

## "St. Francis Garden" - a place of rest and prayer

St. Francis Garden is a forested area near to Mother's Village.

With the assistance of local people, the authorities in Èitluk and many pilgrims, Father Slavko Barbariæ turned what was once an area for dumping into a place for rest and prayer, and simultaneously set up a means for disposing of refuse properly. He was inspired by Our Lady's messages (especially those from April 25, 1993, and October 25, 1995), in which She calls us: "Go into nature because there you will meet God the Creator!"

### Companionship of Our Lady and St. Francis

Our Lady calls us to come out of our own "worlds" and to come into a new one, God's world. The apparitions took place in nature too, on the heights of Podbrdo and Križevac. In this invitation, we can see her desire to connect our faith with nature and to include the whole human being - spirit, soul and body.

St. Francis loved and cherished all God's creatures and that's why he looked at the world with eyes of love. For him, the whole world is a garden where he sings glory and thanks to God for eternity.

In the spirit of St. Francis, this garden becomes a little spiritual destination for pilgrims. In the arms of nature, visitors can find moments of exceptional peace and quietness. In those unusual moments, they can start to discover nature and themselves anew.

The garden is a place of new reflection about nature. Man learns to respect nature and it responds with purity and beauty. Children nowadays are often distanced from nature and here they can learn about animals, forests, medicinal herbs, and about an old and a healthy way of life.

"Today I invite you all to rejoice in the life which God gives you. Little children, rejoice in God, the Creator, because He has created you so wonderfully. Pray that your life be joyful thanksgiving, which flows out of your heart like a river of joy."  
August 25, 1988. online casinoonline casino