

Marian Apparitions

Introductory Remarks

I did a thorough examination of five phenomena: La Salette, France with one event involving two shepherd children, 11 and 15 years old in 1846; Fatima, Portugal with three young shepherd children, ages 7 to 10, through the summer and fall months of 1917; Garabandal, Spain, a remote village in the Cantabrian mountains, with four village girls, ages 11 and 12, in 1961 (to 1965); Akita, Japan with one Catholic nun in 1973, and Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina with six village teenagers beginning in 1983 and continuing to the present day. Both Garabandal and Medjugorje were subject to extensive physical, psychological, and religious investigation. Lourdes, France with Bernadette Soubirous, a fourteen year-old village girl in 1858, and Belpasso, Italy with Rosario Toscano, a fifteen year-old male from a wealthy family from the end of 1986 to January 5, 1988, are also well known. Literally hundreds of such events have taken place over the last several centuries. The number of events multiplied in the last several decades. A list of those only from the past century may be found at a University of Dayton website:

<http://www.udayton.edu/mary/resources/aprtable.html>

A site that lists many modern events with links to locution episodes is:

<http://www.giftstor.org/visionry.htm>

Another comprehensive site is at:

<http://www.mysteries-megasite.com/main/bigsearch/apparition-1.html>

Other sites refer to reported visitations by Jesus and God the Father.

(Please note that channeled "revelations" provided through mystical Spirit contacts, in contrast, avoid the designation of Jesus and God the Father unless used to pervert their roles in creation.)

A series of questions face us in our attempts at evaluation:

1. Are the events real?

Is there some external force at work to bring the apparitions or locutions? Or can they be explained as due to a psychological internal mind operation, or delusion?

Without question, the causes are external, not psychological. Physical phenomena are associated with many of the events. The exudation of fluids from a wooden statue in Akita, Japan, documented with photographs, broadcast to a wide TV audience when captured by a film crew, and laboratory testing of fluids attest to that event. Television

and movie cameras often filmed the children at Medjugorje while in an ecstatic state. The physical motions of the children of Garabandal while in an ecstatic state were startling. They would stiffly “fall” over backward to the ground, and rise up again without assistance from their arms or legs. They would rapidly “run” forward, and backward, up and down steep hillsides in unison without ever stumbling or missing a step. These motions were so rapid bystanders could hardly keep pace with them. While taking the Eucharist from an invisible administrator a “host” miraculously appeared on the tongue of one of the children and remained there for several minutes while filmed by a movie camera. The strange display of lights in the sky at the final event in Fatima, although poorly documented, attests to a non-human and non-natural physical force directly connected to the event. Other phenomena could be cited.

Persons who assign the many phenomena to psychological causes are uninformed of the documented events. Plainly speaking, they do not know what they are talking about.

2. Are the causes natural, or supernatural?

Clearly, causes are at work not due to human origin, or natural phenomena. After study and evaluation the causes can only be ascribed to supernatural origin. The ecstatic state of the children, from two to six in number, simultaneously, at both random and predicted times, cannot be attributed to independent psychological states, nor to some social inspiration of innocent minds. In all cases visionary forms of angelic or heavenly beings are described. Compare with Paul’s three descriptions in the Book of Acts. Attribution of cause to natural origins is unworthy of the phenomena. Only inexperienced persons would resort to such simplistic explanations.

We can properly say that aperiodic visitations by celestial beings have not ceased since the days of the Apostles. The recent increase, and the nature of the messages, strongly suggests an impending change in the planetary regime toward culmination of the age, and preparation for a new world dispensation.

3. Are the causes intelligent, or random?

In all cases the physical phenomena can be described only as of intelligent origin, beyond normal human powers, with overt purpose to attract attention of human beings. Return visitations were predicted at Fatima, Garabandal, and Medjugorje, showing an intelligent, non-human, control over the events. Synthesis of the events shows that they are related to one another through their revelatory content. These relationships can only exist if an intelligent plan is behind the aggregate effort.

