



909 S. IL Route 83 Suite #201 Elmhurst, IL 60126

Greetings Father,

As a pastor, you do a great job caring for souls. Peace is a gift that can only come from God!

“A tourist goes to a place to see something new. A pilgrim experiences a place, and by the grace of God, becomes someone new.” For over 25 years, Totally Yours Pilgrimages has brought over 700 priests and religious and 10,000 people all over the world on our pilgrimages. We are Christocentric and seek to help people become **missionary disciples** in their own corner of the world.

**CATECHISM #2691:** “Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer. For pilgrims seeking living water, shrines are special places for living the forms of Christian prayer ‘in Church.’”

We are very excited that Pope Francis has **approved official Pilgrimages to Medjugorje!** See the official statement enclosed. He also has sent several letters to the Youth Festival that Medjugorje holds every year. It is amazing to see the genuine enthusiasm from the young people who go there and experience the “Queen of Peace”.

We would like to personally invite YOU to join us on any of our pilgrimages to Medjugorje. You can see the options for the trips here. <https://totallyyourspilgrimages.com/pilgrimages/#medjugorje>

Saint Pope John Paul II called Medjugorje the “Confession capital of the world”. There have been countless conversions that have occurred through the grace of this sacrament in this blessed place. Our Lady of Medjugorje is known as the Queen of Peace, and the sense of peace pilgrims feel there is unlike any other place. The hills seem to echo the main message, “God exists, and God loves you. God alone is the fullness of life. If you want to enjoy that fullness and obtain peace, you must turn back to God!” In this time when there is so much unrest and hopelessness in the world, a visit to Medjugorje is just what many parishes need for a deeper sense of peace and conversion.

Totally Yours Co. provides:

1. The best authentic pilgrimage experience for the people.
2. Over 25 years of safe and successful pilgrimages.
3. The best pilgrimage value for the money.

You have the opportunity to join us on a pilgrimage for free, and for every 12 paying pilgrims signed up with you, one pilgrim goes for free.

If you would like to join us, just send us a letter or email with the specific Medjugorje pilgrimage you are interested in. If our prescheduled dates don't work for you, let us know and we can give you more information on getting a personalized parish pilgrimage.

In closing, we ask for your continued prayers for our ministry at Totally Yours. We know how efficacious the prayers of God's chosen priests can be in bringing about a shower of good graces! Please know we pray for you as well during our daily office Rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Please let us know how we can best serve you and your parishioners.

May God Bless! Yours in Christ,  
Totally Yours Co.

P.S. Several priests are happy to provide a first-hand reference for a great pilgrimage they had with Totally Yours Co. Our specialists at Totally Yours can walk you through the group process. [Info@Medj1.com](mailto:Info@Medj1.com) or call 630-315-0533.

# Pope authorizes pilgrimages to Medjugorje

*The announcement was made by the Apostolic Visitor, Henryk Hoser and the Apostolic Nuncio. Ad Interim Director Gisotti: "Attention given to favouring and promoting the fruits of good", but this does not mean "an authentication of known events".*

Massimiliano Menichetti - Vatican City

Pope Francis has decided to authorize pilgrimages to Medjugorje, which can now be officially organized by dioceses and parishes and will no longer take place only in a private capacity which as has so far been the case. The announcement was made today during Mass, at the parish shrine which has become a destination for millions of pilgrims, by the Apostolic Nuncio Luigi Pezzuto in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Archbishop Henryk Hoser, the Holy See's Special Apostolic Visitor.

## **Pilgrimages do not authenticate known events**

The "ad interim" director of the Holy See Press Office, Alessandro Gisotti, responding to journalists' questions about the announcement, specified that the papal authorization must be accompanied by "care to prevent these pilgrimages from being interpreted as an authentication of known events, which still require examination by the Church.

Therefore, care must be taken to avoid creating confusion or ambiguity from the doctrinal point of view regarding such pilgrimages. This also concerns pastors of every order and level who intend to go to Medjugorje and celebrate or concelebrate there even in a solemn way".

## **Pastoral attention**

"Considering the considerable flow of people who go to Medjugorje and the abundant fruits of grace that have sprung from it - continued Gisotti - this authorization is part of the particular pastoral attention that the Holy Father intended to give to that reality, aimed at encouraging and promoting the fruits of good".

