

**In Recent Apparitions Our Lady Is Saying:
"MAKE MY MESSAGES KNOWN"**

The Second Message of Akita

from: *I Saw My Mother Cry*
by Fr. Joseph Marie Jacq

On August 3, 1973, the Second Message of the Our Lady of Akita was given to Sister Agnes Sasagawa. It had answers that Bishop John S. Ito asked Sister Agnes to ask Our Lady. It also had instructions to prepare the nun's readiness for her upcoming temporary vows.

His Excellency had said this: "When this person appears, you will ask Her the following questions:

- 1) Does God desire that the Institute of the 'Handmaids of the Eucharist' remain in existence?
- 2) If He does desire it, is the present format suitable?
- 3) Is contemplation necessary for a Secular Institute?"

Answer Given Right Away

The Second Message of Our Lady to Sister Agnes was given very soon afterwards. Our Lady said: "My daughter, my novice, do you love the Lord? If you love the Lord, listen to me. What I am going to tell you is important, and you will transmit it to your Superior.

"Many people of the world afflict the Lord. *I desire some comforters for Him. With my Son, I desire souls who would offer reparation, by their suffering and their poverty, for the sinners and the ungrateful, in order to appease the anger of the Heavenly Father. That you may know how irritated He is against the world today ... listen, He is ready to bring about a great chastisement ...*

"Time and again, with my Son, I have appeased the anger of the Father by offering the sufferings and blood of His Son, together with those of all the generous 'victim souls' who desire to console Him by constantly offering Him reparation.

"Your own reparation, sacrifices, poverty, and acts of mortification can be offered. I also ask all the Sisters in this Community (and in the entire world) to do the same. Let everyone try, according to each one's potential, to offer one's self, and everything else that God allows to happen in your life, for reparation.

"Hold poverty in honor. Live in poverty and convert yourselves. Pray in reparation for the ingratitude and injuries of a multiple of people.

"Prayer is absolutely necessary, even for a Secular Institute. Recite with all of your heart, the prayer of the 'Handmaids of the Eucharist.' Put it into practice, and offer it up for the redemption of souls.

"Here, (and elsewhere) souls are already consecrated to a life of prayer. Without too much concern about formal prayer, pray from the heart without ceasing to console the Master.

"Sister Agnes ... what are you thinking about now? Are you ready to become a 'rejected stone' ... you, my novice, who wishes to become the spouse of my Son?"

"For the spouse to be worthy as His spouse, pronounce your vows with the intention of being fastened on the Cross with three nails; they are the nails of poverty, purity, and obedience. Among the three, obedience is the foundation.

"With perfect confidence and total submission, obey your Superior. He will show you kindness and understanding; he will direct you."

Phenomena Increase

On Saturday, September 29, 1973, the Feast of Saint Michael, the Archangel, phenomena surrounding the Miraculous Statue of Our Lady of Akita multiplied. After the noon meal, the entire Community witnessed luminous rays emanating from the statue. Blood flowed from the hand of the statue, and the angel told Sister Agnes, "Mary pours out Her blood. She is very sad."

It was also at this time that the terribly painful wound in Sister Sasagawa's left hand mysteriously disappeared. Bishop John Ito often personally observed these extraordinary happenings himself, and he continued to be kept informed of all the events that were taking place at the convent.

Then, a sweat appeared over all of the body of the Miraculous Statue of Our Lady of Akita, and at the same time, the chapel was filled with a sweet fragrance. So mysterious and pleasing was the fragrance, that almost everyone coming into the convent expressed the opinion that this perfume came from Heaven.

To the delight of all present, it continued to permeate the atmosphere during all of the first fifteen days of the month of October, the month of the Holy Rosary. It was noted that on October 3, on the Feast of the Little Flower, St. Therese of the Infant Jesus and the Holy Face, this wonderful perfume intensified all the more. +++



Free Akita Eucharistic Prayer Card Available

The 101 Foundation is desirous of increasing our mailing list from currently 54,000 to 300,000 names. Our mission is to: **Spread Mary's Messages.** While there is time, please help us to get these messages into the hands of prayerful people. We are striving to make holy people holier.

Send us the names and addresses of some prayer warriors (only) that you know, and we will send (one per address) a fine plastic holy card of Our Lady of Akita, with the Eucharistic Prayer of Akita on it.

