

*"Rebellion is at its work already ... with all kinds of evil doings for those who are bound for destruction..." (2 Th 2)*

*"With God among us we shall fight like heroes, he will trample on our enemies." (Ps 60)*

Our Lady's message of 25 September 1991:

**Dear children, today I invite all of you in a special way to prayer and renunciation, because now, like never before, Satan wants to show his disgraceful face to the world and through it, sweep as many people as possible onto the path of death and sin.**

**Thus, dear children, help my Immaculate Heart triumph in a sinful world. I am asking all of you to offer up prayers and sacrifices for my intentions, so that I may present them to God for what is most necessary. Forget your desires my dear children, and pray for what God wants, not for what you want.**

**Thank you for having responded to my call.**

**In this hour of Satan,  
let's offer ourselves totally to Mary  
for the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart**

For the first time, in last month's message, Mary Queen of Peace spoke about the realization of Her plans according to the secrets of Fatima. And this month's message is also linked to those apparitions, because for the first time She talks about the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart.

Last month Our Lady **invited everyone to pray like never before**, and this month She is inviting everyone to **prayer and renunciation** because, **"like never before, Satan wants to show his disgraceful face to the world and sweep as many people as possible onto the path of death and sin."**

This should convince us that the visitations and messages of Our Lady at Medjugorje are extremely important, not only for Yugoslavia in this time of torment, but for the whole world. We should be alarmed by this outrage of satanic forces that want to corrupt and destroy all humanity **like never before**, through sowing sin and death in every corner. Our Lady says that never before has Satan's seducing power been so strong, underhanded and overwhelming. We unfortunately cannot see his disgraceful face, for we are led astray by his sweet, seductive aspect. That is why Mary has come to cry out Her warning of danger, for the danger of being lost looms over our heads, and She has come to open our eyes. Mary's hour is also Satan's hour. The war being fought is not only between men on this earth, but between the celestial forces and the infernal forces (Rv 12 & Ep 6.12). Our Lady has come to wake us up, to make us aware of the devil's activities, so that we can be united to Her and God in the battle that has begun. She pleads us to **"help her Immaculate Heart triumph."**

The triumph of Her Immaculate Heart, but, will take place in a **"sinful world."** In other words, Her triumph shall have to come about through our renunciation of sin and our conversion to God. The triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart will be in the sanctification of the hearts of Her children.

Given the importance of the times, and the gravity of the situation, the Queen of Peace is asking everyone (not just those who are devoted to Her) to start **praying and renouncing** so that we can forget ourselves and offer ourselves entirely to God through Her Immaculate Heart for the salvation of all mankind. *Fr.*

*Remo*

The invitation to pray and renounce "like never before" was already given to us last month in the form of a Novena. This month it is being proposed to us as indispensable in the fight against Satan. Jesus tells us that some devils can only be driven away through praying and fasting. But we are being invaded by devils and their works do not seem to have any limit, because God has "unchained Satan" - the world gives in to him, it has even founded a cult around his name - the world has throned the king of sin, the author of man's death.

That is why he now shows his disgraceful face. Our Lady has never used such grave expressions in guarding us against falling. It is understandable that we have to forget ourselves and our problems in such crucial moments, and unite ourselves totally to the Blessed Virgin and Her intentions through a total donation of ourselves for the good of Her cause.

**With events of death persuading us  
Mary continues to offer us the fullness of life  
But we must open our hearts to Her messages**

The events of this last summer continuously cry out to us, asking us to question ourselves and our existence more profoundly. It is three months now that Yugoslavia has been oppressed by a war and like all wars, it is a senseless war. Just last Sunday the Holy Father, during the recital of the Angelus declared the fact as being "unworthy of man and of Europe." This was not the first time that we have heard the Pope's appeal so full of real, sincere emotion - it is not even the first time in the same year. 1991 began under the terrible weight of a war and the year has continued under the same dark, satanic forces - Satan is a liar right down to the roots and with his lies he kills and makes people prisoners and slaves. Jesus tells us: "he is the father of lies, a murderer from the start." (Jn 8.44)

How can we not recall amidst this darkness, Our Lady's calls right from the beginning? "... I have come to tell the world that God exists ... peace is in danger ... whoever finds God, finds life and peace ...!" Like always, we have extremes: God is God of the living, He is Light that lights up the world.. Our Lord Jesus Christ offers Himself on the Cross to remove "the barrier (hostility) that separates us.." (Ep 2.14) Mary in these ten years has been doing everything in Her power to remind us of this. She does everything She can to so lovingly and patiently teach us how to walk this path whilst carrying out our daily lives. How is it possible that we could insult Her so openly, She Who came to bring us the Light, Her Son, once again?

