

CDF ACTS ON MEDJUGORJE DISOBEDIENCE

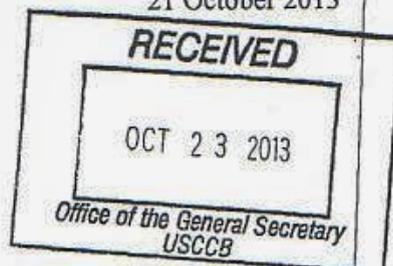


APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PN 3980

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3610

21 October 2013



Reverend Monsignor Jenkins,

I write at the request of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Gerhard Ludwig Müller, Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, who asks, that the Bishops of the United States be advised, once again, of the following (cf. my letter of 27 February 2013, of the same protocol number). Thus, his Excellency wishes to inform the Bishops that one of the so-called visionaries of Medjugorje, Mr. Ivan Dragičević, is scheduled to appear at certain parishes around the country, during which time he will make presentations regarding the phenomenon of Medjugorje. It is anticipated, moreover, that Mr. Dragičević will be receiving "apparitions" during these scheduled appearances.

As you are well aware, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith is in the process of investigating certain doctrinal and disciplinary aspects of the phenomenon of Medjugorje. For this reason, the Congregation has affirmed that, with regard to the credibility of the "apparitions" in question, all should accept the declaration, dated 10 April 1991, from the Bishops of the former Republic of Yugoslavia, which asserts: "On the basis of the research that has been done, it is not possible to state that there were apparitions or supernatural revelations." It follows, therefore, that clerics and the faithful are not permitted to participate in meetings, conferences or public celebrations during which the credibility of such "apparitions" would be taken for granted.

In order, therefore, to avoid scandal and confusion, Archbishop Müller asks that the Bishops be informed of this matter as soon as possible.

I take this opportunity to present to you my sentiments of profound esteem, and remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Carlo Maria Viganò*
+ Carlo Maria Viganò
Apostolic Nuncio

Monsignor Ronny Jenkins
General Secretary of the USCCB
3211 Fourth Street NE
Washington, DC 20017

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This was the second letter sent. The first was sent 27 February 2013 and was in all essentials the same. Yet Ivan Dragicevic was poised to travelling in the USA to have apparitions in spite of the 27 February 2013 letter. When the above letter was made public, he cancelled his intended trip in the USA. So Mary then was ready to disobey the Church by appearing! She encouraged disobedience.

APPENDIX - THE BISHOPS OF TUSCANY

By the Bishops of Tuscany

During the "ad limina Apostolorum" visit of Bishops of the Region of Tuscany, from April 16-20, 2007 we had a meeting at

the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith with the Secretary Monsignor Angelo Amato, who, while talking with us about the apparitions of Medjugorje, invited us to make public the homily of the Bishop of Mostar of June 15, 2006 given at St. James Parish in Medjugorje (see below), to make clear the religious phenomenon connected to this place.

According to this invitation we are making it known and above all we ask the priests to read it carefully and to draw the necessary consequences for the correct enlightenment of our faithful.

From the homily of His Excellency Msgr. Ratko Peric,

Bishop of Mostar, at Medjugorje, June 15, 2006,
on the occasion of the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ.

III. — “Apparitions”.

First of all, the fact that a person makes a humble Confession and receives Holy Communion in this parish church and that this person feels spiritually well due to God's forgiveness, each and every believer will recognize and give due praise to God for this, who is the source of all graces. At the same time, this person will take care not to proceed from this state of grace towards an illogical and inconsistent conclusion: “I made a Confession. I feel good and now I am converted. Therefore the Madonna is appearing in Medjugorje!” This type of believer and penitent is nonetheless obliged to go to confession, receive the other sacraments, observe the Commandments, whether any private apparitions are recognized or not.

Secondly, I would be an irresponsible minister of the Mystery of the Body and Blood of Christ, if today I were not to publicly advise, from this place and on this occasion as well, to all those interested throughout the world, that in this local Church of Mostar-Duvno, there exists something similar to a schism. A number of priests that have been expelled from the Franciscan OFM Order by the Generalate of the Order, due to their disobedience to the Holy Father, for years now have been forcefully keeping a few parish churches and rectories along with church inventory. They have not only been illegally active in these parishes, but they have also administered the sacraments profanely, while others invalidly, such as Confession and Confirmation, or they have assisted at invalid marriages. This type of anti-ecclesial behaviour is shocking to all of us. At the same time, this scandal of sacrilegiously administering the sacraments, especially of the Most Holy Body of Christ, must shock all the faithful as well who invalidly confess their sins to these priests and participate in sacrilegious liturgies. We pray to the Lord that this scandal and schism be uprooted as soon as possible from our midst.

