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UD's International Marian Research Institute Sponsors Speaker on Apparitions

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DAYTON, Ohio, July 13, 1988—What are the latest findings regarding the reported sightings of the Virgin Mary in Medjugorje, Yugoslavia? Is it possible to establish criteria to judge whether these apparitions are true or false?

These are among the questions Canon Rene Laurentin will address on Sunday, July 24 and Monday, July 25 in conjunction with the summer program sponsored by the University of Dayton's International Marian Research Institute (IMRI) and the Marian Library.

Laurentin, a leading Catholic expert on the religious phenomena of apparitions and author of several studies about Medjugorje and books on Marian doctrine, will discuss "True and False Apparitions" on Sunday, July 24 at 3 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Boll Theatre. "He tries to present scientific research, both physiological and psychological, to establish criteria to judge the authenticity of the apparitions of these seers," said the Rev. Johann Roten, director of the IMRI.

On Monday, July 25 at 8 p.m. in the O'Leary Auditorium in UD's Miriam Hall, Laurentin will discuss the issues surrounding the town of Medjugorje, Yugoslavia, where apparitions have occurred to a group of young people, almost daily, since 1981. "These apparitions of Mary have triggered a real hunger and thirst among people of all nations to visit Medjugorje and be a part of what happens," said Roten.

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What makes the Medjugorje apparitions more intriguing, Roten says, is that these sightings are in a country "behind the Iron Curtain where atheistic views are seen as dominant."

Both presentations are open to the public. Donations will be accepted at the door.

UD's Marian Library, established in 1943, contains the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of printed materials on Mary. It currently holds more than 70,000 books and pamphlets in over 50 languages dated as far back as the 15th century. It also has approximately 52,000 newspaper and magazine clippings and collections of statues, Marian postage stamps and medals from around the world. The Marian Library is located on the seventh floor of the UD Roesch Library.

For more information on the Marian Library or on Laurentin's presentations, call 229-4214.

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