

## THE CULTURE OF LIFE A Church Confused

by *Fino*

I have written this editorial because of all the good books written lately about life after death, heaven, hell and purgatory. For those of you that are not Catholic, I must remind you that during the Protestant Reformation, seven books were removed from the original Catholic Bible. The book that refers to Purgatory was taken out, 2 **Maccabees 12:46.**

Rev. 22:18,19 *"I warn everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: If anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of this prophetic book, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city described in this book."*

The world has taken on the Culture of Death - or what is now called "mainstream" by Senator Chuck Schumer and many other politicians. Does mainstream equate to Truth? Holy Roman Catholics presently cannot be mainstream. We are counter-cultural as long as the present laws and the "Political Correctness Plague", as advocated by the secular liberal media and present political leaders are contradictive to the Bible or are not "Christ or God Centered". In fact today a Christian is looked upon with suspicion.

Our government looks upon a Pro Lifer - not the murdering abortionist - as a "Terrorist."



Cardinal Francis George, quote Oct. 23, 2012: *"I expect to die in bed, my successor will die in prison and his successor will die a martyr in the public square. ... I was trying to express in*

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## Father Dwight Longenecker Anglican Priest Converts in Medjugorje



I was an Anglican priest living in England in 1985 when I was invited by a group of Anglicans and Catholics to visit Medjugorje. I didn't want to go. Being a former Evangelical-fundamentalist I wasn't too keen on apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. I opted out. They insisted. I dug in my heels. They said someone else would pay for it. I didn't want to go. They cajoled and twisted my arm until I said "yes"

So off I went and this was in Medjugorje's hey-day. All I can do is report my memories of that visit: People were everywhere making confessions. Mass was non-stop in the church of St James in the village square. Crowds lined up to see the visionaries who were still living there and still teenagers and still having daily apparitions. The Franciscans preached mightily. There was a strong charismatic element, praise and worship music and fervent preaching.

If my memory serves me, at six o'clock in the evening the visionaries would go to the side room off the sanctuary of the church where the visions occurred. The whole town would begin praying the rosary. All the visitors prayed too. At 6:20 the visions would start. Around 6:40 they would stop and the people would pray the last set of mysteries.

On our second day there I sat on the balcony of our guesthouse with a large woman named Eleanor. As we began the rosary I looked up and the sun was a blaze of light in the sky. I looked down to the car parked below and the sun was reflected in the hood of the car as a blaze of light. Eleanor and I prayed the rosary together. I had my eyes closed. At 6:20 Eleanor gave me an elbow in the ribs and pointed. The sun was now a disc

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St. Francis of Assisi Church, Clay Pitts Rd, Greenlawn, NY  
Church: 631.757.7435 Deacon Ed Chase: 516.621.1172

Schedule for Our Mother Queen of Peace-Betania XII - 2014  
No Meetings December 2013, January and February 2014:  
Mondays: Mar 10, Apr 14, May 12, *Jun. 25\**, July 14,  
Aug 11, Sept 8, Oct 13, Nov 10.

7 pm - Rosary; 7:30pm Mass;  
8:15pm Presentation, Refreshments and Witnessing.

*\*Wednesday, June 25 - 7:30pm  
Celebrating 33rd Anniversary Medjugorje Mass*

**overly dramatic fashion what the complete secularization of society could bring”.**

All the secularization, confusion, and evil in our country are due to the silence and apathy of the majority of good people. In our present culture, in the secular as well as in the religious world, the love of money and a person's position or reputation, overrules what is right and proper. I have on record courageous priests that have given homilies on abortion and same sex marriage who have been verbally harassed and physically attacked after Mass. Finally, a courageous prelate of the church is now speaking up.

Cardinal Burke, the Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature says, **“There is a present threat of the U.S. Government persecution of Catholics”.** He added that, **“House Leader Nancy Pelosi's repeated public support of abortion is a 'grave sin' that means she should not be admitted to Holy Communion, out of concern for her spiritual state”.**

By EWTN News 09/26/2013

What about all the other Catholic politicians who are causing such confusion to the laity, who are trying to be good Catholics? Plus, the HHS mandate against the Catholic Church is repulsive.