We request that the prayer be prayed at least one time. When you send in the names, if you wish, you may ask for a free card for yourself as well. +++

Padre Pio: An Extraordinary Case!

from *The Life of Padre Pio*, p. 47
by Gennaro Prezioso

Of thousands of miracles that reportedly came through Padre Pio, one of the most celebrated and interesting wonders occurred through his involvement with the Marchioness Giovanna Rizzani Boschi, one of his dedicated daughters.

Giovanni Battista Rizzani, the father of her family, was on his death-bed, and Leonilde, the mother was about to give birth to Giovanna. Leonilde came outside to quiet the howling of the master's dogs. There, in the garden, she went into labor and delivered her baby.

Whenever Leonilde reminisced about that memorable day, she always said that she had seen a young Capuchin at Giovanna's birth. And, Brother Pio reported to his spiritual director that he had mysteriously witnessed the birth.

Entrusted With A Soul

On January 18, 1905, an extraordinary phenomenon occurred. It was the first instance of Pio's bilocation, and a month later Fra Pio described it in a notebook:

"Some days ago, an unusual thing happened to me. While I was in choir with Fra Anastasio at about eleven o'clock at night on the 18th of last month (January, 1905), I found myself far away in the garden of an aristocratic mansion, a residence in Udine, where the father was dying while a baby was being born.

"Then the Most Holy Mary appeared to me in the garden, and said: 'I entrust this new-born creature to you; her soul is as precious as a diamond in the rough. Work on it, polish it, make it as brilliant as possible, because one day I want to adorn myself with it.'

"I answered, 'How is that possible, since I am still a poor clerical student and I do not know if one day I shall have the good fortune and the joy to be a priest? And, even if I shall be a priest, how can I think

about this little baby who is so far away?'

"The Madonna replied: 'Do not doubt; she is the one who will look for you, but first you will meet her in St. Peter's.' ... After that, I found myself back in the choir."

Eventually this written account was turned over to Padre Agostino, the confessor and spiritual director of Padre Pio. He jealously safeguarded it, and many years later he gave it to the city of Udine.

Away From God

Giovanna's father, the Marquis Giovanni Battista Rizzani, who had joined the Masons, had been away from God and the sacraments for many years. Being struck down by an incurable sickness, he lay suffering in his home on Via Tiberio De Ciani, No. 33. The house was under constant surveillance by Masons to be sure that no priest would enter. They were determined to keep him from receiving the "last rites."

Shortly before the Marquis died, his wife, Leonilde Serrao, while praying at the bedside, saw a Capuchin friar leave the room. She rose to her feet and called to him, but he disappeared in the corridor of the palace.

She had been in a state of severe anxiety. She suffered intensely from the thought that her husband's life was about to end, and he would die without the comfort of religion.

After going to the garden to quiet the dogs, suddenly she was seized with labor pains, and her baby was born prematurely. Later on, inside the house with her newborn in her arms, she approached the bed of her husband. Meanwhile, outside, the Masons were preventing the parish priest of San Quirino from assisting the dying man.

Then the administrator of the Marquis shouted angrily: "Let the priest enter! You can prevent him from entering to assist the Marquis, but you have no right to prevent him from baptizing the newborn baby." Thus, the priest succeeded in entering the palace. After baptizing the baby, he administered the sacraments to the dying man, who asked pardon of God and drew his last breath.

Religious Doubts

The widow returned with her children to her parents' home in Rome. She gave her daughter Giovanna a good education ... predominantly religious. But, as Giovanna grew up and began to apply herself to higher studies, she began to be tormented by religious doubts that threatened her faith.

That is when, on a summer afternoon, she went with a friend to St. Peter's Basilica. She went to the sacristy in search of a priest, but was told that it was almost closing time, and therefore it would be difficult to find anyone.

The two young ladies were about to leave when they saw a Capuchin friar enter a confessional. Giovanna went in, and said to him: "Father, I don't want to go to confession, but I would like some explanation concerning the doubts that are tormenting me, especially concerning the mystery of the Trinity."

To dispel the clouds of doubt, the Capuchin friar said to her: "My daughter, who can understand and explain the mysteries of God? They are called mysteries precisely because our limited intelligence cannot comprehend them. We can only get a faint idea by using examples.

"Have you ever seen anyone making pasta? What makes the mass of pasta? Take the flour, the yeast, the water. They are three distinct elements. The flour is not the yeast, nor is it the water; the water is not the flour, nor is it the yeast.

"Altogether the mass is of three elements, distinct one from another, and it forms one substance. Hence, three distinct elements, massed together, produce one substance. With this pasta you make three breads which have identically the same substance, but they are distinct in form, one from the other. Therefore, there are three breads, distinct from one another, but only one substance.

