THE APPEALS OF OUR LADY

APPARITIONS AND MARIAN SHRINES IN THE WORLD

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at PFAFFENHOFEN MARIENFRIED

GERMANY, 1940-1946

On May 13, 1940, the Monday of Pentecost, Barbara Ruess of Pfaffenhofen went on a walk in the woods. She was 16 years old and enjoyed long walks in the woods of her father, near Marienfried. Also the previous day, Pentecost Sunday, she had taken the same road, reciting the Rosary, but she had lost the beads without noticing it. Thus on Monday she was retracing the same path hoping to find it again. While she was on her way, wondering whether she should recite the Glorious or the Joyous Mysteries of the Rosary, a beautiful Lady approached her, saying after a brief greeting: "You are thinking about which Rosary you should recite. I would like to teach you another Rosary, and we will pray together like this". Barbara asked her amazed: **"Excuse me, how do you know my thoughts? Who are you?"**. The Lady answered: "It is not important to know it; if you will recite this Rosary diligently, you will learn to know me better". And she taught her the Rosary of the Immaculate that consisted in the addition of these invocations at the end of each mystery: "For your Immaculate Conception, save us! For your Immaculate Conception, protect us! For your Immaculate Conception, guide us! For your Immaculate Conception, sanctify us! For your Immaculate Conception, govern us!". The Lady wanted to recite the Rosary with Barbara for the country, because it was the beginning of the Second World War: "Hail Mary.... For your Immaculate Conception, save our country!". Then she also told Barbara that according to the need one could choose the intention either for a single person or for a community. An interesting aspect was that the woman did not recite but one part of the Rosary: the "Our Father" and the "Glory be to the Father" and not the "Hail Mary". As soon as they had finished reciting the Rosary, the beautiful Lady departed, following a side road in another direction. The face of this Lady, dressed simply, made an unforgettable impression on Barbara, because she radiated an extraordinary power of spirituality, purity and goodness such to enkindle the desire of being able to know her better and to meet her again. Since then the visionary often recited the Rosary of the Immaculate, but keeping to herself what had happened to her: only five years later she recounted to her friend Anna Humpf what had occurred to her. On April 25, 1946 there was a new apparition and the pastor of the town, aware of it, asked Barbara what the Lady had told her in the woods. The girl responded that it was the same Lady that she had encountered on the Monday of Pentecost of 1940, while she was walking in the woods. Barbara also said that the Lady had told her some things that she was unable to understand: "I am the Sign of the living God. I imprint the Sign on the forehead of my children. The Star will persecute my Sign, but my Sign will conquer the Star. I will establish peace there where trust is greater, and where people are taught that I can do everything with God. Then when everyone will believe in my power, peace will come". Upon leaving, she saluted her in this way: "May the peace of Christ be with all of you and with all of those who pray here". At the end of the story the pastor made immediately this observation: **"These expressions can be only from the Virgin Mary"**. On the morning of May 26, 1946, Barbara was invited by the Angel (who appeared to her several times and who had presented himself to her as the Angel of the Great Mediatrix of Graces), to go that day to Marienfried. After the Holy Mass, she begged Anna, the sister of the pastor, to accompany her. But in the morning she sent a note to Anna, by means of her little sister, in which she told her that she would not go to Marienfried, because she thought that it was all an illusion. Instead the pastor was of the contrary opinion, and suggested her to obey the Angel, like she had always done. Finally she allowed herself to be reluctantly convinced to go to Marienfried. Suddenly Barbara saw the angel near the tree pointing with his finger to the right. There, was standing the mysterious Lady, described in this way: **"She was dressed all in white. She wore a white mantle, similar to a shawl. Her hair was dark, parted in the middle, and her eyes were also dark, from her eyes radiated such a charity, a luminosity, a purity and a great goodness"**. Barbara had not noticed all these things earlier, like this time. In the apparition of April 25, the Lady said: "If I did not have the veil, you would recognize me!" Therefore it was not about a material veil; otherwise Barbara would have seen it. But her eyes were simply impeded, so that she did not immediately recognize Mary, as it happened to the disciples of Emmaus, whom Jesus joined and they did not recognize him, because their eyes were veiled. Then it seemed to her that the Virgin Mary wished to lift slightly that veil. Barbara was completely taken by the vision of the Lady, and she immediately understood of seeing Mary in front of her. She shouted: "Mary!". At this point Mary began to speak to her: "Yes, I am the Great Mediatrix of all the graces. In the same way that the world cannot find mercy from the Father if not through the sacrifice of the Son, thus you cannot be listened by my Son except by means of my intercession. Christ is known so little, because I am not known. For this reason the Father pours his wrath upon those peoples who have rejected His Son. The world has been consecrated to my Immaculate Heart, but this consecration has become for many a terrible responsibility. I ask the world to live this consecration. Have an unlimited trust in my Immaculate Heart! Believe me, I can do everything with my Son! Put my Immaculate Heart in place of your heart stained by sin, and then I will be the one who will attract the power of God, and the love of the Father will reproduce again in you the perfect Image of Christ. Fulfill my prayer, so that Christ may soon reign as King of Peace!". Then Barbara was told something that she had to keep as a secret. Afterwards the Lady resumed to say: "The world must drink to the last drop the chalice of the divine wrath caused by the countless sins that offend His Heart. The Star of the Abyss will rage always more and will create always more destruction, because it knows that its time is short, and because it sees that by now many souls have lined up under my Sign. On them the Star does not have any power, even if it can kill many. But they are precisely these victims offered to me that will increase my power, and will lead the small remnant of the elect to the victory for Christ. Some have already accepted to allow themselves imprinted with my Sign, and their number will continuously increase. I wish to tell you, my beloved children: do not forget that precisely in the bloodiest days this Cross is a grace, and always thank the Father for this grace! Pray and make sacrifices for the sinners! Offer, through me, yourselves and your every action to the Father! Put yourselves completely at my disposition! Recite the Rosary! Do not request many material favors! Now one must pray for something that is worth much more. Do not expect either signs or miracles! I wish to act in concealment, as the Great Mediatrix of graces! It is the peace of the heart that I wish to grant you, if however you will do what I ask you. The peace of the people can be built only upon this peace. Then Christ will reign on all the peoples as the King of Peace".