One author I came to know, Cecilia H. Martin, tries to bring understanding to all this confusion in her book, **“Confusion in the Pews”.** She writes; **“For more than thirty years the Catholic Church in America has been under assault by liberals and unorthodox forces. A particular group of intellectual elitists has risen to the positions of power within diocesan chanceries, school administrators and clerical offices. These liberationists have an agenda**

**to lose the Church from its moorings with the See of Rome, an agenda they claim stems from the documents of the Second Vatican Council. Bishops faced with a shortage of priests, surrounded by liberals, and up against the clawing demands of an amoral society, are often unaware of what is going on in their diocese.”**

Her book is backed with facts and names. May I add here these elitists defend their consciences as being “Social Justice” defenders! Meanwhile most of them voted for the abortion of 55,000,000 defenseless babies in their support for the present administration.

I would add to this list our public schools, colleges and universities. Have any of you witnessed what happens to many of our youth, after they come back from any college or university - including our so called “Catholic Institutions”? ( *Check the Newman Society, for reputable Catholic Institutions.*)

I believe the late Bishop Fulton Sheen foresaw all this when in June 1972, in his talk to the Knights of Columbus he said, **“Who is going to save our church? Not our bishops and religious. It is you the people**

**the LAITY. You have the minds, the eyes, and the ears to save the church. Your mission is to see that your priests act as priests, your bishops act as bishops, and your religious like religious.”** I often wonder if he ever received any calls from his religious colleagues after that speech.

Are things in the world that bad?

Pope Pius XII said in the 1950s, that the world is worse now than in the time of Sodom and Gomorrah. Our Holy Mother has stated at various apparitions sites the world is worse now than in the time of the deluge.

The mystic Maria Simma was visited



during most of her life by the souls in purgatory. They explained to her the condition of the church today. They said, **“... The Church is in the worst**

**condition that it has ever been before in history. ... a great storm will come to the earth like it has never seen before, as predicted at LaSalette, Fatima, Garabandal and within the secrets of Medjugorje. ... after this severe storm we can look forward to a time of peace.”** Maria Simma died March 19,

2004 - [Get Us Out of Here](#) by N. Eltz

I have read most of these accounts over the past 35 years and Akita, Japan approved in 1988, prophesied essentially the same coming events as Fatima. After these tough times are over, The Immaculate Heart of Mary will Triumph the Cause of Peace, in the Name of Jesus Christ. **The Culture of Life will be reestablished.** In the mean time, Our Holy Mother asks us to attend Mass often, pray, fast, confess, and pray the rosary every day, bless your home and keep holy water in your home and vehicles.

Our patron, Maria Esperanza, Servant of God, has prophesied essentially the same events. During these times of chastisements, Maria had a vision of places of refuge, where she saw multitudes of people escaping to these sanctuaries. Today there are 17 of these locations so far around the world. ( *Note Next Page* ) Pray that a person or persons - whom our Lord has graced with a holy spirit and financial abundance - will help us build or purchase this sanctuary, Betania XIII, here on Long Island, NY while there is still time. *Fino*

*Culture of Life Recommended books: [Heaven is For Real](#), [Burpo](#) - [Get Us Out Of Here](#), [Eltz](#) & [Proof of Heaven](#), [Dr. Alexander](#)*

# Mystic Maria Esperanza, Spiritual Phenomena

Posted on Internet, Allison



A woman with roses that grow from her chest! Who carries the aroma of roses, her hands bleed during Holy Week, who sees visions of the Virgin Mary, in Betania, Venezuela. No, these are not reports from the Weekly World News. This is the story of Maria Esperanza, who died in Long Beach Island, New Jersey in

2004 and the Church is now investigating her for sainthood. The church takes these cases with much prudence and time. The reason says my friend and fellow parishioner, Dan Finaldi, who met Maria Esperanza at a healing Mass in Perth Amboy, New Jersey.

