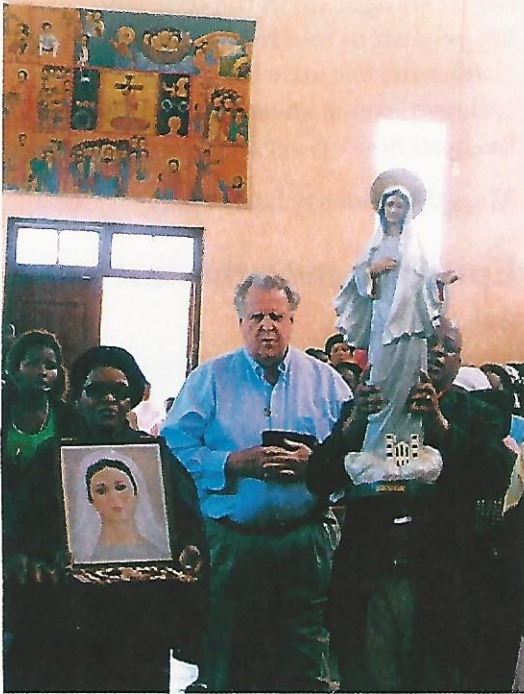


# The Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary Ministry

By Richard Bingold



*Procession of Pilgrim Rosary and statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje with Richard. 2007 Bethlehem, South Africa*

To say that this article is long overdue would be an understatement. The Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary Ministry continues to minister to the poor, the sick, the disillusioned and all who are in need of healing. Now in its fourteenth year, The Stature of Our Lady of Medjugorje and the miraculous stone rosary are constantly out on the road answering the call of John Paul II, to put out into the deep to save souls. The Stone Rosary was fashioned by the writer from the very stones on top of Apparition Hill, in Medjugorje, where Our Blessed Mother appeared to the Children. I remember the very moment, while kneeling there with Fr. Albert Mary Shammon (deceased), we were

praying the rosary and Fr. Shammon noticed I was picking up many stones' He asked me "What are you doing?" I answered "I think I will make a rosary from these stones.

I had no idea of how to go about making a rosary. I also had no idea what was beginning to happen. I had no idea what Our Lady had in store for the rosary she was inspiring me to make. It took 6 months to fashion by hand; every stone and link had to be carefully prepared. The drilling of the stones had to be submerged in water to keep them from breaking. Then the moment came to drill the first stone I had picked up on the hill as it reminded me of a human heart. It was to become the center stone or medallion, to bear the image of Our Lady's young face surrounded by 12 semi precious diamond like stones, forming her crown, which represents the 12 tribes of Israel.

The heart shaped stone, while being drilled, gave off the aroma of fresh roses. Though the stone was submerged, the aroma of roses made its way up to the surface and filled the air. The fragrance overcame me to the point I could not control my emotions. Breaking down into tears it took almost an hour to drill the three openings through which the fine stainless steel wire would be placed. I went outside in the snow

to collect my thoughts. What was happening? was I hallucinating? I returned to finish the drilling and the aroma continued to fill my work area and I cried uncontrollably.

The crucifix also was inspired. I had taken home some thorn branches from the hill along with a much larger stone that I believed I could make into a cross. The idea for the corpus came from my late mother in laws own crucifix which she proudly wore daily. The corpus was in the shape of a silhouette. Not feeling gifted to form one in relief (3 dimensions) I enlarged the outline proportionately and cut it out of a solid brass bar stock. The thorns from the branches became the crown of thorns behind Our Lord's precious head. The three other smaller thorns became the nails by which our Lord was nailed to the cross. It came out beautifully and I sized it to the stone cross and it looked perfect. I decided to encase both the crucifix and the medallion in liquid glass. It took over 30 coats for each to complete.

On completion of the rosary I decided to return to Medjugorje to see if one of the visionaries would present it to our Lady as a rosary that would travel the world in her Honor. The Rosary was presented to Our Lady during an apparition to Vicka in 1994. Our Lady, I was



*Visionary Vicka and Richard with Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary  
December 1999*

of Our Lady of Medjugorje. This statue was carved in Italy by a family of carvers that kneel in veneration to Our Lady while carving. This statue and another identical one, were purchased by Maureen Flynn editor and founder of this fine magazine. Maureen is dedicated to the Marian Movement

to me said "Oh, come on, we will all pray for her." She grabbed my hand and placed it on the woman's head. I felt embarrassed but silently prayed the "blessing" Our Lady revealed in Medjugorje, that we could pass on to another in her name. At first I thought the man moved her chair and upon opening my eyes, I watched her sit straight up in the chair and lift her arm to touch her husband's cheek with her little hand. He collapsed to his knees in tears with his head now on her lap.

Thus the Ministry had begun.