4. What is the purpose?

All episodes were used as vehicles to convey intelligence from supernatural sources to human beings. The information invariably is related to coming earth events, and the fate of mankind. God or his supernatural agents are invariably invoked as the source of that

intelligence. In all valid cases there is no assignment of the information to mystical Spirit entities, as found in the channeling phenomena.

5. Who are the supernatural agents?

Great confusion exists about the sources. At Fatima and La Salette the children were initially clear that they saw a beautiful young lady, not identified as the Virgin Mary. In some cases the children distinguished between male and female attributes of their visions. (Refer to Mark 16:15 where the visitor is identified as male.) Later influence through religious fervor caused a reassignment to Mary. On the other hand, many of the statements were closely related to, or invoked, the Virgin Mary as their source, with god-like powers. Those of us who are more informed about celestial operations would not accept a human mother as having power to command God, even if he were born as a human being from her womb, and she were now in heaven. A purpose must be behind the Marian assignments that are not initially apparent to us.

6. Why children and why rural settings?

The children or young teenagers from La Salette, Fatima, Lourdes, Garabandal, and Medjugorje all show innocence about the external world. In some cases they could not read or write. The source of their religious knowledge was from families and the local clergy, or church attendance. They were unsophisticated and highly unlikely to convey information of planetary magnitude as shown in the transmissions, beyond their knowledge range. Several instances show puzzlement by the children as to the meaning of the messages. The choice of children is an excellent method to remove later assignment to adult conspiracy for religious propaganda. Rural environments are more conducive to devout mind-sets, and honest religious allegiance. Religious devotion is a highly important element in these exercises, and is emphasized in the communications, regardless of the form of that devotion.

7. Certain common elements are found in the apparitions:

- The celestial personalities appear in intense and brilliant heavenly light. Refer to Acts 9:3, 22:6,11, and especially 26:13.
- The divine personalities may direct a beam of heavenly light to the human beings that penetrates their inner most soul.
- As stated above, external physical phenomena are apparent to other witnesses. See Acts 22:9.
- Most events provide secrets. The children of La Salette, Fatima, Garabandal, and Medjugorje all were given secrets, in some cases not to be revealed, or to be revealed under specified conditions. This again shows intelligent structuring of the events toward some ulterior purpose.
- Among a group one may be selected to carry the secret. Refer to Conchita Gonzales at Garabandal.
- All selected human beings still living were told they would play a highly important role in revealing the secrets, to affect human decisions during a world

crisis. Refer to Paul's remarks that he was to bear witness, Acts 26:16. The children at Medjugorje are now in their 30's; Conchita Gonzales is in her 50's. This selection is identical to the function of members of the Reserve Corps of Destiny found in the Urantia Papers, page 865 and especially the discussion at 1257ff.

- A consistent content is found from one event to another. The "revelations" do not contradict one another, except as later corrupted by human recorders.
- Importantly, the "revelations" describe apostasy within the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church. Denial of the foundations of Christianity through sophisticated theological expositions has torn the heart out of devout faith.
- Even more important, the "revelations" describe the doom of our current godless civilization.

8. Why lack of synthesis of the common elements of the phenomena, and the content of the revelations from the many episodes?

As far as I am aware, hardly any work has been done to bring such synthesis. What little has been published is amateurish and primitive, or the product of godless scholarship. Since the episodes are under control by heavenly powers, and not under control by the Church, they do not fit into earthly administrative or theological expectations. Coming unexpectedly and unpredictably, the Church is unable to provide a mechanism for synthesis. The millions of books and hundreds of web sites published on the phenomena, without social coordination, shows how much the Church hierarchy is precluded from constructive contribution. That hierarchy is blocked by their theological mind-sets. They are unable to cope with the cultural and spiritual transformations now taking place. We witness this crumbling of influence and Godly authority daily within the Church.

In other words, God is transforming the world outside and beyond conventional religious institutions. In spite of the form, God is directly speaking to his people without recourse to the human authority of the Church. He is planting seeds to help in the coming decisions for salvation of the earth.

