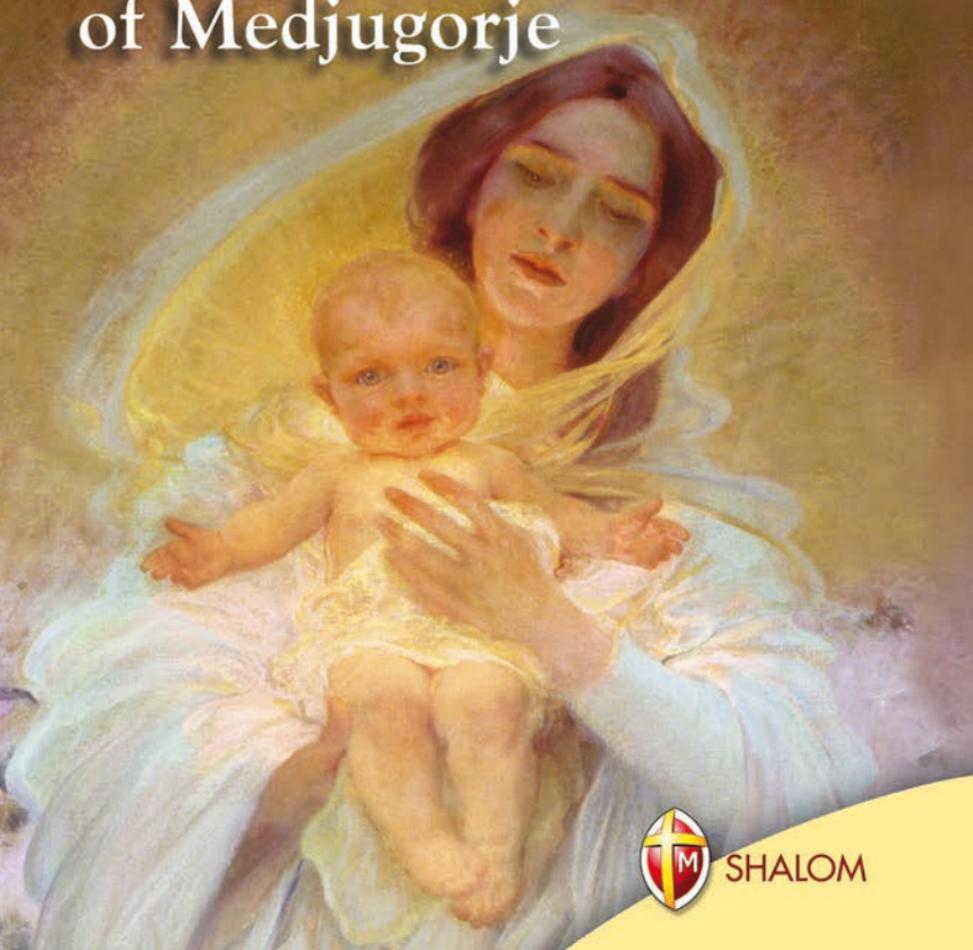




Sister Emmanuel

The
Hidden Child
of Medjugorje



SHALOM



Collection: **MARY SPEAKS AGAIN**

To the Child Jesus

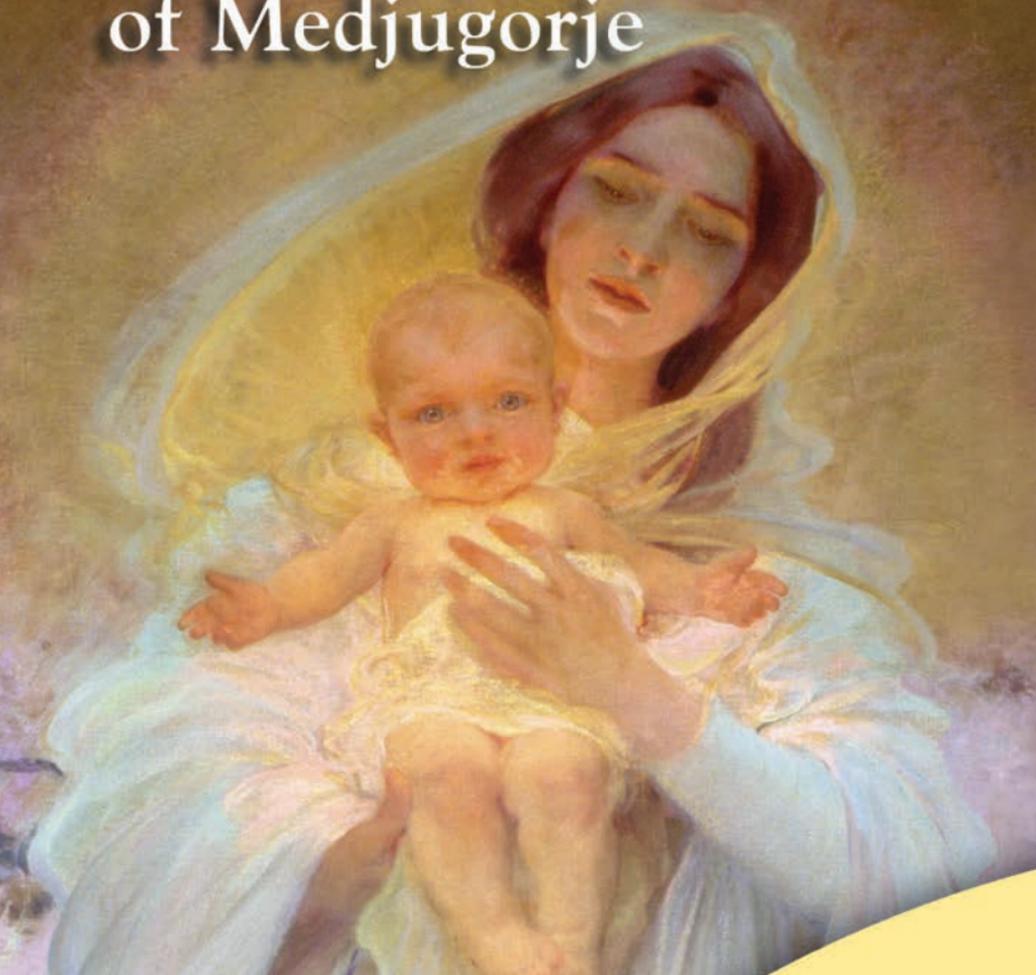
To little Li

To all the children sacrificed
on the altar of our darkness and idols,
for they sustain the world.



Sister Emmanuel

The
Hidden Child
of Medjugorje



Texts: **Suor Emmanuel Maillard** (*member of the Beatitudes Community since 1976*)

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An invitation to read



There are hundreds of types of shells in existence. Within them they conceal fantastic rainbows of colours that expand into indescribable harmonies and marvellous beauty. Among them there are those that are created in such a way as to form pearls within their enchanting shell. Yes, very precious pearls Books are like seashells; at first they all look alike. However, they are far from being identical and their value varies greatly. Some of them are packed with riches and so well written, that they hide rare pearls within. Sister Emmanuel's book is one of those; it contains the most beautiful pearls, and with

them enriches the reader. Through her accounts and anecdotes, the reader is pleased to meet people of great worth and to be filled with the teachings of so many events. Through this book, one will explore more fully a way still too little known: The way of the Queen of Peace.

This book is aimed at all those who already know something about the events of Medjugorje or indeed those who have just approached this theme. Allow it to accompany you like a faithful friend and to lead you to a world of peace, to a better world.

May this book give you a deeper awareness of the pathway that you haven't yet come to know sufficiently, the pathway of the Queen of Peace of Medjugorje. May her blessing accompany you along this pathway; this is what Brother Jozo wishes for you.

