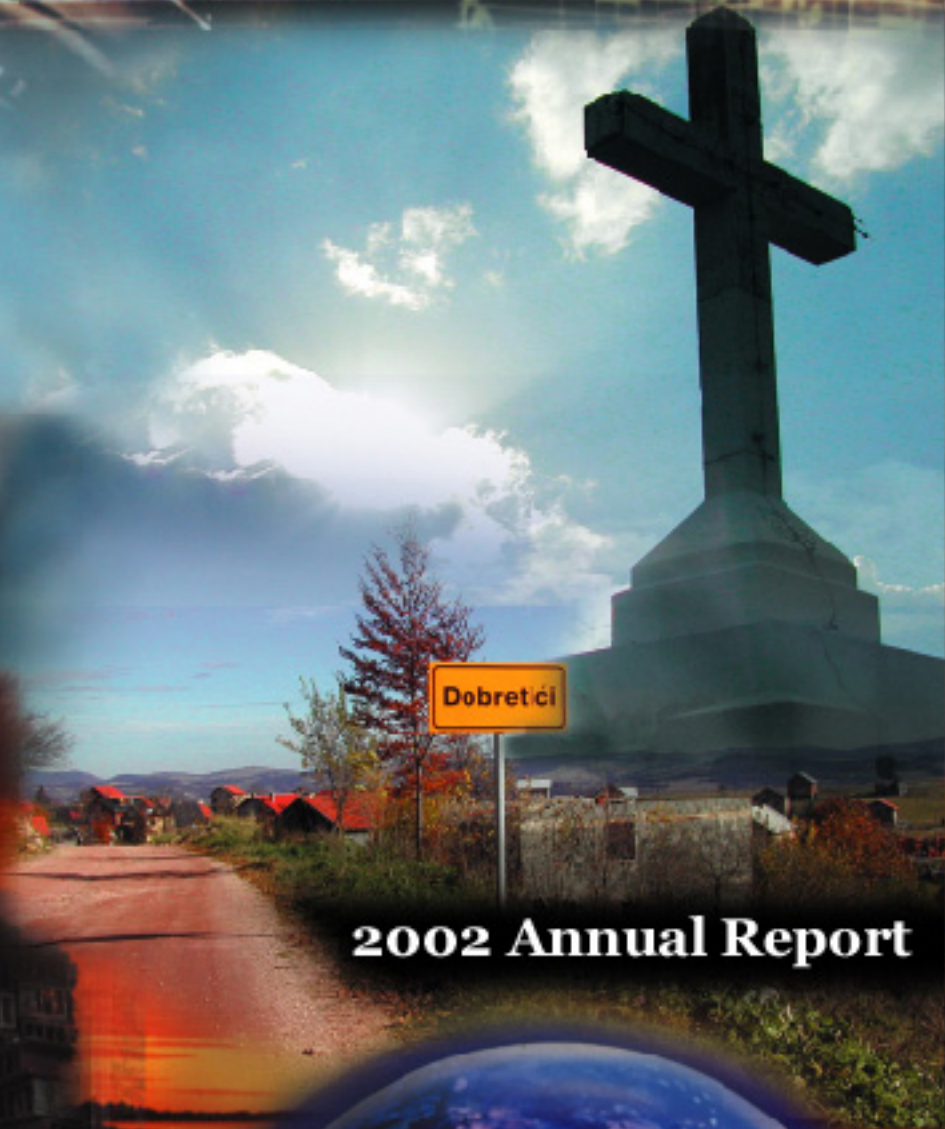
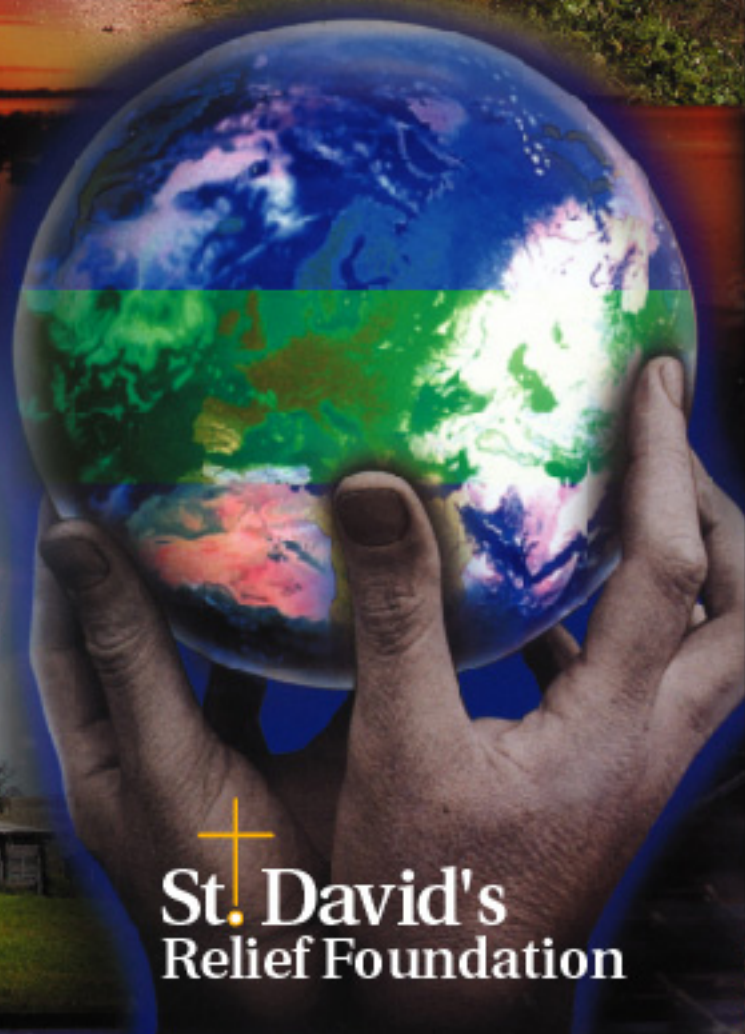


