



The aim of the

Queen of Peace Apostolate

is to make known the Message of Our Lady at Medjugorje

Our focus is on living the message,
which is in harmony with the Church's Magisterium

QUEEN OF PEACE APOSTOLATE

HISTORY

**The Queen of Peace Apostolate is a non-profit,
lay apostolate established in 1986.**

On June 25, 1981, in the tiny village of Medjugorje, located in Bosnia-Herzegovina, six Croatian children reported seeing an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Her first words were *"I am the Blessed Virgin Mary, I have come to tell the World that God exists."*

More than 60 million people from all over the world have now visited Medjugorje. Pope John Paul II and the Roman Catholic Church have acknowledged that this has become the greatest religious event of our time.

OUR LADY'S MESSAGE:

- ~ PRAY AND FAST ~
- ~ MONTHLY CONFESSION ~
- ~ LOVE PEOPLE ~
- ~ FAMILY PRAYER ~
- ~ LIVE A HOLY LIFE ~
- ~ FREQUENT MASS ~
- ~ DAILY ROSARY ~
- ~ USE BLESSED OBJECTS ~
- ~ RENOUNCE SATAN ~
- ~ CONVERSION TO GOD ~



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Queen of Peace Apostolate is to make known the messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje, including: to Pray and Fast, frequent Mass, Monthly Confession, Daily Rosary, to Love People, and to use Blessed Objects. Our focus is on living the messages, which are in harmony with the Church's Magisterium.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION:

After well over a year of promoting the messages of Medjugorje under the name Queen of Peace Apostolate, on October 23, 1987, Donato Fiorentino filed an application for a Certificate of Incorporation. The application was granted and signed by a Justice for the Supreme Court of the Fourth Judicial District on November 10th, 1987. The founding Board Members were Donato Fiorentino, and Dr. Paul Fallon of Skaneateles, NY.

In 1992, Secretary/Treasurer Anne Erdle filed Form 8734, Department of the Treasury – Internal Revenue Service, “Schedule for an Advance Ruling for Application for a Certificate of Incorporation,” for tax exempt status under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

The Office of the Corporation was recorded as 149 Niagara Street, City of Canandaigua, County of Ontario, and State of New York. A copy of the By-laws was included with the application. The By-laws stipulated a Board of no more than 12 members and a Spiritual Advisor.

EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

The Queen of Peace Apostolate received the nine-digit federal Employee Identification Number, 16-1310146 from the IRS.

TAX EXEMPT CERTIFICATE:

The Queen of Peace Apostolate applied for, and received status as a New York State Tax Exempt organization (ST-119.1), Tax Exempt Number 186581, issued August 19, 1988. The Corporation shall be a Type B Corporation under Section 201 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of the State of New York.

BY-LAWS:

The Queen of Peace Apostolate Not-for-Profit By-laws, were originally drafted and approved circa 1987.

First Amendment: At the Annual Meeting on June 25, 2004, the revised By-laws were presented by the By-laws committee, reviewed and adopted upon motion of Bob Bo, seconded by Pete Butler, approved unanimously (8 members affirm, 4 members absent).

Second Amendment: At the April 2022 meeting, revisions were presented to the Board for review, and the By-laws were amended primarily for membership and terms of office.

DEPOSITORY: Two banking institutions were initially chosen for funds: Columbia Bank for the Checking Account and Interest Savings, and the Canandaigua Bank for the two Certificates of Deposit. In March of 2017, the depository was changed to the Lyons National Bank.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS: Fr. Albert Mary Joseph Shamon 1987-2003.
Fr. Paul Bonacci, June 2004 – present.

VIA AD PACEM COMMENTARIES:

Fr. Albert Mary Joseph Shamon: 1989 through 2004.
Fr. Paul Bonacci: 2004 through October 2006.
Lena Shipley: November 2006 – present.

SERVICE REGION: While incorporated in Ontario County, the primary service region is designated, but not limited to, as the greater Finger Lakes/Monroe County region.

EARLY HISTORY:

Executive Directors:

Don (Donato) Fiorentino one of the founding Board Members, was the first Executive Director (1987-1990.)

David Duprey was elected as Executive Director on November 20, 1990.

Bookstore: In November 1987, Morris and Anne Erdle of Canandaigua donated space for storage and distribution of books, religious items, and free materials for a religious bookstore.