## Episodes over the last 14 years

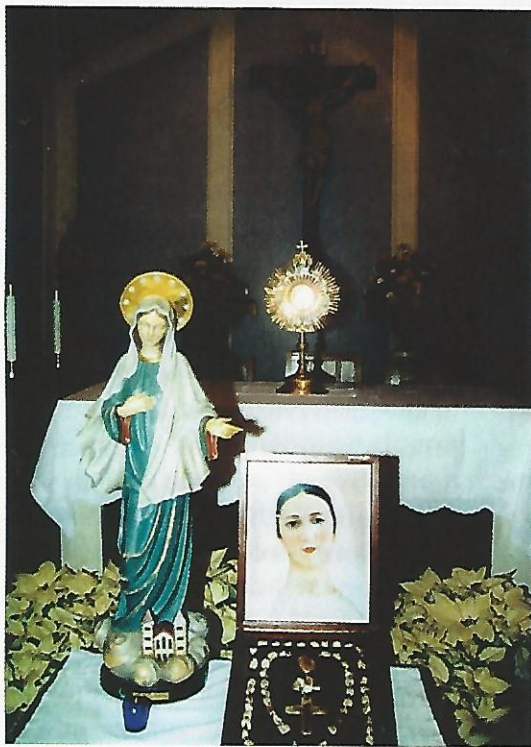
I was naturally concerned what was happening to me. Why would Our Lord pick such a sinner and reprobate as me to become a troubadour for His mother. I posed this question and more to the late Fr. Swizdore a Conventional Franciscan from Auburn, NY. He became my friend and spiritual director. He said, "Why not you Richard?. Doesn't Our Lord seek out those furthest away from Him? Look at St Paul, St Augustine, and so many others. I responded, "Perhaps father but I was really lost". He said Our Lord knows who will work hard for him. Be not afraid; go where He sends you. Fast and discern appropriately and be sure to pray to the Holy Spirit for direction and all will be done in His will.

In 14 years I have prayed over some 98,000 faithful and have seen the hand of God heal so many; changing their hearts, gracing them with gifts of life, and forgiveness. The number of confessions heard from those, long away from the sacraments, staggers the mind. Always there is a priest assisting, ready to hear confessions and forgive sins. I have traveled all over the entire USA and to countries such as Ireland,

and the Signs and Wonders of these times. Maureen convinced me I must take the statue wherever I traveled with my rosary. She said "see.. they go together." I agreed and consented to her wish. The statue has been with me for 14 years. This statue and the other one were blessed by a Fr. Jim Bruse, who at that time bore the stigmata. At the very moment he blessed the statues, every statue in his rectory wept along with the two being presented. (photos and documentation are archived).

At that conference a man approached the area where the rosary and statue were being viewed. His wife was in a wheelchair. She sat motionless and he said she was a victim of MS. He told me she had not moved in years and that he would feed her and bathe her. I noticed he had been kneeling in front of the rosary while reading the story about it.

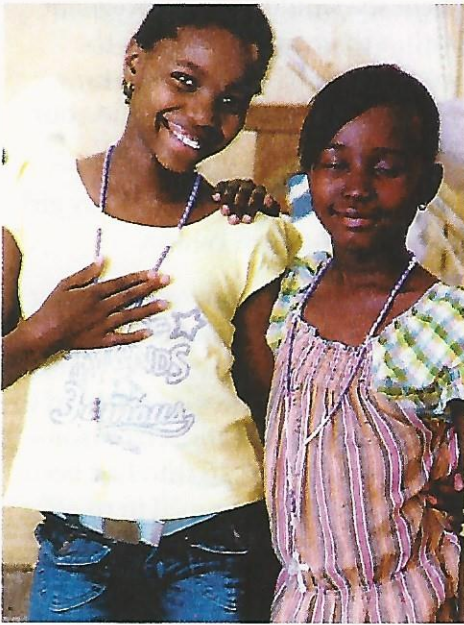
Getting up from his knees he asked me "Would you pray over my wife with your rosary?" I refused several times, telling him to go find a priest. He said "No, it's your rosary. Please pray for her." A woman standing next



*Father Jim Bruse's church. Shown: The Blessed Sacrament, statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje and the Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary*

told, approved my intention that this rosary would travel the world in her name. Fr. Jozo blessed the rosary and became very emotional upon doing so.

Upon returning home I was asked to show the rosary at a Marian conference in Rochester, NY. It was at this conference, under unusual circumstances that I was given the hand carved, 3' high statue



Bethlehem, South Africa  
Young girls with donated rosaries.

