

OUR LADY OF PELLEVOISIN **Pellevoisin, France 1876**

ESTELLE Faguette, aged thirty-three, lay dying of pulmonary tuberculosis, an abdominal tumor, and acute peritonitis and was expected to live only a few hours, when she experienced an apparition the night of February 14 to 15.

THE FIRST VISION

That night a devil appeared at the foot of her bed to harass her during her final hours, but almost immediately she saw the Blessed Mother at her bedside. The Lady rebuked the devil who departed instantly. Then the Virgin looked at Estelle and told her not to fear, that she would suffer five more days in honor of the five wounds of Christ, and that in a few days, she would be either dead or cured. Estelle would experience fifteen visits from the Mother of God.



THE SECOND VISION

When Our Lady presented herself for the second visit the night of February 15 to 16, it was again after the devil first appeared. The Lady encouraged Estelle, Be not afraid, for I am here. My Son is again showing His mercy. You will be healed on Saturday, but you will not be free from troubles or suffering. This is what life brings. My Son's heart was pleased by your self-denial and patience.

ESTELLE'S FAULTS REVEALED BY THE BLESSED VIRGIN

After a few moments, the Lady smiled and said, "Now let us look at your past." When her faults were revealed, Estelle said, "I was completely stunned by the number of them and remained silent." The Virgin gently reprimanded her, and then, with an expression of love, she disappeared.

During the third nighttime visit of February 16 to 17, the devil once more presented himself but went away as soon as the Virgin appeared. Estelle, shamed by the faults that were revealed to her the night before, hung her head, but the Lady told her: "That is all past, by your self-denial you have put all things right." The Lady then explained: The few good works and the intense prayers that you offered me have touched my Motherly heart. Do not lose the graces you have been given and make my glory known.

In the fourth visitation of February 17 to 18, the Lady cautioned, “Do not be afraid of anything. Have courage, patience and resignation. You will suffer and will be troubled. Try to be faithful and make my glory known.” During the night of the fifth

vision, February 18 to 19, the Blessed Mother recommended: “If you want to serve me, be simple and let your deeds prove your words.” Then very quietly, It saddens me the most to see that people have no respect for my Son in the

Holy Eucharist and the way the people pray while their minds are distracted

with other matters. I say this to those who pretend to be pious. For the seventh visit of July 2, while Estelle was praying the Rosary beside her bed,

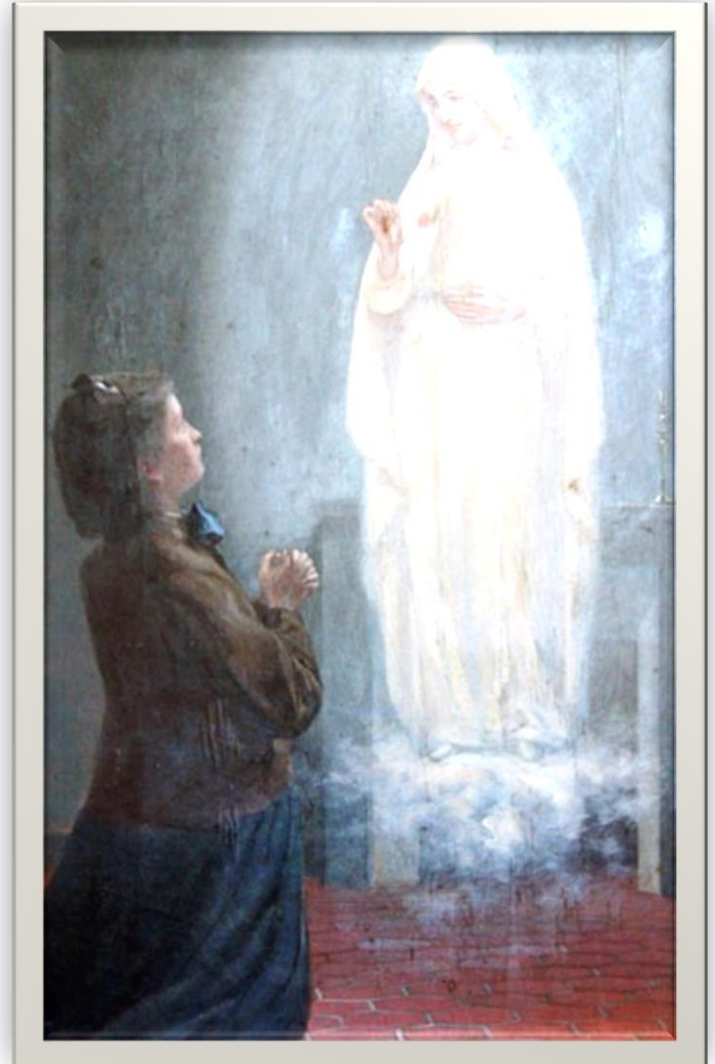
the Blessed Virgin appeared in a bright light that was streaming from her hands. She crossed her hands over her chest and said, “You have already proclaimed my glory.” She then entrusted Estelle with a secret. For the ninth apparition, on September 9, the

