

Patrick H Gormley

THE ARGUMENT THAT THE VISIONS OF MEDJUGORJE PRODUCE GOOD AND HOLY FRUITS AND SO ARE PROBABLY FROM GOD

Catholic teaching is that God is clear with us and will not let us be confused so confusion only happens because people fool others. He wants his Church to be one and firm in faith.

He supposedly gave us bishops to protect the faith. St Paul wrote that God appoints leaders in the world implying that this is true of religious leaders than anybody else. See Romans 13. Catholic teaching is that we do not need further revelations from God since the apostles died and the purpose of apparitions that have taken place since is to tell us to look at the truth brought by Jesus and the apostles. So they reinforce that there is no new revelation. For these reasons any apparition condemned by a bishop that is a cause of disobedience IS A BAD FRUIT! Any good fruits are irrelevant for everything bad does some good. The big fruit is bad so the other fruits mean nothing. Good fruits do not compensate for bad ones!

One bad fruit is the lies told about the popes believing in the visions.

Read this letter.

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger
I-00120 CITTÀ DEL Vaticano
22 Juli 1998
Herrn
00069 Trevignano Romano (RM)

Dear Mr. ...

First of all, I have to apologize for answering your kind letter from 27th May only today. The burden (i.e. work load) of the last few weeks has been so heavy that I had to postpone my private correspondence again and again so that only now, as my vacation is about to begin, I can at last try to answer the more important letters.

I thank you very much for sending me the memorandum by Claus Peter Clausen, whom in fact I know as the author of the Schwarze Briefe (Black Letters). I can only say that the statements attributed to the Holy Father and me are freely invented.

With my best wishes for your manifold activities.

Josef Ratzinger

Mary's Birthday

The Gospa or apparition claims that she was born on August 5, 16 BC.

Some defenders of this message say that she did say that it was August 5 but did not give a year. They are lying. Why? It is because the New Testament dates Jesus' birth about 7 BC. The thought that Mary was 9 or 10 when she gave birth is not something the Church wants people to think. It means she could have been pregnant at 8. Plus her poor undernourished background would mean she was in the physical condition of a much younger girl. She may as well have been pregnant at 5.

Devotees of the vision did however celebrate her being 2,000 years old in 1984.

Nothing changes the fact that the Spiritual Director of the visionaries Tomislav Vlasic wrote this in May 1984: Today I visited Bishop Pavao Zanic. I brought him the last part of the 'journal' from Jelena and Marijana Vasilj. I also brought him the message from the Gospa that was given to Jelena for him, for the Holy Father, and for the Christian public, according to which the 2000th birthday of the Mother of God is August 5, 1984."

This assertion that Mary was in her 2000th year was reiterated June 14, July 27, 29, 30.

Fruits don't count at all if Mary was that young and that abused by God. Worse, the apparition is not far wrong when it says she was underage. It is a little known fact that when Jesus banned females from divorcing their husbands this would have virtually only applied to female children railroaded into marriage when their bodies were not ready. It was abuse considering how high maternal mortality was and underage mothers was making it worse.

Credulity leads to credulity

Chris Maunder in *Our Lady of the Nations* writes, "Medjugorje presents a problem for research, as no thorough academic and objective treatment has been published in English." He complains that Sandra Zimdars-Swartz depended on devotional pro-Medjugorje material for her chapter on the subject in *Encountering Mary*.

The apparition is pure hype and thus dangerous.

Self-absorbed visionaries

Marco Corvaglia tells us that by 2018 the alleged visionaries of Medjugorje have had about 1,100 chats with the Virgin Mary. Marija, Vicka and Ivan say they have visions every day. Mirjana has hers once a month. Ivanka and Jacov say they see her on a yearly basis. The public messages are very few. It is just a couple of dozen a year at most. The bulk are private talks between the vision and her visionary. None of them come together to have an apparition. The Bible rule that you need two testimonies before God is dismissed. Even Jesus said he agreed with the rule and reinforced it.

As you would expect, Ivan clearly says the vision just comes for him virtually all the time: "Our Lady talks to me of some personal matters and gives me advice on what to do - the messages are for me and my family. See Livio Fanzaga, Gianni Sgreva, *I messaggi della Regina della Pace*, Shalom, Camerata Picena 2010, p. 115.

Vicka seems to have deeper chats and keeps friends and family and herself out of it. She says that she does not speak with "Our Lady of everyday things, like people's problems or my personal issues, I prefer to avoid these discourses. See Vicka Ivankovic-Mijatovic, *Maria mi parla. La mia storia*, Piemme, Milan 2014, p. 55. She says, "I never ask her questions for myself. It would be too easy for me to have Our Lady saying: 'Do this, do that'." See Vicka Ivankovic-Mijatovic, *A Medjugorje con Maria. I segreti che la Madonna mi ha affidato*, Piemme, Milan 2015, p. 152.

