



# Rosa Sine Spina

France

Friday 22 August 2025

*In the Footsteps of Mary*



*Special Edition*

*with the Virgin of Reparation*



Jubilee Year of Hope

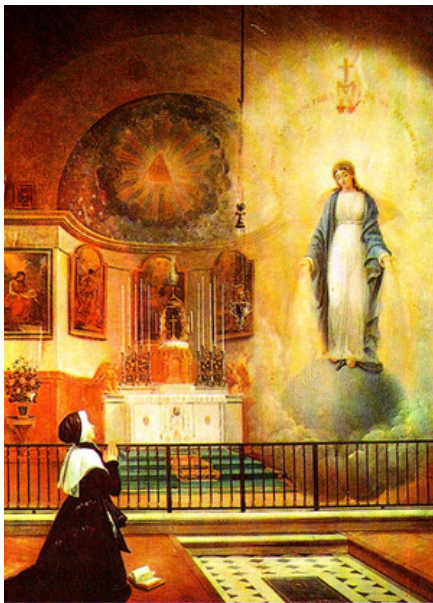
# FRANCE, "THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE CHURCH"

Since its birth, France has a history deeply tied to Christianity. The title "Eldest Daughter of the Church" finds its origin in the conversion of Clovis I, King of the Franks, who was baptized in 496 in Reims by Saint Remi. This event not only marked the beginning of Christianity in France but also laid the foundations for the Frankish kingdom to become a defender of the Catholic faith.

Due to the title of "Eldest Daughter of the Church"—a title of Divine origin that carries a magnificent mission and immense responsibility—Heaven has decreed an extraordinary and singular "marianophany" on the land of the Franks. This is because, despite all its current corruption, France is still destined to return to the promises of the baptismal font and to be the teacher of all nations. Let us pray for our France.



Together, we are going to explore the greatest apparitions that have occurred in France, which are part of this pilgrimage route to discover.



## Rue Du Bac

On November 27, 1830, the Virgin Mary made a magnificent apparition to the humble St. Catherine Labouré and gave her a wonderful gift: the Miraculous Medal! The words "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you" were inscribed on it. The Virgin asked the young novice to have a medal struck according to the vision she had seen and to spread it throughout the world. At the time, Paris was being ravaged by a cholera epidemic. After some initial resistance, the medal was created by a Parisian goldsmith. The healings and graces of conversion were so numerous that within a few years, millions of copies had to be made.

## La Salette

On September 19, 1846, in La Salette, in the heart of the French Alps, the Virgin Mary appeared to two young shepherds, Mélanie Calvat and Maximin Giraud. Her sad words and demeanor were an invitation to conversion, urging respect for the Lord's Day and a stop to blasphemy. After a five-year investigation, on September 19, 1851, Bishop de Bruillard of Grenoble issued a decree approving the apparition. A basilica was quickly built on the site of the miracle, where the Virgin Mary is honored as the "Reconciler of Sinners."





### Lourdes



In Lourdes, at the foot of the Pyrenees, in a grotto by the Gave River, the Virgin Mary appeared to a simple, delicate, and frail young girl from a very poor family. On February 11, 1858, a beautiful "Lady," dressed in white, appeared to Bernadette Soubirous. Not knowing what to do, the young girl began to pray the rosary.

The Virgin appeared 17 more times, until July 16. In February, the famous spring of water, which had not existed before, burst forth.

On March 25, the woman introduced herself as the Immaculate Conception—a dogma that had been proclaimed just four years earlier. According to the visionary, the core of the Virgin Mary's message was "penitence and prayer."

### Pontmain

The apparition took place at a dramatic moment for the nation, just after its army had been severely defeated by the Prussian army and Emperor Napoleon III had been taken prisoner. On the evening of January 17, 1871, the Virgin Mary appeared in the starry sky to a group of children in Pontmain, a village in the Mayenne department (Pays de la Loire).

She did not speak, but only made gestures. The Message was conveyed through inscriptions that slowly appeared, letter by letter, in the sky: "Pray, My Children, God will answer you soon. My Son lets Himself be touched..."

The apparition lasted three hours, during which the villagers, led by the parish priest, prayed and sang with fervor. The bishop gave his first approval the following year. The church, in a beautiful Gothic style, was started immediately after the apparitions and completed in 1880.