Primary Location: The Q-o-P was registered at 149 Niagara Street in Canandaigua, County of Ontario. While centered out of Canandaigua with the early members, meetings were soon held at St. Stephen's School in Geneva. The location then shifted to Auburn soon after, and then to Waterloo, New York where it remains to present.

1988 Celebration: The first Queen of Peace Celebration was held on June 25th, 1988, at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua, NY.

1989 Celebration: The second Queen of Peace Celebration, was held June 25, 1989, at St. Francis Church in Auburn, NY. Approximately 375 were in attendance.

Activity: Monthly (ongoing) Via Ad Pacem: In October 1989, the Q-o-P published and distributed 3,670 printed copies of the Via Ad Pacem newsletter to members and interested parties throughout the region. The Via Ad Pacem became a monthly newsletter. At that time there were 15 paying Board Members, and 80 paid Associate Members who received it.

Activities: In 1989, a volunteer placed materials for the Q-o-P / Medjugorje, at a booth at the NYS Fair in Syracuse.

Activities: In 1989, the Q-o-P sponsored an active effort to increase Medjugorje prayer groups across the region, in conjunction with Joseph McNamera of St. Charles, IL.

Activity: The Q-o-P supported and encouraged attendance at the Medjugorje Night at the Most Holy Rosary Church in Syracuse, with Speaker Cyril Auboyneau who spoke on the topic, “Medjugorje – the Lasting Sign.”

1990 Celebration: The third celebration, June 25th 1990, was held at St. Mary’s Church in Canandaigua.

Support for Shrines, Tours and Pilgrimages: Over the years, the Q-o-P Board supported, advertised and encouraged tours and pilgrimages to a number of shrines and religious destinations including Medjugorje, Guadalupe, Our Lady of the Cape, the National Cathedral, Lourdes, and for local religious events including speakers and Diocesan events such as the Pilgrim Tilma of Our Lady of Guadalupe Tour in Auburn, etc.

Activities: 1990 Medjugorje Retreat: The Q-o-P supported a Medjugorje Retreat with 5 priests that spoke about the messages, and how to reflect and pray on them, for 70 people, and the Board suggested that a Medjugorje retreat for youth would be a good idea.

Activities: In November 1990, the Q-o-P supported and encouraged attendance to see Ivan Dragicevic, a Medjugorje visionary, speaking in the Syracuse/Rochester areas. He spoke at Holy Rosary in Syracuse, St. Charles Borromeo in Rochester, and on November 8th he spoke at St. Mary’s in Waterloo. Over 9000 people attended the events in total.

Activity – Bookstore: In 1990 the Q-o-P began a concerted distribution of rosaries, booklets, prayer cards, books, videos, and Holy Cards. Over the years, the Q-o-P distributed tens-of-thousands of items throughout the Rochester/Finger Lakes Region, many for free or minimal cost or donation.

Activity: Video: Dave Duprey, Darlene Duprey, Fr. Shamon, Lena Shipley, and Don Dwello produced a video on Medjugorje in 1990.

Activity: Beginning in 1991, the Q-o-P supported the monthly Medjugorje Night at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua. Each evening included Confession, Rosary and Mass following the format in Medjugorje.

Activity: In 1991, the Q-o-P supported and co-sponsored Irish Singer Frank Pattison, in Syracuse.

1991 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary’s in Canandaigua.

Activity: In 1991, the Q-o-P supported a Rosary Crusade, with a plan to send pledge cards out to all Marian Groups (the goal total to be contacted was hoped to be 7 million.)

In 1992, the Q-o-P registered with “Mary’s People” in the National Catholic Register, allowing us to advertise religious goods or literature.

Video: “Turmoil in Croatia – Ivan’s Plea” was produced as a fund raiser for those affected by the Bosnian War. 350 tapes were made, four thousand dollars was collected and distributed from the sale, \$1000 was donated to Citizens for a Free Croatia, \$1000 to Fr. Belanich in N.J., \$1000 was sent to Fr. Soldo in N.Y.C., and Don Dwello took \$1000 to Medjugorje and distributed the money to needy families. The remainder was donated to Fr. Shamon’s Education Fund.

1992 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's Church in Waterloo.

August 1992: A donation of \$400(+) was made to the Croatian Relief Fund.

1993 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Francis Church in Auburn, NY.

Activity: In November of 1993, Darlene and Lena distributed 200 copies of Fr. Shamon's book on Sacramentals to area schools for a student Essay Contest.

