

Disclaimer

Caritas of Birmingham is not acting on behalf of the Catholic Church, nor is it placing its mission under the church. Its mission is to reach the ends of the earth. Its actions are outside of the church done privately. This disclaimer is further stated:

So as not to take for granted the credibility of the Medjugorje Apparitions, it is stated that the Medjugorje apparitions are not approved by the Catholic Church.

SPECIAL STATEMENT

Medjugorje Status

September 21, 2015 A.D.

No attempt is intended to pre-empt the Church on the validity of the apparitions.

Medjugorje Apparitions. They are private revelation waiting for the Church's final judgment. In the interim, these private revelations are allowed by, and for, the faithful to have devotion to and to be promoted legally by the Church. Devotion and the propagation of private revelations can be forbidden only if the private revelation is found to be because of anything it contains which contravenes faith and morals, according to AAS 58 (1966) 1186 Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Medjugorje has not been condemned nor found to be contrary to faith or morals, therefore it is in the grace of the Holy Spirit followed by the faithful. By the rite of Baptism one is incorporated into the Church, given the authority to evangelize. By Baptism they share in the universal priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission. The Church does not need approval to promote or to have devotions to private revelations, but to spread them when in conformity to AAS 58 (1966) 1186. The authority to evangelize is given when baptized. These apparitions have not been formally approved by the Church. Caritas of Birmingham and the Catholic Community of Caritas and all associated with it, realize

the final authority regarding the Queen of Peace, Medjugorje happenings related to the apparitions, rests with the Holy See. We at Caritas, willingly submit to that judgment. While maintaining an amiable relationship with the Diocese of Birmingham and a good working relationship with its bishop, Caritas of Birmingham as an organization is not officially connected to the Diocese of Birmingham, America. Caritas is the Knights of Columbus.³ The Diocese of Birmingham's official position on Caritas is neutral and holds us as Catholics in good standing.

1. The Church does not have to approve the apparitions. She did not do as She did with the apparitions of Rue du Bac in Paris which led to the Miraculous Medal. The Church never approved these apparitions and gave way to the people's widespread acceptance of the Miraculous Medal and thereby the Apparitions to St. Catherine. Seneca's *Sensus Fidei* (latin, meaning "The Sense of the Faithful"), regarding the apparitions states that the "sense" of the people says that "Mary is here in Medjugorje."

2. Catechism of the Catholic Church 2nd Edition

3. TThe Knights of Columbus also are not officially under the jurisdiction of the local Ordinary, yet they are very Catholic. The Knights of Columbus was founded as a lay organization in 1882 with the basic Catholic beliefs. In the absence of a local council appeals to the local Ordinary to be the Chaplain. The Knights of Columbus is still a lay organization, and operates with its own internal structure.

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