### Pellevoisin

Estelle Faguette was born in Pellevoisin on September 12, 1843. Suffering for years from cancer, as well as tuberculosis and a paralyzed arm, she is said to have had fifteen Marian apparitions between February 14 and December 15, 1876.

During the fifth apparition on February 19, 1876, she was suddenly and completely cured, just as the Virgin Mary had foretold.

In the messages reported by Estelle, the Virgin, in addition to recommending goodness, simplicity, patience, trust, and courage, reminded her of her merciful mediation with her Son. She also added that she came for the conversion of sinners, recommending prayer and the widespread use of the scapular of the Sacred Heart.

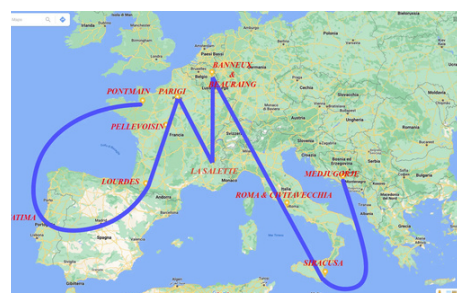
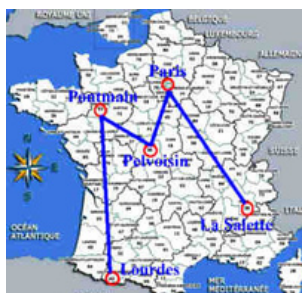


### Thouars

At the end of time, the Virgin Mary once again manifests Her Mercy by coming to our aid, this time through her Great Message of Reparation.

Henri, a mystic and stigmatized bishop, is her chosen spokesman. The apparitions to Henri began at the age of 5 and continue to this day in Thouars.

The Virgin of Reparation has come to bring us Her Message of Peace, Love, and Hope, urging her children to return to Her Divine Son through the path of authentic reparation.



## M de Marie



The "M" of Mary over France refers to a succession of Marian apparitions that took place over a period of less than 50 years, specifically between 1830 and 1876. Based solely on geographic and temporal criteria, some Christians have seen a sign in connecting these five places where Our Lady appeared during this specific period. By linking these Marian sites in a precise order, a significant letter "M" can be traced. "M" is the first letter of the name of our dear and tender Mother Mary. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the patroness of France, the "Eldest Daughter of the Church."

Lourdes, Pontmain, Pellevoisin, the Rue du Bac, and La Salette are names of Marian shrines that resonate deeply with many. These sites of apparitions have left a significant mark on the religious history of France and the world, holding a profound place in Catholic faith due to their association with recognized apparitions of the Blessed Virgin and miracles. In light of this unique sign, the "M" over France, Catholic faithful took the initiative to create a spiritual pilgrimage route. This route offers pilgrims a unique experience of faith, reflection, spiritual seeking, and discovery as they travel through France.

Highlighting the lesser-known town of Thouars, where the Madonna of Reparation appeared in the Roman Order of Mary Queen of France, we can see that this town naturally fits into the path of this Marian route, the letter M, or "the M of Mary."



# LOURDES

Lourdes is one of the most famous Marian Apparitions in history. They took place in 1858, and a young girl named Bernadette Soubirous was the main figure. The Virgin Mary appeared to her eighteen times in a grotto along the Gave River.

Bernadette Soubirous was a kind and delicate girl with fragile health. She was raised in a very poor family that, at the time of the Apparitions, lived in a very

... damp and unsanitary place. It was so unsanitary that, having previously served as a prison, there were thoughts of abandoning it because it was too inhospitable, even for inmates.

Everything began on Thursday, February 11, 1858. That morning, it was very cold in Lourdes. There was no more wood to burn in the Soubirous home. Bernadette, who was 14 at the time, went with her sister Toinette and a friend to look for dry branches around the village. In a grotto along the Gave River, Bernadette had the first apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The Lady appeared as a young girl of sixteen or seventeen. Dressed in white, with a blue sash flowing down her robe, she wore a white veil on her head that revealed her hair, which fell to the level of the sash. A large rosary with white beads, connected by a gold chain, hung from her arm, while two roses, also shining gold, glowed at her bare feet.

