

SUNDAY DAYS OF PRAYER

JUNE 26, 2022

MARIAN HOUR

1. Rosary – 2. Consecration to Marie-Paule – 3. Conference

“This Humble Place Reveals a Humble Mother”

Everywhere there are Marian apparitions, Mary presents herself under a specific title. At Lourdes, she presented herself as “the Immaculate Conception”; at Fatima, as “Our Lady of the Rosary”; to Saint Catherine Labouré, she manifested herself as “Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal”. At Garabandal, she said, “I, your Mother”. In Spain, Mary presented herself as “Our Mother”.

The apparitions of the Virgin at Garabandal manifested themselves not only to the young girls, but also to the public present there. Conchita, one of the visionaries, mentioned on several occasions that she felt Mary was not looking at them but that she was looking and smiling at those who were behind them, the witnesses of the apparitions. “*Conchita, I have not come just for you, but I have come for all my children,*” Mary said to her during the last apparition.

The Virgin seemed determined to see to it that all those who would climb up to Garabandal should receive a sign, a proof of her presence. The testimonials in this regard are as numerous as the spectators present at the time of the apparitions. The pilgrims of the Work also felt this presence of Mary during a pilgrimage to Garabandal, organized secretly on May 19, 1979. Sister Jeanne d’Arc Demers gave her impressions:

“This tiny village... was literally invaded by hundreds of Knights who, courageously and with much emotion, climbed the steep and rocky slope leading to the ‘pines’ where Our Lady showed herself so many times to the four little girls of the locality. How possibly express the feeling ‘of the supernatural’ which penetrated us, in this privileged place! I did not see Mary, but I ‘sensed’ her presence amongst us. A silence imposed itself upon us and put us in contact with this indefinable presence. I wanted to stay there, so much so did I feel drawn to this place of grace.” (*Life of Love* XV, p. 513)

In the second volume of *Life of Love*, Marie-Paule confirmed that only humble, pure and simple souls would believe without any reservation in the multiple apparitions of Mary at Garabandal. It was precisely such souls that felt the presence of their mother during this pilgrimage, she who had said: “*I have come for all my children.*”

“*I believe, with all my soul, in the authenticity of these apparitions,*” Marie-Paule said. “*The diabolical battle waged against this work only confirms my belief.*” (*Id.* II, p. 535)

Unfortunately, a relentless battle was well and truly being waged against it by the clergy itself. It was with good reason

that Mary passed on this message to the children: “*Many cardinals, bishops and priests are following the path of perdition and are leading many souls along with them.*”

The visionaries were subjected to many persecutions because of their visions. Marie-Paule commented: “*If all priests were... genuinely directors of souls, the children [the visionaries] would not have known such dreadful mental and spiritual anguish.*” (*Id.*)

In fact, the children were subjected to all kinds of pressure so as to sow doubt in their souls. Among others, the example of Don Emiliano from the boarding school of the Discalced Carmelites. He wanted Conchita to retract, at all costs, because he did not believe in the apparitions. To force her to do so, he refused to give her absolution! He pursued her with his letters all the way to the village to remind her that until she publicly declared that this was all false, she could not consider that she had been absolved. (*L’Étoile*, no. 7, December 1979- January 1980, p. 12)

In spite of the indiscretion and even the disconcerting hostility of certain priests, never did the children utter in their regard the slightest criticism or show the slightest lack of thoughtfulness towards them. “*In the presence of an angel and a priest, I would greet the priest first; I would show reverence to him first,*” Marie-Loli, one of the visionaries, said one day. To this answer, a young priest, a theologian, then asked: “*If you think that a priest has more power than an angel, who would it please you more to see, him or me?*” The visionary replied: “*Oh, the Angel, of course! He is more handsome than you are!*” (*L’Étoile de la montagne*, p. 52)

In spite of all the persecutions of the apparitions at Garabandal, let us remember, above all else, the message Mary left us. “*Make many sacrifices, do much penance, visit the Blessed Sacrament, but first and foremost, we must be very good,*” she told us.

In this chapel, willed by Heaven, and in the presence of the sublime host in the monstrance, let us ask the Lord and the Lady to help us faithfully follow the message of this divine Mother who, one day, visited the humble region of Garabandal.

Father Francis Thériault

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The Apparitions at Garabandal and the Army of Mary

So many miracles and wonders, along with a huge crowd of witnesses at Garabandal, this little village lost in the high altitudes of the mountains in Spain, are a part of the cycle of the eschatological apparitions of the Woman, the Lady of the end of the times.

