

GOOD-BYE ANDY

We are all sad at the loss of Andy Zovko. I had the chance to talk to him on June 24th while in Italy at Fr. Gobbi's Retreat. He sounded better than when I last spoke to him the previous week. The previous week he called me while I was driving to the south side cenacle and while chit-chatting, as many know was one of Andy's favorite past-times, he said, "We have many good memories right Father?" I said, "Yes, of course" and he began recounting a couple of them. After we hung up, I said to Joanne, "That's unusual for Andy to reminisce all of a sudden". Perhaps he knew his time was drawing close.

I missed the Funeral due to Italy, but with the generous help of his good friend Brian, I was able to spend a few days with the family in Medjugorje. Although there was a delay in his burial, which didn't permit me to be there when the parish of St. James and Andy's family processed to the cemetery, I was able to see his grave. It is in a cemetery I had never seen before. It is near Miletina where he grew up and being on the opposite side of the village it had a view that was spectacular. Looking east from his headstone, which is the direction it faces, you can only see grapevines, and on the horizon of the vineyards is Podbrdo, to the right Mt. Krizevac and to the left rising above the vineyards are the steeples of St. James. No other buildings can be seen, only these three beautiful symbols of Medjugorje in the vineyards. A beautiful resting place for a man who spent himself untiringly for the work of Our Lady and the Holy Spirit; healing, delivering from evil spirits, and spreading the message of Peace.

You taught me many things Andy, especially to have a simple faith, to Trust God and to have a little fun too!

Andy, Rest in Peace! I'll really miss you and our work together! We have many good memories Andy!

Pray for us!

Love,
Father