

Father Luis, A Vital Person In The Garabandal Event

We are only now coming to a full understanding of Fr. Luis Maria Andreu's vital role in the Garabandal event. What is possibly his most important function in that event is one which until now has been the least stressed. That function is to be a direct witness to the truth of the apparitions by having shared himself in one of the visions.

Fr. Luis' role in regard to the Eucharistic and priestly message of Garabandal is clearly pointed out in our first book *God Speaks at Garabandal*. He was truly a model priest, a deeply spiritual man consumed by love of God and neighbor. In this regard, he typifies the priest that the girls of Garabandal were repeatedly asked to pray for by Our Lady. She asked them to pray for good shepherds, true men of God who would lead their flocks by their life as well as by their word.

What needs to be brought out more clearly is Fr. Luis' function as a direct or personal witness to the authenticity of the Garabandal apparitions. In referring to these apparitions, people have spoken of "the girls," almost always failing to mention Fr. Luis as one of those who saw Our Lady. It was not that they denied his sharing in the August 8, 1961 apparition, but this in their minds did not seem to put him on an equal footing with the four girls as a seer or visionary. And yet he saw her as truly as they did. It is not necessary that he see her 10, or 20, or 100 times. If he truly saw her but once, this suffices to make him an authentic seer and an integral part of the apparitions. This is a most important point. We have Fr. Luis' word that Our Lady appeared at Garabandal, just as we have the word of the girls.

Our Lady, at the very start of the apparitions, predicted that there would come a day when the girls would contradict each other and even come to deny that she had appeared to them. In a sense, this does not have to be a matter of concern to us. We still have the word of Fr. Luis that Our Lady



Fr. Luis Maria Andreu, S.J., the only person besides the four visionaries to see the Virgin Mary at Garabandal. A few hours after his vision, Fr. Luis died in great joy and peace after stating repeatedly his belief in the apparitions of Garabandal. Father Luis' testimony must be reckoned with in any examination of the Garabandal events.

appeared at Garabandal. That is undoubtedly why Fr. Luis did not see Our Lady privately, while alone and separated from the girls. He was with the four of them and shared the same apparition with them. This caused him to repeat many times during the few hours which he lived after this apparition: "What a favor the Blessed Virgin has bestowed on me. The girls have given us an example of how we must conduct ourselves with the Blessed Virgin. There is no doubt in my mind that the things involving the girls are true."

So, we cannot disassociate Fr. Luis from the four girls in their roles of seers or visionaries. He too is a seer or visionary of Garabandal. If the girls deny that Our Lady appeared to them at Garabandal, we still have the testimony of Fr. Luis that she appeared to him at Garabandal and that the four girls shared with him in that very same vision.

What is the value of Fr. Luis' testimony? It is the testimony of a mature

adult, a man 36 years old. It is the testimony of a completely reliable person who was held in the highest regard by all who knew him. It is the testimony of a professional theologian with a critical and trained mind. Fr. Luis had indeed been a member of the Jesuit faculty of theology at Ona. In addition to studying at Ona, he had pursued studies at Innsbruck, Rome, Geneva and Paris.

Fr. Luis' position as one who participated directly in the apparitions of Garabandal is enhanced by the fact that he alone of the seers was granted a preview of the great miracle that is yet to come and that will convince all who see it. He was granted this preview during the same apparition of August 8, 1961, which he shared with the four girls. The girls did not see the miracle as Fr. Luis did on that day, and they have never seen it. Conchita was told by Our Lady what it will consist of as well as the date on which it will occur. But she has never had a preview of it. Fr. Luis is unique in this regard. Because of Fr. Luis' special role in regard to the priestly message of Garabandal, it is quite possible that this great privilege is a symbol of the special favors which God bestows on priests who measure up to Fr. Luis in their priestly lives.

As one who saw the miracle in advance, Fr. Luis plays a third important role in relation to the Garabandal event. He is a witness to the authenticity of this particularly significant part of the Garabandal message. His role in this regard is to encourage us as we wait for the miracle and find the time long. This miracle, which was promised by Our Lady and will be the crowning point of the Garabandal happening, has already been seen by someone. It has been seen by a priest whose word is most reliable.

As we promote the message of Garabandal, let us not overlook the important triple role of this young Spanish priest whom God called to Himself so quickly and mysteriously, but not before having used him very powerfully and effectively. ●

ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF THIS ARTICLE

Teresa Tseu believes with deep conviction in the message of Garabandal and devotes all her spare time to spreading it. Her own tragic experiences with the tyranny of communism are at the root of her commitment to make Our Lady's message known and lived. "The punishments of world wars and the slaughter of millions behind the Iron and Bamboo Curtains and in Cuba and Vietnam have taken place because the world has failed to heed Our Lady's requests at Fatima in 1917—to pray and make more sacrifices," Teresa believes.

Teresa is critical of people who shrug off the message with the excuse, "The Church hasn't approved it yet," or, "It's not dogma, I don't have to believe it." She says: "Our Lady has given us a formula for peace. Wouldn't it be wiser to comply rather than try to remedy the consequences of apathy later on?" Teresa continues: "I do all I can to spread Our Lady's message because I know it is the certain method to avert the ravishes of Godless tyranny. The punishments Our Lady spoke of both at Fatima and Garabandal can be easily averted if people fulfill her requests for prayer, penance, visits to the Blessed Sacrament, meditation on the passion of Jesus."