From 1961 to 1965, in the little village of San Sebastian of Garabandal, the Virgin Mary and Saint Michael would appear to four young girls, giving them messages which, at the very least, were very surprising. The apparitions would coincide with the entire duration of the Second Vatican Council in Rome which was intended to bring about a rejuvenation of the Church.

In May 1979, during a large pilgrimage of the Army of Mary to Europe, the group of 532 pilgrims travelling in more than a dozen buses, would secretly climb the mountain along a rather difficult road to reach the little village of Garabandal, at an altitude of 700 meters, where about 100 inhabitants live today.

Once they had gone through the few streets of this group of houses and visited the little parish church dedicated to Saint Sebastian, there then began the steep climb to the Pines, nine tall trees which afforded some shade to the pilgrims.

As usual during large pilgrimages, Marie-Paule worked many cures through the laying on of her hand. At Garabandal, she cured, among others, Mr. Joseph Spauwen who was having heart problems. After having applied her hand between his shoulder blades, he vigorously straightened up and was able to continue following the pilgrimage. Marie-Paule had met Mr. Spauwen in March 1973, and he had driven the little group of four, Father Philippe, Mama Laura, Mrs. Dessurault and Marie-Paule, to Amsterdam to see Ida Peerdeman.

Once the pilgrims had reached the Pines, the main location of the apparitions, all prayed and sang. And Marie-Paule would say a few words which are so revealing today: *“Mary is here, much more than you might think.”*

This apparition, so fought against, was also confirmed by Padre Pio who had been asked if these supernatural events were authentic. A Carmelite Father from Brazil also reminded people of what the Virgin of the Rosary had said to the little shepherds at Fatima during the last apparition. Our Lady had said: *“See you soon, at St. Sebastian in Spain.”*

No one could understand this prophecy until Mary returned to Garabandal, a little more than 55 years later. That is because the patron saint of the parish is precisely St. Sebastian. At Garabandal, the Blessed Virgin also appeared under the title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, as she had at Fatima.

Among the mysterious prophecies and messages given during those apparitions, two of them are of particular interest to us because they have been fulfilled and are fully in keeping with the Lady’s Work in Quebec.

Marie-Loli, one of the four visionaries of the apparitions, had announced that, one day, the planes would stop flying in the sky, and this came to pass on September 11, 2001, when two planes struck the World Trade Center, the business cen-

ter of the world, thus marking the beginning of the downfall of capitalism and the world economy.

This was also the event Marie-Paule had predicted in Montreal in 1980, and which was realized on September 11, 2001. Three days later, on September 14, 2001, her 80th birthday, she announced: *“Today is the beginning of the Kingdom on earth.”*

The other event announced, the fulfillment of which still astonishes us, is the prophecy given twice to Conchita at Garabandal, which concerns the last three Popes and the end of the Church. She specified that the reign of the second last Pope would be very short. All the events after the death of Pope John Paul II led the Work of the Lady of All Peoples to begin the third Covenant with Heaven by transferring the sacred deposit from the Church of Peter to the Church of John. Everything came to pass and the link with Pope John Paul II was most determining.

No doubt, it will be possible for us to see more easily, some day, the continuous thread of providential events linking Marie-Paule’s life to all of Mary’s apparitions, especially those at Fatima, Amsterdam and Garabandal, this latter being the continuation of the messages of Our Lady of the Rosary and of the Lady of All Peoples.

When the apparitions at Garabandal ended in 1965, the time had come for the Marian Group to start gathering around Marie-Paule in Quebec.

Two messages enclose, so to speak, all the apparitions. The first message of the Virgin, which also had been foretold in advance, was given on October 18, 1961. *“It is necessary that many sacrifices be made, that there be much penance. Visit the Blessed Sacrament often. But above all, it is necessary to be very good. If we do not do this, a chastisement will come. Already the cup is filling up, and if we do not change, the chastisement will be very great.”*

Here now are the essential elements of the second message given in 1965 by the great Archangel Saint Michael. *“Previously, the cup of divine wrath was filling up; now it is overflowing. The cardinals, bishops and priests are walking in large number along the path of perdition and drawing in their wake many more souls.... Much less importance is constantly being given to the Eucharist.... You must make efforts to avoid the wrath of God which is hanging over you. If you ask forgiveness of Him with sincere souls, God will forgive you.... Already, this is among the last warnings. I love you very much and I do not want your condemnation. Pray to us sincerely, and we will grant your prayer.”*

We know that the Lady has prepared us to cross or get through the very painful events yet to come, but what she announces, above all, is the Kingdom on earth, a renewed Church and a regenerated creation.

Let us live of the love of the Lady and, as Saint Michael said at Garabandal, *“Above all, it is necessary to be very good.”*

Father Rémi Tremblay