"From this example we move on to God. God is one in nature, three in persons, equal but distinct, the one from the other. The Father is not the Son, nor the Holy Spirit; the Son is not the Father, nor the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is not the Father, nor

the Son. There are three Persons, equal and distinct, and only one God, because the divine nature is unique and identical.”

Giovanna thanked the Capuchin friar, and leaving the confessional, she told her friend that she had found a learned and wise priest. She wanted to wait and ask him where she could find him if she ever needed counsel or confession again. But, the friar did not come out of the confessional.

Where Did He Go?

The sacristan announced the closing of the basilica. The young ladies told him that they were waiting for the friar who was hearing confessions. Fearing lest he might inadvertently lock the confessor in the basilica, the sacristan went to check. Pulling aside the curtain, he looked inside, and then said: “Miss, there is no one here.”

Giovanna was puzzled and disturbed because she had remained in that spot and she did not see the friar leave.

The Following Year ...

One day during the following summer in 1923, as an eighteen-year old student, she learned about Padre Pio. A few days later, there followed a compelling desire to seek him out at Our Lady of Grace Monastery in San Giovanni Rotondo in southern Italy. Thus, Giovanna went there for the very first time, accompanied by her aunt.

At the monastery hoping to see him, she stood in the midst of the crowd that was waiting for Padre Pio to come out of the sacristy before going to his cell. She found herself in the front line.

As soon as Padre Pio saw her, he approached her and held out his hand to be kissed. Then, he said to her, “Giovanna, I know you. You were born on the day that your father died.” Then, he walked away.

Giovanna was amazed. Who could have told Padre Pio this detail? The next morning a perplexed Giovanna went to Padre Pio for confession. After confession, Padre Pio said to her, “My daughter, you have finally

come. How many years I have been waiting for you!”

The girl replied: “Padre, I do not understand. Maybe you have mistaken me for someone else. This is the first time I have come to San Giovanni Rotondo. I never knew you existed until a few days ago!”

“No; I am not mistaken,” said Padre Pio. “We already met last year at St. Peter’s Basilica. Do you recall? You came there with some doubts that were bothering you, and we spoke of them in the confessional. I was that Capuchin friar!”

Then Giovanna recognized him! Her heart beat with excitement, as he continued his story.

“When you were being born, the Virgin Mary took me to your home. I witnessed your birth in the garden. Mary entrusted you to my care and made me responsible to help you grow in holiness. She told me that some day I would meet you at St. Peter’s.”

Dramatically Touched

These revelations touched Giovanna dramatically, and she became one of Padre Pio’s spiritual daughters. Now, after a distance of many years, she had found him again at San Giovanni Rotondo, and said to him, weeping: “Father, will you take care of me?”

“Surely, my daughter,” he answered. “You belong to me. You have been entrusted to me by the Madonna. Come often to San Giovanni Rotondo and I will care for your soul, in accordance with the wish of our Heavenly Mother. You are the firstborn of my heart. Love Jesus and love the Holy Virgin, who thought of you before you were born.”

The Name of Jacoba

A few years later, he had her join the Franciscan Third Order. Customarily, new members of the Order had to choose a new name, and Padre Pio gave her the unusual name “Jacoba.”

“What an ugly name,” said Giovanna. “I don’t like it.”

“You will be called Sister Jacoba,” he explained, “because like Jacobo,

the noble Roman friend who was present at the death of St. Francis, you will be present at my death.” Giovanna remembered that strange prediction in September of 1968, when she was visiting Padre Pio at Our Lady of Grace.

In the early morning of September 23, she had a mysterious vision in which she was transported to Padre Pio’s cell, where she witnessed his death. Later, when she told one of the monks about it, she accurately described the saint’s cell, which she had never visited, and named those who were attending him in his final hour.

Advance In God

As he did with Giovanna, Padre Pio always used his exceptional gifts to advance people in their relationship to God. His interventions in the lives of others produced remarkable and durable conversions. Unbelievers, atheists, agnostics, lapsed and lukewarm Catholics - he turned all to the Lord with a word of revelation or a healing.

Turn to Saint Padre Pio. He is waiting for you, as he waited 18 years for Giovanna. He wants to assist you as a spiritual father. Call upon him in your needs, and then see what happens.

Your Spiritual Father

He told John Haffert, co-founder of the Blue Army, that for all who say the Rosary and wear the Scapular, make a morning offering, and go to monthly Communion on the First Saturday and to Confession about that time ... that he will gladly be their spiritual father. Then he added, “But, they must behave!”