After saying these words, the Lady ordered Barbara to make this message known to the whole world, but Barbara said to her: **"I am unable to remember everything"**. The Lady answered: "At the appropriate time, you will remember exactly every word". It seemed that for weeks and months Barbara would hear these words as if inscribed in her memory. In fact she could repeat them without difficulty and without a particular mental effort. And they were truly the words of the Lady, yet she had not at all memorized the message. During the apparition, as well as immediately afterwards, she did not take any notes, since both Barbara and Anna did not have with them anything to write. They absolutely could not imagine the reason for which Barbara had been invited by the Angel to go to Marienfried. Regarding the task entrusted to Barbara, the Lady told her also the following: "The devil will be able to manifest such an apparent power, that all those who won't be firmly anchored to me, will let themselves be deceived. A time will come when you will be truly alone and they will slander you, because the devil is very skilled in blinding people, so much that even the better ones will let themselves be deceived. But it is absolutely necessary to have a blind trust in me. There where people will not have trust in my Immaculate Heart, the devil will be able to have control. But there where people will put my Immaculate Heart in place of their heart stained by sin, he will not have any power. Although he will persecute my beloved children, they will be despised, but the devil will not be able to do them any harm".

As proof of the authenticity of the apparition, the beautiful Lady gave to Barbara the order to go to Kellerberg, on the road from Pfaffenhofen to Beuren: "There, there is a man who is in grave danger. You must help him. And this shall be the sign that you are not victim of a deception". At the end the Lady said to her: "See, this morning I have left you truly alone, my grace was not with you. You will again experience it often. I need victims. The greater graces must be paid at the price of such suffering". "You must return here on the Feast of Saint William Abbot". After the conversation, the Angel, who was present, recited a prayer to the Virgin Mary, with various invocations. Then Our Lady gave her blessing, adding: "I send you the peace of Christ, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit". While the Lady was speaking with Barbara, she had the same appearance as at the beginning. Her hands were joined. But, when the Angel started to pray, She became shining and luminous, indescribably beautiful. She opened her arms. The splendor that appeared earlier on her face was reflected on her whole person. On her head were seen three radiant circles, which formed a crown. As she was giving her blessing, she became completely transparent, and much more luminous than a flash of light. Barbara had to divert her eyes, because she was left almost blinded by that vision. When she raised her eyes again, the apparition had disappeared. Barbara went immediately back on the road towards Kellerberg. There she encountered indeed a man who seemed in the most desperate spiritual misery, and he was completely distressed. He had something under his clothes. Barbara asked him: **"What do you have hidden under your clothes?"**. He answered: **"Nothing"**. **"You have a rope"**, Barbara told him. Then he answered: **"It is so heavy! Can you help me?"**. Barbara said to him: **"I cannot help you myself, but I will lead you to a place where you will find help"**. And she led him to Marienfried, where she left him alone. Along the way, she said to Barbara that it was for him something extraordinary to let himself be led by her so calmly. He did not recognize himself anymore. That evening a few girls went to the small chapel. There they found a rope hanging from it. The Virgin Mary had saved that man! On June 25, 1946, the Feast of Saint William Abbot, the Pastor Humpf accompanied Barbara and her sister to the small chapel. They had kept a rigorous secret on all that had happened, because they wanted to avoid sensational surprises. Upon arriving at the small chapel, they prayed in silence. Barbara suddenly wanted to return home, but Anna spoke to her and begged her to stay a little longer. Immediately afterwards, Barbara had the apparition and shouted: **"Mary how beautiful you are!"