60° E 120



2002 Annual Report




St. David's
Relief Foundation



St. David's Relief Foundation

Dear Friends,

My greetings to you this year come from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In June, my family and I moved to Croatia and I am now managing St. David's from this side of the world. Many factors figured in our decision to uproot from America and establish ourselves here. Firstly, much prayer, discernment and advice was offered. In the end, as a family we felt we were to move. Once the decision was made, events confirmed that we were on the right path. I negotiated the sale of my business and one day after we placed our house on the market it sold. Within a week we liquidated most all of our American interest and now are established in Croatia.

For 11 years, management of the Foundation was based in America. Now, first hand, we will be able to witness the fruits of the assistance that you so generously continue to provide. I am blessed and excited to be on this side of St. David's operations.

Already we have strengthened our relationship with the Franciscans and their humanitarian organization, Medjugorje-Mir. Sharing offices, we meet daily to discuss present and future needs that will more efficiently provide programs of assistance to this recovering region.

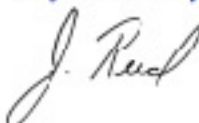
In light of the September 11 attack on America, St. David's suffered a decline in both material and monetary donations throughout 2002. This reduction was understandable. Out of respect, we elected not to make any monetary appeals to our donors for over a year. America needed time to heal and recover. Nevertheless, we persisted with our mission and were able to deliver over \$750,000.00 in aid this year through November.

Our plans for 2003 are to continue providing material aid from America and keep our Baby Feeding Program as top priorities. In June, we will resume the Work Camp Program and invite all to join us in Bosnia-Herzegovina this summer for this memorable and worthy experience. A new program of assistance, *Light A Home*, has been established to bring electricity to the homes of returning refugees. Our first challenge is 25 homes.

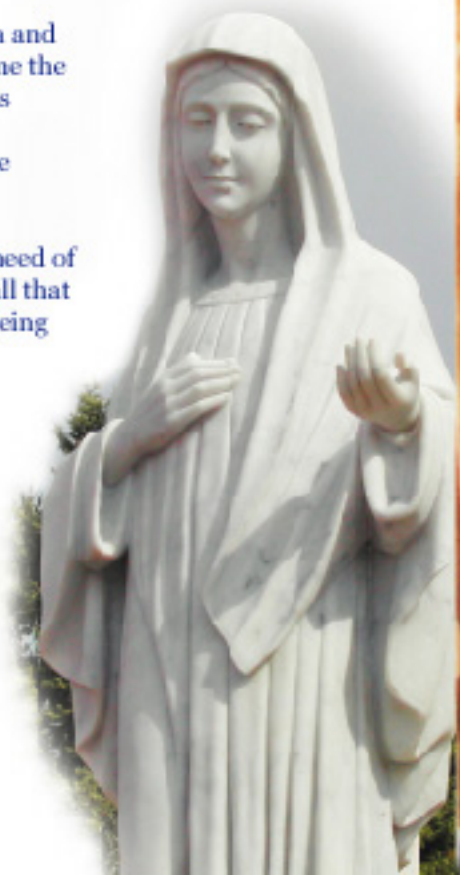
Looking forward, I am energized about 2003. When one witnesses the need of the people it inspires you with ideas, prayers, and a stronger will to do all that you can to make a positive difference in the lives of the less fortunate. Being here, I see there is much work ahead for St. David's.

