

gin Mary:



10, Kristopher MacBeth, 12, Amber Morris, 11, Catherine Gorre, 17, and Kim Frearson, 13, pose in during the Marian Conference at Kodak's Theater on the Ridge.



Marian visionary, Ivan Dragicevic spoke to teens at the Marian Conference.

Conference youths that he was playing ball when he received his first vision from Mary. As word of the alleged apparitions has spread, Medjugorje has become the site of pilgrimages from all over the world — although the Roman Catholic Church has not officially recognized the reported appearances as worthy of belief.

Ivan, who spoke through an interpreter at the Marian Conference, said he continues to receive visions daily. Kim said she's never experienced the kind of visions that Ivan describes, yet she did feel that it's possible to receive messages from Mary through other people.

"I ask Mary and Jesus to answer me through my priest," Kim said.

Kristopher and Catherine said that in seeing Ivan, they were awed at coming in such

close

contact with somebody who has such a special relationship with Mary.

"I thought, 'Wow, somebody who actually sees Mary is present in the room. Mary is watching over him, watching what he says,'" Kristopher remarked.

"You want to ask him, 'What does she look like? What does she say?'" Catherine added.

Next week: Politics

Story by Mike Latona • Photos by Greg Francis

much attention on Mary, J recalled that he gave a clear and concise reply.

"She's the mother of God. That's something really, really special," said J, 17, from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin.

"If it weren't for Mary saying yes to the angel Gabriel, we wouldn't have had Jesus," Kristopher commented. He added that he often prays to Mary "to thank her for giving us Jesus."

Kristopher is a student at Archangel School, a private institution in Rochester that emphasizes traditional Catholic values. Kim also attends Archangel, and Catherine is a graduate of the school.

All three youths noted that Archangel School stresses Marian devotion, especially through the recitation of daily rosary. Similarly, June Brown said in a May 1997 Courier article that she promotes the rosary to her students at Geneva's St. Francis de Sales/St. Stephen School.

intercedes for all

Brown added in the May article that Mary will intercede for anyone who prays the rosary regularly; that Mary will help you in all your needs; and that Mary will adopt you as her son or daughter — making you a brother or sister of Christ.

Peterson agreed that "our de-

votion to Mary should be as an interceder — someone to go between Jesus, God and us."

"If you pray to Mary, you get graces from her and she goes to the Father," added Kim, 13, from St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece.

On the other hand, Kim asserted that Mary becomes distressed when teens give in to temptation.

"Mary is crying for every little sin we're doing. She counts all of us as her children, and we're leaving her," Kim commented.

visionary's view

Kim's concerns were addressed by Ivan Dragicevic, an internationally renowned Marian visionary, who spoke during a lunchtime presentation at the Marian Conference. Ivan told his audience — which included Kim, Kristopher and Catherine — that Mary stresses prayer as the best way to safeguard against negative worldly influences.

Kim said that she and her mother plan to visit Ivan's hometown of Medjugorje. This small town, located in Bosnia-Herzegovina in eastern Europe, is the site where Ivan and five other teenagers supposedly began having Marian visions in 1981.

Ivan, who was 16 years old at the time, told the Marian

What's inside the 1998 Diocesan Directory?

- a telephone listing of every parish, priest and pastoral-staff member
- a guide to all diocesan offices and personnel
- Complete Mass schedules for every diocesan parish — plus times for the sacrament of reconciliation!
- a listing of religious communities and spirituality centers, complete with contact information.
- a directory of Catholic organizations operating in the Diocese of Rochester — from devotional societies to fraternal groups and alumni organizations



Order your indispensable Directory today!

Tax exempt? Call us for prices for your tax exempt organization: (716) 328-4340 or 1-800-600-3628.

Directory Pages with Binders	Directory Pages Only
1-3 sets\$17 each	1-3 sets\$11.50 each
4-6 sets\$14 each	4-6 sets\$9.50 each
7 or more sets\$14 each	7 or more sets\$8.50 each

*Tax and shipping included

Diocesan Directory c/o Catholic Courier
PO Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624

I enclose \$ _____ for _____ page sets without binders

I enclose \$ _____ for _____ page sets with binders

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Payment must accompany order. Make checks payable to Catholic Courier
Directory OR pay by MasterCard or Visa.

Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____