**. Then the Mother of God began to speak: "I am the Great Mediatrix of graces. The Father wishes that the world recognize this task of His Handmaid. The people must believe that I, in continuing to be the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, am the faithful Mediatrix of all the graces. My Sign is about to appear. Thus the Lord desires. Only my beloved children recognize it, because it manifests itself in secret, and therefore they glorify God. I cannot manifest now my power in the vast world. I will accomplish miracles in the secrecy of the souls, until the number of victims shall be complete. It depends on you to shorten the days of darkness. Your prayers and your sacrifices will destroy the image of the Beast. Then I shall be able to manifest myself to the whole world for the glory of the Almighty. Choose my Sign, so that soon the One and Triune God is adored and honored by everyone. Pray and make sacrifices to God through me! Pray always! Recite the Rosary! To the Father ask what you need by means of my Immaculate Heart! He will grant what you ask, if this will be for His Greater Glory. Recite the Rosary of the Immaculate, so rich of graces, as I have taught you. With this Rosary do not ask for material goods, but ask for graces for every soul, for your communities, for the nations, so that all may love and honor the Divine Heart. Continue to honor the Saturday dedicated to me, as I have requested. It is necessary that the apostles and the priests particularly consecrate themselves to me, so that the great sacrifices that the Unfathomable indeed desires from them, being placed in my hands, increase in holiness and value. Offer me many sacrifices! Make your prayer a sacrifice! Do not be selfish! Today the only thing that counts is this: to offer to the Eternal One glory and reparation. If you will put yourselves completely at my disposal, I will provide all the rest. I will load my beloved children with crosses, heavy, deep like the sea, because I love them in my sacrificed Son. I beg you: be ready to carry the cross, so that peace may soon come. Choose for yourself my Sign, in order that soon the One and Triune God may be honored. I demand that all the people carry out soon my wishes, because this is the will of the Heavenly Father, and because this is necessary today and always for His greater glory and honor. The Father proclaims a frightening chastisement for those who do not want to submit themselves to His will". Then the Virgin Mary entrusted Barbara with making known what she had communicated. This indeed was her message for the world and it was necessary to make it known. She said to her: "I desire that the people receive it exactly as I have given it, word for word. Note it well". Barbara asked how could she have done it. Our Lady said: "Tell to the people that I have a new message for the world. It is not necessary to reveal the external circumstances and the details. The important thing is only this, that my will, that is the will of the Father, be known. The spirits will split because of this message. Many will be scandalized, but a small group will understand it exactly and will appreciate it. These people will recognize my will in it, and they will be happy about it. This group has recognized my place in the present times, and has given me a great joy; it has its representatives in many countries, and these people will take care to spread my message. Many, among my group, have already been able to see my hidden miracles. They have recognized that I am the 'admirable Mother', and they honor me with this name".

