

**Dear Mary's Children**

**As you read this editorial keep in mind that [Father Timothy Byerely](#) is the spiritual director of all the Betanias around the world and we speak on a regular basis. We keep within the GUIDLINES of the Postulator in Rome, during this time of beatification and canonization.**

**We have added a Deacon from [Nassau County](#) and a Priest from [Queens](#) that will be added to our board of directors as active Spiritual Directors. Sister Marcella Purpura, Spiritual Director from [Suffolk County](#) , is presently assisting a pilgrimage in Medjugorje at this moment. Please pray for her as she is helping pilgrims from her wheel chair!**

**We are also reviewing the credentials of two very well know attorneys and two accountants to join [Our Mother Queen of Peace, Marian Coalition - Betania XIII, Board of Directors.](#)**

**Remember Our Lady of Betania has been Church Approved but Medjugorje is still being investigated.**

**May I add here that in the past the church usually does not make a final decision until the apparitions cease. In Medjugorje the apparitions are continuous. The church, however, has condemned alleged apparitions during the events, Queens, New York, is an, example.**

**I personally asked Maria Esperanza if she believes that Our Holy Mother is appearing in Medjugorje ? Maria, looked at me with a smile and nodded her head up and down!**

**Peace,  
Fino Giordano  
Coordinator, OMQofP - Betania XIII**

# ***SPIRIT DAILY***

---

## **APPARITION BEAT: WHEN IT CAME TO SEERS, JOHN PAUL II SEEMED TO HAVE A SPECIAL CONNECTION**



There are those trying to portray Pope Benedict XVI as a caretaker pontiff who may one day best be known for reigning during the abuse crisis, although future events may one day diminish the focus on such negatives. How would the scandals have affected John Paul II? Would his charisma and mystical aspect allowed him to have transcended the crisis?

There certainly was that proclivity for the mystical. It was under John Paul II that apparition sites in Africa, Nicaragua, and Venezuela were formally approved (overseen, one might add, by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who was head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith), and there is little doubt that John Paul took special interest in seers.

One of those who came to his attention was the great holy woman of Caracas, Maria Esperanza de Bianchini, who died six years ago this Saturday -- on August 7, 2004, at Southern Ocean County Hospital near the shore in New Jersey of a Parkinson-like affliction [see [story](#)].

Esperanza is now under study for possible sainthood, and the focus, says Father Tim Byerley, who is co-postulator for her cause (which is spearheaded by the Diocese of Metuchen, New Jersey), is her proposed "fame of sanctity" and "fame of intercession." Father Timothy E. Byerley, who hails from the Camden diocese, recently had his book *The Great Commission*, published by Paulist Press. The work, based on his doctoral dissertation from Fordham University's School of Religion and Religious Education, serves to elucidate the history and role of Catholic evangelization efforts.



As an encyclopedia notes, "When sufficient information has been gathered, the investigation of the candidate, who is called 'Servant of God,' is presented by the local bishop to the Roman Curia—the Congregation for the Causes of the Saints—where it is assigned a postulator, whose task is to gather further information about the life of the Servant of God. When enough information has been gathered, the Congregation will recommend to



the Pope that he make a proclamation of the Servant of God's heroic virtue (that is, that the servant exhibited the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity, and the cardinal virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance, to an heroic degree). From this point the one said to be 'heroic in virtue' is referred to by the title 'Venerable.'"

When that is reached, the next phases, of course, would include beatification and -- God-willing -- canonization.

Father Byerley is tight-lipped about the process and says very little can be said about the inquiry as it adheres closely to canonical norms. The focus is not the mystical component. One thing the postulators will study is whether "there is a grass roots devotion among balanced faithful." They will seek to intensely interview a hundred to 120 people who knew her well, said the priest, who is currently in Venezuela. He said one miraculous cure will be needed for beatification, and a second for canonization, if it gets to that point. "I think we have one we're looking at very seriously," he said, declining any further details and emphasizing the need "to be circumspect." Those who believe they have experienced a miracle at her intercession may contact him.

Esperanza always emphasized strict obedience to Rome and local bishops, enjoying the strong support of her own prelates. She once presented John Paul II a statue of "Our Lady, Reconciler of All Peoples and Nations," the title under which the Blessed Mother appeared in that Church-approved Venezuelan apparition, of which she was the main visionary.

Another seer who had her brush with the Pope was Mirjana Dragicevic Soldo of Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is also currently under study by Rome, with no firm sense of how Benedict XVI feels about the famous apparitions.



Mirjana [Jeff] met John Paul II when, during a general audience, a priest pointed her out to him; shortly after Vatican staff sent a note for her to meet privately with the Pope at Castel Gandolfo.

Last October, in a talk to pilgrims at Oasis of Peace just outside of Medjugorje, Mirjana revealed that "among other things, [the Pope] said to me, 'I know everything, I have been following everything. Ask pilgrims to pray for my intentions. And take good care of Medjugorje because Medjugorje is the hope for the entire world...'"

Others have made similar assertions on the Pope's stance (including his admonition to protect it) and there have been reports that he read the monthly messages, as well as private letters that indicate his devotion to the Medjugorje Virgin, although he issued no public statements, leaving it in the realm of hearsay. Added Mirjana more intriguingly:

"A priest told me from the very beginning that the Pope was very fond of Medjugorje because two months before the apparitions in Medjugorje started, he was praying to Our Lady to come again on earth. He said, 'I cannot do it all alone because Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Poland and so forth are all Communist. I cannot do it alone. I need you.' And later he heard that in Yugoslavia, a Communist country, in a little village, Our Lady appeared and he said, 'that is a response to my prayer.'" Mirjana's translator has verified that the seer made these statements.

Like so many things coming out of foreign lands, there are often difficulties with translation and confirmations. No one knows how Benedict XVI feels about Medjugorje.