On February 18, during a new apparition, the Virgin asked Bernadette to return to the grotto for fifteen consecutive days and instructed her to tell the priests to build a church on the site of the apparitions. The young girl was faithful to her appointment.



On February 24 and 25, the Lady told Bernadette to go to the spring to wash and drink. But there was no spring or well in that spot. The Lady then pointed to a specific place. Bernadette went there and, seeing no water, began to dig with her hands, smudging her face and eating blades of grass. Everyone present laughed at her. But shortly after, from that small hole dug in the dirt by Bernadette's hands, water began to flow in abundance. A blind man washed his eyes with this water and instantly regained his sight.

On March 25, 1858, the Feast of the Annunciation, the Lady finally revealed her name. In response to Bernadette's question, she said in the local dialect, "Que soy era Immaculada Councepciou" (I am the Immaculate Conception), confirming the dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary that Pope Pius IX had proclaimed on December 8, 1854—just four years earlier.

Bernadette couldn't have known this. Afraid she would forget the phrase, which she didn't understand, the young girl rushed to Father Peyramale and repeated the sentence she had just heard. The priest, deeply moved, no longer had any doubt about the truth of the apparitions.

The Virgin Mary promised Bernadette happiness, but not in this world. In Nevers, Bernadette lived as a nun, embodying the message of penance and prayer she had received in the grotto. She died as a saint on April 16, 1878, at the age of thirty-three, a significant age given the immense suffering that marked her life. She was beatified in 1925 and canonized in 1933.





During the Apparition on February 24th, the Virgin Mary repeated the word "Penance" three times. And she exhorted: "Pray for sinners." Penance and prayer: according to the visionary, this is the heart of the message of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Unfortunately, both penance and prayer for sinners are very neglected. It is difficult to find souls who have a great thirst for God. That is why prayer, penance, and sacrifice are perpetually present themes in the apparitions from Heaven.

The young and simple Bernadette, delicate and of fragile health, experienced in her life a great union with the crucified Christ through suffering.

Let us ask, through the intercession of Saint Bernadette Soubirous, for the grace to begin an interior life of deep prayer, penance, and sacrifice.



the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

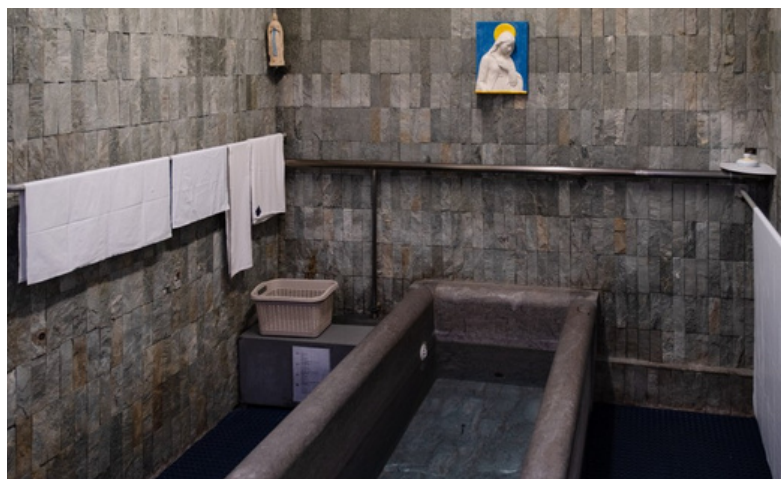


Marian procession



the Stations of the Cross,

Miraculous Spring



pools for immersion



Lucie JAMAIN, the 44th officially recognized miracle



# THOUARS

Another great manifestation of God's Love for us was born on French soil, in Thouars: the Roman Order of Mary Queen of France. From Thouars, the Virgin Mary breathes great hope into hearts, through a Message of Love and Peace, in this divided and torn world that wanders in perdition and degradation.

This new and current mariophany is one of the most precious projects to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; it is the fruit of her Love for humanity; it is the Supreme Gift that has been raised up and formed, and that is still maturing to bring to afflicted souls the Great Message of Reparation.



Painful days are approaching for the Church and for this world. Like Noah, who was ordered to build an ark, the Virgin Mary has asked the Instrument of her Immaculate Heart, Henri, to found the Roman Order to guide souls amidst the great chaos, amidst the waters of the great flood that is approaching. We must enter and take refuge in the Ark of the Covenant of the Roman Order to be preserved from the plagues that are gravely threatening all of humanity.