The Virgin Mary also told Barbara that precisely in her country were seen the first groups, and that had given her much joy. (Barbara is native of Bavaria, and right in Bavaria was born the first German Marian congregation). Then, in response to what the pastor had requested, Barbara asked Our Lady to wish to give a visible sign, so that the people would have faith in her message. The Virgin Mary responded: "I will give the signs only if people will carry out my will. Then I will perform some miracles much greater than those that I have ever done, and precisely miracles in the souls. I have already often given exterior signs, and many people have come here only for those exterior signs. We find ourselves in front of a time in which all those who believe only in the exterior signs will be deceived. The signs will be for them only a reason for greater responsibility". Then Barbara asked her if it was her will that the chapel be built in that place. Our Lady responded: "I have heard your desire, now you fulfill your promise". Barbara asked what picture she had to choose to adorn the chapel. The apparition pointed out to her the picture near there, saying to take the picture of the 'Mother three times admirable', because she would assemble also here a small group that had already prayed much and offered sacrifices: "I have accepted these sacrifices, and I wish that in front of this picture many more people be led, who being 'victims consecrated' to me, give me the power to create the Kingdom of the King of peace. If this group will be willing to do my will, then I will begin to perform the first and greatest miracles. There where the people will recognize and follow my message, there I will perform the first and greatest miracles that however will be visible only to my beloved children, because they will take place only in concealment". Then the Virgin Mary invited Barbara to pray, saying "It is necessary that my children praise, glorify, and thank more the Eternal One. He has created them precisely for this, for His Glory. At the end of every Rosary, these invocations must be recited: "You great one, You faithful Mediatrix of all graces!". One must pray much for the sinners. For this it is necessary that many souls place themselves at my disposal, in the way that I can give them the task of praying. There are many souls that are waiting for only the prayer of my children". As soon as the Virgin Mary had finished speaking, immediately a vast array of Angels surrounded her.

Then Our Lady gave her blessing like in May. Barbara recounts: **"When she gave the blessing she opened wide her arms like the priest before the consecration, and I then saw come out of her hands only rays that passed though those figures and through us. The rays were coming from high to her hands. For this the figures and we too all became luminous. In the same way the rays came out of her body, crossing all that was around there. She had become transparent as like immersed in a splendor that cannot be described. She was so beautiful, pure and luminous, that it was impossible to find suitable words to describe her. I felt blinded. I had forgotten everything that was around there. I only knew one thing: that she was the mother of the Savior. Suddenly, my eyes began to hurt me for the brightness. I looked away, and at that moment she disappeared with all that brightness and that beauty"**.

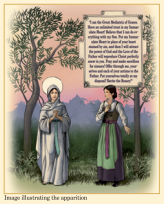

Image illustrating the apparition

The visionary Barbara Ruess

Chapel built at the place of the apparitions. The Church sanctioned the devotion to Our Lady of Marienfried and the Bishop consecrated the chapel on July 23, 1972

The message of Marienfried wants to make people understand how profoundly the virgin Mary taken to heart the tasks, the sufferings and the dangers of the people of God. This is evident from what follows:
1) The message is linked to a serious event for the world: the great world war. "The Father has let his wrath fall on his people, because they had rejected His Son".
2) It recalls an event in the life of the Church: "The world has been consecrated to my Immaculate Heart..." "Consecration of the Church and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the part of Pope Pius XII, in 1942).
3) The Lady mentions the impending dangers on the world and the Church, and the culminating point is the confrontation between Christ and Satan, like it is already foretold in the Book of Revelation. "The world must drink the cup of the wrath up to the last drop... "The star of the Abyss will rage always more ferociously, and will make always greater devastations..."
4) The Lady emphasizes the final victory of Christ as King of Peace: "Then Christ will reign on all the peoples as King of Peace". The reference of the message of Marienfried to the past and the future gives it a prophetic urgency and a particular force of conviction.

Interior

The new Shrine of Marienfried. The new Shrine was consecrated on October 23, 2011 by the Bishop Mons. Konrad Zdarsa and dedicated to Mary, Mother of the Church

Altar of the old small church of Marienfried where the image of Our Lady is kept

Commemorative medal of Marienfried

Kolbe