

Miracle research led writer to rediscover Our Lady

June 8, 2008
Catholic Weekly

A new book chronicling encounters with Our Lady from around the world has come from an unlikely source, as author Bridget Curran readily admits.

Born and raised in Perth, Bridget completed a triple major in anthropology, history and Italian and honours in social linguistics at the University of Western Australia, before undertaking a graduate diploma in film and television production.

It was while working as a film-maker on a documentary about weeping statues that she was approached by a publisher to write *The Miracles of Mary*.

Despite being a self-described “cradle Catholic”, Bridget rejected the offer because she “didn’t have a great devotion to Our Lady”.

As she states in the preface of the book: “Many of my friends adored Mary and tried everything to make me love her, too. They argued with me, presenting theological, intellectual arguments; they told me soft, romantic stories and showed me sentimental images of her.

“Nothing worked.

“I am a firm believer in the power of prayer, and I think their prayers started to stir something in me.

“I couldn’t escape the feeling that something wasn’t right. Either all these good people had misunderstood Mary, or I had misunderstood her.

“I began to pray to God that I would come to love Mary as much as he wanted me to.”

With thousands of accounts of miracles to consider, Bridget was discerning in examining the stories she came across.

“There are so many international stories, so I was forced to use the internet,” she says. “Then I contacted people and looked at books to make sure that everything I read was completely true. If anything couldn’t be verified then it was cut.”

Despite her initial reluctance, the experience of researching and writing *The Miracles of Mary* has drawn her closer to Our Lady.

“The most life-changing moments were when I would actually sit with someone and speak to them,” she says.

“One of the most special moments was when I went to a lady’s house because a priest suggested I speak to her about Our Lady of Czestochowa.

“I’d never met her before but she spilled out this story about how Our Lady of Czestochowa was like a mother to her, so she started crying and I started crying.

“She said Mary had led her to Jesus; she prayed to Mary because Mary was another woman and she felt she could relate. She seemed to be a living witness to how Mary can bring people to God.”

Featuring stories from Sri Lanka, Mexico, France, Kuwait, Rwanda and many more, these simple, emotional accounts will allow readers to fully understand the grace of Our Lady.

This story was found at:

<http://www.catholicweekly.com.au/print.php?articleID=4495&class=News&subclass=CW%20National#>