For the Seals are opening one after another, and Heaven is calling all souls of good will to unite under a single banner: that of the Roman Order of Mary Queen of France. We must wake up! The Founder has been entrusted with the mission of preparing the Little Remnant, of preparing all Romanists for this imminent end, for the second coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Heaven invites all visionaries, all privileged souls, all mystics from around the world to gather under this banner. This union is necessary and desired by Heaven, for the times in which we live demand that we unite our hearts and our efforts to build a new era, an era of Peace and Love. Mystics, privileged souls, cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians, men and women religious, all the faithful and all Christians are invited to enter this ultimate Order that the Earth has been waiting for for so long!



Our Lady is the Gate of Heaven and, through Her Great Message of Reparation, She traces the sure path to Her Son Jesus. Thanks to the glorious title under which Mary came to us in the chapel of Thouars, the Holy Church will understand the profound meaning of Reparation, so necessary in these times when sin abounds.

Our Lord has great plans for the Roman Order. He has predestined it from all eternity and, in His Love, He will make it the citadel of traditionalism. This blessed Order is called to promote the practice of Eucharistic and Marian worship. Our Lady tells us that the Roman Order of Mary Queen of France (which She brought forth through Her apparitions in Thouars) will restore True Discipline. With the expansion of this Romanist and Marian religious movement, She will cause the Church to be reborn.



This religious institution, in all its splendor, will fight through its works to have the great Marian dogma proclaimed: Mary Co-redemptrix, Mediatrix of all graces, and Advocate. After gathering many ecclesiastics, it will achieve this with divine grace.

The Roman Order will be the last banner against the assaults of Satan and the Antichrist, the banner that God has chosen to protect humanity. This blessed Order will be a beacon in the night of this world.

Jesus will give birth to a new Church and will bring forth within the Roman Order Holy Priests, Holy Bishops, and Holy Cardinals who will serve Him with profound and fervent zeal, in obedience, chastity, poverty, loyalty, and fidelity. They will have a burning heart, a passionate Love for the Holy Church, for the Most Holy Eucharist, for the Most Holy Mother of God, and for the true Supreme Pontiff. They will straighten the Church and return it to its primitive form.



The Roman Order will be the Great Militia of these end times. This has been prophesied to many privileged souls. The victory and triumph will come through the Roman Order of Mary Queen of France.

Pray and make reparation by enlisting in the Militia of Our Lady of Reparation, by embodying in your lives the Life and Virtues of the Queen of Heaven, through total adherence and surrender to Her Divine Will!



**Mary, Our Lady of Reparation, my Mother, my Trust, my Hope, and my Salvation, pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to You!**



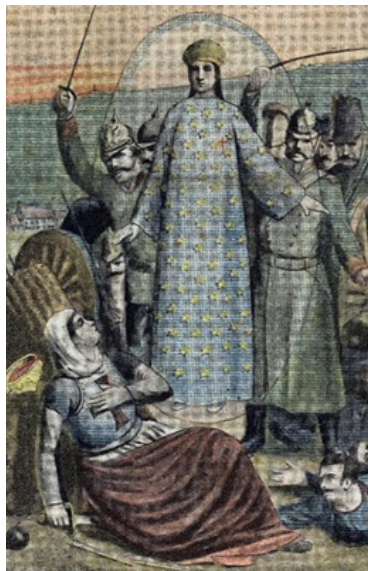


# PONTMAIN

The Apparition of Pontmain occurred at a dramatic moment for France, as its army had just been severely defeated by the Prussian army and Emperor Napoleon III had been taken prisoner.

On the evening of January 17, 1871, the Virgin appeared in the starry sky to a group of children in Pontmain, a village in the Mayenne department (Pays de la Loire). She said nothing but only made gestures. The message was entrusted to inscriptions which, letter by letter, slowly formed in the sky: "Pray, my children, God will hear you soon. My Son allows Himself to be touched."

The apparition lasted for three hours, during which the villagers, led by the parish priest, prayed and sang fervently.



January 1871. France is being crushed by Germany. For six months, the French army has proven incapable of repelling the Prussian invader. Paris has been under siege since September 19th; the enemy army has invaded the entire north of the country, from the Jura to Normandy.

