



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at BETANIA



VENEZUELA, XX and XXI Century

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he visionary Maria Esperanza Medrano de Bianchini (November 22, 1928 - August 7, 2004) was mother of a family of seven children who lived in Cua, Venezuela, in a region called Finca Betania. Since when she was very young Maria Esperanza had numerous and extraordinary mystical experiences. In the place of the apparitions there is today a beautiful grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, with a spring of water that the Virgin Mary assumed to have healing properties for those who would have drunk it with faith: "My children, you see me... I am here at the service of all those who come to visit me in the search for my springs of holy water, to wet their heads and to purify their hearts anxious of hope, consolation and spiritual peace".

On March 25, 1984, the first public apparition of Our Lady to Maria Esperanza took place. Many people saw her with subsequent healings and mystical occurrences. Maria Esperanza received the stigmata of the Passion of Jesus accompanied by apocalyptic messages regarding the serious events that threaten humanity, if people do not repent. The Virgin Mary appeared like at Lourdes, with a white dress and a blue belt. On November 21, 1987, Bishop Pio Bello approved the apparitions in a pastoral letter, saying: "After having studied with determination the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Betania farm and having asked assiduously the Lord for spiritual discernment, I declare that, in my judgment, the said apparitions are authentic and have supernatural character. Therefore, I officially approve that the place where they have taken place be considered holy and that it be considered as a destination for pilgrimages and a place of devotion, where liturgical practices can be carried out". In that document the Bishop points out: "I do not try to assert that all and each one of the apparitions taken place at the farm of Betania are authentic... there have been cases of simple hallucination... at Lourdes there have been also numerous false visions, but all this does not remove the validity of the numerous testimonies to which I grant credibility". In 1991, still at Finca Betania, took place an Eucharistic miracle, also approved by the Bishop. Father Otty Ossa Aristizabal was celebrating Mass, when, upon breaking the host in four parts, after consuming one, realized that the other three were bleeding. All those present saw the miracle. These three parts of the Host, stained of blood, are currently preserved in a reliquary. Clinical examinations were performed in Caracas, which concluded that the blood was truly human blood and the Bishop said: "God is trying to tell us that our faith in the Eucharist is authentic".

Hundreds of people, besides Maria Esperanza, saw the Virgin Mary who invited them to grow in their love towards Jesus in the Eucharist, and reaffirmed the need for conversion with the recitation of the Holy Rosary. At Finca Betania Our Lady appeared with the title of Our Lady Reconciler of People and Nations, Mother of Mercy. Among the messages of Betania there are some characterized by a particular urgency and tragedy, they are appeals and warnings, in the perspective of an imminent coming of Jesus. Shortly before the approval of the apparitions, on August 11, 1987, the Virgin Mary gave this message: "In this moment man is abusing the graces he received and is going towards perdition; if there will not be a change and an improvement in life-style, he will succumb under fire, war and death". A few years before the apparitions began, on March 23, 1973, Maria Esperanza received from the Virgin Mary the following message regarding the end times and the Reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: "This is the difficult hour for all humanity and it is necessary to avoid the misunderstandings among brothers; the nations must be united... the love of my Jesus will be the door that will open hearts, to give access to a beautiful Era that must revive the peoples to a glorious teaching of unity. Take advantage of the time because the hour is arriving when my Son will appear before everyone as Judge and Savior; you must be in the necessary conditions to live with Him on that Great Day; do not think that it is distant". On April 27 of the same year the Virgin Mary said: "The Great Day when my Son will come is arriving. Pray much that the horrible punishment which is coming may be held back...".



Depiction of the apparition



The Message of the eighteenth apparition of March 25, 1988 contains the synthesis of the doctrine presented in the apparitions through the years, in which is remembered the importance of the instruction of the youth, the catechesis, a genuine life of prayer to make amends for one's sins, the conversion of sinners and in particular the Eucharist, summit of Christian life. "My children, my children, I am here... I ask each one of you to correct your lives especially with penance and prayer necessary to make amends in the Justice of God, offended so much by people in these times. On the other hand, it is very important that you go frequently to the Holy Mass and receive the Eucharist so that the Sacrament of my Divine Son helps you in such a manner that you feel enlightened inside by an unknown Light, marvelous and sublime which is the great sign that God, our Father, desires the salvation of all those who humbly entrust themselves, faithfully, to His heart. It is for this reason that you must nourish yourselves of the Eucharist, to increase your fervor and desire of spiritual progress. My children, I love you so much and my love is so great that I call all of you into my Grace of prayer to order that you may meditate and live the Gospel, sheltered under the Grace of the Holy Spirit, with His divine charisma. I am here offering you my Heart, united to the Heart of my Divine Son, Jesus, so that you will have with Us the most profound experiences... to enjoy the sublime moment of a living testimony that will be the fundamental basis of a great truth: THAT WE LIVE SHINING YOU! Participate my children and create yourselves here in my Heart. I watch over you!"



The statue of Mary in the place of the apparitions



Betania is an agricultural land located between the cities of Cua and San Carlos, in the state of Miranda, at about 60 kilometers from Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. It is an area surrounded by low hills covered by thick tropical vegetation. By creating a pedestrian bridge over the Turbio River one reaches the clearing and the grove, where the majority of the apparitions took place. An outdoor church was built in the clearing.



The visionary Maria Esperanza Bianchini at a private audience with the Holy Father Pope John Paul II (1978/1980)



On December 8, 1991, still at Betania, an Eucharistic Miracle occurred in which the Host began to bleed. Medical examinations in Caracas have determined that the blood is human



Visita offerings