Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in LAUS



FRANCE, 1664-1718

Our Lady of Laus or Our Lady of the Lake is the appellation used for the pray the novena, one of the two had said: "If she comes back on her own legs I will apparitions from 1664 to 1718 that the Venerable French shepherdess Benoîte
Rencurel had, first near Saint-Étienne-le-Laus, her birthplace, then near Laus,
first of a long series of miracles of Our Lady of Laus. where the Shrine is today.

APPARITIONS
AND
MARIAN SHRINES
IN THE WORLD

Beginning from May of 1664 the Virgin Mary began to appear to her every day to prepare her for her future mission, educating her, correcting her, above all in her too attachment to things and to animals. Benoîte confided in her lady-boss with whom she worked; intrigued the lady-hoss decided to secretly follow her into the valley of the Furnaces to ascertain for the lady-boss decided to secretly tollow here into the valley of the Furnaces to ascertain for herself. Though not seeing the Blessed Mother, the woman heard the words that she directed to Benoite, in which she urged Benoite to warn the lady-boss of the dangers that threatened her soul: "Her conscience is in a bad state. She must make penitence!" Struck with emotion, she quickly corrected herself, resumed frequenting the Sacraments, and lived in a very Christian way for the rest of her life. On the 29th of August, Benoîte asked the Celestial Visitor her name, and she heard her respond: "I call myself Mary." For one month, the Lady did not visit the young shepherdess until finally, one morning, toward the end of September, while Benoite was at pasture with her sheep and goats on the bank of the river, she glimpeed in front of herself the Virgin again, shining as bright as the sun. She ther river, sine gampsee in Front or nerses the virgin again, saming as origin as the sun. She hurried to reach her and asked: "Beautiful Lady, why did you deprive me for so long of the honor of seeing you? "By now, when you will want to see me, you may do so in the chapel that is found in the small town of Le Laus.", replied the Lady, indicating to her the way to proceed. During the winter of 1664-1665, Benoîte went up very often to Le Laus; every day she saw the Virgin who always urged her "to pray continually

In September of 1665, an inquest on the apparitions of Le Laus was initiated by the Vicar general. Benoîte was fearful but the Blessed Mother reassured her by saying: "Be not afraid, my daughter, explanations must be given to the men of the Church, reply to all of the questions that they ask you, I will be with you." And also:
"The priests can govern my Son, not me." The Vicar requested that she ask the Lady to give a sign. He, after having terminated the interrogation of the visionary, celebrated the Mass but providentially was unable to leave because of inclement weather, so he remained another night in Laus. That same day, Catherine Vial, a young cripple, affected by excruciating pains caused by muscular contractions in her legs, had herself brought to Laus in order to pray a nine day novena to the Blessed Mother of Laus. At the end of the ninth day, during the night, she was completely healed. In the morning, upon awakening, she began to shout: "Miracle, miracle!" and the Vicar was personally a witness to the events and authorized

become Catholic." And so it was: Catherine Vial was back on her feet and this was the

And so, on the 18th of September 1665, when Benoîte turned 18 years old, the apparitions and pilgrimages were officially recognized by the diocesan authority and, from October of that same year, began the construction of a larger church to hold the numerous pilgrims. Our Lady announced to Benoîte that the oil from the lamp of the chapel (which glows in front of the Most Holy Sacrament), would have worked healings on the ill who applied it upon them themselves with profound faith. In little time many healings were recorded thanks to that oil. Benoîte took to heart the mission received from the Most Holy Virgin: that of preparing sinners to receive the Sacrament of Penitence, Therefore, she often puraged the two priests assigned to the Shrine to greet the pilgrims with tenderness, patience, and charity, demonstrating a particular kindness for the greatest sinners, in order to inspire them to repent. The work of Benoîte was not easy, in fact the Virgin asked her to admonish the women and teenage girls who led a scandalous life that often brought them to commit infanticide, the young men who were unjust or perverse, the priests and monks who were unfaithful to their sacred bonds. But the visionary always carried it out, without fear. She encouraged the penitents, informed those who could not dare confess their sins and guided them toward a suitable confessor. Benoîte sacrificed herself for sinners above all, and she prayed while they went to Confession. In reparation for their sins and to obtain graces for them, she took upon herself severe penitences, to the point of compromising her

Benoîte was counseled without pause by Our Lady: "Courage, my daughter! Have patience... do your work with a good heart... do not feel resentment against the enemies of Le Laus!" Even her Guardian Angel instructed her: "When one is joyful, all that one does is very pleasing to God; when in a bad mood, nothing can be done that pleases Him."

From the feast of Pentecost in 1718, the health of Benoîte Rencurel abruptly declined. The visionary died shortly thereafter, the evening of the 28th of December, the feast of the Holy Innocents. She was 71 years old. She was entombed in front of the high altar of the Shrine, under the lamp in which oil serves still today to anoint the devout, above all the ill and suffering, who arrive every day to Laus.

These apparitions were officially recognized by the Church on the 4th of May 2008 and pilgrimages to Laus. A physician from Serres and the surgeon from Veynes, Corréard, both
Protestants, had declared the woman incurable. Knowing that she was going to Laus to
2009.

















Benoîte visits Paradise and the Inferno