France's military situation is catastrophic. Its political situation is hardly better, as the Second Empire was overthrown on September 4th and a new political regime had to be urgently improvised. The provisional French government took refuge in Bordeaux while the King of Prussia settled in Versailles.

In January, the Prussian army was at the gates of Laval, 50 kilometers from Pontmain (Mayenne). Anxiety reigned in the village: the inhabitants feared an invasion, but they were also worried about the young villagers enlisted in the army since September, from whom they had no news.

On January 17, in the late afternoon, two children, Eugène and Joseph Barbedette, were in the barn with their father, helping him stack broom for the cattle's manger. It was around 5:30 p.m. when Eugène took a break from his work to step out onto the doorstep. It was at that moment that he saw in the sky, above the facade of the house, a "Beautiful Lady" who was extending her arms in a welcoming gesture and smiling at him.

She was dressed in a blue robe sprinkled with stars. On her head, a black veil was surmounted by a gold crown. The apparition was set in the middle of a triangle formed by three large, particularly brilliant stars. His brother Joseph also saw her, but their father saw nothing. Several people then gathered in the street: Mrs. Barbedette, the school sisters who came with several small students, and the parish priest, among others.

As is often the case, only the children saw the apparition. The adults, however, even though they saw nothing, believed immediately. In that, their...



...their simplicity of spirit must have delighted the Virgin Mary. What could be more moving than to imagine this small group of about fifteen people—the parish priest and the nuns at the front—singing hymns in a village street on a snowy, freezing night?

During the rosary, joy shone brightly on the Virgin's face; the number of stars on her dress kept increasing, as if they represented the merits accumulated from the recitation of each Hail Mary. The rosary, litanies, and songs followed one another. Gradually, a banner with the following inscription appeared under the Virgin's feet: "Pray, my children, God will hear you quickly: My Son allows Himself to be moved."

The parish priest then had them sing a hymn adapted to these dark days: "Mother of Hope / whose name is so sweet, / protect our France, / pray, pray for us..."

Around 8:30 p.m., the priest had them recite the evening prayer. A white veil then appeared at the Virgin's feet and slowly rose, progressively hiding her until the end of the prayer, when everything disappeared. The apparition lasted about three and a half hours.



The next day, January 18th, French troops launched an assault in the suburbs of Laval and managed to stop the German advance. The Germans retreated, leaving more than a hundred dead on the field (compared to about thirty on the French side). These clashes marked the end of military operations in western France. After the armistice was signed on January 26th, all thirty-eight young men from the village of Pontmain who were enlisted in the army returned safe and sound. The Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary granted to the children of Pontmain shows us once again that purity of heart is essential for intimate union with God. This closeness of the children to heaven reveals the incredible power of their prayer. It is up to us to pass this marvelous message on to them so that they understand the power of piety.



#### Prayer to Our Lady of Pontmain

"Most gentle Virgin Mary, in your Apparition at Pontmain, you reminded us of the importance of prayer, strengthened Hope in our hearts, and brought Peace. Deign to favorably receive today the fervent prayer we address to You, so that Peace, the fruit of justice, truth, and charity, may be established in our hearts, our families, our Nation, and all Nations.

Increase in our souls the desire to live our faith fully, without any compromise, in all circumstances of our lives. Help us to always understand others and to love them deeply in God. Amen."



#### The Children's Prayer of Pontmain

"Holy Virgin Mary, sweet Mother in heaven,  
You smiled at the children of Pontmain.  
You presented your Son, Jesus Our Lord, on the Cross  
to them,  
the most beautiful gift from our Father in heaven.  
Will You teach us to welcome Him, to love Him,  
to pray to Him, and to please Him?  
Will You help us to spread joy around us?  
You are beautiful, O Mary, amidst the stars!  
We love You. In our hearts we pray to You and we sing  
to You. Amen."





# PELLEVOISIN



Estelle Faguet was born in Pellevoisin on September 12, 1843. Suffering for years from cancer, also affected by tuberculosis and with a paralyzed arm, she had fifteen Marian apparitions between February 14 and December 15, 1876. After the fifth apparition, on February 19, 1876, she was suddenly and completely healed, just as the Virgin Mary had announced to her.