Support for a weekly Queen of Peace Holy Hour at the V.A. Hospital in Canandaigua (ongoing).

Activity: In January 1994, Darlene Duprey sent fliers to all the prayer groups, for Pope John Paul II's request for a World Day of Prayer for Peace.

1994 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

January 1995: The Q-o-P met with the Rochester Marian Center to support efforts to spread messages of Our Blessed Mother.

Activity: 1995, the Q-o-P published 21,000 copies of a 12-page newspaper, "Our Lady of Medjugorje" through the Finger Lakes Times.

1995 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo. The specific intention was for an end to abortion in this country; Fr. Shamon launched his Mass-Rosary Crusade.

Activity: Queen of Peace Night at St. Dominic's in Shortsville (ongoing from 1995 - last Queen of Peace Night was held at St. Dominic's on May 17, 2017.)

Activity: October 8,9,10th, 1995 Marian Retreat at St. Dominic's in Shortsville, NY with Fr. John A. Schug, Cap.

1995 Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: On August 5th, 1995, the Q-o-P joined with the Rochester Marian Center to sponsor a 1-day Marian Conference, held at Mercy High School in Rochester. Speakers included Bud Macfarlane, Fr. Albert Shamon, Jan Connell, David Parkes, etc. The Conference continued successfully for a total of 8 years. (* See notations at the end.)

Donation: In 1995, the Q-o-P presented a donation from the proceeds of the Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference to the Knights of Columbus, to help them out of debt from the 1994 Rochester Marian Conference.

Activity: January 18, 1996, an article was published in the Catholic Courier on pilgrimages to Medjugorje, acknowledging the Queen of Peace Apostolate, in an interview by Don Dwello, by Kathleen Schwar, staff reporter.

Activity: On March 15, 1996, St. Michael's in Lyons requested a speaker to talk on Medjugorje. Dave and Darlene Duprey and Lena Shipley spoke on behalf of the Q-o-P.

Activity – Ongoing: Wednesday (weekly) Marian Cenacle held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

1996 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

3rd Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: November 2, 1996. Speakers included: Fr. Paul Bonacci, Jill Jensen, Fr. Albert Shamon, Bud Macfarlane Sr., Joseph Terelya, Bishop Danylak, (*)

1997 Celebration: The Q-o-P sponsored the June 25th celebration at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

4th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 11, 1997. Speakers included Sister Louis DeMontfort, Wayne Weible, Ivan Dragicevic, and Fr. Albert Shamon. (*)

1998 Celebration: The Q-o-P sponsored the June 25th celebration at St. Mary's in Waterloo, 5 priests concelebrated at the altar.

5th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 3, 1998. Speakers included Fr. Albert Shamon, Fr. Barham, Larry & Joetta Lewis, Eileen George, and Ivan Dragaicevic. (*)

Donation: 1998: The Q-o-P made a donation to assist Tyburn Academy in Auburn.

Activity: January 1999. The Q-o-P Board decided to start publishing the Monthly Message in the Finger Lakes Times. It was thought to reach 27,000 households on a monthly basis.

1999 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo, NY.

6th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 2, 1999. Speakers included: Fr. Paul Bonacci, Fr. John Corapi, Fr. Albert Shamon, and Ivan Dragicevic. (*)

RECENT HISTORY:

2000 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo, NY.

7th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 14, 2000. Speakers included, Vincent Martin Lucia, David Parkes, Lola Falana, Matthew Kelly, Ivan Dragicevic, and Fr. Albert Shamon. (*)

2001 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo, NY.

8th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 13, 2001. Speakers included Matthew Kelly, Ted Flynn Joan Ulicny, F. Albert Shamon, and Ivan Dragicevic. (*)

Activity: In November/December 2001, Fr. Shamon started a Queen of Peace night at Tyburn Academy on the first Tuesday of each month.

2002 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo, NY.

9th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 12, 2002. Speakers included Fr. Albert Shamon, Mother Nadine Brown, Bud Macfarlane, Sr., and Dr. Thomas Petrisko. (*)

2003 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo, NY.

October 2003: Robert Bo, a member representing the Rochester Knights of Columbus was elected as a member of the Board of Directors to represent the Knights.

Donation: In 2003, the Q-o-P made a donation to WHIC Catholic Radio (Holy Family Communications) in memorial of Fr. Albert Shamon, and shared our mailing list with the station.