Japan, France, Italy, Scotland, Wales, Slovakia, Austria, Canada, England, France, Portugal, Spain and others. Most recently, in the last five years, the rosary and statue have made 14 visits to S. Africa where Cardinal Napier has welcomed the ministry and those that work so hard to further the work for those suffering from HIV-Aids, and the mentally challenged. The children and parents out in the "bush" walk great distances to attend a solemnity to hear testimony on how a heart can be changed by the Holy Spirit; they stay for hours to be prayed over.

The priests help open the doors to parishes large and small. I have seen the hardest of hearts crushed under the love of the Holy Spirit. We witness thousands in squatter camps living in 8'x 8' cubicles with dirt floors, corrugated metal walls and roofs, no electric, no running water, less than the barest of items necessary to survive in temperatures in excess of 100 degrees. Then there is the danger that all live under for personal safety. Such a struggle.

To operate a ministry in such a hectic environment you need dedicated



Bethlehem, South Africa. Group photo of children wearing donated rosaries around their necks. Richard holds infant, right rear.

help. The men and women that support this work, their dedication in arranging of events, the driving to and from, the prayer groups, the religious approvals from bishops, and pastors, to open the churches is so critical that without their support, nothing would happen.

To return home after such visits is exhausting but fulfilling. To read the many letters, cards and receive calls and emails, from souls that have been touched and given a healing; speaks of the love of the Holy Spirit giving of Himself.

There are so many here in our country, which contribute their time and money to support this ministry. For example "The Rosary Lady", Mrs. Rose Marie Thibert and her supportive family (husband Skip and daughter Debbie) of Ashburnham, MA. Rose Marie directs a rosary program where women and men from all over the country make beautiful, colorful rosaries for the children of the world? Rose Marie accommodates me by making thousands large enough so that the children of South Africa can wear them around their necks. Oh how

they love her work. (see photos).

In Ireland there are several wonderful souls who go out of their way to open doors of churches and prayer groups, to help spread the word of God. Take my friend Eithne Egan of Limerick, who knows so many priests through her own spiritual walk, is willing to coordinate the events for testimony followed by a healing service. She often drives me around a portion of Ireland and arranges sleeping accommodations. She often plays her fiddle providing religious music.

In Westport Ireland, my good friend Anne Corcoran; owner and manager of the lovely Castle Court Hotel, is always agreeable to speak on my behalf to encourage priests to have a healing solemnity. She is generous in her help, calling the catholic radio station to encourage the faithful to come out. She goes out of her way to accommodate me at her wonderful hotel.

Then in Dundalk there is Dan O'Connell and his wife Mary who have me as a guest while Dan encourages the local parishes to have a spiritual event. At one parish we

had close to 600 come and I prayed over each soul that stayed late into the night. Dan is a first cousin to Sr. Bridge McKenna.

In Drogheda there is Pauline Marcella, who with help from her friends John and Mary arrange events and healing services out of love for Our Lady. It goes without saying that this is the very help needed to reach souls in need. And there are many others; like Anna Brady, Eileen Madden (now deceased) and the list goes on.

It's through the generous efforts of so many that Our Lady reaches her children. Many do it with their checkbooks, sending what they can to the ministry. We are a not for profit registered tax exempt organization. I fund my own travels and expenses out of my pocket so we can do more for others in need.

## Some blessing from the giver of all gifts

I could recite hundreds of stories of people blessed in one way or another. To speak of several now seems appropriate, yet a whole book could not hold all the stories of graces given to those who come forth to be prayed over

A Young 16 year old high school boy in S. Africa, asked me, after I prayed over him, "How does one forgive someone who murdered his mother? I asked him, had this happened to his mother? He said yes. I explained that such demonic things happen and that God wants us to forgive the worst of sinners. He responded...I know.. But what if it was your father and his girl friend that did it for the insurance money. My mom's life Insurance was to be for my sister and me to get an education if anything happened to her.

The young woman about age 42 that

asked for prayers to bear a child. She stated her doctor said she would never be able to conceive. She was with her husband about the same age, both had been crying.

While praying over them I uttered (and these words were given to me) she was to go back to her doctor and tell him she was pregnant. They were astounded but they did so only to find out she truly was pregnant. Ecstatic, they called me later that



week and wanted to come see me. I cautioned her as she was a business woman who worked hard. I told her she must protect this precious gift in her womb and take care not to have a miscarriage.