Yes, pray to him and offer to become his child, and you will discover what a wonderful and powerful father he is. He promised to wait at the gates of Heaven *till all his children have entered there*. Become his devotee!

Wonderful things will happen in your life, and then tell others about the wonders of Padre Pio, so that they, too, can reap the benefits of having such a gracious and loving father. +++

What Sentence?

from *Stories of Love*, p. 83
Jesus to Alan Ames

As the man stood before the judge who was about to sentence him, he pleaded for leniency.

"I was confused by the drugs I had taken. If I were in my right mind, I wouldn't have done it. I am truly sorry for the hurt I have caused, and now that I have been drug-free for some months, I see how stupid I was. Sir, I know I have done wrong, but at that time, my only desire was to get drugs regardless of how I achieved that. I am sorry, and I hope that I can in some way make up to society for the wrong I have committed."

The judge looked squarely in the man's eyes for a moment, then knew in his heart that he was about to condemn this man to death. As he opened his mouth to speak, all of a sudden in the convicted man before him he saw his oldest son; then the man changed to be his daughter, and then his youngest son. The judge rubbed his eyes and looked again at the man in disbelief, but again he saw each of his children in the convicted man before him. Then, inside his head, the judge heard a voice saying, "What would you do if it were your children before you? If this man had the advantages your children have had in life, he probably would not be here, but if your children had the disadvantages this man has had in his life, they probably would be here."

The judge sat silently, still looking at the convicted man.

"Your Honor, are you all right?" asked the prosecutor who was eager to hear the sentence, hoping it would be the death penalty he had asked for.

"Yes, I am fine. I am just considering my sentence a little longer," replied the judge.

"This man is part of your family and you should treat him

as such," continued the voice inside the judge's head. "He has made a serious mistake in his life, but he deserves the chance to make amends for it, both for society and for his soul. Yes, he has killed, but if you kill him, are you any different from him? The only difference will be that you in your mind will justify your cold and calculated act, while this man, who was confused and unbalanced under the influence of evil, is full of remorse for what he has done and will never justify to himself the terrible crime he has committed. Who is the worse? The cold calculated killer approved by society, or the weak, sick man, deceived and trapped by evil?"

The judge began to sweat as the words continued, "And, if it were your children, wouldn't you be lenient?"

"Fifteen years imprisonment with the chance for parole, if he is a model prisoner," snapped out the judge, as he then banged his hammer down and rose to leave the court.

Before he left, he took another look at the prisoner and saw the man crying with relief and whispering, "Thank you, and God bless you," to him.

The prosecutor looked stunned as he stood there with the sentence going over and over in his mind. "Only fifteen years," he thought dejectedly. Then, after the judge left the courtroom, the prosecutor sat down with thoughts of anger on his mind, when all of a sudden he heard a voice in his head say, "Where has all the love and compassion you used to have gone? When you studied law, you did so to help people; how does killing them help?" The prosecutor shook his head saying to himself, "I am imagining it." He then rose and left for his office.

On the way to the office, he decided to stop for a drink and pulled into a bar where he had some whisky, after which he returned to his car continuing on to his office. As he drove along, all of a sudden a young boy ran out in front of him

and the lawyer stepped hard on his brakes. The car stopped less than an inch from the young boy, whose mother ran screaming into the road and grabbed the boy.

"Thank God!" cried the mother. "Thank God you are all right." Then she looked into the car, calling out, "You were speeding. This is a residential area; you should be more careful; you are a danger to society!"

The mother then left carrying her child with her. The lawyer pulled his car to the side of the road and slumped over the wheel, crying with relief. "If you had killed him, you were speeding and under the influence of a drug. What should your sentence be?" asked the voice in his head.

"You were breaking the law on two counts and you could have killed a child ... what do you deserve?" The internal voice continued. The lawyer thought for awhile, then said to himself, "Yes, I was drugged. Yes, I was breaking the law. If I had killed that child, it would be, in a way, a type of murder."

"What sentence should you get then?" asked the voice in his head.

The lawyer was silent, then said out loud. "A lenient one, I hope." As he said it, an awareness came into his heart that if he would want this for himself, shouldn't he want it for others as well? At that moment he knew prosecution would no longer be his job, for now he wanted to defend people.