April 2004: Established an "Evangelization" Fund for speakers, local conferences and workshops, literature, radio and newspapers, and for spreading the messages as appropriate.

2004 Celebration: The Q-o-P sponsored the June 25th Celebration at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: On August 11, 2004, the Q-o-P sponsored Fr. Clement J. Machado, S.O.L.T., to speak at St. Stephen's Church in Geneva. A \$500 stipend was provided.

Activity: In June of 2005, the Q-o-P re-published copies of the 12-page newspaper "Our Lady of Medjugorje" through the Finger Lakes Times, (circulation 14,000), with extra copies for the 2005 celebration.

Activity: The Q-o-P published copies of the 12-page newspaper "Our Lady of Medjugorje" through Auburn Citizen (circulation 16,000).

2005 Celebration: The June Celebration was moved to June 26th, at St. Mary's in Waterloo, NY.

(*) 2005 HIGHLIGHTS: Board Member Don Dwello announced that he just completed his 100th visit to Medjugorje.

Activity: The Catholic Courier published the June 25th Celebration, on June 17, 2006.

2006 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: In June 2007, Q-o-P Website development and launch by David and Darlene Duprey. The Website includes the History of Medjugorje, Messages from 1984 to present, commentaries from 2004 to present, videos of past June 25th Masses, the 1991 Conference talks, and the entire 12-page Newspaper insert produced and distributed through the Finger Lakes Times.

2007 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: An article about the spreading of the Messages of Medjugorje, was published in the Catholic Courier, by reported Jennifer Burke, on July 22, 2006.

Activity: The Catholic Courier published an announcement of the Celebration on June 21st.

2008 Celebration: The June 25th Celebration was changed to June 24th, due to a conflict, and was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: On June 24th, 2008, the Q-o-P distributed 200 “Our Lady Queen of Peace” bumper stickers at the celebration.

Activity: In December 2008, Gene McCabe distributed information on receiving Plenary Indulgences through the Queen of Peace Apostolate, especially with the Intercessory Prayer Group. He stated that close relatives would also qualify.

Activity: On June 21, 2009, the Catholic Courier published an article on the 25th Anniversary Celebration of Our Lady of Medjugorje .

Activity: An interview and article was published by Jennifer Burke in the Catholic Courier, “Group Spreads Medjugorje Message” with Fr. Paul Bonacci, Dave and Darlene Duprey, Lena Shipley, and Nelson Acquilano, published October 6, 2009.

2009 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary’s in Waterloo.

2010 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary’s in Waterloo.

Activity: In September, 2010, the Q-o-P sponsored several Board Members to travel to Medjugorje.

Activity: In 2011, David and Darlene Duprey produced a DVD & CD of “The Holy Rosary in Medjugorje”, with a percentage of the proceeds donated to the Queen of Peace. The video utilized video footage and photos they took in Medjugorje. The video/photos were also used in two of Jerry Morin’s music videos “Live the Message - Music version ” and “Live the Message - Message version.” Jerry’s Morin's videos are available on the Queen of Peace Website.

Activity: On June 17th, 2011, David Shaw of the Finger Lakes Times published an announcement for the 30th Anniversary Celebration to be held at the Smith Opera House on June 25th, the Title is “To Jesus Through Mary”.

2011: The 30th Anniversary Celebration of Our Lady of Medjugorje was held on June 25th , at the Smith Opera House in Geneva, as a one-day conference. Speakers included Fr. Paul Bonacci, Lena Shipley, Jerry Morin and Fr. Neil Buchlein. Topics included, “The Fruits of Medjugorje”, “Be Not Afraid”, “The Day of Apparitions”, etc. The Conference was well received. There were 152 tickets sold for a gross of \$4,420.09, but total expenses were \$8,121.58, for a net loss of \$3,701.49.

2012 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary’s in Waterloo. A vestment was presented to Fr. Paul Bonacci in gratitude and for his 21st anniversary to the priesthood.

Activity: On October 21st, 2012, an article entitled “Pray the Rosary” was published by the Finger Lakes Times for “October in the Month of the Rosary,” by guest Nelson Acquilano.

2013 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary’s in Waterloo.

Activity: June 2013, the Board of Directors authorized Monthly Message to be published in the Finger Lakes Times House of Worship page on a monthly basis.

Activity - Support: The Q-o-P took ads in the program booklets for the Knights of Columbus 60th Anniversary, as well as for their 2021, and 2022 program booklets, spreading the messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje through Knight Chapters in the greater Finger Lakes/Rochester region.