We need your help.

May God bless you and your families,



Jeff Reed
Director



FR. LEONARD OREC

Dr. Fr. Leonard Orec, a highly regarded Herzegovinian Franciscan priest, passed away on January 21, 2002, after a serious illness.

Fr. Leonard was born on January 20, 1928, in Posuski Gradac, Herzegovina. He made his solemn vows in Split, Croatia, on June 29, 1951. The same year, he was ordained a priest. He received a doctorate in Ljubljana in 1956, and pursued his formation in München in 1957. He was professor at the Franciscan Theology in Sarajevo from 1958 to 1961. Fr. Leonard was a member of the Province Council from 1967 to 1973, and vice-provincial from 1973 to 1976. From 1961 to 1967, he was also in charge of Franciscan vocations. From 1967 to 1977, he was Novice master in his Province. In his fifties, he was sent to Germany where he perfected his knowledge of the German language. He was Pastor in Blankenau and in Hosenfeld from 1977 to 1988. During this period, he taught two years at the High Theological School in Fulda. For 25 years he was in charge of Franciscan vocations, and he spent almost 25 years outside of his Province.

From 1988 to 1991, Fr. Leonard served in Medjugorje, of which more than one year was as Pastor. During these three years he left an indelible imprint as an experienced and wise priest. Many ideas were born in his heart and mind, which were further realized as the years passed. In the difficult times of Communist repression and of pre-war tension in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he did not bend a knee but resisted courageously and wisely to all attacks, sometimes even to threats from those who understood his vision of the development of the Shrine in Medjugorje.

Among other things, he started the *Association of Guides for Pilgrims in the Parish of Medjugorje*, and managed to bring the guides under the shield of the Church. In 1993 he established the Information Center "Mir" Medjugorje, which continues to be a binding force between Medjugorje pilgrims and friends all over the world.

In 1992, knowing numerous people in many nations and the difficult situation of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he started the humanitarian association *Medjugorje-Mir*. Thanks to the friends of Medjugorje, this association distributed tons of humanitarian aid during the war, and continues today with its humanitarian work. Fr. Leonard worked also on the spiritual renewal of people wounded by the war and was a link between nations and religions.

In 1997, Fr. Leonard served in the Franciscan General Curia in Rome. At the age of 70, he learned to speak Italian. He was in Rome until July 2001, when he became seriously ill. Also in 2001, he celebrated 50 years of priestly ordination.



All those who knew Fr. Leonard Orec will remember him as a great man, an intelligent man full of experience, which he transmitted generously to all he met on his way. He was happy to be a Franciscan friar, and he transmitted this joy to others.

Fr. Leonard, as a man and as a believer, can be best described by the words of St. Paul: *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"*. (2 Tim 4:7)

"He was passionately trying to leave the world behind him a better place than what he found. For his work, he did not get recognition from the powerful and the rich, but from the hungry, sick, lonely and abandoned. In his eyes they had priority; not their religious, nationality or social status. He never asked from people to be thanking him; he asked for permission to love them all. He was a practical ecumenicist.

"Love has only one time, NOW; and only one place, HERE."

Fr. Ljudevit Rupcic. Reflections of Fr. Leonard Orec.
January 23, 2002

MEDJUGORJE-MIR

The religious humanitarian association Medjugorje-Mir, with its office in Split, Croatia, was founded in 1992 by Fr. Leonard Orec. He was the president and the spiritual advisor of this highly recognized organization until his death in January 2002. Medjugorje-Mir is engaging people of good will from all over the world who desire to be active in humanitarian and charitable work.