Teresa was born in Shanghai, China, one of a family of 13 children. Her father and eight brothers were educated by the Jesuits in Shanghai. Her ancestors were converted to Catholicism by the great Fr. Matthew Ricci, S.J., who was born in the same month and year that St. Francis Xavier died (Dec. 1552). At the age of 30, Fr. Ricci fulfilled the dream of St. Francis to bring Christianity to Imperial China and, because of his amazing God-given talents of wisdom, became an official in the Imperial Court. (Father had a photographic mind and could recite the whole book of Confucius in Chinese backwards.)

Three of Teresa's brothers became secular priests. Fr. Paul died of tuberculosis in 1961 in Shanghai after seven years' confinement in a communist prison. Msgr. Augustinus, of the Nanking Archdiocese, was administrator of the School of Liberal Arts and Philosophy at Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan.* He resigned because of ill health and died in Los Angeles in 1968. Fr. Andrew is presently assistant pastor of Mary Star of the Sea Church in San Pedro, Calif. Teresa also has a sister, Sr. Stanislaus of the Helpers of the Holy Souls order, who is in prison behind the Bamboo Curtain. Teresa's mother died in 1964 in China after much suffering under communism. Teresa still has four sisters and a brother "merely surviving" in China. Her other brother, Joseph, is a physician in Anaheim, Calif.

Teresa is most grateful that she was able to leave China before the communists bolted the door. She will never forget the visit to her home by the Archbishop Paul Yu Pin (now Cardinal): "Would you like to go to school in America?" he asked. His question had the effect of a command. After receiving a degree from De Paul University in Chicago, Teresa moved to California with her brothers Fr. Andrew and Dr. Joseph Tseu.

Teresa's association with the Andreu



TERESA TSEU
Adopted sister
of the Andreu brothers

family began in 1948 when Fr. Marcelino Andreu came as a missionary to Shanghai. In 1968, Father wrote to Teresa saying that he was going to Mexico to raise money for his Mission and that he would visit her in Los Angeles to talk about Garabandal.

After visiting his mother and brother Ramon in Spain, Fr. Marcelino returned to Los Angeles and brought Teresa a treasured gift: a taped message from his mother. Fr. Marcelino assured Teresa he had nothing to do with his mother's message except to make an English translation. His mother, since 1961 a nun of the Visitation order in Spain, later confirmed this statement in two letters to Teresa: "With pleasure, I consider you as daughter and sister to my sons." Says Teresa, "God has granted me another mother on earth."

Teresa is employed by the Los Angeles County Board of Education. She also serves as secretary to Fathers Ramon and Marcelino Andreu. All her spare time goes to the Garabandal Center in Los Angeles, as she gives slide lectures and movie showings, distributes literature and promotes rosary devotions. When time permits, she goes with the Legion of Mary on Sundays to County General Hospital to take bed and wheelchair patients to Mass.

"We like it out here," Teresa says, "it is closer to home. We are on this side of the Pacific Ocean and they are on the other side. One day, God willing, Russia and Red China will be converted and our family, as well as millions of other families, will be united again and together we will sing thanks and praise to God for His goodness and mercy which endures forever."

*Fu Jen Catholic University in Taiwan was started by Pope John with a gift of 1 million dollars. It is run by diocesan priests (liberal arts), the Jesuits (law), and the S.V.D. Fathers (Science). Fr. Pelletier's book, *GOD SPEAKS AT GARABANDAL*, was published in Chinese by Fu Jen University under the direction of its Chairman, Cardinal Yu Pin.

Fr. Luis Maria Andreu Rodamilans, S.J., was the only person besides the four children to see the Blessed Virgin at Garabandal, and the only person to see, in advance, the great miracle which Our Lady promised will take place at Garabandal in the future time appointed by God.

On August 8, 1961, Fr. Luis went to Garabandal with a group of friends. It was his second visit to the village. That evening the visionaries had an ecstatic march, the first of many such marches during the years of the apparitions. It was a very long march which ended at the pines. Fr. Luis and many other people followed the visionaries. Afterwards, Conchita wrote in her *Diary*:

"It was dark when the Blessed Virgin appeared to us. At the end of the rosary, the four of us went into ecstasy and we began to walk toward the pines. When we arrived at the pines, Fr. Luis Maria, who had followed us, said: 'Miracle, miracle,' and he kept staring upward. We could see him. Now, in our ecstasies we never see anyone (except the Blessed Virgin). But we saw Fr. Luis, and the Blessed Virgin told us that he was seeing her and the miracle, too."

In the ecstasy, the children saw Fr. Luis on his knees. Conchita further stated that the Virgin, who was looking at Fr. Luis, seemed to say to him, "You will soon be with me."

"The Happiest Day Of My Life"

Fr. Luis left Garabandal in a jeep with friends that same night. Stopping at Cosio, he met the parish priest, Don Valentin Marichalar, to whom he said: "Don Valentin, what the children say is true, but I ask you not to repeat what I have just told you, for the Church can never be prudent enough in this kind of affair." Fr. Marichalar wrote these words of Fr. Luis in a notebook that very night.

Continuing his journey with Rafael Fontaneda and his family, Fr. Luis showed overwhelming joy the entire trip, constantly repeating:

"I am so happy. What a favor the Blessed Virgin has bestowed on me. How fortunate we are to have a mother like her in heaven! There is no reason to fear the supernatural life. The girls have given us an example of how we must act with the Blessed Virgin. There is no doubt in my mind

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