

Our Lady of Garabandal 1961

Garabandal is a small village consisting of 300 habitants and located in the Cantabria Mountains of northern Spain in the province of Santander.

St. Sebastian lived days of peace until June 18, 1961. Since this date everything changed in this small corner of the Cantabria mountain range: millions of people, driven by curiosity, devotion or hope, started to flock the area in an interrupted manner. A journalist from Navarra called the village the “Spanish Lourdes.” The pilgrims responded to a very special call, a call from heaven that our Blessed Mother made. In the afternoon of Sunday, June 18th, 1961, four girls said to have seen an apparition of an angel. The girls were Conchita Gonzalez, Mari Cruz Gonzalez, Jacinta Gonzalez, and Mari Loli Mazon. Conchita relates the first apparition:

“We took apples not belonging to us, and we thought the devil to be happy and our poor guardian angel to be sad. Then we started to pick up stones and throw them with all our strength to the left side. We thought the devil was there. We started to play with the stones. All of a sudden a beautiful figure appeared with so much brightness that it hurt my eyes. The other girls who saw me in this state thought I was having some kind of an attack, and they were ready to call my mother, but then they remained in the same state as I was and we exclaimed at the same time:

“There, an Angel!” Later the Angel identified himself as St. Michael the Archangel. St. Michael appeared several times. The first time he spoke to the girls was July 1st, 1961, and said to them: “Do you know why I had come? To announce to you that tomorrow, Sunday, the Virgin Mary will appear as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.” On Sunday, July 2nd about 6 pm, the girls went to the alley which led them to the nine pine trees, and a great multitude of people followed them, with various priests and doctors among them. Approaching the place, the visionaries encountered, to their surprise, the Blessed Virgin Mary who came accompanied by two angels. One of them was St. Michael and the other was unknown.

They described our Lady: “She comes with a white dress, blue mantel, a crown with 12 golden stars, her hands stretched out, with a brown scapular, carrying the child in her arms: her hair was brown and long, parted in the middle; her face was long with a fine nose; her mouth was very beautiful, with lips a little thick. She appeared to be 17 years old and tall.”



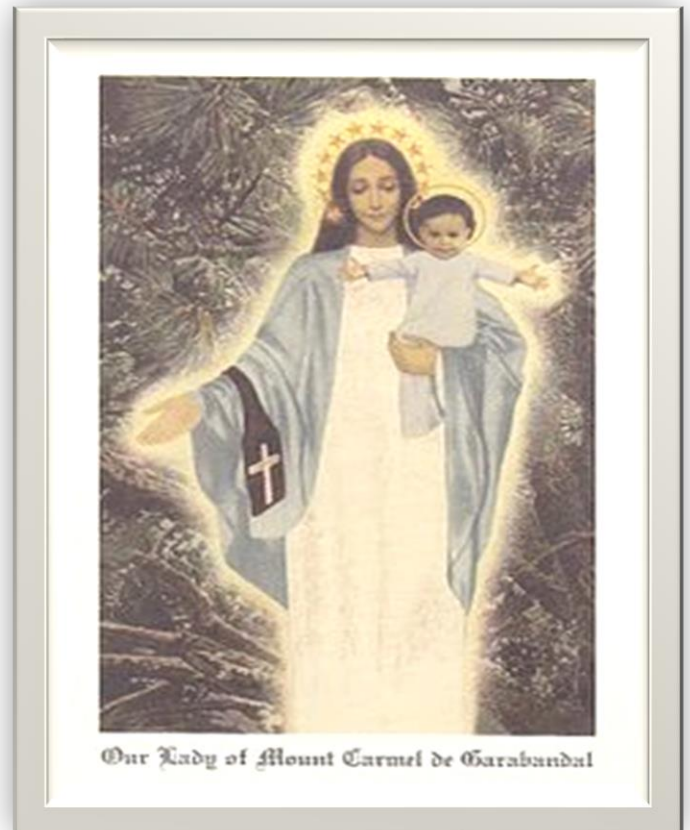
The Messages:

In the apparitions of Garabandal that occurred from June 18th, 1961 to June 18th, 1965 two messages were especially given out.

1. Much sacrifice needs to be done and much penance, we have to visit the Blessed Sacrament much, but before we have to be very good. If we do not do this, a punishment will come. The cup is being filled, and if we don't change a punishment will come."

The message speaks about sacrifice and penance and reminds us of the gospel teaching of the prediction of St. John the Baptist: "Repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand." The same Christ inaugurates his preaching saying: "Repent, and believe in the Good News. It is the eternal message of the prophets and was insistently reminded by the Blessed Virgin Mary in La Sallete, Lourdes, Fatima, but unfortunately forgotten by the majority of people. That is why if we don't change, a punishment will come, manifesting that the justice of God has consequences for the sins of men for wrongly using their liberty.