The apostolic visitor, concluded the ad interim director, "will have, in this way, greater ease in establishing - relations with the priests in charge of organizing pilgrimages to Medjugorje, as well as, safe and well-prepared persons, offering them information and indications to be able to fruitfully conduct such pilgrimages, - in agreement with the ordinary people of the place."

The Pope's decision comes a year after the appointment of Hoser, Archbishop Emeritus of Warszawa-Prague in Poland, as "Apostolic Visitor for the Parish of Medjugorje, on May 31, 2018.

Both that nomination and today's announcement do not, therefore, enter into doctrinal questions relating to the authenticity of the account of the six visionaries of what has happened in Medjugorje since June 1981, a phenomenon that has not yet been concluded. Of the six visionaries, at that time children or young people, three assure us that they still have a daily apparition of the "Queen of Peace", always at the same time in the afternoon and wherever they are: they are Vicka (who lives in Medjugorje), Marija (who lives in Monza) and Ivan (who lives in the United States but often returns home). A fourth visionary, Mirjana, says that she receives an apparition every month, on the 2nd, while for the last two this happens once a year.

12 May 2019, 11:47

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2019-05/pope-authorizes-pilgrimages-to-medjugorje.html>



# The Holy See

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## *MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS*

### *TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE YOUTH FESTIVAL*

[Medjugorje, 1-6 August 2022]

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2022/documents/20220716-messaggio-festival-gioventu.html>

In that time, the evangelist Matthew recounts, Jesus addressed everyone by saying: “Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find peace for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (cf. *Mt* 11:28-30). As in that time, so today Jesus addresses you all, dear young people, and with the guiding words of the Festival, inspired by the Gospel passage I have just mentioned, I invite you: “*Learn from me and you will find peace*”.

The Lord does not reserve these words only to the apostles or to some of his friends, but rather he addresses them to all those who are weary and oppressed. He knows how difficult life can be, and that there are many things that trouble the heart: so many disappointments, various wounds from the past, burdens we carry and injustices we endure, many uncertainties and worries. Faced with all of this, Jesus says to us: “Come to me and learn from me”. It is an invitation to move, not to stand still, frozen and afraid in front of life, and to trust in Him. It seems easy, but in dark moments it comes naturally to withdraw into ourselves. Instead, Jesus wants to bring us out, and so he says to us, “Come”.

The way out is in relationships, in raising our eyes to the One who truly loves us. Then, it is not enough just to come out of ourselves: we also need to know where to go, because there are many deceptive prospects that promise us a better future, but which leave us in the solitude of before. So, Jesus indicates where to go: “*Come to me*”.

Dear friends, with an open heart, *go* to Him, *take* his yoke and *learn* from Him. Go to the Master to become his disciples and heirs of his promise of peace. Take up his yoke, which will let you discover God’s will and will make you partakers of the mystery of his cross and his resurrection. The “yoke” Christ speaks of is the law of love, it is the commandment that he left to his disciples:

love one another, as I have loved you (*Jn* 15:12). Because the true remedy for humanity's wounds is a style of life based on fraternal love, which has its root in love of God.

Walking together with Him and imitating Him, you will learn from Him. He is a Master who does not impose on others the burdens he does not carry. He addresses the humble, the small and the poor because He made himself poor and humble. And to learn, first of all, one must be humble and acknowledge one's own ignorance and the pride that makes us think we can do everything by ourselves and with our own strength. It is necessary to keep our ears open to the Word of the Master. In this way one learns his heart, his love, his way of thinking, seeking and acting. It takes courage to stay close to him and to imitate him.

Dear friends, do not be afraid, go to Him with all that you bear in your heart: he is the only Lord who offers true refreshment and true peace. Follow Mary's example, his and our Mother, who will take you to Him. Entrust yourselves to the *Stella Maris*, sign of hope on troubled seas, who guides us to the harbour of peace. She, who knows her Son, will help you imitate him in the relationship with God the Father, in compassion towards your neighbour and in the awareness of what we are required to be: sons of God. At this time, in the heart of the summer, the Lord invites you to spend your vacations with Him, in the most special place there is: your own heart.

Dear young people, while you are resting in Jesus Christ during these days, I entrust you all to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our heavenly Mother, so that, through her intercession and by her example, you may take upon yourselves the light and gentle yoke of following Christ. May the gaze of God the Father, who loves you personally, accompany you every day, so that, in your relationships with others, you may be witnesses of the peace you will receive as a gift. I pray for this and I bless you, and I ask you too to pray for me.

Francis

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*L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly Edition in English, 5 August 2022

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