In the messages Estelle reported from Pellevoisin, the Virgin, in addition to recommending goodness, simplicity, patience, trust, and courage, reminded her of her merciful mediation with her Son. She also added that she had come for the conversion of sinners, and she recommended prayer and the spread of the Scapular of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

On January 30, 1900, Estelle was received by Pope Leo XIII. After reporting the messages to him, she obtained a promise that the scapular, which conformed to the model on the Virgin's chest, would be approved as the only Scapular of the Sacred Heart. Estelle died in Pellevoisin on August 23, 1929, at the age of 86.

Everything began with a letter in which Estelle opened her suffering heart to the Virgin Mary, entrusting her worries to her. It started with her health: due to an inguinal peritonitis that had become tuberculous and affected her stomach and lungs, poor Estelle, only 33 years old, was considered lost. It was then that, as a last resort, the young woman decided to write a letter to the Virgin Mary. The Virgin's response to Estelle's letter came about six months later in the 15 apparitions that Heaven offered the young woman.

At Pellevoisin, the Marian call to devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is central. It appeared to the visionary as a living, blazing red heart, surmounted by a cross, with an open wound from which Blood and Water flowed. From this Heart, the treasures of the Divine Son flow forth for humanity, as the Virgin Mary spoke of in these apparitions, namely: heavenly Graces, the Sacraments, and the Divine Eucharist.



Lors de la dernière apparition, la quinzième, le vendredi 8 décembre 1876, solennité de l'Immaculée Conception, la Vierge Marie dit à Estelle : « Ma fille, souviens-toi de Mes Paroles ». À ce moment-là, Estelle les revit toutes, en particulier celles-ci :

- « Je suis toute miséricordieuse et maîtresse de Mon Fils »
- « Ce qui M'afflige le plus, c'est le manque de respect envers Mon Fils dans la Sainte Communion »
- « Je suis venue surtout pour la conversion des pécheurs »
- « Les trésors de Mon Fils sont ouverts : qu'ils prient ! »
- « J'aime cette dévotion (montrant le scapulaire du Sacré-Cœur) »
- « Je t'ai choisie, je choisis les petits et les faibles pour ma gloire »

The Most Holy Mary then added: "Repeat them often: they will give you strength and console you in your trials. You will not see me again." To which Estelle cried out in despair: "What will become of me without you, my good Mother?"

And the Virgin answered her: "I will be near you in an invisible way."

Then she showed her once more her open arms, from which a rain of graces fell, which the visionary was able to glimpse: devotion, salvation, trust, conversion... The Virgin Mary then said: "These graces come from My Son. I take them from His Heart. He cannot refuse them to Me." After inviting her to present the devotion of the Scapular of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to her bishop, the Virgin Mary disappeared.

The Most Holy Virgin, fully united and conformed to Her Son, desires only what Jesus Himself desires, in perfect harmony with His Will. While Mercy is the attribute with which Mary presents Herself—to the point that the sanctuary of Pellevoisin is dedicated to "Mary Mother of Mercy"—the Virgin Mary nevertheless does not fail to correct Her children, to warn them, and to encourage them on the path of goodness, by correcting them and exhorting them to conform ever more to the image of the crucified Christ.

That is why reparation is so necessary: reparation to the Sacred Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph for the sins of ungrateful humanity, in order to console our Creator and Redeemer, and also to console the most beautiful Rose in the immense garden of creation and her most pure Spouse.

Reparation for our own particular sins is a concrete sign of our repentance and our love for God, and it allows us to truly renounce the misery of sin and grow in our union with Christ, just as the Virgin Mary desires.



### Prayer to Our Lady of all Mercy

Virgin Mary,

At Cana you prayed for the glory of Jesus to be manifested.

At Pellevoisin, at the prayer of the sick Estelle,

You obtained from your Son the complete healing of the one who implored you.

Be always attentive to our requests.

Take our miseries into your heart, present them to Jesus so that He may transform them and have Mercy on us.

Teach us also to intercede for our brothers and sisters, for those we love and for those who have harmed us.

Mother of Mercy, at the Cross, united with your crucified Son, you offer your life to give birth in grace to the beloved disciple; Make us true witnesses of Christ, through the offering of our activities, of our prayers; May we, clothed in the love of Christ, express our faith through our entire lives.

