



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at LA SALETTE



FRANCE, 1846

This apparition, which took place on September 19, 1846 at La Salette, in the Dauphiné, shook and reawakened many people in France and in the nearby countries, who strayed away from God. The visionaries were Melanie Calvat and Maximin Giraud, simple shepherd children 14 and 11 years old respectively. Our Lady in tears announced to them a very harsh message: "My son is angered with the French people, because they are straying away from God. Let everyone know that they must not mock religion. Say one Our Father and one Hail Mary ...". Then she continued saying: "Come closer my children, do not be afraid! I am here to announce to you an important message".

The two young shepherds saw descending from the sky a luminous globe, which opened slowly and revealed Mary, seated on a rock. The Blessed Mother announced numerous messages to them: "If my people do not want to submit themselves, I am compelled to let go the arm of my Son. It is so strong and so heavy that I cannot hold it anymore". "It is so long that I suffer for you! Since I received the mission of praying unceasingly to my Son I want that He never abandons you, but you do not think about it. No matter how much you will pray and do, you will never be able to compensate for the suffering that I have endured for you". "I have given you six days to work, I have reserved the seventh one for myself, and you do not want to grant it to me. It is this that weighs down so much the arm of my Son!". "Also the wagoners always blaspheme the name of my Son...".

"You do not understand my children! I will explain it to you in another way". "If the harvest spoils, it is your fault. I showed it to you last year with the potatoes; you did not realize it. Rather when you found them spoiled they blasphemed the name of my Son and this year there will be no more of them for Christmas". "If you will have some wheat, you must not sow it. The animals will eat all that you will sow, and anything left will disintegrate when you will harvest it. A great famine will come. Before the famine arrives, the children under 7 years old will be afflicted by a tremor and they will die in the hands of the people holding them in their arms. The other people will make penance because of the famine. The nuts will become empty and the grapes will spoil".

The Virgin Mary then turned to Maximin: "You, my son, must have seen it. One time in the field of Coin you and your father took in your hands two or three spikes of wheat, you crumpled them and all fell as dust. On the way back, when you were half an hour from Corps, your father gave you a piece of bread saying: 'Take it, my son, eat more bread this year, because I don't know if you will eat any next year, if the wheat continues in this manner'. 'Oh, yes, Lady, now I remember'. 'Let's go, my children, make this message known to all the people'. The Virgin Mary also insisted on the value of daily prayer and of the Mass that, as Sacrifice of Christ, has infinite value: "Only some women, the most elderly, go to Mass in the summer. The other people work also on Sunday, the whole summer. In winter when they do not know what to do, they go to Mass but to mock religion". "In Lent they go to the butcher shop like hungry dogs". "My Son has given you six days to work. He has reserved the seventh one for Himself, and you do not want to grant it to Him. It is this that weighs down so much the arm of my Son!". Then Our Lady asked them in a maternal voice: "Do you say your prayers, my children?". "Not much, Lady". "Ah, my children, one must say them and well, in the evenings and in the morning. When you do not have time, say at least one Our Father or one Hail Mary. When you can do better, say more of them". Having said that, Our Lady begins to rise from the ground until she disappears into the horizon of the sky.



Depiction of the Apparition of Our Lady to the two shepherd children Maximin and Melanie



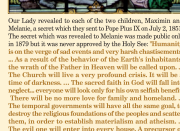
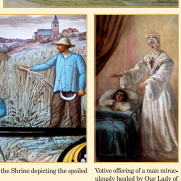
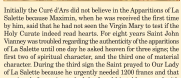
The Shrine of La Salette



Statue depicting the apparition of the Virgin Mary



Photo of the Apparition of La Salette: Melanie Calvat and Maximin Giraud



On July 7, 1847 the Bishop of Grenoble asked the canon Pierre-Joseph Bonnet and Andre Berthier, both professors at the major seminary of Grenoble, to conduct a detailed investigation on the apparition and write a complete report. The investigation was completed on October 16, 1847. The report was published by Pierre-Joseph Bonnet on June 26, 1848 and immediately sent to Pope Pius IX. The findings of the report were approved by the Holy See.

Initially the Curia did not believe in the Apparition of La Salette because Maximin, when he was received the first time by him, said that he had not seen the Virgin Mary in fact if the Holy Curia indeed read letters. Five days after the Holy Curia was troubled regarding the authenticity of the apparition of La Salette until one day he asked heaven for these signs: the first two of apertural character, and the third one of material character. During the third sign the Saint proved to Our Lady of La Salette because he urgently needed 1500 francs and that evening, before going to bed, he found his table covered with gold coins for the value of the sum that he needed.

Our Lady revealed to each of the two children, Maximin and Melanie, a secret which they sent to Pope Pius IX on July 2, 1857. The secret which was revealed to Melanie was made public only in 1879 but it was never approved by the Holy See: "Humankind is on the verge of sad events and very harsh chastisements... As a result of the behavior of the Earth's inhabitants, the wrath of the Father in Heaven will be called upon... The Church will live a very profound crisis. It will be a time of darkness... The sacred faith in fact will fall into neglect... everyone will look only for his own selfish benefit. There will be no more love for the family and homeland... The temporal governments will have all the same goal, to destroy the religious foundations of the people and render them, in order to establish materialism and atheism... The will one will enter from every house. A precursor of the materialist will make his appearance... The nations will change, the atmosphere water and fire will cause terrible destruction and great destruction... The prince of darkness will emerge from the abyss, but he will exterminate the Son of the Archangel Michael and he will be shaken by it... Afterwards water and fire will purify the Earth and it will be renewed. Only at that time God will be served and honored."



Statue depicting the apparition of the Virgin Mary