During war years in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, Medjugorje-Mir obtained and delivered over 46,000 tons of humanitarian aid, food, clothing and medicines. Other activities involve: help in reconstruction of war torn areas; care for sick and handicapped; support of orphaned children through a sponsorship program; aid for Kosovo, Macedonia, and Albania; projects of evangelization through mission support; and special contributions to the improvement of the culture of peace and solidarity. Medjugorje-Mir is helping all the troubled Christians, as well as Muslims, Jewish people and all who are in great need. Its emphasis is on a person, not on religion or nationality.

The war may be over, but not the need of people in these areas. It takes a lot of support and love to heal the wounds, and to return to homes where dear ones may have been lost. In continuation of its legacy, Medjugorje-Mir is spreading its hand to not only refugees, but to the homeless, abandoned and sick.

Fr. Ivan Landeka, Fr. Leonard's friend and associate, is now the president of the organization. Medjugorje-Mir sends its gratitude and prayers to all those who are in its service: the ones giving and the ones receiving.



CURRENT SITUATION IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

With the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement in December 1995, the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina stopped. Today, although there are no bullets flying, there are still wars of a different nature.

A *silent ethnic war* is still very much alive within the country. Dayton managed to divide the country into two sections, The Republic of Srpska (RS) and the Federation of Bosnia & Herzegovina (FBH). Within the RS, if you are not of Serbian origin you are in the minority and usually in the back of the line when it comes to jobs and services. Within FBH, there is a patchwork of regions where one ethnic group holds control over the others depending on who was in control when the war ended. The people are living side by side but the lines of discrimination are still drawn. In many cases, people wish to return home but are unable due to political bias. This is a war that St. David's will not touch. We assist where we are invited, regardless of the political and ethnic mix of a region. With this policy, we feel that we are not a party to any favoritism and thus not adding to this complex problem.

Another type of war is the *psychological war* in the mind and hearts of those who lost loved ones and their homes. This war is deeply embedded within the population. For more than two generations – over 50 years – the citizens of Bosnia have experienced war and Communism. The current transition from Communism to democracy and from war to peace, simultaneously, has staggering effects. There are no statistics to measure this problem but one only has to talk to the people to realize the enormity of this dilemma. One brief example is Marija (name changed) from Sarajevo. During the war she stayed in Sarajevo with her family and endured daily shelling, food and water shortages and no electricity for over three years. Her father, a non-soldier, was called into service and, shortly thereafter, was killed. Later, on August 28, 1995, she lost her 14-year-old brother as he stood in the bread queue in the Markele Marketplace. The mortar killed 37, wounded 90, and changed the tide of the war.

Today she lives with her mother in a small rented apartment. Her mother works, and Marija maintains three jobs. On the surface she seems to be managing with the past very well. But one only has to look into her eyes to see that she and thousands of others will need more than this world could offer to heal the psychological scars that still remain. For these victims of this internal war, St. David's asks for your prayers of reconciliation.

A *war of poverty and unemployment* continues to exist. With an average salary of just \$195 and an average retirement pension of \$73 per month, much assistance is still needed throughout the country. According to entity statistical bureaux, the unemployment rate in the country has steadied at around 40 percent. In a modern world, 10 percent unemployment indicates a serious problem. During the war, many rural populations were forced into the larger cities to escape the front lines of fighting. In major cities like Sarajevo, Mostar and Banja Luka they have found themselves without jobs and long-term housing solutions. These *Internally Displaced Persons* as defined by UNHCR number over 400,000. A further 426,000 people have refugee status outside of Bosnia-Herzegovina. People will return if given the right opportunities and humanitarian aid to do so. In the past 12 months the encouraging news is that 80,000 have returned home. One of St. David's objectives is to promote the return of citizens to their communities where they lived before the war in self-sufficiency.

Although the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed seven years ago, today it is difficult to witness seven years of peacetime progress. This is in many ways no fault of the victims of the conflict, but rather the lack of publicity, funds, and the fact that it takes time to organize the relief of an entire country. Bosnia, not much larger than Switzerland, was devastated. Entire communities were uprooted and forced into major cities and to foreign countries. Many dream of returning to their homes but in many cases it is not possible without the initial catalyst to begin the return, which includes the reconstruction of homes, water and electrical systems, jobs, and the removal of land mines. In Christian communities, the first element to facilitate return is the Church. Once the Church is functioning, people begin to return. With the exception of land mine removal, St. David's looks to assist communities in the areas of humanitarian relief that initiate programs that promote the return of citizens to their communities.