But there is little question that John Paul II had an affinity for the transcendental, and with it he seemed not only to rise to the occasion -- whatever the occasion was -- but above it.

[resources: [The Bridge to Heaven](#) and [Medjugorje Fasting Book](#)]

[See also: [Story on Maria Esperanza's death](#) and [The Incredible Story of Maria Esperanza](#) - Spirit Daily]



**Geo, (Maria's husband), Maria Esperanza, and Fino at the Shrine of Mother Cabrini in New York**

**In 1993 Maria Esperanza first** asked me to spend a day with her and family. She taught me many things that day, made some prophecy about me and America, plus I watched her have an apparition with Our Holy Mother for about 15 minutes.

This past March 2010, Her daughter asked me through an inner locution with her mother to begin Betania XIII on Long Island, New York. Many from New York witnessed this request as we visited Betania I in Venezuela. We need many to help this place of Peace and Refuge to become a reality. Praying the Rosary with "Our Lady of Reconciliation" is imperative.

The following will give you a more in depth background on who is Maria Esperanza:

***Remembering the "Church Approved Marian Apparitions" in Betania, Venezuela***



August 7th is the 6th anniversary of the death of [Maria Esperanza](#). She was the primary visionary of the apparitions at Betania, Venezuela. It is important that we not forget these apparitions nor the wonderful woman who received them. The following is summarized from information I read at [Medjugorje USA](#).

The apparitions of Betania were approved by the Catholic Church, November 21, 1987. Our Lady of Betania, Venezuela appeared to visionary Maria Esperanza under the title, "Mary, Virgin and mother Reconciler of all people and nations."

Maria Esperanza has been considered to be one of the greatest mystics of our time. Showered with many gifts from God during her lifetime, Maria displayed a number of incredible unexplainable phenomena that defies natural humanistic explanation. She suffered with the piercing sign of stigmata, (the bleeding wounds of Christ,) she had the wondrous ability of healing, levitation, bi-location, and capability of predicting future events, many yet to come.

One of the most unusual phenomena which revealed itself on the body of Maria Esperanza was the appearance of a rose which spontaneously bursts out from her chest. This miraculous occurrence took place many times. The Eucharist materialized in her mouth, and emissions of the scents of roses, and fruits emanated from her body, much like Father Pio. Lastly, there was the apparitions of rose petals much like that of St. Theresa, the Little Flower.

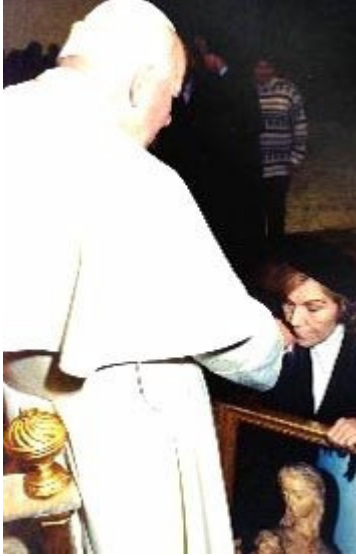
There were alleged Eucharistic Miracles as well. On December 8, 1991, Fr. Otty Ossa Aristizabal, pastor assigned to the Betania grotto, was celebrating mass in the outdoor church. Fr. Otty performed the consecration; he broke the host into four pieces, then elevated them. He placed them on the patten and consumed one of the four pieces. After consuming the one portion, he looked down to find that a spot of blood had appeared on one of the sections. Medical tests were performed on the blood which proved it to be of human origin.



Mrs. Maria Esperanza was born in the village of San Rafael, Barrancas, Monagas State, Venezuela on November 22, 1928. She had her first mystical experience at the age of five with the apparition of Saint Theresa of the Little Lower, who from the waters of the Orinoco River tossed her a red rose. At twelve she became sick with an acute bronchial-pneumonia; but after having a vision where she saw Our Lady of the Valley, Patroness of Margarita Island, she recovered miraculously. During her adolescence, Mrs. Maria Esperanza's health was frail and her heart grew weaker and weaker. Later on, the onset of another illness partially paralyzed her. She was told by twenty-two physicians she had no hope of life. Then, she was healed again after the Sacred Heart of Jesus appeared to her, and gave her the first of hundreds of messages.

Following her profound desire to be a Religious, she lived for a period of time with the Franciscan nuns in Merida. On October 3, 1954, in the Chapel of the Convent, Mrs. Maria Esperanza had a vision of Saint Theresa of the Little Flower who told her that her vocation was not to be a Religious, but a spouse and a mother; that she would sanctify herself, and would travel the world. That same day, the Sacred Heart of Jesus told her to go to Rome. She lived there with the Sisters of the Ravasco Institute until she married Geo Bianchini Giani on December 8, 1956 in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception in Saint Peter's Basilica.

She was mother to seven children, a boy and six girls, and all married and have children of their own. Beginning with the eldest they are: Maria Inmaculada, Maria Esperanza, Maria Gracia, Giovanni, Maria Coromoto, Maria Auxiliadora, and Maria del Carmen.



During her lifetime Mrs. Maria Esperanza received countless messages from Our Lady. At times she received more than one message per day. Since the beginning, Our Lady has predicted many historic events, wars, and different occurrences which have taken place around the world. In the months leading up to September 11, she warned that a small power was about to align with a larger power to provoke America. She stated that "The United States must take care of itself a lot because there is much hatred toward the U.S." But, even in such tragic prophecy Mrs. Esperanza always delivered her messages with hope.

Maria Esperanza died 6 years ago surrounded by her family and friends. It was reported that after her death the room was filled with a strong fragrance of roses. She was 75 years old. As we recall this wonderful mystic lets pray that we stay close the Virgin Mother that she loved and to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! Please spread the good news!