We only need to stop and consider all the messages given to mankind in this last year alone to wake up to the incomprehensible desire that Mary has to snatch us from the satanic tricks and a consequent death. One only needs to find the courage to "come out" of that mediocre state that so often accompanies us in our encounters with God's graces, and we would discover how good the Father has been in sending us the Mother to convince us, urge us, call us...

The hardening of hearts, however, is a terrible illness. Closing our hearts to the Grace stops us, in these days too, from really understanding the events, from looking at things objectively. Sin makes us blind, and closing our hearts to the Spirit generates coldness and indifference.

Mary though is not backing out, She is not discouraged, She is not going to leave us fight out this battle on our own, which is a battle against the envy and presumption of he who wishes to strip us of our right to be "children of God." Our Lady's fervour in communicating the messages to us urges us above all to open our hearts, to accept the Lord's plan of salvation for all men. Without this opening of hearts to the action of God, of the Holy Spirit, one is not capable of accepting His calls in the most proper of manners. Seriously accepting the call to prayer and fasts means accepting the plan and the Will of the Lord in one's own life.

Seriously praying is a continued response of Love - it means being open to what God is planning, always, every day. Fasting is wanting to be purified - due to inability to love, on all levels.

Fasting on bread and water is joyfully participating in Jesus' offering for our true conversion, and God willing, it is a definite and sincere step towards the denial of oneself, to then start being true Christians, worthy of Christ and His teachings. Praying and fasting continually remind us that we have been Saved. Praying and

fasting is doing God's Will - through praying we stay with Him (especially when we participate in the sacraments with a renewed conscience) and through fasting we learn from Him: it is an offering.

It is a waste of time thinking that we can do great things, change the world and the others, if we are not faithful to our own call, if we do not change ourselves and renounce to that immense love we have for ourselves. Mary is also a Teacher. She knows what we need most and what steps we must take. No-one is more realistic than Her and She knows how much false humbleness and hypocrisy can even hide behind our Christian deeds. Without Her, without accepting what She and the Spirit want, we only do what we want. If there is no gratitude in us for the infinite Graces that the Lord pours down on us, we are unable to pray. If we do not look upon God with the familiarity and due respect of children, then we are even incapable of renouncing (for the sake of love) the superfluous and trivial things in life. The Cross of Christ, Sign of God's Infinite Love for all men, together with His Blood and His Offering, are made trivial by us, we who claim ourselves to be Christian.

Only Christ's strength will be able to open up man's heart and permit man to live together in peace and justice. It shall have to be Christ's strength in purified souls who will make all those "good intentions" of makers of peace become effective. Just the way Mary's calls will be accepted, to make it possible for this world (which is hostile to God) to receive the gift of life and peace. Niki

**The battle is between the Woman and the dragon  
Our prayers will arm the hand of She Who can defeat him  
Be on guard, always!**

"Columns of tanks ready for last attack on Croatia ... The army gets ready for final assault." These were the headings on the front pages of the papers on Sunday 21 September - it would have been the end. On the same day, however, the H.Q. (of the Federal Army) and the President of Croatia ordered a cease-fire. It was like liberation after a nightmare. Up to date (26 Sept) the truce is holding; even though we cannot say that there is peace. We are invited to look upwards. The Apostle tells us: "It is not against human enemies that we have to struggle, but against the Sovereignities and the Powers who originate the darkness in this world, the spiritual army of evil in the heavens. That is why you must put God's armour on.." (Ep 6)

We are certain that it was the incessant prayers to have been Mary's armour, and Who was thus able to save a whole population from total destruction.

We are all convinced that Satan was the author of such a terrible war, who wanted to wipe out the name and works of Our Lady. The situation was so serious that Mary had prepared us by inviting us, with Her previous messages, to more intense prayer and renunciation. Her plan which had begun at Fatima was at risk: "Help me so that my plans may be realized and I may save all souls." Mary then is the protagonist of this story. Many ignore the fact, but in doing so they remain stuck to a scheme and however good it may be, it is not that which we are called to live and construct together with Our Lady.