Father Jozo Zovko, OFM

Preface

Throughout time, man has been in search of security, peace, and happiness; however, rare are those who divine that their search is in reality a quest for God.

In her new book, *The Hidden Child of Medjugorje*, Sister Emmanuel makes a precious contribution to the understanding of this aspiration. As the pages are turned, this book reveals its value as a guide. It enables us to reach an end which is none other than the “*hidden*” Child, the Child Jesus. In the apparitions of Medjugorje, this Divine Child hides Himself so well in His mother that at first sight, no one pays attention to Him. But whoever finds the Mother, finds the Son. This is how it will be for all who read this book.

In her previous work, *Medjugorje, the 90's*,¹ (which became in a very short time a best-seller translated into more than twenty languages), the author gave life to the messages of Our Lady. Countless are those who have been captivated by the spiritual richness of the 90's and by the tenderness of the Queen of Peace who emerges from its pages. The reading of this book has excited in its readers a great desire to come to Medjugorje as pilgrims. There is no doubt that *The Hidden Child of Medjugorje* will become a best-seller in its turn, all for the glory of God.

Sister Emmanuel shows in this work the same talent. Relying on simple examples, taken from real life, she shows the reader how the supernatural can intervene in the life of each person. While reading this we are submerged in joy and seized by a new ardor to run toward sanctity. We begin to love God with more fervor and with a greater desire for intimacy with Him, whatever the concerns and difficulties which overwhelm us.

This book is not a mystery novel you might read on a plane. It is comparable to a mosaic in which each element is unique and precious. As we read about each authentic event it reports, we feel our hearts being penetrated, through prayer and meditation, by the grace which emanates from it.

This reading opens in us a door to the Divine—that place where the supernatural is made completely natural and where the miraculous is revealed to be normal. It is in this way that God desires to manifest His love to us. The reader should not be astonished when, at times, the author describes extraordinary events and miracles because they reveal to us God's omnipotence. To hold that against her would be to diminish God.

1. Published, as revised, under the title *Medjugorje, Triumph of the Heart*.

Isn't the Old Testament steeped in the marvels of God? And didn't Jesus begin His public ministry with a miracle during a wedding in Cana? Miracles are an integral part of His effort to bring people to faith. They confirm the truth of His words and are the incomparable seal of His divine mandate. Today it is no different. Miracles help us to believe in the fatherly tenderness of God and to place our confidence in Him. This is how Sister Emmanuel draws us into Medjugorje.

During missions we have had together in Asia, Australia, and America, I have seen for myself to what extent she invests herself in the process of leading souls to God. During great Marian Conferences, I have seen her address thousands of people, sharing with enthusiasm and conviction the messages of the *Queen of Peace*. Immediately afterwards, I have seen her spend hours listening, with maternal solicitude, to those who entrust their needs to her; and even at midnight she is still not tired! It is her love for the Gospa and for souls that gives her this strength. It is this same love that pushed her to write *The Hidden Child*, in which she encourages us to place all of our trust in God, especially in our present trials and those to come.

Taking into account all of the authentic Marian apparitions in the last few decades, with the eyes of faith we see that the Mother of God desires only one thing: to spare the world from self-destruction. She longs to introduce humanity to a new Eden. In Fatima, for example, the Queen of the Rosary calls this new time the *Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart*. In the same spirit, the great French mystic, Marthe Robin, spoke of the New Pentecost of Love that Jesus promised.

A great number of believers are waiting for this intervention from God, through His merciful love. This hope is linked to the return of the Lord, according to the very words of the Mother of God to Saint Faustina: "I gave the Savior to the world; as for you, you have to speak to the world about His great mercy and prepare the world for His second coming" (*Diary*, § 635). However, in order to render us capable of returning to God with our whole being, the Lord's second coming will be preceded by an inevitable, purifying trial. Our Lady comes to our aid through her presence, through her words, and sometimes even through her tears to prepare us for the interior and exterior trials. She asks us to pray with the heart, to renounce our egoism and to make a sincere confession in order to reconcile with God and our neighbor. Thus we are established in love-free from all prejudice in our relationships without exception. She teaches us also how to adore Jesus and receive Him with a pure heart.

