

## E. Michael Jones Responds to Critics Re Medjugorje

NB: The critics comments are numbered 1 through 17. Jones' comments follow immediately

- 1) Jones, lacking any direct quotes or statements from Ratzinger HIMSELF, attempts to manufacture Ratzinger's opinion from something Zanic allegedly said.

**Jones:** I spoke with Cardinal Ratzinger on three separate occasions and on each occasion, he stated that he did not believe in the authenticity of the apparitions, and that he accepted the judgment of Bishop Zanic on the matter.

- 2) He believed that Zanic could not be trusted to judge on the authenticity of the apparitions of Medjugorje.

**Jones:** After Zanic gave Ratzinger the negative report on Medjugorje, Ratzinger removed the dossier from the hands of Zanic and place the investigative task in the hands of the Yugoslav Bishops' Conference?

There is no evidence for this assertion. See my answer to statement 1.

- 3) When you couple this with his forced loyalty to the Yugoslav communist government who wanted him to cease the apparitions immediately, it is highly unwise to paint Zanic as the most trustworthy of sources.

**Jones:** The late Bishop Zanic and his successor Bishop Peric are not "sources." Bishop Zanic was the bishop of the Diocese of Mostar, which is to say, the final authority on the matter of the "apparitions." He condemned the so-called apparitions as a hoax. Rome has never uttered a word of reproach against him. To deny his judgment is to deny the authority of the church.

- 4) Žanić became so hostile to the events at Međugorje that he wrote a letter denouncing the apparitions and sent it publicly throughout the world [This is the same letter picked up on by E Michael Jones and every other conspiracy theorist you hear today. It is their ONLY source of material].

**Jones:** My book, *The Medjugorje Deception*, is based on material from hundreds of books and interviews.

- 5) By disregarding official Vatican warnings, the Bishop himself appeared to show the same disobedience he accused everyone else of, but apparently that's OK if you're a secular Bishop in Bosnia.

**Jones:** The bishop cannot show disobedience. There is no authority in the church higher than the bishop.

- 6) Jones puts himself in the league of people who are "familiar with the story". He isn't showing much familiarity at all. Firstly, Vlasic *requested* the laicisation ([see here](#)).

**Jones:** Did he say, "You can't fire me. I quit"?

- 7) Thirdly, and most telling, Vlasic's involvement with Medjugorje ended in 1985, more than twenty years ago, when the visionary Marija recanted and refused to acknowledge his claim that the Virgin endorsed his plan.

**Jones:** Since Vlasic has been on his own for years, no one can say whether his involvement ended or it didn't. The dossier issued by the bishop of Mostar indicates that it did not. Beyond that, the incident mentioned needs elaboration. Marija Pavlovic issued a statement claiming that the Blessed Mother endorsed the co-ed religious community Tomislav Vlasic created in Parma with the German woman Agnes Heupel. Shortly after a reporter for Fidelity showed up at the palazzo housing the community, Marija Pavlovic issued a statement in both Croatian and Italian admitting that her alleged message from the Blessed Mother did not correspond to the truth and that she had made it under pressure from Tomislav Vlasic. That, according to the criteria for evaluating private revelations should have been the end of the story.

- 8) It was Zanic who first referred to Vlasic this way. To say he was the "creator" implies he was around to see the actual creation - the illicit fruits - the "booty" as it were.

**Jones:** "Creation" means, "at the beginning," not years later.

- 9) Secondly, anyone who has taken the time to read the early testimonies will know the irony that Zanic originally wanted to approve the apparitions but that Zovko thought the children were lying.

**Jones:** Is this another way of saying that Bishop Zanic had an open mind at the beginning? If so, I agree.

Secondly, it leaves out the fact that Jozo Zovko did in fact suspect the children of lying but asked them to have the apparitions in the church anyway, a sign that the Franciscans were eager to manipulate the “apparitions” for their own benefit.

- 10) Zanic appeared to change his tune quite soon after that meeting.

**Jones:** By portraying Bishop Zanic as a tool of the communists, our Medjugorje defender commits the sin of calumny. There is no evidence to back up this charge.

- 11) E Michael Jones needs to sit himself down in front of a mirror and ask himself where his hatred and irrationality comes from. He is apparently a Catholic who thinks the 8th Commandment does not apply to him. Does he think it's compelling racey "journalism" to create these fantasies at the expense of the reputation of innocent people? Save it Michael. But, if we were to bother to refute this accusation, it might go along the lines of this: After 28 years of apparitions, might it not be highly probable that at least one of the six visionaries, or thousands of others close to the visionaries, would expose the fraud. I dare say they have been offered handsomely to do so.

**Jones:** Our apologist needs to read my answer to point 10. He is calumniating a courageous bishop who has gone to his eternal reward and cannot defend himself against these lies.

As to the “racey” [sic] journalism, does our Medjugorje apologist deny that Tomislav Vlastic fathered an illegitimate child by a nun? Does he deny that he was guilty of repeated sins against the Sixth Commandment as well as trafficking in spirits, as the bishop of Mostar’s dossier maintains?

- 12) But, we have nothing...nothing...nothing. That irks people like E Michael Jones. He NEEDS something. ANYTHING!!!

**Jones:** I've written a whole book based on sources that have been shown reliable by the course of recent events.

13) And Jones again exercises his self-appointed immunity from the 8th commandment by trampling on the reputation of Ivan Dragicevic. That's like playing Russian Roulette. I mean it's just testosterone-laden, impulsive, belligerent craziness. If the Vatican approves Medjugorje, I expect Jones to either become humble or to begin a new Catholic Cult, flourishing in disobedience and becoming, essentially, another Zanic or Peric and eventually getting into serious trouble. The Medjugorje house is clean now. It's ready for shrine status. Lies told have been revealed. Apologies have been made where due. The vast majority of unofficial Vatican comment has been favourable ([read here](#)). What's missing in this picture? Humility and patience from the likes of E Michael Jones.

**Jones:** Ivan Dragicevic has been banned from the Diocese of Joliet. That is a fact, no "belligerent craziness." The letter has been posted on the Medjugorje apologist's own website.

14) Wow, that's some tale. Jones is an author of fiction, not a journalist. Just listen to his brazen judgements and accusations. What sort of man is this? I don't want this man representing me, as a Catholic, to the world. What the heck happened to the basic Christian tenet of "judge not lest ye be judged". If he wants to be a Christian only by name and not in action, then at least abide by the legalistic "innocent until proven guilty". Mr Jones, *where is the evidence?*

14) Zanic cried and complained so much that they watered down the conclusion to allow Zanic to save face

**Jones:** So our apologist admits that the Croatian bishops issued a negative statement on Medjugorje.

15) E Michael Jones has been at the forefront of twisting the Zadar Declaration into becoming something it never was intended to be.

**Jones:** There is no twisting. It said exactly what I said it said. See response to 14 for our apologist admitting the same thing.

16) People like E Michael Jones appear to disregard anything unofficial when it suits them, but will quite happily spread lies, calumny and false witness over the whole globe.

**Jones:** Our Medjugorje apologist is the calumniator. He needs to go to confession and ask for forgiveness for the lies he has spread about Bishops Zanic and Peric.

17) **Warning:** If you have been a supporter of Zanic and Peric, be prepared to be disappointed, unless you are a lover of truth.

**Jones:** Who's disappointed now in the wake of the defrocking of Tomislav Vlasic?