Let's read Our Lady's message of August 25. Jesus has decided a plan of peace (in us and the nations) which will be actuated through Mary and those who will help Her, but Satan opposes it - he wants war and death. With these disconcerting events (Russia, Croatia) he wants to make us believe that Jesus is incapable of keeping peace, and that he (Satan) is stronger than God. The truth is that there are so many adverse signs that we do doubt God's strength. Who could stop an enemy - we would say - when he seems to have already won?

We can now see who the real protagonists of the story are. With the June message, Our Lady invited us to read the Scriptures that talk about these times. During these years we have come to know what the Scriptures call "... the mystery of wickedness that has begun, the lost one who claims to be so much greater than all that men call 'god,' .. and even enthrones himself in God's sanctuary and claims that he is God." (2 Th 2) Satan used the atheist Communism to cancel God from the earth, presenting it as the one and only religion. And he will occupy very high positions, even arriving at certain positions within the Church (from an article in *Avvenire* - Italian Catholic weekly, 21/09/91); but in the end "the Lord Jesus will kill him with the breath of his mouth." (2 Th 2)

It is not amazing that those who held political power in Russia (and who incarnated this anti-God) had reacted with such unusual anger at its fall, and neither is it amazing to see them reacting with such terrible cruelty in Yugoslavia. But we have our opponent. Rightly, Fr. Jozo said: "Satan is fighting out his last battle against Mary here." It is not by chance that religious symbols have been a target in this war - churches (including the cathedrals at Osijek and Sebenico) and convents have been destroyed and priests have been imprisoned or

thrown out of the country. Even the Commander of the 8th Division of the Federal Army admitted that favourite targets were the Catholic churches (*Il Sabato* - 21 Sept.) This war is openly an anti-Catholic war, because they blame the Pope and the Church for having made Communism fall. At violent protests in Belgrade, they accused the Pope of being supported by the *ustascia*, (Croatian fascists) calling him the enemy of the great Serbia.

But who stopped this war? One could certainly not attribute it to the Croats whose armoury is by far inferior to that of the Serbians. If at first, the Serbian attacks were done in hiding (behind the *Cetnici* or Serbian partisans), they later openly (and with great ferocity) attacked the Croats after their attack on the federal barracks.

It would be best not to talk about the "help" given by the European countries who discussed the problem in vain and signed truces that went no further than the paper they were written on, for they could not come to an agreement on how to help. The French President admitted: "They say we have to intervene, but in the name of who? No political union has yet been formed." (*Avvenire* - 21 Sept.) Less noble interests have divided the heads of state, yet they were united like never before (for the sake of petroleum) against Irak. The governing bodies on an international level, guided by the Freemasonry and caring only about their own interests, have left Croatia to themselves - a country which has been unjustly attacked for legitimately wishing to be independent. No-one has of yet recognized such independency.

Who then threw the situation upside down at the last moment - a situation that seemed would have ended up in total destruction of an entire population? If the battle was being conducted by Satan, then it could only have been won by Heaven. "Help us in this hour of crisis, the help that man can give is worthless. With God among us we shall fight like heroes, he will trample on our enemies." (Ps 60) And through the Woman, the strength of God will defeat the enemy.

Fr. A.

## THE COURSE OF MEDJUGORJE

### NEWS FROM THE BLESSED LAND

**Celebration of the Cross with the sound of bombings in the background.** Sunday 15 September, at 11.00 a.m. Eucharistic celebration under the big Cross on Krizevac. There were less people than usual, with only a few hundred pilgrims, mostly from Italy, Belgium and the United States. The lack of Croats was noticeable - because of the impossibility of reaching Medjugorje from many other regions of Croatia.

Even during Mass we could here the distant bombings which had begun the night before at Kardeljevo (Ploce) (about 25km away on the seaside). We could see the glare of the bombs at night time, dropped by the aeroplanes that took off from Mostar, and launched by the ships at sea. We thought that we may not have been able to leave from Mostar then next morning, but every now and again, between one fighter-bomber and another, they let a civilian plane leave, one of which was ours. Even at Medjugorje they fear that they might start bombing. Every time a plane or helicopter passes over head everyone thinks of the worst, but nonetheless, there is much peace in the people's hearts.

**Mothers of the soldiers implore Our Lady.** Saturday 14 Sept, 8.00 a.m. The mothers of the young soldiers forced to continue military service after they had already finished their conscription, met in the church at Medjugorje and then continued their prayer as they climbed Podbrdo, the hill of apparitions. They greeted us with a V for victory. Father Slavko reckons that there could have been about 10,000 mothers, coming from all over Herzegovina.