2. Our Lady said to Conchita on January 1st, 1965 that the Archangel Michael would appear on the 18th of June and give a message in her name to the whole world. Before the cup was being filled, but now it is overflowing. Many priests are walking through the path of perdition and taking with them many souls. Less and less importance is given to the Eucharist. You should prevent God's anger upon you with your efforts. If you ask forgiveness with sincerity, He will forgive you. I, your Mother, through the intercession of the Archangel Michael, want to tell you to amend your lives. You are in the last warning. I love you very much and don't want your condemnation; ask and you will receive. You should do more sacrifice; think more in the passion of Jesus." The Blessed Virgin Mary comes as our Mother, confirming what Christ from the Cross gave us: "Woman, behold your son. Son, behold, your Mother."(Jn 19:26). She always comes insisting and asking us to sacrifice more and to meditate more on the Passion of her Son.



In the prophetic announcement of Garabandal, Conchita speaks of a warning, a miracle, and a punishment for humanity.

The Warning:

January 1st, 1965, Conchita had a new apparition of Our Lady in which Mary spoke about the “warning,” a warning for the world to amend itself. Conchita tells us: “I cannot say in what it consists, she has not ordered me to say it. She has not told me when it will be. Therefore, I don’t know. I do know that it will be visible for the entire world; it is a direct work of God and it will occur before the miracle. I don’t know if people will die. They can only die from the impression they see.”

In one of her letters she speaks about the warning: “This warning,” she said, “is like a punishment, for the good and for the bad: for the good so they can draw closer to God and for the bad to tell them the end of times is near. This is to be the last warning.”

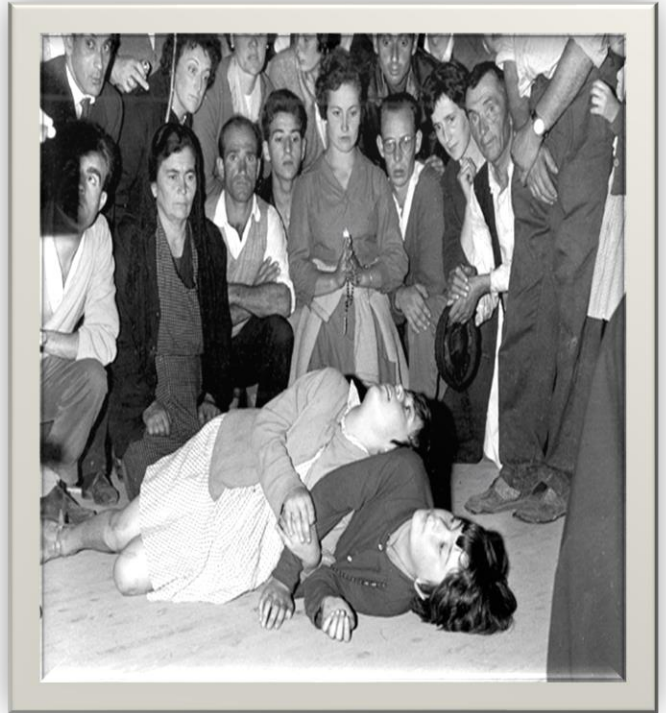
The warning will be the fruit of God’s justice and of his Mercy. Of His justice, because it is going to purify us of our sins; of His Mercy, because it will give us an opportunity of greater conversion in our spiritual life. This warning will be a direct work of God’s intervention. The warning that will come to the world will be external to us and will happen in the sky; a luminous flame of ardent fire, felt on the entire earth. Most importantly, interiorly we will see our conscience before God’s justice - what we have done wrong and what we have not done. In short, it will be like a particular judgment but while still living. As well, the conscience of the world will be corrected - a purification before the miracle - to see if by the warning and the miracle we convert.

The Miracle:

The girls asked insistently to Our Lady for a miracle. Like in Fatima, she said: “I will do a miracle for all to believe. Our Lady only told me. She had prohibited me to say what it is about. I cannot say the date, until eight days before. What I can say is that it will coincide with a Church event and with a feast day of a Saint, a martyr of the Eucharist. It will be at 8:30 pm on a Thursday and be visible for all who are in town and around the mountains. The sick who are present will be healed and the unbelievers will believe. It will be the greatest miracle Jesus has done for the world. There will be no doubt that it comes from God and for the good of humanity. A sign of the miracle will stay for ever, near the pines.

We can signal out essential aspects of the miracle, according to what the girls related in interviews and letters, especially Conchita.

- Conchita knows the exact date, and communicated it to Pope Paul VI, to his confessor and to Cardinal Ottaviani, who was Pre-perfect of the Holy See, known today as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.
- Conchita will announce it to the world 8 days before the date.



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- There will be one year between the warning and the miracle.
- It will last between 10 minutes and 1/4 of an hour.
- It will occur on Thursday at 8:30 pm
- Between the 6 - 16 in one of these three months: March, April & May.
- It will coincide with the feast day of a martyred saint in relation with the Eucharist.
- It will also coincide with an important, rare, singular event for the Church as well as for all Christianity - a happy and fortunate event.
- It will be the greatest miracle Jesus has done for the world.
- It will be visible in Garabandal and in the mountains around the area; it cannot be touched, but it will be able to be filmed and televised.
- It will not be necessary for the girls to be present at the moment of the miracle.
- The sick present will be healed and the unbelievers will believe.
- The Pope will see the Miracle "where ever he may be."