The voice in his head said, "Remember the Commandment, Thou Shalt Not Kill, and remember no matter what wrong a person may have done, this Commandment should not be broken, even in the name of justice, for this is the law of God, and it is the Law all are called to live by." +++



The Soldier

from *Stories of Love*, p. 50
Jesus to Alan Ames

A soldier was discussing with his friends the number of people he had killed. He spoke as if the people were objects, not human beings. He spoke with no emotion in his voice and discussed the subject matter-of-factly, as if it was only a job he was doing.

One of his friends smiled at him as he spoke; it was not a smile of humor or of support, it was a smile of pity. "Don't you feel anything for the people you have killed?" asked the friend.

"No, they are nothing to me but the enemy," replied the soldier.

"Do you ever think about their families? They have mothers, wives, husbands, children. Like you, they have friends who love them. Doesn't it ever bother you that you are taking someone away from their loved ones?" asked the friend, with concern in his voice.

"No, not at all. It's kill or be killed. They are the enemy, and they mean little to me!" said the soldier in a firm voice.

"I suppose the enemy thinks the same about you then, and they would not care if you are taken from your loved ones," said the friend.

"That's war," stated the soldier.

"Well, surely that must say to you that war is wrong, for it takes away your respect for life?" asked the friend.

"I only respect my superiors and my fellow soldiers," said the soldier, with a steely look in his eye.

"How did you ever get like this? You used to be so gentle when you were younger," wondered the friend.

"There is no room for gentleness in this world. It gets you nowhere," said the soldier, with a tone that was filled with a suggested knowledge of life.

"And killing does?" asked the friend.

"Killing is necessary to defeat evil, so the good countries can triumph in this world," replied the soldier.

"But who decides which are the good or the bad? Surely that is subject to whatever influences a person has put upon them. I am sure your enemies think they are the good, just as you think you are. So who is it who decides which is good or bad? Sometimes it may be a government with an agenda of its own that conflicts with another government, and when an agreement cannot be reached between the two they often send their men to die. So it seems, in many cases, it is governments that decide what is right or what is wrong, and it is the people who pay the price for their governments' decisions," suggested the friend.

The soldier stared at his friend, saying, "Well who else could we trust to tell us what is right or wrong?"

"If you rely on governments, you rely on people, and people can make mistakes, and governments mistakes can often cost lives," said the friend.

"Well, who then should we listen to? Without governments there would be no order, no security, and no peace in the world," stated the soldier.

"Where is order, security, and peace? Look around the world and see so many conflicts, so much suffering, and so many in need. What security is that?"

The friend remained silent as the soldier sat thinking for a while, then he carried on.

"And it seems you have allowed yourself to be blinded to the true values of life, which are to respect each other, to care for each other, to love one another, and to treat each other as you would expect to be treated. When you lose these values, it is then you get drawn into accepting and believing so many of the wrongs that abound in the world, wrongs that cause the world to suffer."

The soldier looked at his friend, and said, "So all this

fighting of wars is for nothing then?"

"War may at times seem like it is an answer to a problem, but in fact is a problem in itself," answered the friend.

"I wonder what the mother of the last person I killed is feeling with her son dead?" said the soldier, with his head hung low.

"Think of all the mothers who have lost children in wars and think, is their suffering a price worth paying?" said the friend.

"What to do then?" said the soldier, with a shrug of his shoulders.

"The answer is to live to the Commandments of God, not of men. When people do this, there will be less suffering in the world and more love," suggested the friend.

"People will never do that; it's too hard," stated the soldier.

"Which is better: to try to love, or to live in hate and sin? If you try to love, life will become joy-filled. Surely it is worth making the effort, even though it may be harder to love, so that your life can be happy rather than sad," said the friend.

"But it would take everyone in the world to try to do that, to stop the problems we have," said a now despairing soldier.

"Yes, but it begins with you, and then the influence the change in your life has on others will help them change. First though, you must change and then that is when others will," answered the friend.

"I think I might not kill anymore," said the soldier. "And I think that war is not for me anymore, but I wonder what I will do?"

"Try to start loving, and then leave it in God's hands," said the friend.

"In God's hands. I never thought of that, but now maybe it is time I did and maybe it is time the world did," said the soldier with a peaceful smile on his face, as he began to feel the truth of life touching his heart... the truth he had forgotten: to love God and to love each other. + + +

~ Banneux ~

“Believe In Me, And I Will Believe In You”

The Medjugorje Sentinel, # 37, 3/98
by Bill Matthews

The Belgium village of Banneux, which lies a few miles south-east of the city of Liege, was built on marsh ground and reserved for those too poor to purchase land. The name Banneux means “Poor” and it was here, in 1933, that Our Lady appeared as “The Virgin of the Poor” to 11 year-old, Mariette Beco.