At 2.00 p.m. Fr. Jozo Zovko celebrated Mass for them on the altar behind the church. Many of them arrived on foot from far away. Now that I'm back, I feel "home-sick" - wishing I was still there, to pray together with those who have to live in such a terrible situation, so that they wouldn't feel so alone, to let them know that we haven't forgotten them.

(A further *army* of mothers, from many parts of the country and some of whom arrived on foot, climbed the hill of apparitions on the 8th September to implore help from Our Lady.)

On that day, the Pope proclaimed a universal prayer for Croatia. It was a moving spectacle: mothers crying and holding their small children by the hand, while praying for their sons who risk death. The same mothers will go to Belgrade and elsewhere to plead their cause. God will hear their cry.)

**Fr. Jozo talks about his people's cross.** Saturday 14 September - Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Fr. Jozo spoke to the Italian and English-speaking pilgrims at 4.00 p.m. in the church at Medjugorje. He started with the mystery of the Cross and spoke also about the cross that our dear Croatian brothers are bearing in this moment: "... It is not possible to enter into the mystery of the Cross and imitate Jesus in any other way or occasion

better than this one - here at Jesus and Mary's school, here in this country, here with our Croatian population... You have entered a place where Our Lady teaches with Her signs; and our people are a sign too." (By Alberto Bonifacio)

**More on Fr. Jozo** "What is left of Communism in Europe will be uprooted by Our Lady. It is a poisonous root, very poisonous for our Church. It is a deep root, but the Grace is more profound. The wound in our Croatian population is very deep, it bleeds, but you can see how it purifies and sanctifies the whole body of the Church... Thousands of people would like to come, but they cannot because of the war, and they suffer for this. But their souls are here with us, they are here in spirit and with their prayers.

How lovely it is to find the Church here that prays! That is why Satan wants to stop them with this war, to stop millions of people...

The Cross of Christ is exalted with this sufferance. We are here to exalt, accept and love the Cross because we are the disciples of the Cross, we are the sons, the fruit of this tree of salvation and of the love that gives salvation and love. In these days we can learn and receive much... With what sign did Our Lady promise to defeat Communism and free the world from evil? Through conversion, with prayer in the families, with prayer from the heart: this is the sign of your victory! Where the Church is unity in prayer, the world converts." (Victorio Pasqualini - Bolzano)

**Why a war here, where Our Lady, Queen of Peace appears?**

**Vicka replies.**

I asked Vicka to help me understand why this terrible war is happening here in this country where Our Lady has been appearing for more than 10 years with messages of peace. She replied:

"10 years ago Our Lady said that Her first message was peace, but the people asked themselves why She was talking about peace. The people did not pray for peace when everything was going well - there was no war and no fighting of any type. But Our Lady repeated many times, "Pray for peace! Pray for peace!" We, however, never took Her invitation seriously enough.

Now that we are in this situation - and it's certain that Our Lady knew it would happen - now that there is this war, look what's happening. Everybody here is worried, **people pray**, they climb the hill of apparitions and Krizevac. **People pray the Rosary every evening (in all the town squares)**. This is the only thing that can help Croatia.

How did it come about? It happened because we give too little thought to God and His Glory - we only think about ourselves. We want to live comfortably, we want everything to go well, our lives are superficial. There were wars before too, in our hearts; but now these wars have come out! And now much prayer is needed to put a stop to the war! On the other hand, when one searches for freedom on this earth, like what we would like for Croatia, it cannot be reached without sufferance and blood."

Fr. Slavko Barbaric' seemed less optimistic - to my question: how do you think this terrible situation will end up, he replied: "They're destroying us all." (By Alberto Bonifacio)

**Not the politicians, but prayers will stop this war.**

**Fr. Tomislav**, to a group of Italians who were in the church mid September, spoke about the cruelty of the *četnik* groups towards the Croats: "They even removed the brain from a dead soldier and made his friend eat it." This is a cruel war, and not just a war with rifles, it is a ferocious one. Satan is using all his strength to assail mankind. Our only defence is your prayers.

You are our channels. Go to your parishes and say: "Pray, pray." Our Lady needs to be armoured with your prayers to intercede before God. The politicians will not stop this war, but your prayers will."

