in love with this mother, this woman.”

This inner need, this spiritual longing, was being satisfied. As he continued reading, a strange, but wondrous, rebirth from death to new life occurred. “Although I was in serious despair about my life, as I read the book, I felt as if my heart was being melted. I hung on to each word like it was transmitting life straight to me.”

Then a new day came. “Early in the morning, when I closed the book, I said, ‘The message in this book is life-changing. I have never ever heard anything so amazing and convincing and so needed in my life.’ One might say that this was my first prayer. Whoever this Virgin Mary was, I believed what she was saying – that she was my mother and came from heaven for me.”

Instantly, after telling his overwhelmed mother about the experience, Donald—though not a Catholic yet—ran off to Mass for the first time in his life, speaking to a priest afterwards, confessing his entire past to the man. When he came back home, Donald began throwing out all of his filthy possessions from his past life, from drug paraphernalia to pornographic magazines ranging from his Playboy and Penthouse collections, to his heavy metal records, and his water bong and pipes. Six 30-gallon bags were the result.

After clearing his space of all distractions, Donald knelt by his dresser and deeply desired to go into prayer. But he didn’t know how to pray. As he recalls, “Until earlier that day, I had never said a prayer in my entire life.” This did not stop him, however, from falling into an overbearing ambiance of deeply healing and purifying tears. His past was still very prominent in his mind and the remorse, the regret that was felt was overwhelming – the need for forgiveness encapsulated his entire being.

“In fact, I started crying so hard that I could hardly breathe. I had to literally gasp for air because I was crying so uncontrollably. There were

torrents of liquid coming out of my eyes. Before long, the clothes I was wearing were soaking wet."

Hours of such excruciating crying led to inexplicable tears of joy and, all of the sudden, Donald felt an immense peace in his heart, a tranquility that surpassed understanding. "I started to feel almost bubbly and giddy, almost like a child being tickled by his father. Suddenly, I was animated. I had life again and felt so much different. My body tingled all over. I was so wrapped up in Jesus that I became aware of how much I was loved."

This purifying peace led to something inexplicable, a mystical—if not downright supernatural—experience. Like thousands of patients who have reported undergoing near-death experiences, Donald left his body. "But all of a sudden something below me and within me – this is very difficult to explain – knocked me out of my body. I literally felt as if I had left my body. My physical form remained on the couch, but my soul or spirit had left." The experience paralyzed him, as he gradually saw his body farther and farther away from him, his spiritual presence being slowly removed from the physical. Out of desperation, he let out a penetrating, spiritual cry to that person who had just touched his soul. "Mary!" What happened next was phenomenal. Donald was "violently slammed back" into his body.

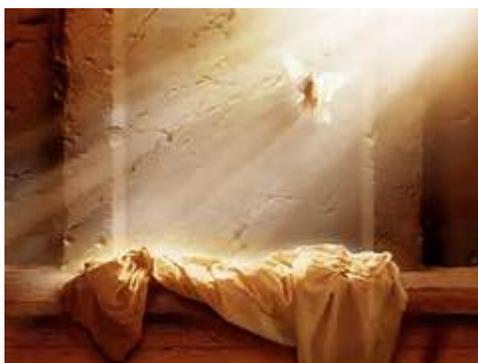


"After I got over the shock of the impact, a feeling of peace overwhelmed me, a peace that was tangible. Then I heard a voice, the most pure feminine voice I have ever heard and ever will hear. It was within me, it was outside of me, it was like liquid love being poured over me. It was pure maternal love. It said, 'Donnie, I'm so happy.' That's all I heard, but I knew who it was. Nobody called me Donnie but my mother. Nobody. I knew this was the voice of Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mary. I was so at peace that I felt like a little boy snuggled close to his mother's breast. I was so at peace, so loved, and so at rest that I went into a deep sleep. I hadn't slept like that since I was a young boy."

The former drug addict, convicted criminal, and high school dropout graduated summa cum laude with an advanced degree, studying with some of the most renowned theologians in the world, and publishing his work into a book about the Mother of God. Today, Father Calloway is the House Superior for the Marians of the Immaculate Conception and their vocations director. He preaches his story throughout the world, reaching countless of hearts. His life story is an example of grace and divine mercy in motion, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and particularly her continuing work in Medjugorje. Our Blessed Mother is calling us change...she awaits our reply.

The *Reflections* Newsletter is published each month, free of charge. If you want to be on the mailing list, please send your request to r44pick@aol.com.

Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.



“I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me
will not walk in darkness, but
will have the light of life.”
John 8:12



St. Paul Ministry, Cypress, TX