Virgin was concerned with the conditions in France and said, “They want to know everything before learning, and understand everything before knowing. The Lady was distraught during the eleventh apparition on September 15, and said emphatically,

“France will suffer. I can stop my Son no longer. they will acknowledge the truth of my warning later on.” The twelfth visit was memorable in that the Blessed Mother

appeared wearing a scapular that she wanted Estelle to make and promote. On the front was a red heart encircled with thorns, with flaming tongues of fire on top and with blood spilling from a wound on its side. On the reverse was depicted the Lady of Pellevoisin with graces flowing from her hands and framed in an oval of flowers. For the fourteenth vision on November 11, the Lady once again wore the scapular and asked Estelle how many she had sewn. On learning the number, the Lady said, “You must make many more.” The fifteenth and final apparition took place on December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Estelle was very eager to see the Lady, but also sad that it would be the last time. Estelle relates that the Virgin was more beautiful than before, that she wore a long dress and a floor-length veil and was again wearing the scapular she had designed. After a moment of silence, the Lady revealed,

I am totally merciful and the mistress of my Son ... He will touch the most hardened hearts for me. I have especially come to save sinners. The treasures



of my Son have been open wide for a long time, if only they would pray.

Then, while pointing to the scapular she added, "I love this devotion. I implore all to come to rest and peace. Also the Church and France."

Moved with deep devotion, Estelle asked if she might kiss the scapular worn by the Blessed Mother. The Lady agreed and held it forward to receive Estelle's sign of veneration. The Blessed Mother then instructed Estelle to contact her pastor and the bishop concerning the propagation of the scapular. The Virgin opened her hands and graces fell from them in the form of rain, but on each drop appeared a word: health, trust, respect, love, holiness and words denoting other graces. The Lady then said: "These graces are from my Son. I take them out of His heart. He can refuse me nothing." After a moment, the Lady disappeared. The apparitions were quickly recognized by Msgr. de La Tour d'Auvergne, the Archbishop of Bourges, when he authorized the making and distribution of the scapular and allowed public worship of Our Lady of Pellevoisin. The Archbishop ordered two canonical inquiries into the apparitions, which resulted in a favorable verdict on December 5, 1878. Later, in 1883, the parish priest of Pellevoisin, Fr. Salmon, accompanied by Fr. Auvrelle, the Vicar General, journeyed to Rome to present Pope Leo XIII with a bound record of the apparitions and a picture of Our Lady of Pellevoisin. The Pope was pleased to grant indulgences to encourage pilgrimages to the shrine and also approved the Archconfraternity of Our Mother All Merciful of Pellevoisin.

APPROVAL OF THE SCAPULAR

Estelle was privileged to visit Pope Leo XIII on two occasions, during which the Pope promised to submit her scapular of the Sacred Heart to the Congregation of Rites.

Two months later, a decree was issued which granted approval of the scapular.

The miraculous recovery of Estelle during the first apparition was given official and public recognition by Archbishop Paul Vignacour, Archbishop of Bourges, in 1983, following both medical and theological investigations. Estelle Faguet, a privileged soul, died in Pellevoisin, on August 23, 1929, at the age of eighty-six