**The war makes people pray and return to God**

**A letter from a parish priest in Croatia** - (...) Thank you for every word of Echo, and for the prophesy concerning our country, Croatia. It is clear that there cannot be peace if not as a sign and fruit of our total conversion. Our country has been living its Good Friday in these last days, it is being crucified. There are thousands and thousands of refugees... The priests are being taken away and maltreated, the churches are being destroyed. This is a very sad moment indeed. I also believe that these are the labour pains of a new world that is about to begin, whilst the old one is dying. Thanks be to God! Come Lord Jesus! Maranatha Lord!

The Lord has brought us together with this war. His Christian people are being purified. And so be it! Amen! The people are discovering the beauty of prayer, of the Rosary, of forgiveness, of the Word of God.. In these last two months, at Ogulin alone, so many prayer groups (a whole dozen) - Marian prayer groups, that say the Rosary - have started. What Our Lady wanted has begun happening. Many people have started confessing again after many years... "Fiat Voluntas Tua!"

This Way of the Cross is easier to bear with the help of Echo. It helps us see Mary's assistance in these sad and destructive events. The force of the Grace is needed to live through all this violence of the evil one. It is truly comforting and saving knowing that Our Lady, REGINA PACIS, accompanies us always and everywhere, that She never leaves us alone! Every word of Echo is so nourishing and comforting and above all revealing. It brings us to touch the heart of our Celestial Mother and thus receive Her ineffable Love for all mankind.

It really is lovely to have the Celestial Queen for a mother! (Feel free to use my letter in Echo if you wish). (Fra Jerko Penava, Ogulin)

**\* Everywhere in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina**, where there are Catholic communities, people are gathering in the town squares to pray every evening - not summoned by the priests, but of their own initiative. This is happening also in Zagabria with many people participating. (Avvenire, 13 July)

**\* Every day at 3.00 p.m., three minutes of prayer for peace** - wherever you are - becomes an invisible, but powerful chain of souls praying for peace. (An initiative started by friends in an Italian region, but which we think is a good idea for all.)

**\* Another community** - one of many, whether heard of or not - born in the spirit of Medjugorje. A simple but moving ceremony was held in Foggia (SE Italy) for the brothers and sisters who will join the new community founded on prayer, work and welcoming people in need of help (according to Our Lady's wishes expressed at Medjugorje). The community is a mixed community, open to priests, consecrated and lay people, and entire families. The ceremony was presided over by Archbishop, Msgr. Casale.

**\* The Bishops that make up the Council for the European Episcopal Conference** were united in prayer in the cathedral of Milan on the day dedicated to the Exaltation of the Cross. They were praying for peace in Croatia and the meeting was presided over by Cardinal Martini. Msgr. Bozanic', Bishop of Krk, asked for everyone's support in this terrible situation that is torturing his country.

**Signs of the times in the events in Yugoslavia:**

**Satan's violence in places where Our Lady works**

**Unless you repent, you will all perish in the same way.**

**God's call for lack of response to Mary**

"**A war where the Queen of Peace appears!**" one hears people saying. I would like to reply to this statement said, I would say, too light heartedly.

1. It is known that where Mary arrives, Satan immediately appears to destroy Her plans of peace. The Word of God also affirms that the devil put himself immediately in front of the Woman about to bear child, to devour the Mother and Son (Rv 12). Where there is Mary, there are also the satanic forces fighting. This happens also in communities and people who totally donate themselves to Mary to find refuge from the satanic forces. Yes refuge - the battle, however becomes even greater than before. We are not to marvel at the trials that Medjugorje is going through.

2. Such grave events should be read into deeply, and not just in political terms. We can't see a war and take sides, and separate the good from the bad in the name of justice and civil rights. Jesus teaches us to look at events in terms of damnation and salvation. They are strong calls to the reality of things, to the essential, to our response to Him, because in the end, there is God's judgement.

These disasters, violent deaths, cannot be considered as a form of punishment, but as most merciful warnings that invite us to complete conversion. "Don't think that those Galileans whose blood was mingled by Pilate with that of their sacrifices (during a revolt in the temple during Passover), or that those 18 on whom the tower of Siloam fell were greater sinners than the others. They were not, I tell you, but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did." (Lk 13)

In the same way, Mary did not come to separate men into good or bad, in innocent or guilty, in just or unjust. She came to ask all of us to understand how seriousness the situation is and to let our eyes be opened by God to convert to God. The time that passes shouldn't make us think that God's Judgement will not come or that He does not manifest His might. No, this is simply a sign of mercy for everyone to benefit from (Rm 2.4 & 2 P 3). This wait is certainly not a justification of our delay or refusal to convert, of our indifference. The slyness of the devil, however, would like us to think just that.