Thirdly, I am truly grateful to the Holy Father the Pope, to John Paul II of blessed memory and to the reigning Benedict XVI, who have always respected the judgements of the bishops of Mostar-Duvno, of the previous as well as the current bishop, regarding the so-called “apparitions” and “messages” of Medjugorje, all the while recognizing the Holy Father's right to give a final decision on these events. The judgements of the bishops, after all the canonical investigations made thus far, can be summarized in these following points:

1 - Medjugorje is a catholic parish in which liturgical and pastoral activities are carried out, just as in all the other parishes of this diocese of Mostar-Duvno. No-one except the official Church authorities is then authorized to attribute the formal title of “shrine” to this place.

2 - On the basis of Church investigations of the events of Medjugorje, it cannot be determined that these events involve supernatural apparitions or revelations. This means that till now the Church has not accepted, neither as supernatural nor as Marian, any of the apparitions.

3 - Priests who canonically administer this parish of Medjugorje or those who come as visitors, are not authorised to express their private views contrary to the official position of the Church on the so-called “apparitions” and “messages”, during celebrations of the sacraments, neither during other common acts of piety, nor in the Catholic media.

4 - The Catholic faithful are not only free from any obligation to believe in the authenticity of the “apparitions” but they must also know that church pilgrimages are not allowed, whether official or private, individual or group, or from other parishes, if they presuppose the authenticity of the “apparitions” or if by undertaking them attempt to certify these “apparitions”.

5 - As the local Bishop, I maintain that regarding the events of Medjugorje, on the basis of the investigations and experience gained thus far, throughout these last 25 years, the Church has not confirmed a single “apparition” as authentically being the Madonna. The fact that during these 25 years there has been talk of tens of thousands of “apparitions” does not contribute any authenticity to these events, which according to the words of our current Pope, who I encountered during an audience on 24 February this year, commented that at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith they always questioned how all these “apparitions” could be considered authentic for the Catholic faithful. They

particularly do not seem to be authentic when it is known beforehand that these so-called "apparitions" will occur:

To one of the "seers" on the 18th of March every year, but along with this she will also receive an "apparition" on the 2nd of each month, with "messages" which you can expect, according to the established procedures;

The second will receive an apparition on every day of the year, and if this were not enough, an added special "apparition" on the 25th of each month along with a type of press release, which once again you can foresee and expect;

The third will receive an "apparition" on the 25th of December, on Christmas day, along with a message similar to the ones already mentioned;

The fourth will receive an "apparition" on the 8th of September every year along with a specific message;

The remaining two will receive the same, every day along with "messages" that can be anticipated since they are variations on the same theme. This fact and the flood of so-called apparitions, messages, secrets and signs, do not strengthen the faith, but rather further convince us that in all of this there is nothing neither authentic nor established as truthful.

Therefore I responsibly call upon those who claim themselves to be "seers", as well as those persons behind the "messages", to demonstrate ecclesiastical obedience and to cease with these public manifestations and messages in this parish. In this fashion they shall show their necessary adherence to the Church, by neither placing private "apparitions" nor private sayings before the official position of the Church. Our faith is a serious and responsible matter. The Church is also a serious and responsible institution!

Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the greatest possessor of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, who through the same Holy Spirit conceived in her body and gave birth to the Second person of the Trinity, Jesus Christ, who gives us his Most Holy Body and Blood for eternal life, may He - who is the Way, the Truth and the Life — help us so that the truth of the Blessed Virgin, his Mother and Mother of the Church, Seat of Wisdom and Mirror of Justice, may shine forth in brightness in this parish and diocese, without even a hint of incredibility, yet all in accord with the constant teachings and practice of the Church. Amen.

APPENDIX - QUOTE FROM ZANIC WHO WAS DISOBEYED EVEN WHEN HE MERELY ASKED THAT MESSAGES NOT BE PUBLICISED

Following a two-day session, the Commission on the events of Medjugorje declared that the **pastoral personnel and the seers in Medjugorje are requested to abstain from any public statement or declaration to the press about the contents of the visions and the alleged miraculous cures.**

At our meeting, held in the Chancery Office in Mostar on October 31, 1984, I demanded that Medjugorje's occurrences "be toned down and eliminated little by little."

In the meantime, matters remain as they were, and a great disgrace is expected to befall the Church. Now, without any delay, after all this, **I demand from you that you remove the "visionaries" from public display and put an end to their "visions" in the parish church. They have had "visions" in Mostar, and earlier in Sarajevo, Visoko and Dubrovnik. Let them now have them at their homes:** people say that they had them at their homes during 1981. In ten days the new statue of the Gospa in front of the main altar ought to be discreetly removed late one evening and replaced by the old one. You must stop talking about apparitions and also cease publicizing messages. The devotions that grew out of the "apparitions" and their messages must be eliminated, sales of souvenirs and printed material which propagate the "apparitions" must also stop. The faithful can go to the sacrament of reconciliation and attend Mass. I do not allow the other priests, especially Fathers Jozo Zovko, Tomislav Vlasic and Ljudevit Rupcic, to celebrate Mass for the faithful or to preach.