It is suspicious that Mary does it so differently with Ivan than with Vicka. It has been suggested that she is doing what the visionaries expect of her so that is the solution. The Church frowns upon visions like Ivan's that seem more worried about hanging out than spiritual stuff.

The privacy is too much. The Church refers to Lourdes etc as Private Revelation but that only means it is something the Church as a whole does not have to believe in. The message of a private revelation is for the people. Medjugorje goes too far with the private and thus is in breach of Catholic criteria for judging an apparition.

Vicka has claimed Mary never mentioned contraception being a sin. Why is Mary talking to her and not telling her abortion and same sex marriage are wrong? What are they talking about anyway if not religious and ethical matters?

Medjugorje is a bad fruit with the visionaries. The visionaries are what you look at first in terms of fruits. No other fruits can matter as much.

Disobedience

Medjugorje has examples of the Virgin encouraging pilgrims and the visionaries to disobey the bishop. The bishops see the visions as not being from the real Virgin Mary.

The diocese that looks after Medjugorje posted the following commands to the parish, the visionaries and the Franciscans in 2006. They were restrictions made by the bishop. He had every right to make them - even if he was wrong - as a bishop. The only response he got was disobedience. The Church does not accept apparitions as being truly from God if they are a source of disobedience.

The following is forbidden

- NO more retreats, spiritual exercises, conferences, foreign priests... without permission of the bishop
- NO own or foreign priests may propagate NON-recognized 'messages' or 'apparitions'
- EVERY priest must show his 'celebret' before H.Mass
- NO more Blessed Sacrament or adoration in 'Oasis of Peace'; even NO permission to reside in whole diocese [not sure what that last part means]
- NO services in the private church in Bijakovice; it is now closed.

- NO mentioning of 'seers', apparitions, messages' in parish bulletin;
- NO mentioning of the word 'sanctuary' in Medjugorje
- NO mentioning or comment of 'messages' or 'apparitions' on the 25th of the month via Marija Pavlovic
- NO private 'apparitions' of Mirjana Dragicevic in 'Cenacolo' of Sr. Elvira
- NO permission for 'Kraljica Mira'(founder : Tomislav Vlastic) in Medjugorje or in whole diocese
- NO 'seers' or others in the church to pray prayers from the 'apparitions'
- NO intentions during the rosary concerning 'apparitions' or 'messages'
- NO 'seers' in or around the church on anniversaries of 'apparitions' or 'messages'

Jesus stated that you can tell when phenomena is not from God even if it seems to be, when the fruits are bad (Matthew 7:15-23). The bad fruits of Medjugorje are very numerous. All good that comes from an error is really bad for it causes commitment to what is untrue. It could have terrible consequences that outweigh any good done when the victims discover they have been taken for a ride. The Church has wilfully failed to notice that when she merely permits belief in apparitions and makes people free to disbelieve them that people should not believe in God and Jesus and in the Catholic Church because of an apparition. It should be because of the Bible and divine tradition – if the Church is right to make tradition another source of infallible revelation that one is bound to believe. Apparitions make people stronger in faith because they are miracles and that is heretical. The fruits are really anti-Catholic. The apparition can only happen for people who are already well grounded in their faith and have seen and tasted the evidence and based their thinking and lives on divine revelation. The apparition does not come as a ground for faith but as a pointer to the grounds of faith. This criterion eliminates the authenticity of the appearances to Bernadette at Lourdes, the children at Fatima, the appearance to Juan Diego in Guadalupe, the vision of La Salette to two ignorant children and most of the miracles of the Catholic Church that it has declared to be of God. The Med Virgin approves of these appearances and so she refutes her own apparitions and she appeared to six children who did not have the kind of education it takes to have a true Christian faith. Their faith would really have been feeling with a little belief in some things maintained by habit and the desire to be like everybody else. The feeling element would have been predominant.

It is myopic to argue that Medjugorje brings people back to confession and Mass and prayer and fasting and that that means it has good fruits for the vast majority of Catholics doing these things do not understand Church doctrine and are consciously or unconsciously holding to unCatholic doctrines. So their devotion to error is increased not deadened. If Catholicism is the true faith then it follows that to err as a Catholic and be devoted to that error is extremely dangerous for you have so much of the truth and you will be attached more to the error it has been mixed up in and because of the truth so that you will find it too hard to give up the error and nearly always won't try. Error that contains a huge portion of the truth is the number one enemy of the Church for it is a Trojan Horse and very subtle and captivating. The apparitions accepted by the Church and Medjugorje never made a major point about being instructed properly in the faith which shows that their fruits were as false as themselves.