The Church process of authentication of episodes is long and tedious. Local bishops have first authority. If, after examination, they approve, the events are then referred to the Vatican. If the Bishops disapprove, the events never reach authentication. Garabandal is an excellent example of highly important revelations, with considerable physical phenomena, but rejected by the local bishop, perhaps out of fear of potential influence on the Church.

No other widely accepted or formalized social mechanism is available for synthesis. This lack of ability to deal with celestial spiritual phenomena is very similar to a lack of comprehensive evaluation for celestial intelligence behind the objects now described in our skies.

9. Why so exclusively Catholic?

I puzzled over the significance of the exclusive Catholic presentation. Why would celestial beings present themselves in familiar (and often mythological) Catholic images that would repel other religious people? Were we to give heed to only the truths of the revelations, while ignoring the form? Or did the beings have some other purpose?

Further reflective thought brought me to realize that the forms of the phenomena were based on communication with human beings **on their terms**. Revelations were being given to Catholics, in Catholic images, who otherwise would not receive religious instruction from the Church, appropriate to end-time planetary crisis. The Church avoids recognition of the current worldwide spiritual crisis, and cannot be used as a vehicle for enlightenment of God's people. It works to preserve outmoded and mythological religious symbolism and authority. The Church is a human institution, and only a human institution, an integral part of, and defending, the current crumbling social order. As such it is antithetical to God's unfolding destiny program.

Those human beings who are free of the bonds of the Church have other avenues for learning of our crisis. Devout traditional Catholics do not.

I deduced that the task of reaching devout Catholics who are more traditional in their religious relationships with God needed the vehicle of their devotion to Mary, who plays a highly important role in their lives. If revelations come from "her" they are given more respect, and hence attention, by those habituated to traditional imagery.

When we instruct small children we do so in simple terms, suitable to them, not in adult language and symbolism. If God or his celestial agents were to talk to a purely Catholic audience they would not phrase their communication in foreign religious symbolism. Such foreign elements would merely bring rejection or confusion. If celestial agents were to bring alert attention to the planetary crisis they would formulate in terms striking to a Catholic audience. The most immediate symbolism for traditional Catholics is the imagery of the Virgin Mary. She is highly predominant, and even places Jesus in shadow in many of those minds. Witness the rosary, and other Catholic forms. For specific instructions and context refer to:

<http://www.rosary-center.org/howto.htm>

Examples of Revelation

Considerable, and important, revelation has been given through such eccentric paths. I found elements that are peculiarly in tune with biblical revelation, but not recognized by either the Catholic audience, or anyone else.

Church Apostasy

Common to the Marian revelations are statements about apostasy in the Church hierarchy. This apostasy will cause tremendous contests over the souls of mankind during the coming spiritual trials.

From Fatima:

“He (Satan) will know how to find his way to the highest positions in the Church.”

“Cardinals will be against cardinals, and bishops against bishops.”

From Akita:

“The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops. The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres . . . churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord.”

I assure you, this compromise is far more than theological. The manner in which the “Demon” will work within the Church is unrecognized today. Overt Demon influence is about to explode and is part of the “Warning” conveyed to Conchita Gonzales. Refer to my later discussion.

From Garabandal:

“Many cardinals, many bishops and many priests are on the road to perdition and are taking many souls with them.

A Great Chastisement.

From Fatima:

“Various nations will be annihilated.”

“About the war that is coming: So many people are going to die . . . Many homes will be destroyed, and many priests will be killed.”

From Akita:

“In order that the world might know His anger, the Heavenly Father is preparing to inflict a great chastisement on all mankind.”

From Garabandal:

(1961) "But first, we must lead good lives. If we do not, a chastisement will befall us. The cup is already filling up, and if we do not change, a very great chastisement will come upon us."

(1965) "Before, the cup was filling up. Now it is flowing over."

I offer these examples of common themes in all of the apparitions.

In following letters I shall examine more detailed examples of Marian revelations, the meaning of which is completely unknown to those who conveyed the revelations, Catholic believers, or the rest of the world.

Ernest

To be continued.