Activity: On May 12, 2014, the Catholic Courier published an article on the tour to European Shrines for parishioners from St. Francis and St. Clare Parish in Waterloo with Fr. Roy Kiggins accompanying. To honor the patron saints of the new parish, the pilgrims will visit Rome, Montecassino, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant' Angelo, Lanciano, Loreto, and have an option for an extra stop in Medjugorje.

2014 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: In 2014, the Q-o-P produced a "Prayer for Priests" prayer card. Designed by Darlene Duprey, the card had a photo of Pope John Paul II on the front with Fr. Shamon's original prayer card wording on the back. The printing was donated by Wilson Press.

2015 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: On May 23, 2016, the Catholic Courier published an informational article about the upcoming tour to European Shrines in October, led by Don Dwello with Joanne Vacca and Fr. Roy Kiggins.

2016 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was changed to June 26th due to a conflict, and was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: In October 2016, the Q-o-P supported a tour to European Shrines led by Don Dwello and Joanne Vacca with Fr. Roy Kiggins, of 19 people to Fatima, Avila, Loyola, Lourdes and Medjugorje.

March 2017: Darlene Duprey assumed role as Treasurer, and the depository selected for the Q-o-P was switched to the Lyons National Bank; funds were transferred to the LNB as authorized.

Activity: May 10, 2017, An Opinion Article was published in the Finger Lakes Times announcing the 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima.

Activity: Queen of Peace Brochure. Upon approval of the Board of Directors, Lena Shipley, Joanne Vacca and Nelson Acquilano prepared a brochure on the Q-o-P to be printed and distributed to both the congregation at the June 25th Celebration, as well as to the general Public. Wilson Press donated the printing of 500 copies for free.

2017 Celebration: The June 25th celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo. At this celebration, the Q-o-P presented a (second) set of vestments to Fr. Paul Bonacci in gratitude for his work (as his vestments were destroyed in a fire at Rochester's Pius X Church in January 2015.)

Activity: In 2018, the Dupreys launched a Youtube Channel with 12 playlists and 13 videos (to date) with a Catholic connection. Videos from several Queen of Peace conference talks, June 25 Masses, Medjugorje visionaries Ivan and Vicka, and other speakers such as David Parkes, Fr. Don Calloway, Fr. Svetozar and Fr Albert Shamon are hosted here.

Activity: June 22, 2018, an announcement was published in the Finger Lakes Times announcing the June 25th Celebration.

2018 Celebration: The June 25th, 37th celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: An announcement was published in the Finger Lakes Times on June 21st, announcing the Celebration on June 25th.

2019 Celebration: The June 25th (38th) celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

2020 Celebration: The June 25th (39th) celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: An announcement was published in the Finger Lakes Times on June 25th, 2021, announcing the 40th Anniversary Celebration of Our Lady of Medjugorje.

2021 Celebration: The June 25th (40th Anniversary) Celebration was held at St. Mary's in Waterloo.

Activity: On April 27th, 2021, Fr. Paul Bonacci videotaped a very moving, spirit filled, powerful talk, "Medjugorje – 40 Years of Heavenly Grace." The video was widely disseminated, is posted on WaterlooNYTube.com, and has had a viewing of over 7000 people.

Activity: The Q-o-P sent an article to the Catholic Courier for the 40th Anniversary, "40 Years of Heavenly Grace". The article was edited for space and included on their website.

Activity: In 2021, the Q-o-P produced a new 6-panel brochure for the 40th Anniversary Celebration, with the significance and theme "40 Years of Heavenly Grace."

BOARD MEMBERS & YEAR OF APPOINTMENT
(as per Minutes)

1986/1987

Donato Fiorentino (resigned 1991)
Dr. Paul Fallon (resigned 2005)
Fr. Albert Shamon (passed in 2003)
Doreen Simons (resigned 1989)
Marsha Bisgrove (resigned 1/1995)
Anne Erdle (resigned 2017)

1988

Don Dwello
Pat Fallon (resigned 1994)
Frank Guariglia (resigned 2003)
George Cronin (resigned 1989)
Dr. Joseph Karpinski (resigned 1989)
Mrs. Florence Karpinski (resigned 1989)
Elisa Loomis (resigned 1988)
Bruce Merkel (resigned 1990)

1989:

David Duprey
Fr. Paul Bonacci
David Lortscher (resigned 1990)
Dorothy Kalina (resigned 1991)
Joe Terzo (resigned 1989)
Pete Butler (resigned 2018)

1990

Lena Shipley
Mario Panetta (resigned 1990)

1991

Barb Craven (resigned 1994)
Darlene Duprey
Peg Gorman (resigned 1992)
Bev Guarltieri (resigned 1992)
Nelson Acquilano

1993

K. Elizabeth Mitchell (resigned 1993)

1994

Gene McCabe (resigned 2017)

2003

Bob Bo (resigned 2022)

2006

Marte Liddell (resigned 2014)

2013

Joe Guardino

2015:

Joanne Vacca

2018

Kathy McCutcheon

2022

Kelly Rauscher
Kathy Lansing

ROCHESTER MARIAN CONFERENCES:

In 1995, the Queen of Peace Apostolate joined with the Rochester Marian Center to co-sponsor a one-day Marian Conference in Rochester. In total, eight one-day conferences were held from 1995-through-2002.

Description of Conferences: NOTE: *The first Marian Conference was held in 1994 in Rochester by an independent group, not affiliated with the Queen of Peace Apostolate, and the sponsoring group left an outstanding debt of \$93,000, including debts charged against the Rochester/Finger Lakes Chapter of the Knights of Columbus.*

In 1995 the Rochester Marian Center sponsored the Conference as a one-day conference, in conjunction with the Queen of Peace Apostolate. It was held at Mercy High School, and the conference net \$13,000 which was used largely to pay off the remaining debts from the first conference through a donation to the Knights of Columbus.

In 1996, 1997, and 1998, the conference was sponsored by the Queen of Peace with the Rochester Marian Center, moved to the Kodak Theater on the Ridge in Rochester, and achieved a net profit for each year.

From 1999-through-2001 the conferences broke even at first and then began to lose money – dipping into reserve funds set aside for unanticipated expenses.

The last conference (our 8th) was held in 2002, and again lost money forcing a dip into reserves.

On October 7, 2003, a motion was made and passed by the Board to suspend the Rochester Marian Conference indefinitely.

In 2003, the special checking account for the Rochester Marian Conferences was closed, and the monies were transferred into the Queen of Peace “Evangelization Fund” for promotion and expenses for speakers, local conferences/workshops, and activities related to the spreading of the Messages of Medjugorje. The remaining balance from the Rochester Marian Conference was for \$8,428.12, and was presented to the Queen of Peace for the Evangelization Fund.

Review of the Conferences: *The Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conferences were well accepted and a great event. In total, many thousands were in attendance over the eight years.*

The Conferences provided a wide variety of speakers including Fr. Albert Shamon, Fr. John Corapi, DOR Bishop Mathew Clark, Fr. Paul Bonacci, Jill Jensen, Lola Falana, David Parkes, Bud Macfarlane Sr., Josep Terelya, Bishop Roman Danylak, Ivan Dragicevic, Matthew Kelly, Ted Flynn, Eileen George, Sister Louis DeMontfort, Wayne Weible, Fr. Barham, Joan Ulicny, Mother Nadine Brown, Dr. Thomas Petrisko, Larry and Joetta Lewis, and many more.

Many confessions were heard, and hundreds of books, statues, medals, rosaries, and videotapes were sold and distributed, along with free information on the Blessed Mother, Our Lord, and the Holy Church.

Each conference had an Adoration Room, Benediction, the Rosary, and Holy Mass. One year a special program was arranged for youth. Although experiencing decreasing attendance, each Conference was seen as very successful, and together were a true honor for the Blessed Mother.

- 1995: 2nd Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: August 5, 1995.
- 1996: 3rd Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: November 2, 1996.
- 1997: 4th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 11, 1997.
- 1998: 5th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 3, 1998.
- 1999: 6th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 2, 1999.
- 2000: 7th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 14, 2000.
- 2001: 8th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 13, 2001.
- 2002: 9th Annual Rochester/Finger Lakes Marian Conference: October 12, 2002.

Fr. Albert J.M.

Shamon

Spiritual Director

Queen of Peace

1987- 2003



Father Albert J. M. Shamon, longtime friend, supporter and Spiritual Director of the Queen of Peace Apostolate, and who served in multiple roles throughout the Diocese, passed on November 21, 2003. He was 88 years old.