On Jan. 15, 1933 around 7 p.m., Mariette was looking for her younger brother who had been sent on an errand. From the window she saw in the garden, a glowing figure of a Lady dressed in white with a blue sash, and on Her right hand hung a Rosary. On Mariette’s pleading, her mother looked, and although seeing something white, it was nothing like the detail described by her daughter, and scoffingly said that it may have been the Blessed Virgin.

A Truthful Girl

The following morning Mariette told her father who, knowing his daughter to be a truthful girl, told her she was talking nonsense. That same day, Mariette confided with her close friend, Josephine, and they agreed to visit the parish priest after school, and tell him everything.

But Mariette became embarrassed in his presence and fled. Josephine remained and related what she knew to Fr. Jamin, who bluntly advised her to tell Mariette that the Mother of God does not just appear to anyone, let alone someone who does not go to church.

The next evening, on Wednesday, January 16, Mariette went into the garden, and on the spot where she had seen the Lady, she knelt and prayed the Rosary. Fearing his daughter would be frozen stiff, Mr. Beco went into the garden to get her, but seeing the look on her face decided that the priest should be present.

As Father Jamin was not in the rectory, some neighbors joined Mariette’s father, only to see her proceeding down the road. They saw her stop twice and drop to her knees before eventually arriving at a tiny spring, where she thrust her hands into a small pool.

When questioned later, Mariette explained, “I just had to go. It was as if I was being pushed out of the house.”

When her father asked, “Why did you drop to your knees?” Mariette answered, “The Lady beckoned me to follow Her. Each time She stopped, I knelt down. Then, when I got to the bank of the water, the Lady said, ‘Plunge your hands into the water. This spring is reserved for you,’ and then She said, “Goodnight...Au revoir.’”

The following evening, Mariette again went into the garden and prayed the Rosary. The eleven villagers present saw her stretch her arms and cry out: “Oh, there She is.”

Who Are You, Madam?

Prompted by an onlooker, Mariette asked: “Who are You, Madame?” and a few moments later, she was heard to say: “Oh, The Virgin of the Poor.” Later, the young visionary was heard to ask, “Oh, beautiful Lady, You said yesterday, ‘This spring is reserved for me.’ Why me?”

To Relieve The Sick

According to Mariette, Our Lady smiled, and said: “This spring is reserved for all the Nations ... to relieve the sick.” Mariette did not understand the meaning of the word “Nations,” and said, “Thank You,” thinking Our Lady was giving her something nice.

When her father explained its meaning, Mariette nodded, saying: “After I had said thank You, Our Lady said: ‘I will pray for you. Au revoir. ,,,

The fourth apparition took place on Friday, January 20. Although doctors could find nothing abnormal in Mariette’s condition, she felt ill and tired. Having stayed in bed all day, at 6:45 p.m. she dressed, but it

was only after shedding many tears that her parents permitted her to go into the garden. About 20 people were present when Mariette took her accustomed spot and prayed.

After a few moments, she spread her arms saying, “Oh, there She is! ... What do you want of me, beautiful Lady?”

A pause, and then, “Oh, a little chapel! A little chapel!” Our Lady then made the Sign of the Cross above Mariette’s head and left.

The events of the week caused the villagers to reflect on them, and although Mariette continued to go to the garden each night and pray, there were no further appearances until February 11. The non-appearance of Our Lady during these 21 days saw Mariette belittled and taunted by many of the villagers, but she shed no tears by these torments, except those shed due to Our Lady’s absence.

Saturday, February 11, was the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and Mariette prayed all day for Our Lady to return. Leaving the garden, she went to the spring where she prayed a Rosary, and then plunged her hand and Rosary into the water, and made the Sign of the Cross. The priests and nuns present heard Mariette say, “Thank You ... thank You,” before bursting into tears.

“And, what did She have to say this time?” asked Father Jamin when Mr. Beco and Mariette, with some witnesses, presented themselves at the presbytery. The Blessed Virgin said, “I have come to alleviate suffering.”

“I didn’t know what those words meant, but Papa explained, and I felt better after that.”

“Well, I suppose you do know that nobody in the village believes you! Perhaps if you ask for a sign ... yes, that’s it, you ask for a sign, young lady. Perhaps that will settle the matter once and for all.”