Sister Emmanuel has written *The Hidden Child of Medjugorje* for us.

She helps us to make this teaching practical in our everyday lives. Don't miss reading this book. We will discover through these pages how to better fulfill our vocation: to be entirely love.

*Father Paul Maria Sigl²
Rome, March 20, 2006, on the solemnity of Saint Joseph*

Brief summary of the history of Medjugorje

On June 24, 1981, a beautiful summer afternoon, two adolescents from the village of Bijakovici³ are chatting while strolling along the rocky hill of Podbrdo, which overlooks their village. A conversation of young people their age. One of them, Ivanka Ivankovic, age sixteen, suddenly notices a light over the hill, around two hundred meters from them. She looks and makes out a shining silhouette of light which hovers over the ground. Astounded, she becomes quiet and stares at the light. The silhouette takes the form of a young woman. Then she exclaims, "Mirjana, look! it's the Gospa⁴!" Mirjana Dragiãeviç, sure that Ivanka is joking, doesn't even bother to look in the direction which her friend indicates to her. "C'mon", she says, in a mocking tone, "the Gospa" is appearing to us? - To us? - Are you kidding me?" Ivanka is convinced, but she doesn't insist, and they continue their walk. A third young girl joins them. It's Milka Pavlovic, who asks their help in gathering her goats. They walk awhile then return to the same place. At that moment, all three see the silhouette and fall to their knees.

Their friend Vicka Ivankovic is just then passing by. "Look in the sky," they say to her. Vicka makes fun of them without even looking towards the hill, takes off her shoes and runs away. On the way, she meets Ivan Dragicevic, age sixteen, and his friend Ivan Ivankovic. She recounts to them the words of her friends. They decide to go together to see what's going on. When they arrive at the foot of the hill, they, too, see the silhouette and Ivan Dragicevic, frightened, runs back home at full speed.

The next day, four of the children feel compelled to return to the same place at the same time of day. Vicka goes to find her friends, Marija

2. Father Paul Maria Sigl is the cofounder and spiritual guide of the community "Family of Mary" in Slovakia. His ministry was closely linked to Monsignor Paul Maria Hnilica, SJ, who ordained him a priest in Fatima on December 8, 1992. Fr. Paul travels throughout the world preaching retreats and speaking at Marian conferences. For information, write to: Family of Mary, Via Ombra 1, 64010 Civitella del Tronto, Italy.

E-mail: familiemariens@web.de

3. Area which is part of the parish of Medjugorje.

4. "Gospa" is the Croatian term for the "Lady".

Pavlovic, sister of Milka, and the little Jakov Colo, age ten. On this second day, the six young ones see the Blessed Mother, and the definitive group of six seers is formed. Milka and Ivan Ivankovic have not been moved to return there and have never seen “the Lady” again.

From that day on, the Gospa appears to the six chosen ones at 5:40 PM each day. According to the testimony of the seers, “the Lady” appears to be sixteen, has black hair and blue eyes, and is of an inexpressible beauty. She presented herself as the Queen of Peace and of Reconciliation. She comes to bring us closer to the heart of God by showing us the path of Peace. She invites us all to sainthood and for that gives us some very simple means, within the reach of all.

Our Lady has promised to each of the seers that she will confide in him or her 10 secrets. To this day, three of the seers, Ivanka, Mirjana, and Jakov, have received their 10 secrets and no longer have daily apparitions. They see the Virgin once a year. Vicka, Marija, and Ivan have only received nine secrets and still see Our Lady each day. According to Mirjana, each seer has to choose a priest to whom to reveal his or her secrets. For her part, she has chosen Father Petar Ljubicic, a Franciscan. Ten days before the revelation of the secret, the seer must fast on bread and water with the chosen priest, and, on the seventh day, she reveals the secret to the priest who must publicize it to the world three days before its actualization.