A native of Auburn, Father Shamon grew up attending St. Aloysius Church, and studied for the priesthood at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester. He was ordained a priest May 18, 1940, and first served as assistant pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Irondequoit. In 1944, he became assistant pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Rochester. In the 1940s, he also taught at Aquinas Institute in Rochester, and during the 1950s, he taught at St. Andrew's Seminary in Rochester and provided instruction at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse.

In 1961, Father Shamon served as pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Victor. He was named diocesan vicar of education in 1967 by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. He resigned his pastorate in 1970 to work as education vicar full time. In June 1973, Father Shamon became administrator of St. Mary's Parish in Waterloo then pastor in July, and held that position until his retirement in 1985, but was then named administrator of St. Isaac Jogues in Fleming. In 1993 he founded and taught at Tyburn Academy in Auburn, a high school in the Catholic tradition.

In 1986/1987 he joined the Queen of Peace Apostolate Board of Directors, and became the first Spiritual Director for the new organization where he remained until his passing in 2003. He had traveled to Medjugorje 19 times, and believed in the mission of spreading the Messages of Our Lady of Medjugorje. The priest was vocally enthusiastic about his love for Mary. One of the comments Father said was that he didn't want to go to purgatory, he wanted to go straight to heaven and said, "When I get there, I'm going to jump straight into Our Lady's arms."

He was ordained in 1940, and retired in 1985 after 44 years, but remained active in many ministries for a total of 63 years in the priesthood. Fr. Shamon wrote a weekly column in the Catholic Courier from 1967 through 2003, and also did weekly radio broadcasts which were carried on several radio stations. Bishop Matthew H. Clark noted that his writings were lively and filled with wisdom and a real compassion for people. He authored more than 35 books and pamphlets on catechetical, Marian Theology, scripture and spirituality, and also wrote a 10-part series "The Church: The Sign of the Times, An Explanation of the Second Vatican Council."

In 1985, a Rosary Mound Memorial with an altar for outside masses was constructed at St. Mary's Cemetery in Waterloo, and dedicated to Fr. Albert Shamon. According to Lena Shipley, former pastoral associate at St. Mary's, he was a "dynamic preacher, a dedicated priest and educator who left a signature upon the hearts of all he ministered to." She said that he was extremely dedicated to the Catholic Church and was a legend in our time.

Fr. Paul Bonacci

Spiritual Director Queen of Peace

2004 - Present



Fr. Bonacci's Video
"Medjugorje: 40 years of Heavenly Grace"

Fr. Paul Bonacci worked as both a deputy sheriff as well as an elementary school teacher, and then decided that his calling was to become a Roman Catholic Priest. He was ordained on June 22, 1991 by Bishop Matthew Clark, and was the only priest to be ordained that year from the 12-county Diocese of Rochester. He said that the ordination in Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester "was a real experience of the goodness of God."

Fr. Bonacci graduated from Corning Community College, then the seminary program at Becket Hall at St. John Fisher College in 1983 graduating with a degree in Religious Studies, and then Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall graduating in 1987 with a Masters in Theology.

In April, 1988, Deacon Bonacci he made a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, and he met a minister who taught the Spiritual Annotations of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Upon return he enrolled in the Spiritual Exercises Program at High Acres, a retreat house run by the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester. It was here that he experienced through the Ignatian method of contemplation that Christ was calling him to serve as a priest. In 1988 he joined the Board of Directors for the Queen of Peace, and in 2004 accepted the responsibility to be the Spiritual Director.



He was appointed to St. John the Evangelist Church in Rochester to do ministerial work, including sermons and teaching for a pastoral year which led into two years. He also served as Director for the 19th Annotation at High Acres. Following his ordination he was assigned to Assumption Church in Fairport. He was then assigned to the Schuyler Catholic Community (St. Mary's of the Lake, Watkins Glen; St. Benedict, Odessa) in 2001, where he served for 13 years; and then to St. Pius X in Rochester in 2014 where he currently serves as Pastor.

In addition to being a priest, he spent years on Friday nights officiating as a high school football official as well as being the Chaplain of Section 5 football. He was named an "Official of the Year" by the Finger Lakes Chapter, and he also served as Chaplain of the Ithaca Police Department.

While his path to the priesthood has been an unorthodox one, Fr. Paul stated that he wouldn't change it, "I can see the hand of God guiding me through it all, and I am as sure as I can be that I'm where God wants me to be right now."