Queen of Mercy, it is in the trial of the Cross that you became our Mother; Grant that in hope, we may never admit defeat. Obtain for us that strength of love which will allow us to fight to the end so that the victory of Jesus may be our victory and our joy.

O Our Lady, ask for us the gift of the Spirit. May He thus place in our hearts the thirst for truth and for holiness, so that we may then with faith proclaim the glory of the Father. Amen.





# RUE DU BAC

On November 27, 1830, the Virgin Mary, in a magnificent Apparition, gave an extraordinary gift to the humble Saint Catherine Labouré, a gift that would bring an immeasurable amount of graces to all of humanity: the Miraculous Medal!

Who does not know the invocation, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you"? It is a popular and pious prayer, known in practically the entire Catholic world and also recited very often in the Chapel of Reparation. We invite Romanists to recite this "miraculous" invocation very often.



**The Revelation of the Medal** It was precisely on the eve of Advent, November 27, 1830, that the Virgin appeared to Saint Catherine Labouré at 5:30 p.m. Catherine had a vision during her meditation in the chapel: she saw what looked like two animated pictures passing before her in a seamless transition. In the first, the Blessed Virgin stood on a half-sphere (the terrestrial globe) and held a small golden globe in Her Hands. Mary's feet were crushing a serpent. In the second, rays of dazzling splendor burst from Her open Hands. At the same moment, Catherine heard a voice saying, "These rays are the symbol of the graces that Mary obtains for humanity."

Then an oval formed around the apparition, and Catherine saw this previously unknown invocation written in a semicircle in gold letters: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you."

Immediately after, the oval of the medal turned over, and Catherine saw its reverse side: at the top, a cross surmounted Mary's "M"; at the bottom, two hearts, one crowned with thorns, the other pierced by a sword. Catherine then heard these words: "Have a medal struck according to this model. Those who wear it with faith will receive great graces."



Catherine reported the Virgin's request about the medal to her confessor, Father Aladel, but the priest reacted negatively and instructed the novice to stop thinking about such things.

A few months later, after pronouncing her vows, Catherine Labouré was sent to the Hospice of Enghien to care for the elderly. The young nun began her work, but an inner voice continually troubled her: "The medal must be struck."

Catherine spoke to her confessor about it again. Meanwhile, in February 1832, a terrible cholera epidemic broke out in Paris, causing more than 20,000 deaths. In June, the Daughters of Charity began to distribute the first 2,000 medals, which Father Aladel had struck. Healings multiplied, as did extraordinary protections and spiritual conversions. The people of Paris began to call the medal "miraculous."

By the autumn of 1834, there were already more than 500,000 medals. A year later, over a million were in circulation. By 1839, more than ten million had been distributed, and by the death of Sister Catherine in 1876, more than a billion were accounted for!



Before the revelation of the Miraculous Medal, during the first apparition of Our Lady, late at night, Sister Catherine was awakened and heard a child dressed in white, four or five years old, who invited her to go to the chapel because the Virgin Mary was waiting for her. It was the best, the sweetest, and the most beautiful experience of her entire life.

What would be our reaction if we received such an invitation from the Holy Child Jesus, King of Love? We must love the Virgin Mary with all our hearts, lead a pure and holy life in the midst of this corrupted world, and imitate the saints! Thus, who knows, one day we may experience, even in this life, an experience of love similar to that of Saint Catherine Labouré. Let us pray in all circumstances with Saint Catherine Labouré and all the souls devoted to Our Lady of Graces, Our Lady of Reparation, Her beloved Invocation, to implore Her gentle and necessary divine Aid: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!"

**Prayer to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**  
 "O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and our Mother, with the liveliest confidence in your powerful intercession, so often manifested through Your Medal, we humbly beseech you to kindly obtain for us the graces we ask for through this novena.

O Virgin of the Miraculous Medal, who appeared to Saint Catherine Labouré in the attitude of mediatrix of the whole world and of each soul in particular, we place our supplications in your hands and entrust them to your Heart.

Deign to present them to Your Divine Son and grant them if they are in accordance with the Divine Will and useful to our souls. And, after having raised your supplicating hands to God, lower them upon us and envelop us with the rays of your graces, enlightening our minds, purifying our hearts, so that, under your guidance, we may one day reach blessed eternity." Amen.