In July of 1981, the Blessed Mother also promised that she would leave on the hill a permanent sign, visible by all and indestructible.

On the 25th of each month, Our Lady gives to Marija a message destined for the world. Marija transmits it to a Franciscan of the parish of Saint James. Then it is translated and published in all languages.⁵

Since 1987, the Blessed Mother has shown herself to Mirjana every second day of the month and prays with her for the unbelievers. This apparition is now open to all. Sometimes, Our Lady gives at this time a message to Mirjana for the public. Twenty-five to thirty million pilgrims, including priests, bishops, and cardinals, have come to Medjugorje since the beginning of the apparitions.

The six visionaries are married.

Ivanka Ivankovic married Rajko Elez on December 28, 1986. They have three children: Kristina, Josip, and Ivan.

Mirjana Dragicevic married Marko Soldo on September 16, 1989. They live in Medjugorje with their two daughters: Veronika and Marija.

5. www.medjugorje.hr or www.childrenofmedjugorje.com

Marija Pavlovic married Paolo Lunetti on September 8, 1993. They live in Monza, in Italy, with their four sons: Michele, Francesco Maria, Marco, and Giovanni.

Jakov Colo married Annalisa Barozzi on April 11, 1993. They live in Medjugorje. They have three children: Arijanna Marija, David Emmanuele, and Myriam.

Ivan Dragicovic married Laureen Murphy on October 23, 1994 and lives most of the time in the United States. They have three children: Kristina Marija, Mikaela, and Daniel.

Vicka Ivankovic married Mario Mijatovic on January 26, 2002. They live in Gradac, near Medjugorje, with their two children: Marija-Sofija and Ante.



Chapter 1



Five visionaries with Father
Jozo, July 1981
© Glas Mira Medjugorje, March 2003

*“My children, don’t you recognize the signs of the times?
Do you not speak of them? Come follow me. As a mother I am
calling you!”*

(April 2, 2006)

WHO IS THE HIDDEN CHILD?

June 1981.

It was around three o’clock and the burning sun began its curved descent. In Herzegovina, during the days around the summer solstice it is better to stay inside and take a nap rather than brave the heat.

However on that day, on the side of the hill, a woman stood. It was bizarre. It was as if she wanted to hide the child she was holding! She had wrapped him in linens, as women from the Orient do, and she was covering his face with a light veil. He was so tiny he must have been a newborn! And the woman? Was she the big sister or the mother of the child? She looked so young-hardly fifteen or sixteen. Fascinated, several youngsters

stared at her. They didn't know her. She was definitely not from their village, although she could well have been a young girl from their country with her beautiful black hair and radiant complexion. At times she would lift the veil that covered the child's face, as if to reveal her secret, and she would fan him with the flap of her coat. But, very quickly, she would cover him again. Her behaviour puzzled those watching. What was so special about this child that made her treat him that way?" The adolescents took shelter from the sun under an oak tree. Amazed, they continued to watch the scene which seemed to be coming from another world. Unfortunately, the young woman was too far up the hill for the baby's features to be seen clearly. The lady signaled them to approach her but it was no use. They were frozen, too scared to move. They would not budge.

Later that evening, the hidden child was almost forgotten. It was his mother who was the subject of conversation in the village. How could the local peasants that night in Bijakovici have suspected, even for a second, that, from that moment on their lives would never be the same? It was already too late! The hidden child and his mother had already begun to revolutionize this remote little Hercegovinian village. The past was over! From now on, it would be the littlest of the little ones who would lead the dance. He, at whose name "*every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*"¹ would lead it with His Mother! It is He-our true leader-who sends His Mother to prepare humanity for His Second Coming. It is He who, hidden in Mary and in all the tabernacles of the world, comes in a divine way to lead the world.