Dan's own firsthand experience with Maria Esperanza left him convinced that she was clearly a gifted mystic. He says, "There is no doubt about it."

Maria was born in Monagas State, Venezuela in 1926. She became known around the world after the Blessed Mother appeared to her and 150 others, at a farm named Finca Betania on March 25, 1984. She appeared under the title, **Mary, Virgin Mother Reconciler of All Peoples and Nations**. After an long investigation the local bishop approved the apparition, March 25, 1987.

*Note by Fino: It was on this same day, March 25, 1984, Pope John Paul II, consecrated Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as request by Our Holy Mother in Fatima in 1917.*

Visions of the Blessed Mother are not the only reason the Church is investigating Maria Esperanza for sainthood.. Her charisma not only included stigmata, and the growth of a rose from her chest 16 times in her life ( *This has been recorded.* ), but also her gift of healing, visions of the future, the gift of counsel, locutions, ecstasies, levitation, holy communion materializing on her tongue, falling rose petals and bilocation.

The second time Dan met Maria Esperanza, he was agonizing over whether to pursue a teaching career. He stood in line for three hours and finally had the chance to talk to her. He told Maria about a dream he had of a woman dressed in a white suit with an illuminating gift in her hand. Maria said, "You will be a teacher and you MUST trust the Lord." Two months later, Dan landed a teaching job.

*Note by Fino: Maria Esperanza allegedly appeared to a four year old child on Long Island, in 2012. The little girl had cancer of the eyes and her non-Catholic Spanish mother prayed to Maria for a miracle. One evening a lady appeared in white holding her child and said to the mother, "Your Child will be just fine not to worry." Weeks later the medical doctors examined the child and **they called the healing a miracle.** The medical documents have been sent to the Betania Foundation and Fr. Timothy Byerley, the Vice Postulator for the Cause of Maria Esperanza's Canonization. The mother's testimony has been video recorded.*

Michelle Browers writes:

Dear Allison,

Thank you for taking time to write this, Feb. 25, 2010. On this same day and year my son was being rushed to Children's hospital in Philly. He was on life support for swine flu. He was getting sicker by the day. My son on that day was placed on the Divine Mercy Prayer List by a woman and she prayed to Maria Esperanza to intercede for my son. Four weeks later, Fr. Tim Byerley, blessed my son with a relic of Maria Esperanza, as my son was near death. Within seconds my son was healed. I witnessed a miracle. I am so grateful and blessed to now watch my son grow. He is perfect. There is more to the story and I know now Maria Esperanza is a Saint.

*Note: Please pray for a person or persons that have been financially blessed to help us purchase or build a Holy Refuge and Sanctuary ~ Betania XIII, here on Long Island, in these precarious times. Call Fino Giordano or Dr. Anthony Ciuffo note back page.*

## List of Betanias Around the World

- I. Venezuela, Betania I
- II Medway, MA
- III Long Beach Island, NJ
- IV Los Angeles, CA
- V Seattle, WA
- VI Buenos Aires, Argentina
- VII Lima, Peru
- VIII Rome, Italy
- IX Madrid, Spain
- X Williamstown, NJ
- XI Haddon Heights, NJ
- XII Koenigstein, Germany
- XIII LONG ISLAND, NY
- XIV Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands
- XV Prince Edward Island, Canada
- XVI Vandella, IL
- XVII Houma, LA



## ALLEGED MESSAGES OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - MEDJUGORJE

**October 25, 2013:** "Dear children! Today I call you to open yourselves to prayer. Prayer works miracles in you and through you. Therefore, little children, in the simplicity of heart seek of the Most High to give you the strength to be God's children and for Satan not to shake you like the wind shakes the branches. Little children, decide for God anew and seek only His will, and then you will find joy and peace in Him. Thank you for having responded to my call."