3. Couldn't God permit these tragic events of Yugoslavia to make the whole world meditate on what happens to us when we do not respond to a clear call from above? "If you do not repent, you will all perish in the same way," is always actual. In these

particular events, we have the non-response on behalf of the hierarchy; the responsibility of the Church. The Bishops have shown that they did not know how to read the signs of the times, they did not know how to help the people understand this call to conversion. The signs of the times are events that the Lord uses to call either a single person or a whole generation of people to turn their eyes towards God, to return to God. These things are clear to those with open hearts, but unfortunately, "many will not see, even though they look, and many will not hear even though they listen, for fear of being converted and healed by me," the Lord says. (Mt 13)

### **Medjugorje Ecumenical Day of Celebration Carmelite Priory, Aylesford, Kent.**

On the 24th August, Fr. Slavko Barbaric was guest speaker with between 6000-7000 people present from every part of the country. It was the largest Medjugorje event ever organized in England. A 4 day Youth 2000 retreat was held concurrently.

After giving an all day retreat for priests in central London, Fr. Slavko celebrated Mass for all the youth present, he addressed them on the morning of the 24th and led Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that evening. The young people reported that this was the most outstanding of the many Youth 2000 retreats which have been held throughout the UK as a direct result of the international Youth Prayer Gatherings in Medjugorje.

A large number of Anglicans were present including clergy, as well as Orthodox and many other denominations. Fr. Robert Llewelyn, an Anglican minister, participated in leading the Rosary, and Mrs. Joan Ashton, the London Secretary of the Ecumenical Society of the Blessed Virgin, was one of the readers at Mass.

It was here in the Aylesford Priory (founded in 1242) that Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock in a vision on July 16, 1251 and entrusted to him the devotion of the Brown Scapular which, in miniature, has been worn by the faithful for over 7 centuries as a sign of consecration to God and to Our Lady. This and the Rosary are the most powerful and privileged sacramentals in the Catholic Church.

The Scapular is also an important part of the Fatima message and revelations. Sr. Lucia, when interviewed on August 15, 1950, stated that the Rosary and the Scapular were inseparable. During that same year, Pope Pius XII referred to the Scapular as a sign of consecration to Mary's heart which "we have so strongly recently recommended."

### **How I won my fears.**

"(...) For more than 1 year now I have been receiving Echo and it has been one of the sources of my peace, encouragement and spiritual food, especially during the Gulf war, the 1990 killer earthquake and now the destructive eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in our country. During all this time I clung to God's word that He is in control and trusted in His mercy. I also followed Our Blessed Mother's advice to "take hold of the Rosary" which gave me the courage to sincerely say, "may God's will be done." I said to myself, "I can't comprehend God's ways, but all these things have to pass." I felt very much at peace. I thank Mother Mary for Her encouragement.

Our Blessed Mother has always called for prayers for non-believers. At first I didn't understand or even care. But four weeks ago so many heinous crimes were committed here in Manila that shook me so much. I was praying for the victims and for the repentance of the perpetrators of the crime. God in his goodness made me understand why the Blessed Mother is suffering and is calling for prayers for non-believers. Yes, I came to understand that all these crimes are the fruit of not believing in God. Only if man will believe, will there be no more frustrations, no need to resort to drugs that result in these crimes..." (Rachel De Leon, Manila, Phillipines.)

\* **Young people from the European Queen of Peace Movement** have proposed reaching Medjugorje with a Peace March at the end of December, with whatever means possible, to celebrate New Year's Eve together with the Queen of Peace, and possibly remain two days before and two days after. *More information next month.*

### **HELP NEEDED FOR CROATIA**

Bishop Paul Hnilica, (founder of the Pro Deo et Fratibus Assoc.) who has been working for the last 30 years for the Eastern bloc countries, appeals to the readers of Echo, and asks for help for Croatia: "This poor tortured country has maintained genuine Catholic faith even during the invasion of the Turks and many other persecutions." The Croats are being tried terribly, so many are now homeless, without means, or work. They are our brothers in need - let's help them with our prayers and deeds.