Our plan for 2003 is to push programs that allow people to take ownership in what we offer.



LIGHT A HOUSE

The 19 small villages of Dobretici were on the front lines of the war that tore through Bosnia-Herzegovina. Today, many wish to return to their native homes and rebuild their lives and community. With the help of the Stabilization Forces from Holland (SFOR), St. David's has been challenged to assist with a new program, *Light A House*.

SFOR Holland has agreed to bring new power poles and lines to an area of Dobretici if St. David's will provide funding to run the power from the main line to the homes of 25 returnee families. Many of these families have been without electricity for seven years. The cost is \$850 per home.

WORK CAMP 2003

In 2003, St. David's will resume its Bosnia-Herzegovina Work Camp Program. Mark your calendars for the first two weeks of June for this commendable experience. Details of the camp are in progress and will be mailed in April. The Camp will be conducted outside of Sarajevo. The assistance that we will provide is designed to strengthen the community and influence the return of refugees to their homes. If you are unable to attend, please consider financially supporting this annual project.

BABY FOOD

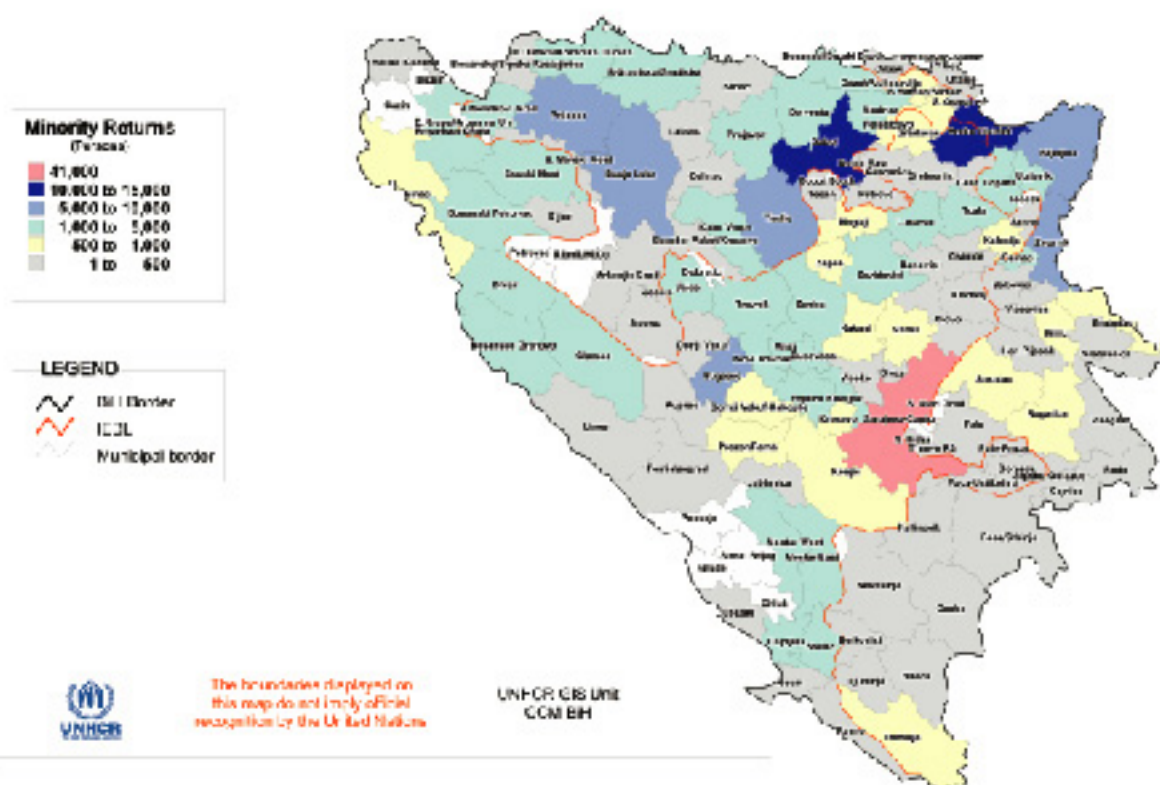
For the past 10 years, St. David's has felt the call to supply baby food and juice to the babies of Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 2002, an additional 80 tons were delivered. This project has fed thousands of needy babies over the years. In the name of the many mothers and institutions that have received this gift, we thank all that have continued to support St. David's and this project.