**November 25, 2013:** "Dear Children! Today I call all of you to prayer, open the doors of your heart profoundly to prayer, little children, to prayer with the heart, and then the Most High will be able to act upon your freedom and conversion will begin. Your faith will become firm so that you will be able to say with all your heart 'My God, my all'. You will comprehend, little children, that here on earth everything is passing. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Continued from page 1

of white light in the sky like a Eucharistic host. Then as I watched it began to spin, first clockwise then anti-clockwise. Sparks spit out from the rim of the sun like a firework. I looked down and the sun was a white spinning disc on the hood of the car. I don't think this would have happened if it was just my eyes playing tricks on me. Plus, Eleanor saw it too. That's why she gave me an elbow in the ribs. I am not sure how long this lasted, but when we spoke about it to our fellow pilgrims they said many people in the town square had reported the same phenomenon.

A few other strange things: the days we spent there were ones of incredible fellowship. We seemed to be on a higher plane of consciousness. We seemed to love one another and we laughed joyously almost constantly. Think of being on vacation with really good family and friends and being high the whole time on the love and joy you were sharing. We also met pilgrims from around the world and established an instant family-like rapport, and oh yes, the new rosary I bought there was a pewter color, but when I got it home - still in its package - it had turned- a gold color.

So now what do I make of all this? Well, the same as I make of the other supernatural experiences I have had. It was inexplicable. That's why it was supernatural. I cannot rule on the authenticity and I am not much interested in the controversy. I know the experience I had bolstered my faith. It was one of the things that drew me to Catholicism 'cause let's face it, the Protestants dont really have stuff like that! Also I was drawn closer to the Blessed Mother. Somehow I understood her role and the blockage I had as a Protestant was further eroded.

Does this mean I am a diehard Medjugorje devotee? No. I've followed the story a bit over the years. I wish them well and I hope it will one day all be sorted out. If the church says the whole thing is authentic I don't have a problem. If it is ruled inauthentic I don't have a problem.

My own opinion is that something authentic happened there at some point, but that it has been infected with human ego, greed and probably a concerted attack by Satan. The waters have been muddied. Bad stuff has now happened to discredit the events. Whatever transpires, I will accept the church's decision and don't really mind one way or another.

I thank God for what I experienced at Medjugorje, but the truths of the Catholic faith and the authority of the Catholic Church are what are most important, and I am sure the Blessed Virgin would approve of that.

I tell this story, by the way, because I have been asked to, not because I wish to cause controversy or upset people on either side of the controversy. As it happens, I've had some pretty wonderful supernatural experiences along my way with Christ, and I take them all with a sense of wonder and a pinch of salt and try to keep my eyes on Jesus. [www.ptheos.com/mymedjugorje-story](http://www.ptheos.com/mymedjugorje-story)

**NOTE: Medjugorje Pilgrimage – Fr. Peter Kaczmarek & Sr. Marcie Purpura: 33<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary – June 19-27, 2014: \$2,899.00 All inclusive – Optional Pre-trip to Rome: \$1,098.00 – call Father or Sister: 718.734.7266**

## Medjugorje Pilgrimages

206 Tours – Call 631.361.4644

Our Mother's Monthly Message  
516-887-MARY

This newsletter is available as a free downloadable pdf at [www.OurMotherQueenofPeace.com](http://www.OurMotherQueenofPeace.com)



## Our Mother Queen of Peace Times

PO Box 117, Glenwood Landing, NY 11547

No one on this board is salaried. We are all dedicated to Our Holy Mother and Our Parton Maria Esperanza, Servant of God. Your tax free contributions and prayers, since 1985, have made Our Mother Queen of Peace Times - Betania XIII possible. We need your support more now than ever. We believe the construction of the Betania XIII Sanctuary & Refuge, during these times of spiritual renewal, is crucial. Please, pray for a charitable benefactor or benefactors.

We need your support to continue and to build Betania 13 (All donations are tax deductible State & Federal)

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