# LA SALETTE



Just as had happened before and would happen again for other apparitions, the Virgin met two young shepherds: Mélanie Calvat, about 15 years old, and Maximin Giraud, 11 years old. They were very poor, both economically and culturally (neither had gone to school or catechism) and emotionally neglected.

Mélanie Calvat, or Mathieu-Calvat, lived with farmers from the area around Corps, the village where she was born on November 7, 1831. Hired as a shepherdess, she only returned to her family in winter, when they suffered from hunger and cold. Because of this, she developed an introverted character and became shy, withdrawn, and not very talkative; she often answered only with yes or no.

Maximin Giraud, also born in Corps on August 26, 1835, was, in contrast, very lively. He spent his free time running with his dog Loulou and a small goat. Orphaned of his mother at the age of seventeen months, he preferred to stay outside, away from his stepmother.

## A Beautiful Lady Who Weeps

On Saturday, September 19, 1846, they both climbed the slopes of Mount Planeau early in the morning, above the village of La Salette, each leading four cows to pasture. Later, as they were descending and were halfway down near a small spring, Melanie was the first to see a globe of fire on a pile of stones, "as if the sun had fallen there," and showed it to Maximin.

From this luminous sphere, a woman began to appear, seated with her head in her hands, her elbows on her knees, looking deeply sad.

Faced with their astonishment, the Lady stood up and, in a gentle voice, but in French, said to them, "Come closer, my children, don't be afraid. I am here to announce a great piece of news to you." Reassured, the children approached and saw that the beautiful Lady was crying. She first spoke in French but quickly switched to the dialect of Corps, which the children spoke.



The Virgin spoke at length during this single apparition at La Salette. I will only quote a few passages: "If my people do not wish to submit, I am forced to let go of My Son's arm. It is so strong and so heavy that I can no longer hold it back." "How long I have suffered for you!" "If I want My Son not to abandon you, I am charged with praying to Him unceasingly, and you pay no attention. No matter what you pray or do, you can never compensate for the trouble I have taken for you." "I have given you six days to work; I have reserved the seventh for Myself, and you do not want to grant it to Me. This is what makes My Son's arm so heavy." "And even those who drive carts do nothing but blaspheme My Son's Name. These are the two things that make My Son's arm so heavy."





Finally, she crossed the stream and began to climb the opposite slope. Without looking back, she issued one last invitation: "Well, My Children, you will make this known to all of My People." When she reached the top of the hill, She rose from the ground and gradually disappeared, leaving the two small shepherds who had followed her astonished.

#### The Message and the Secrets

In July 1851, at the request of the ecclesiastical authorities, the two young shepherds transcribed their secret, which was given to Pope Pius IX. However, a distinction must be made: the message that the Virgin Mary had entrusted them with to disseminate called on men to convert, to respect the holy day dedicated to God, and to condemn blasphemy, culminating in an invitation to penance to mitigate natural calamities.



However, the secrets entrusted to the two seers, discovered in 1999 by Father Michel Corteville, were distributed as follows: the one entrusted to Melanie consisted of the announcement of great calamities for France and Europe, with reference to the Antichrist and the ruin of Paris, and a severe reprimand against consecrated but unfaithful persons; the one entrusted to Maximin announced mercy and hope.



La Salette is also a great call for reparation, a call that is all the more urgent in these unfortunate times, so that humanity may cease to offend and despise God and His dear heavenly Mother. Let us choose Mercy over Justice, while there is still time...



#### Prayer to Our Lady of La Salette

Remember, O Our Lady of La Salette, true Mother of Sorrows, the tears you shed for me on Calvary and in your merciful apparition; remember also the trouble you always take for me to save me from the blows of God's justice; and see if, after having done so much for your child, you can now abandon me.

Revived by this comforting thought, I come to throw myself at your feet, despite my infidelities and my ingratitude. Do not reject my prayer, O Reconciling Virgin, but convert me, grant me the grace to love Jesus above all things, and to console yourself by a holy life, so that one day I may see you in heaven. Amen.

V. Our Lady of La Salette, Reconciler of sinners,  
R. Pray without ceasing for us who have recourse to you.