In the first days of June 1963, the bells in Garabandal started to ring. Conchita, who was in the kitchen of her house with her mother Aniceta, immediately exclaimed:

"The bells are ringing for a deceased. Surely it is for the Pope (John XXIII had died). Now there is only three Popes left." Her mother, surprised, asked her what she said and Conchita responded that the Virgin told her after this Pope only three will be left. Her mother asked her if the "end of the world" will come. Conchita responded: "not the end of the world, but the end of times." Aniceta asked if that did not mean the same. So Conchita responded: "The Virgin said to me: "After this Pope only three are left: and later, the end of times."

(Diary of Conchita from 5-6-63)

The end of times should not be confused with the end of the world; the end of times coincide with the final era that, after the purification of humanity and renewal of the Church, will prepare for the beginning of the era of the glorious reign of Jesus Christ. This will be an era of holiness and grace. We have to remember the end of times started with the first coming of Christ.

The Punishment:

The punishment was announced by the girls in the first message of October 18th, 1961. The girls narrated the punishment as best they could according to what they saw the night of June 19 - 20, 1962.

"It was similar to rivers transformed into blood. Fire came down from heaven and worse things; a great heat, scorching thirst, and water that evaporated. Men were chained and in desperation trying to kill one another; but due to lack of strength they either fell into the flames, while others threw themselves into the ocean. However, the water seemed to boil and activate the flames."

Conchita narrates in one of her writings:

"The punishment is dependent on whether or not humanity listens to the messages of Our Lady and

the miracle. In the case that it does occur, I know in what it will consist because I have seen the punishment. I can reassure that if it does come, it is worse than if we were wrapped in fire; worse than if we had fire on top and fire underneath. I don't know the time that will pass before God sends it after the miracle has occurred."

The punishment of Garabandal reminds us of Sacred Scripture: it is the revelation to man of his sinful condition, of the narrow relationship between sin and punishment, of a God who judges and saves; punishment is nothing other than a healing medicine that seeks to restore the straight path. For some it will be a dead-end and eternal condemnation; for others, it will be an invitation to "return" to God. The Blessed Virgin in Garabandal did not come to preach punishments; she came to give us the means to avoid them: "I don't want your condemnation," Our Lady said in her message.

The Miracle of Holy Communion:

The girls received Holy Communion frequently from St. Michael the Archangel. Many pictures can be seen of the visionaries receiving the invisible host. But on one occasion the girls asked the Angel to do a miracle for the people to see and believe. St. Michael responded that God was going to perform a miracle through his intercession and the girls. The miracle would occur on June 18th, 1962. On this day at 1:30 am, Conchita entered into ecstasy and a visible host suddenly and mysteriously appeared on her tongue. A person present with a camera took the picture of this miracle.



The Sacrament of the Eucharist is one of the basic pillars of the message of Garabandal. The Virgin calls us to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and in some messages she told Conchita that she was sad because Conchita did not spend time with Jesus. "Why don't you go more frequently to visit my Son in the Blessed Sacrament? Why are you driven by your laziness, not going to visit Him when He is waiting day and night?" The Blessed Virgin reminds us that Jesus waits for us to speak with Him, to repair, and to console his Pierced Heart.

On June 30th, 1961, Jacinta had a vision of the Sacred Heart. She described Him as dressed in white with a red stole; His Heart was luminous red, visible on the left side of His body, and it emitted white golden rays. Jesus didn't speak to her, but His left hand was pointed to His Heart, and His right hand invited the child to go to Him. Jacinta narrated that Jesus didn't say anything, but He had a look of love and she felt He was saying to her: "I'm with you, and will always be with you."

In the last apparition of the Virgin Mary to Conchita on November 13th, 1965, the Blessed Mother said: "Remember what I said to you on your birthday that you will suffer much on earth? . . . I tell you this again. Have confidence in us and you will offer it with joy to Our Hearts, for the good of your brothers and sisters. In this way you will be more united to us." The Virgin continued: "Conchita, I don't come only for you. I come for all my children, with the desire to bring them closer to Our Hearts."

We should work, sacrifice and do every thing to fulfill the wishes of our Mother. Everything she desires is the same as the desires of Her Son, of God. They desire the salvation of the world, and we should all draw closer and love the Immaculate Heart of Mary who will take us directly to the Heart of Jesus. The Virgin Mary comes for all humanity and for all her children, and she has all of us under her mantle. She loves all of us and she desires our salvation. The warning will be sent by God so that no one will doubt the miracle and so that the miracle will have the maximum response possible from the people; the miracle is the last effort to convert sinners and avoid, in all ways possible, the punishment from heaven. Each one of us, according to our state in life and condition, should repent for our faults and make an effort to be perfect. This perfection requires effort, sacrifice, and carrying our cross with joy. The Virgin loves us and desires to present us to the Merciful Father. The warning, the miracle, and the punishment were revealed, but our Mother does not want us to live in fear. On the contrary She desires that we truly live the messages. Praying (especially the Holy Rosary), fasting, wearing the scapular, frequent Eucharist, confession and reflection on the Passion of Christ will obtain the graces from God we need to avoid sin and be converted into true Christians, holy Christians on the path to Eternal Life.