The "visionaries" must give you whatever they wrote, especially what pertains to the so called "Biography of the Madonna." No excuse that that's a secret can justify them from not handing over that material to you. Since there was so much public talk about their Diaries and their other writings, and since all this had a great influence on the events of Medjugorje, thus all these documents and [written] materials fall under the supervision of the Ordinary and become subject to the investigation of the phenomenon of Medjugorje.

We do hope that you will execute what we demand from you in this letter. With greetings and a prayerful wish for God's blessing.

Msgr. Pavao Zanic

Bishop of Mostar-Duvno and Apostolic Administrator of Trebinje-Mrkanj

NOTE: FR JOZO ZOVKO

This priest has been dogged with accusations of molesting female pilgrims sexually. He was in jail but thanks to the Virgin he was able to appear with her in her visions to the children. This was a number of times.

According to the Virgin: "He is a saint; I've said that to you already" her message of October 21, 1981.

If she appears with unruly people like that and makes them saints what does that say about her?

APPENDIX - PULJIC OF SARAJEVO

Cardinal Vinko Puljic of Sarajevo, speaking at the Synod of Bishops, has complained that the reported apparitions of Medjugorje are becoming a source of division in the Church. Cardinal Puljic spoke on the general theme of how bishops should be involved in [italic]"overcoming the divisions existing in the Church and in today's world."

(CWNews.com, 10 October 2001) - He argued: "Europe can no longer be divided into Eastern and Western Europe. The world cannot remain divided between North and South."

Then, turning his attention to his own land of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the cardinal said that the unity of the Church is threatened by the disobedience of the Franciscan monks serving at Medjugorje, who "impose their own points of view" with the aid of "pseudo-charisms." [italic] Although the local bishop has never officially rendered a verdict on the authenticity of the reported Marian apparitions at Medjugorje, the hierarchy has generally shown signs of skepticism, and cautioned against excessive enthusiasm. This stance has frequently produced conflicts with the Franciscan pastors who have energetically promoted visits and devotion to the Medjugorje site.

APPENDIX

On Medjugorje, "We would like to say nothing about the doubtful or even bad fruits. But the truth obliges us to say that they exist. Let us quote, as examples, the calling into question, even to the point of defamation, of the Local Ordinary as well as the disobedience with regard to his legitimate authority; the exacerbation of the Herzegovina 'question' following the words attributed to "the Gospel", words in favour of the Franciscans and against the Bishop." Henri Brincard, Bishop of Puy-en-Velay.

The claim that because of the bishop's opposition that the Vatican decided to take over the investigation is untrue. "Bishop Zanic did not solicit the intervention of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. However, he well fulfilled the obligations incumbent on him, as this same Congregation affirmed that it "appreciated the work accomplished by the diocesan commission, under the responsibility of Bishop Zanic." Moreover, let us recall that on 2nd June 1982, Bishop Zanic submits a first report to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and, on 26th April 1986, he delivers to Cardinal Ratzinger, Prefect of the Congregation, a plan of negative judgement, as the conclusions of the commission of investigation appear to be going in this sense. The Cardinal thus asks him to defer the publication of a definitive judgement. On 2nd May 1986, the commission of investigation votes, in a secret ballot, by 11 votes to 4, against the recognition of the supernatural character of the events: non constat de supernaturalitate. At the same time, having concluded its work, it accepts its own dissolution, the affair being from then on in the hands of Rome.³ On 15th May 1986, Bishop Zanic transmits to the Congregation the negative finding of the commission. It is therefore not correct to state that Bishop Zanic was relieved of the dossier."

<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?id=4314>

SISTER EMMANUEL

Sister Emmanuel is probably Medjugorje's best promoter.

Some Medjugorje supporters speak of how the Vatican approved the order The Community of the Beatitudes in 2002. They describe it as Sister Emmanuel's community implying that this approval means approval of her. She is not recognised as a real nun by her diocese. And the Community is regarded as a cult by competent authorities and there has been scandals involving prolific sexual abuse. A brother admitted to having abused 50 children. There is an abnormally high rate of teen suicides. The founder was guilty of sexual exploitation of the members. Emmanuel had to have known about all this. She has made no comment on any of it and pro-Medjugorje websites ignore the scandals.  Print Friendly and PDF