



THE APPEALS
OF OUR LADY
APPARITIONS
AND
MARIAN SHRINES
IN THE WORLD

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at PARIS



FRANCE, 1830

Catherine Labouré was born on May 2, 1806 into a family of farmers. On April 21, 1830 she entered the novitiate of the religious order Filles de la Charité (Daughters of Charity) at their motherhouse in Rue du Bac, in Paris, where the Virgin Mary appeared to her. Here is her testimony on how the apparition took place.

"At 11:30 PM, I hear my name called: '**Sister Labouré! Sister Labouré!**' Awakening, I look towards where the voice was coming and I see a boy, 4 to 5 years old, clothed in white, all radiant, who says to me: Come into the chapel, Our Lady is waiting for you. After dressing in a hurry I followed him, who always kept to my left. The lamps were on everywhere we passed: this surprised me greatly. I was even more astonished at the entrance to the chapel, when the door opened as soon as the boy touched it with the tip of his little finger. The wonder grew in seeing all the candles lit as at the Midnight Mass. But I did not see the Virgin Mary yet. The boy led me into the presbytery, where I knelt while the boy remained standing the whole time. Since the time seemed too long to me, once in a while I looked around in fear that the sisters keeping vigil passed by the platform at the right of the Altar. Finally the longed for moment arrives and the boy alerts me exclaiming: '**Here is Our Lady, here she is!**' I hear a sound, like the rustle of a silk garment, and I see the Virgin who starting out from the platform near the painting of St. Joseph, came to the steps of the altar on the side of the Gospel. Her stature was average and she was of a beauty most pure. From her head flowed down a white veil that went down almost to her feet, which rested on a half globe. Her hands, raised to the height of her belt, held up in a natural manner another globe, smaller, golden, crowned by a cross also of gold. She had her eyes turned towards Heaven.

While I was intent in beholding her, the Most Blessed Virgin said looking at me: '**the globe that you see represents the whole world, especially France, and every single person. Its rays are the graces which I bestow to the people who ask me for them.**'

And then an almost oval picture forms around the figure of the Most Blessed Virgin, on which at the top, in the shape of a semicircle from the right hand to the left hand of Mary, these words were written in gold letters: '**Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you!**'

At this point in the vision, the globe that Our Lady had offered to God disappeared; her hands, filled with graces, bent towards the globe on which she rested her feet, stepping on the head of a greenish serpent with yellow spots. Suddenly the picture rotated and the 'reverse of the medal' was shown to me, and it was the monogram of Mary surmounted by the Cross; below there were two Hearts: the one of Jesus crowned with thorns and the one of Mary pierced by a sword. Around it, as a frame, there was a royal crown of twelve stars. Then I heard a voice saying to me: '**Have a medal coined on this model. All the people who will wear it blessed, especially on the neck, and will recite the brief prayer, will benefit from a very special protection by the Mother of God and will receive great graces. The graces will be abundant for whoever will wear it with trust.**'"



Fresco in the Church of Rue du Bac where Catherine is depicted with the Virgin Mary



Statue of Our Lady as she appeared to Saint Catherine with the globe at her feet, the rays and the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary



Saint Catherine Labouré



Tabernacle



The Miraculous Medal



Another statue of Our Lady as she appeared to Saint Catherine



Interior of the Shrine of Rue du Bac in Paris, where Our Lady appeared