**THE DISASTER IN NUMBERS** - The following information comes from a Croatian Bishop: More than 6000 people dead and 9000 wounded and mutilated, whereas the official sources say only 500 dead - the mass media are not telling the truth. There are 350,000 refugees, most of them women, children, the aged and the sick. 5 cities have been destroyed with more than 10,000 inhabitants. 65 villages have been razed to the ground. 65 parish churches have been

destroyed, 6 town water systems have been damaged or destroyed, 3 sea ports and 7 airports have been destroyed or badly damaged. 45% of the year's harvest has been destroyed and the national produce has diminished by 60%. 10 large industrial plants have been destroyed, leaving 40,000 people without a job. Money is needed, but above all, long conservation food, warm clothing and medicines.

In Italy donations may be sent to: Pro Deo et Fratibus, Via Monte Santo 14, 00195 Rome. Indicate that the donation is for Croatia. In UK: C/o Bernard Ellis, Anglo World Steel Exports Ltd, Unit J Lambs Brickworks, Tilburstow Hill Rd, Sth Godstone, Surrey, RH9 8JZ.

\* **Donations received** - For Medjugorje in the East: in the last 4 months we have received a total of Lit.22,889,000. It was sent to: Cracow for the Russian and Polish editions of Echo, Radio Maria, the Marian House in Russia, Mother Theresa and for illustrated Bibles for Russia and Jerusalem.

### **The difficulties of Radio Maria in Poland.**

How Satan tries to impede the works of his Adversary with continuous obstacles. Fr. Tadeusz (Thaddeus) wrote to us on the 17th August to tell us that he received a letter from an office in Voievode informing him that a decision had been taken to suspend the works involved in installing the transmission tower for Radio Maria. He doubts the credibility of those public servants who at first did not know who to contact to obtain permission, and then talked about harmful radiations being emitted. Another excuse for impeding the works: the grounds where the tower should be erected is a garden and according to them it is not possible to now give a new destination for the tower. An absurd reason. Fr. Thaddeus already has permission from the Episcopate and competent Ministers, and the radio frequencies have already been assigned (FM - UKF). Friends in Italy, Switzerland and Germany and the people from Torun have been very busy in organizing the works. The Bolognese company, RVR (electrical plants) have already had to put off starting working twice. It is the local authorities that cannot come to a decision.

Fr. Thaddeus asks for prayers and sacrifices so that the situation can be freed and the works allowed to proceed. Those of you who would like to help the future Radio Maria, may contact: Mrs. Strzalkowic, ul. Wesola 34, Torun (Poland). Tel. 11186

### **Echo's Problems**

**This edition of Echo, as you can see, has been reduced to 4 pages. The times that we are living demand much prayer and little talk.** Apart from this, however, we have been terribly assailed by problems this month. They are not economical problems, even though during the summer months less donations come in. But it was if Satanic forces were opposing us at every step with the 85 edition. They were trying to make us give up with continuous and unexplainable obstacles. And then the girl who organizes the whole mailing and sorting operation left us - transferred with her family far away.

Echo, born as a little brook in a tiny parish, has grown so much (with more than 500,000 copies per month - 356,000 in Italian), that the limits have been exceeded. The work involved in publishing Echo every month has become a colossal undertaking for our poor means.

So far I have said: "I WILL NOT GIVE IN." I do not want to play at Satan's game and give him the satisfaction of seeing this instrument (that reaches all corners of the earth) being silenced. But can you imagine the work involved in editing Echo, organizing and overseeing the translations and the printing, looking after the correspondence, and at the same time have to look after my prime duties of parish priest? Thanks to God, I have plenty of manual helpers, but we are waiting for Our Lady, Who we serve, to send us a person who can direct all the work involved in Echo, and a priest who is free to help with the parish. It is up to you, dear readers, to obtain this grace from God, if you want Echo to continue.

Infinite thanks to all the readers who express their support and help for Echo in so many ways. May everything be for Mary, for our only wish is to serve Her for the realization of Her plan.

Best wishes to our Polish translator, *Anna Vojtas* of Cracow who will marry on the 5th October (they ask for prayers because they "want to form a real Christian family"). Best wishes also to *Czesława Mirkiewicz*, a major force in distributing the Polish and Russian editions of Echo. From her sick-bed she tells us: Mary is directing everything.

Once again we entrust *Sr. Margaret Makarovic* (translates from Croatian) and *Fr. Robert Cona* (zealous helper of Mary) to the Queen of Peace, who is also the Health of the sick. Take hold of the Rosary and be blessed in the Heart of the Mother.