REFRIGERATORS

For returning refugees, the needy and institutions, St. David's was able to purchase and distribute 168 new refrigerators in 2002. This very special donation enabled those who received them to add another touch of normalcy back to their lives.



TOTAL MINORITY RETURNS FROM 01/01/1999 TO 28/02/2002



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year Ending December 31, 2001

AUDITED

Support	\$
Contributions	188,451.00
Gifts in Kind	666,567.00
Total Support	855,018.00
Revenue	
Misc. Income	2,334.00
Total Support & Revenue	857,352.00
Expenses	
Program Services	
Donations GIK	1,220,744.00
Donations Other	186,430.00
Total Program Services	1,407,174.00
Supporting Services	
Management and General	25,480.00
Fund Raising	5,233.00
Total Expenses	1,437,887.00
Excess of Support & Revenue over Expenses	(580,535.00)

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the Year 2002 Through October 31, 2002

Support	\$
Contributions	96,908.00
Gifts in Kind	717,168.00
Total Support	814,076.00
Revenue	
Misc. Income	714.00
Total Support & Revenue	814,790.00
Expenses	
Program Services	
Donations GIK	717,168.00
Donations Other	68,119.00
Total Program Services	785,287.00
Supporting Services	
Management and General	21,515.00
Fund Raising	835.00
Total Expenses	807,637.00
Excess of Support & Revenue over Expenses	7,153.00



Fr. Slavko Barbaric 1946-2000

"Everything good that man has done is the fruit of their keen awareness that their lives are the gift and that they should serve God and man with their lives and gifts they have received. This is actually the only mission of man and the whole point of endowing gifts on people."

Medjugorje, June 26, 2000

OUR MISSION

Thousands of people remain displaced by the devastating war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The victims of this war are for the most part women, children, the elderly, and the physically and mentally handicapped. They have been removed from all that is familiar and have nothing.

St. David's mission is to provide tangible humanitarian aid to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to assist in reconstruction. St. David's works in concert with the Franciscan Friars of Bosnia-Herzegovina, recognized Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from other nations, as well as assisting local relief agencies. St. David's is multi-denominational and is nonpartisan in its relief. The aid is distributed in areas of need without regard to race, ethnic, national, or religious persuasion. St. David's Relief Foundation provides evidence to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina that they have neither been forgotten, nor forsaken.

OUR FINANCIAL OBJECTIVE

In order to continue delivery of humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina, St. David's must secure sources of funding to meet its project goals and objectives. We are seeking financial commitments from concerned individuals and organizations. A financial commitment is an excellent opportunity to be an integral part of an essential humanitarian foundation. In a visible way the results of your contributions can be measured. As these besieged people struggle to rebuild their lives, they depend upon St. David's. St. David's must rely on your financial assistance.

Please make a financial commitment to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina by visiting www.stdavid.org

Thank you.



ŽUPNI URED SV. JAKOVA - MEĐUGORJE

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USA

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650-310
651-333
Fax: 00 387 36 651-444

Br.

Medjugorje, 8. November 2002

In the years of tragedies and war there will be always stories of courage, inspiration and the love of God that will be as bright as the sun coming out of the night. That is the way God will touch his people in the times when some will say that He is far and absent.

Just a few months before the war when Jeff came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje we went to Konjic in Northern Herzegovina. There when he saw the church being built he recognized that the people needed help. That was a practical response to the need at that moment but also it was a prophetic beginning of something that God had planned. St. David's started small and insignificant but since those initial days of 1991 in Konjic great things have been done for the glory of God.

Ever since those first days in Medjugorje and Konjic Jeff and the supporters of St. David's have been pilgrims. On this journey with the people of Bosnia – Herzegovina and Croatia living with them in their faith and in their sufferings St. David's Relief Foundation has become a touch of God for so many. In these years through the network of good people gathered around Jeff, St. David's met the rich for the sake of the poor and the poor for the sake of the rich so that they all in each other may meet their Lord and be blessed.

My words can't begin to express proper appreciation for the wonderful work of St. David's. I place all those giving and receiving into the hands of Our Lord Jesus and into the hands of Our Lady our Queen of Peace.

fr Svetozar Kraljevic

fr. Svetozar Kraljevic, ofmc.



**14 Days That Will Change
Your Life. *Forever.***

Join Us  June 2003