



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at PONTMAIN

FRANCE, 1871

The year 1871 is a very difficult one for France: Paris is under the Prussian siege and anguish reigns also in Pontmain. The armistice is signed eleven days after the apparitions without the area falling into the hands of the Prussians. The pilgrims began to flock and very many graces were obtained. After a canonical process and a detailed investigation, the Bishop of Laval, the Most Reverend Wichart declares: "We state that the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God, has truly appeared on January 17, 1871 at Pontmain."

On the evening of January 17, 1871 twelve-year old Eugène Barbedette and his brother Joseph help their father to prepare the feed for the animals. Upon coming out of the barn Eugène notices above the house in front of them a beautiful lady with a dress adorned with stars; the Lady was looking at him smiling, stretching her arms forward, as if she wanted to embrace him. Eugène ran to his father to tell him about the Lady. Soon, word of the vision of the two children spread throughout the small village and all the people hurried to the barn. Two other children (nine-year old Jeanne-Marie Lebossé and eleven-year old Françoise Richer) saw the beautiful Lady. Also the pastor arrived, and led the faithful in the recitation the Rosary. Then the faithful sang the Magnificat; at that time a large white banner unrolled at the Lady's feet, on which, letter after letter, these words appeared superimposed "Pray my children, God will hear you very soon. My son lets Himself be moved". Subsequently these words appear: "God will answer you very soon". The crowd remained in prayer silently and for a long time.



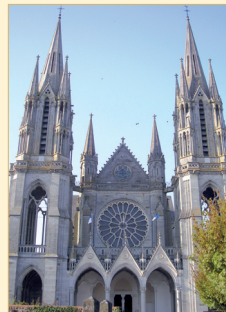
The visionaries, with their eyes turned towards the sky, see a Lady wearing a dark blue dress with large sleeves, a black veil on her head and a gold cross on her chest. Also her dress is like the sky, all studded with stars.



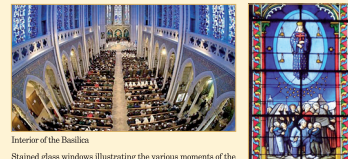
Visionaries and witnesses in front of the Barbedette's barn in 1871



The visionaries of Pontmain. The statue of the Virgin Mary as she appeared to the visionaries, located in the square of the Basilica.



The Basilica of Notre Dame de Pontmain



Interior of the Basilica



Stained glass windows illustrating the various moments of the apparition.