Countless books had been published about the Mother. There is a need, however, for a book about the Child, a book that would offer a glimpse of His active presence both within and outside of Medjugorje.²

Six months after the first apparition on the Hill, the Child Jesus came again to show Himself to the visionaries; draped

this time in the golden veil of His Mother. It was Christmas! During the evening of December 25, 1981, the youngsters finally saw the Child-God face to face, and this God was a baby, an infant only a few hours old! And what was He doing? He was playing hide-and-seek with His Mother's veil! He knew He had to make these young ones smile. They were still so tense and awkward in the face of the Divine!

The man of today, who is restless, anguished, and sick, needs to play with the Child Jesus in order to be healed. He needs to play with God in order to revive himself. If we want to conquer the powers of evil which destroy us from the inside and which threaten our world, we need weapons other than those of this world. We need the Child-God.

For example, in a great European city, satanic sects had been proliferating to such an extent in the 1990s that the city authorities decided to create an anti-Satanic task force. For that, they had to appoint a man exceptionally smart and capable of eradicating the cults one by one. They found an adequate and reliable individual who had the proven experience to take on the job. So far, so good. But soon there was an ugly revelation. The chosen officer was none other than a Satanist himself and a high-ranking one. Yes, we need weapons other than those of this world, in order to defeat the Evil One, because he has, for a little while longer, the power.³ We need an Innocent Child, so that Satan's empire will collapse: God has always pitted innocence against evil, and He knows why.

In this book, which proceeds step-by-step, I have tried to provide you, Dear Readers, with the simple means to help you experience something of this Child-God. You will find here various images, enriched with testimonies and concrete facts. I hope that each of you may find keys for your own life and nourishment for your soul.

If one day we are in prison for the sake of Jesus, and we

find ourselves too weak to remember our prayers, there is a key in Chapter 14 entitled, **An Unknown Tongue.**

Or if we one day lack food, there is a good recipe in Chapter 75, **The God of Multiplication.**

And if one day there is no money? There's a life-preserver in Chapter 78, **The Storehouses of Divine Providence.**

And if one day we have no more medicine. A good place to find it is in Chapter 52, **Oh Good Saint Joseph.**

And if one day the waves of evil submerge us? Hope can be found in Chapter 70, **Operation Jericho.**

And if one day we are afraid of death? There is comfort in Chapter 50, **Heaven Within Reach.**

If there is a fear of the future. A sure path is set out in Chapter 20, **The Rosary, or the Soviets.**

If one day forgiving seems impossible? There's a solution in Chapter 46, **Finding the Child.**

And if one day despair strikes our heart, a proven recourse is in Chapter 76, **Marthe Robin – An Anti- Suicide Angel.**

Some of the testimonies in this book are not directly linked to Medjugorje, but I have selected them according to one common criterion: they reveal to us the secret power of Christ and help us to enter into a deep communion with Him. For the hidden Child of Medjugorje is, after all, the Innocence of God, under whichever aspect He may manifest Himself. He is the Almighty God who is, and was, and will always be, a Child.

Note

1. Ph 2:10.

2. It is not by chance that Our Lady appeared on June 24th, the Feast of Saint John the Baptist, he who called attention to Jesus hidden in the bosom of the people! Actually, Mary comes also as a precursor, to prepare the people for the second coming of Christ. This gesture of covering and uncovering the face of the Child indicated the purpose of her visits: to reveal to our blind world the hidden Child!

3. 1 Jn 5:19

Chapter 2

Veronica Knox, South Africa, her blue eyes were blind.