THE LIES

Fr Laurentin was the main catalyst of the Medjugorje popularity. Like others he feared that if a group reports experiences then their tales will be less credible if they are related and have an okay relationship. So what did Laurentin do? He lied in 1984 that the Medjugorje visionaries were related. We are not told that the Ivankoics are cousins and that Marija and Jakov Dragicevic are cousins. His lies succeeded in fuelling the Medjugorje industry.

HATRED OF MEDJUGORJE BELIEVERS FOR THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH THEM

The hatred of Medjugorje believers even for Catholics who oppose the apparitions has been well-documented.

On the website www.marian-times.com we read abuse from a Catholic, Paul Baylis, the Marian Times editor, towards a fellow Catholic Rick Salbato who runs www.unitypublishing.com which exposes the Medjugorje hoax. The page that is filled with hate is entitled UNITY PUBLISHING MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANY FALSE APPARITION. This ridiculous title shows how the pro-Medjugorje people are willing to excoriate anybody who contradicts or questions the apparition.

It is my honest opinion that Rick Salbato is simply completely misinformed and deluded about the truth of Medjugorje. He has in all likelihood allowed himself to be swayed by negative press reports. A quick reading of the following article should clear the air about quite a few things Rick may not know about the press and show the depths the enemy will go to destroy Medjugorje:

My Comment: Rick is accused of being deluded as in mentally ill and is identified as collaborating with the enemy.

Baylis: Medjugorje better be false for Rick's sake! Just as atheists cling to their hope that there is no God so they don't have to change their sinful habits

My Comment: The Church would answer that nobody who without sin opposes an apparition will be punished by God for it. The person will be punished for lying in an attempt to disprove an apparition for example but only for the lying not for trying to hurt the apparition. Notice Paul's veiled threat, "Believe what I believe or suffer". A religion like Christianity that tells people they will burn in Hell unless they do what they want is pure evil and is anti-freedom. Its abusive.

And many atheists live sober decent lives. It is simply not true that atheists want to disbelieve in God so that they can be sociopaths. Some do but there is nothing under the sun that cannot be abused. The Medjugorje Virgin is actually cordial to atheists and communists.

Baylis writes, "Rick displays a double-standard. Elsewhere on his website he describes the Church-approved Rwanda apparitions as "Very, very strange approval circumstances. We feel certain this is NOT of God." Note that Rick entitles this page "False Apparitions". He doesn't say "POSSIBLY false apparitions". The sheer arrogance and presumptuousness is outstanding."

My Comment: This is about Rick saying that Medjugorje is false for the local bishop didn't approve. Here Rick condemns an accepted apparition as false though the local bishop did approve of it.

The fact of the matter is that the true Catholic does not believe any apparition condemned by the Church and keeps an open mind in relation to those that have been approved. The approval of the Church is mere permission to believe. Medjugorje followers are famous for trying to make belief in the Medjugorje apparitions into a dogma.

Marian times treats the Medjugorje phenomenon as absolutely true not possibly true. And that anybody who has a different opinion is to be despised.

Baylis: "And maybe the seers were right about this being Mary's final push to get people back to God. If it is her final push, it doesn't surprise me one little bit that Satan would cause some bad seeds to foment division in the catholic church, distract people from their prayers, cause infighting and get brother literally against brother. I am describing Rick Salbato and his website Unity Publishing. Without a shred of hard evidence and with a huge dose of naivety, he is on a suicide mission to take half the Catholic church with him".

My Comment: Deranged!

To say that Rick wants to take himself and half the Church on a suicide mission is madness for half the Church won't even see the website. Suicide mission must be an euphemism for dragging people down to hell forever. The Church has never sentenced anybody to hell for not believing in an apparition for the Church says it is only the revelations given by the apostles in scripture and tradition that are binding for belief. The defensiveness of the Medjugorje people shows that they certainly have a lot to hide.

The fact that Medjugorje was not touched during the war was down to the reluctance to harm a holy site, payments made to the warring factions to keep away and refugees being turned away from the town.

Are the fruits of Medjugorje really that amazing considering that the state of the Catholic faith in Europe is shabby to a degree never imagined in the early eighties when the visions started? The Catholic fruits were better before the visions.

No apparition is from God at all because the Church cannot and does not check out the fruits thoroughly. But it could check the fruits out better but it does not. This makes it a bad fruit to believe in any apparition!! It must be a sin to seek apparitions for everybody looks for fruit in the visionary so the visionary is asking to be put up on a pedestal as an example of humility and prayerfulness which Jesus strictly forbade which makes one wonder if the apostles made the resurrection appearances of Jesus up.

The Church cannot approve of Medjugorje for it will start a precedent and will leave apparitions that run for years and decades open to acceptance by the Church. If Medjugorje were really from God the apparitions would have stopped long

ago to give the Church a chance to approve of them. The real virgin Mary would not appear in a situation when her apparition cannot be approved. That would be an affront to the Church. This apparition appeared in the Church in defiance of the Church authorities and was itself disobedient.