



The parish church of St. James. Medjugorje is the only place on earth that boasts nothing more than a parish. It has no sanctuary, basilica, or monastery; no canonized saint or beatified heroic figure; not that all the other pilgrimage sites have. Yet, people are receiving graces, blessings, conversions, and many experience miracles.



A lot of people in Medjugorje climb Apparition Hill

This is the site where the first apparition took place in 1981.

Katia, too walks up Apparition Hill



The Blue Cross is a place of prayer and where some of the first apparitions took place.



And Iacopo, too.



Here we arrived at the top where the apparitions took place.

I've never seen such rocky land (Puglia-where Katia's from-is a close second!)



Some visitors to Medjugorje testi that the sun does strange things, like dance or pulsate. Nothing out of the ordinary during our visit...



This is interesting. The statue of Jesus actually emits droplets of water near Jesus' right knee. There are no pipes or tubes hooked up to it. Apparently, studies have been done and the liquid is actually human tears. This is a mystery in Medjugorje that everyone can witness to. We collected some of the liquid on small kerchiefs.

An up-close picture of the



An up-close picture of the emanating liquid (BTW, this was the only thing during the 5 days we were there that got Claremarie to say, "Okay, I'll admit it, this is cool!")

Medjugorje at night for Eucharisti Adoratio



We had the honor of meeting Vicka, one of the visionaries, who came to our hotel and laid hands on each one of us in our group. Our guide, Ombreta, is a personal friend of hers. (BTW, Iacopo, Claremarie, and I also had the opportunity to pray with Ivan [another visionary] as he had his daily vision.)



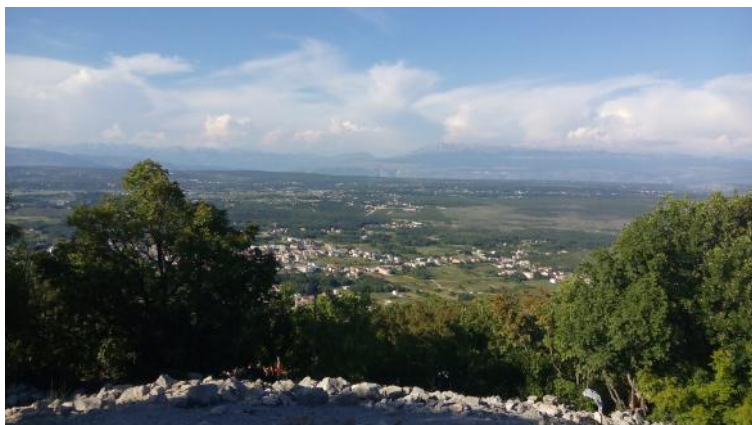


Padre Roberto leads us on a series of spiritual teachings on the way up Cross Mountain (Mt. Krizevac). It was a very rocky-and very penitenti-climb. But we all did it, including the kids (and some septuagenarians in our group, too!).



You can see some folks climbing up Mt. Krizevac. BTW, there is a drug rehab community (called Cenacolo) here in Medjugorje. The young former addicts have a "ministry" of climbing up the hill to carry down pilgrims who have fallen and are injured. When they get the call, they ask three questions: 1. What nationality are they? 2. Near which station [o the cross] did the injury occur? and 3. How much do they weigh? They send the appropriate guys based on the answers to those questic

The cross at the top of Mt. Krizevac. It was built by the people of Medjugorje in 1933 in honor of the 19th centenary of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.



The view from the top of Mt. Krizevac. Katia and I were really stunned by how beautiful the area was. The land in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia is quite rocky, desolate, and barren (very little grows except figs, grapes, and tobacco). But the landscape is gorgeous.