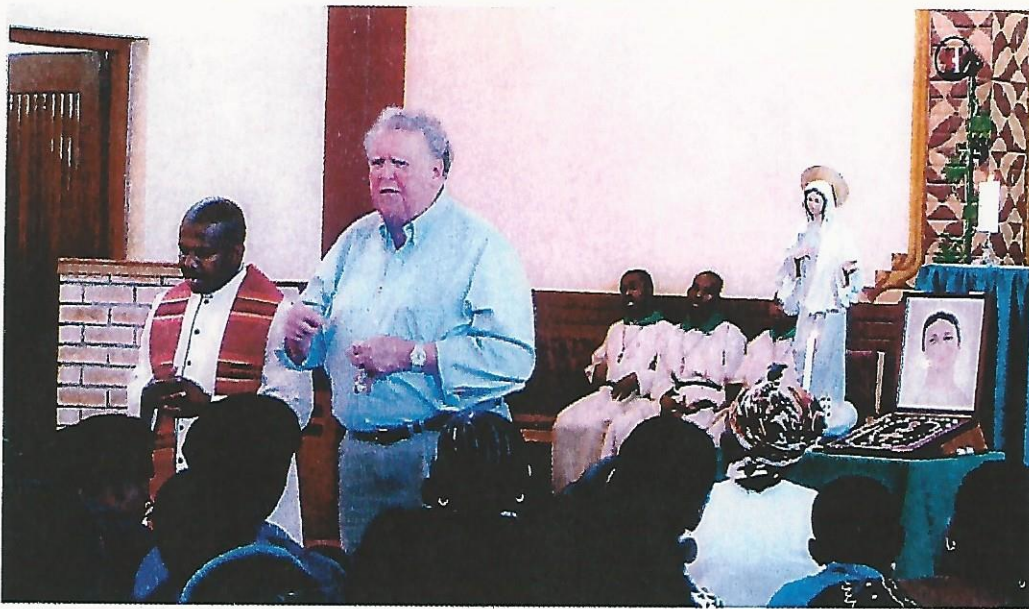
I heard later she had lost the baby and they were devastated. Upon returning to that country, months later, she came again with her husband lamenting over their loss. I asked her did she really want the child and both responded "yes". They had been foolish and were not careful. I said to them "then If God were to grant you another baby you would take all precautions because of your age etc?". Both responded that if only that could be. I informed

them she would become pregnant within three months (again the words given to me) and this time you must care for the child in your womb.

They now have a beautiful baby girl that they baptized Hanna.

At one such testimony and healing service, while we were praying over the faithful, several catchers that had been helping those who rested in the Spirit had to leave and a handsome young man about 26 who had been watching in awe, jumped in to offer to catch. As each person went in the Spirit you could see his eyes set in amazement, not to miss a thing.

Finally the moment came to pray over the young man. He had been in trouble with drugs, the law, and difficulty with his parents, and as I prayed over him I asked him what he wanted from Jesus. He literally came apart emotionally then rested in the Spirit. When he got up I sat in the pew with him and I looked up to see the priest leaving the confessional. I said Father, there is one more. He was already exhausted but smiled and went back into the confessional. I said to the young man this is the moment for you to cleanse your soul. He had not been to church or confession in 15 years. He came that night to escort his mother or so he thought. I helped him up and walked him back to Father with whom he spent close to one hour pouring out his heart. Coming out of the confessional the priest said to me that he witnessed again the grace of the sacrament of confession. He thanked me for the words I spoke that encouraged this man to go to confession. I spent a good bit of time with that young man after confession. His eyes and face were blood red from crying. It was father's remark... "That's what confession is all about". That says it all.



*Richard speaking at a church in Bethlehem, South Africa, with the priest as interpreter.*

When I first felt called to this ministry I consecrated myself to The Blessed Mother through Her son. One evening in late 1994 at St Joseph's church in Woburn, MA. I had been asked by the priest to pray over the faithful. The Blessed Sacrament was exposed and after seeing many go

down in the Spirit, I turned toward the altar and knelt down in front of the Blessed Sacrament. I made this promise. I would go forth for one or one hundred. Wherever Our Lady called me to go I would go. I asked our Lord to grace me with the strength to do so.

change, from one of stone to one of flesh. Richard has the approval of several Bishops and a Cardinal to evangelize. He does not charge the parish any fee for his talks but does accept a free will offering. **Contact him by email: [pilrosary@fairpoint.net](mailto:pilrosary@fairpoint.net) (or) by phone: 802 309 9009.**

Have the Statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje and The Pilgrim Rosary come to your parish. Set aside an evening, starting with time for adoration, then to hear Richard's testimony on the demonic influence that almost destroyed him. Come and be prayed over with the Pilgrim Rosary. Richard will forward a package and CD of his testimony to you to share with your pastor at no cost. His own miraculous conversion, from a life steeped in sin, began with a horrific boat accident that changed his life, is captured in his book *The Gift Giver*, his heart was to

Richard Bingold died on June 24, 2019 from physical complications suffered in an auto accident several years before. This was the Feast of St. John the Baptist and the 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady's first appearance on Apparition Hill (Mount Podbrdo). For information about the Pilgrim Rosary, please contact Regina at 315-450-5402.