The seer nodded, and then asked: “Please Padre, can I make my First Communion tomorrow?” Her determination was far stronger than the priest’s refusal, and the next morning, she made her First Communion. That evening Mariette went to the garden as usual, but Our Lady did not appear.

On Wednesday, February 15, for the first time, Mrs. Louise Beco accompanied her daughter and husband. Mariette said two decades, then raising her head, said: "Blessed Virgin, the Padre said I was to ask You for a sign."

The reply was, "Believe in Me, and I will believe in you."

The parish priest's reaction was, "That is not possible. 'Believe in Me,' yes ... that I understand, but why should She have said, 'And, I will believe in you?'"

Mariette shrugged her shoulders. "I do not know, but that is what She said., And, She told me a secret, too, ... but I mustn't tell anyone, not even Papa or Mama."

On Monday, February 20, at the usual time of 7 p.m., Mariette prayed in the garden. Although snow was falling heavily, there were eight other people present. As usual, she was led to the spring and after a few prayers, she broke into tears.

Back at the house, she explained: "Our Lady did not smile this time, and She said to me, 'My dear 'child, pray a 10t...Au revoir,' and went away."

8th And Final Apparition

The 8th and final apparition took place on March 7. Although the rain was heavy, Mariette left the house and knelt in her accustomed place. At the end of ten mysteries, the rain stopped. During the final mystery, Mariette was heard to say, "Yes, yes ... " before flinging herself on the soggy ground, sobbing.

When questioned later, she said that Our Lady looked sad, saying, "I am the Mother of the Savior, the Mother of God. Pray a lot," and "Adieu." ... This time, Our Lady's parting words were "Adieu," and Mariette knew that this was the last time she would see Her.

Not More Than 20 Present

Other approved apparitions, such as Lourdes and Fatima, attracted thousands of people at one stage or another, while in Banneux, never more than twenty individuals were present. Some believed that this

young girl may have been influenced by the Beauraing apparitions, which also took place in Belgium, shortly before (from November, 1932, to January, 1933).

Mariette's bluntness did not help. When asked by a woman if Our Lady was really beautiful, her reply was: "Well, at any rate, She was much better looking than you are!" And, to another person who asked if she would tell the Pope the secret, she said, "Well, if I can not tell Mama and Papa, I certainly will not tell him."

Shrine Now Visited By Millions

Since the apparitions ceased, more and more pilgrims visited the Becos' garden and prayed the Rosary, with estimates placing these at a million annually.

Some writers say that the Rosaries have gone unbroken at the spot where Mary appeared, even continuing during World War II, when battles were raging in and around the village.

A Personal Admonition

Even the parish priest, Father Jamin, became her advocate. He had thought a long time about the words: "Believe in Me, and I will believe in you," and took them to be a personal admonition.

As more and more people came to Banneux, he took it upon himself to design the "Little Chapel," which was erected in the Becos' garden with a marble mosaic, marking the exact spot where Our Lady had stood. The spring "for all Nations" continued to flow, and it is here that the sick are bathed daily.

The building program continued, and in 1938, a hospital was built to care for the sick. In 1949, the Bishop of Liege approved the apparitions, declaring that Mary had appeared to Mariette Beco, in Banneux, eight times during 1933.

Mariette continued to go to the garden and pray the Rosary until she left the village and married. Some say that her life was never "a bed of roses," which could be why Our Lady said: "I shall pray for you." +++

Free copies of *The 101 Times* for your conference, church or group are available upon request. Indicate #. (All information and articles in *The 101 Times* may be reproduced without prior permission. Do evange-

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Our Lady of La Salette

by James J. Metcalfe

*In tears Our Lady showed herself
That day at La Salette,
And begged that mortals make amends
With penance and regret.*

*She spoke to him, a shepherd boy
And her, a shepherdess,
To spread her word to all the world
For hope and happiness.*

*She warned of famine and of death
And even greater pain,
For those who disrespect her son
And use His Name in vain.*

*Dear weeping Mother, let us pray
To your beloved Son,
And ask His great forgiveness for
The wrongs that we have done.*

*Help us to follow in His path
And never once forget,
The kindly warning that you spoke
in tears at La Salette. +++*



*I*n Akita, Japan, on September 28, 1981, Sister Agnes suddenly felt the presence of the Angel at her side during the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. She did not see the Angel in person, but a Bible appeared open before her eyes and she was invited to read a passage (Genesis 3:15)...the voice of the Angel was heard explaining in sort of a preamble that the passage had relationship with the tears of Mary, then continued:

"There is a meaning to the figure one hundred and one. This signifies that sin came into the world by a woman and it is also by a woman that salvation came to the world. The zero between the two signifies the Eternal God Who is from all eternity until eternity. The first one represents Eve, the last the Virgin Mary."+++

Pilgrimage Program:

SEND FOR COMPLETE ITINERARIES

Guadalupe, Mexico - for Feast Day celebrations. Dec. 6 thru 13, 2003 (8 days) \$1299 (Land only, \$899). Feasts of the Immac. Concep., Juan Diego, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and visits to **Ocotlan, Puebla, St. Michael's Well, & Our Lady of Good Remedies.** +++

Holy Oil - Thur., Feb. 12, to Tues., Feb. 24, 2004 (13 days) \$2599. Visit **Beirut** in Lebanon, **Damascus** in Syria, and **Cairo** in Egypt. +++

Medjugorje & Prague - Mon., March 8 to Wed., March 17, 2004 (10 days), \$1148. (One day in Prague.) +++

Betania, Venezuela - Mon. March 22 to Sun., March 28, 2004 (7 days) \$1689 with Msgr. Joseph James, gifted confessor.

Fatima - Tues., April 20, to Tues., April 27, 2004 (8 days) \$1299. Visit **Aljustral, Lisbon, Santarem, Coimbra, Fatima, Ourem**, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Nazareth at Nazare. +++

Montichiari/FontaneUe, Italy - Retreat for priests, religious, and prayer warriors with Frs. DeGrandis & Henry Bordeaux, also Janie Garza. Sun. evening, May 2, to Fri., May 7, 2004 (6 days) \$1299.

Shrines of **Italy** - Fri., May 7, to Sun, May 23, 2004 (17 days) \$2699. Visit **Milan, San Damiano, Montichiari, Fontanelle** (Rosa Mystica), **Padua, Venice, Ferrara, Bologna, Florence, Siena, Assisi, Loreto, Osimo** (St. J. Cupertino) **San Giovanni Rotondo, St. Michael's Cave, Pietrelcina, Mugnano** (St. Philomena), **Pompeii, Rome, & Civitavecchia.** +++

Germany, Austria, & Switzerland (including Tyrolian Passion Play) Mon., June 7, to Fri., June 18, 2004 (12 days) \$2699. +++

Fatima - Marian Conference and Retreat. (Topic: Our Lady and the Reality of Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory.) Well known guest speakers. July 7, to July 14 (8 days) \$1799 (1 free for 10 paying, or a group of 11 @ \$1699 each.) We will be there for the special July 13 anniversary celebration.

Fatima and Lourdes - Tues., July 20 to Fri., Aug. 6, 2004 (18 days) \$2599. Our most popular pilgrimage. Feast Day visit to **Santiago Compostella** (Shrine of St. James), **Pontevedra, Zaragosa, Avila, Braga, Santarem, Covadonga, Fatima, Ovieto, Lourdes, Garabandal, etc.** +++

Ireland - Tues., Aug. 17, to Sun., Aug. 29, 2004 (13 days) \$1998. Visits to **Knock, Melleray Grotto, Ballinspittle, Inchigeela, Attymass** (home of Fr. Patrick Peyton), **Achill Sound** House of Prayer, **Dublin,** & more. Meetings with visionaries Mary Casey, Tom Lennon, & others. +++

France -Wed., Sept. 8, 2004, to Fri., Sept. 24 (17 days), \$2699. Visit **Paris, Paray-Ie-Monial, Taize, La Salatte, Ars, Chateaufeuf-de-Galaure** (Marthe Robin), **Nevers, Lourdes, Mont St. Michel, Pontmain, Lisieux,** & more. +++

Poland Shrine Tour - Sun., May 22, to Sat., June 4, 2005 (14 days), \$2499. Includes **Warsaw, Zoliborz, Krakow, Niapokalonow, Zakopane, Zelazowa Wola, Wagnivniki** (Divine Mercy Center), **Wadowice** (birthplace of John Paul II), **Kalwari Zebrzydowska**, and the beautiful Shrine at **Lechen.** +++

All pilgrimages include: priest on each bus, daily Mass, three Rosaries, breakfast and dinner, and a blue 101 jacket. Non refundable deposit is \$150 per person.

Spend a few quiet days near the Blue Army Shrine in Washington, NJ
Call 101 Foundation for details.

Write for information regarding the *Garabandal* Miracle Flight.

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