“Dear Children! Invoke the name of my Son. Receive Him in your heart. Only in the name of my Son will you experience true happiness and true peace in your heart. Only in this way will you come to know the love of God and spread it further. I am calling you to be my apostles.” (March 18, 2000)

VERONICA’S BLUE EYES

Margate, South Africa, August 9, 1998

Veronica could not sleep. She wondered if the strange flame that burned in her heart would keep her awake until dawn. Fortunately, Alex, her husband, had settled into a deep slumber. Spontaneously, Veronica began to pray to Jesus. Actually, in the sincerity of her heart, she began speaking to Him, because she did not use written prayers, only those that sprang effortlessly to her lips. Even when she recited the *“Our Father,”* she did it with so much intensity that it sounded as if she had invented it herself!

It was still dark when Veronica decided to get up and sit in her

living room. She chose her favorite armchair facing the Crucifix. Relaxing in it, she gave free reign to her heart. She offered every joy and every tear to Jesus, who was the sole witness of her intimate life. Veronica loved Jesus beyond all things. Her greatest joy was to entrust to Him all of her daily affairs, all her dear ones, this situation or that, and then to question Him: “Jesus, what do you think of this situation? How can I help you with it Jesus?”

Veronica didn’t mark the time. She had no idea how long she had been praying when suddenly something unusual seized her. Her face felt like it was on fire, and she experienced a dazzling light which became more and more brilliant with each passing second. “What is going on?” she wondered.

Totally Blind

Veronica had been born in South Africa to a fervent and strict Catholic family of eight children. Every morning the entire household went to Mass, and each night they attended Vespers at their local parish. Most importantly, they prayed the Rosary together. On Sundays, they attended an African Mass, where the rhythmic dancing and inspired songs seemed to stop time in its tracks. No one in the family discussed piety. This way of life was already integrated into their home, like eating, sleeping, or working. Yet from birth Veronica had had a heavy cross to carry: a retinal detachment affected both of her eyes, leaving her almost totally blind. As a child, she had no sight in her left eye, while her right eye allowed her to see the world only through a kind of dark grey veil. Veronica was a bank clerk, until 1956, when she married Alex, the financial director of a large clothing retailer. They had four children. Alex was like an angel coming down from Heaven for her! A companion sent by God to be by her side and to keep her as a precious treasure! Alex belonged to that race of husbands who know how to give their spouses the calm and tender love they themselves draw from the heart of God. It wasn’t until 1977 that Veronica became completely blind. But what

beauty she still radiated!

A Name No One Could Pronounce!

That night, an intense light shone on Veronica and her heart began to beat uncontrollably. After a moment of fright she realized that there was a man standing in front of her, and that he was Jesus! Whether it was an apparition or a vision, it did not matter. Jesus was standing there, all in white! Veronica could see Him, with his long hair and blue eyes, his arms extended downwards, palms facing her. Jesus was bathed in such an encompassing light that she couldn't see anything but Him. He said: "Come! Get up and pray with me!"

Jesus showed her a little village surrounded by hills. She saw a church, two steeples topped with crosses and three arched entrances. Jesus led her inside, where she saw several glass windows. One window struck her particularly. It was of Our Lady of the Annunciation and Veronica felt puzzled by what she was seeing. Before 1977 she had taken a trip to Israel, Lourdes and Fatima with Alex. But this place felt so different.

"Jesus, I do not know this place!" she said to Him. Jesus smiled, and looking at her, He said: "Medjugorje! There I will give you the light and show you the way!" Then, just as He had come, He disappeared. Overwhelmed and grappling with what had just happened to her, Veronica found herself in complete darkness again. As she questioned herself, Alex joined her in prayer. He found her in tears but quickly realized they were tears of joy! He looked at her with tenderness and asked, "Are you okay?"

"Alex, Jesus spoke to me. He said that we have to go to Medjugorje, to walk with Him and pray. He said that there, He will give me the light and will show me the way.

"What?!" Alex exclaimed. "Medjugorje?" Alex asked her to repeat the name.

She could hear the confusion in his voice, but she could only say again, "Medjugorje." He had her repeat the name twice more,