

GARABANDAL



THE MESSAGE OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL • JULY-SEPTEMBER 1998

FATHER LUIS ANDREU, S.J.
THE FIFTH VISIONARY
OF GARABANDAL

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Editor-in-Chief Joseph Lomangino
Managing Editor Barry Hanratty
Editorial Marilyn Lomangino
Marie FitzPatrick
Irene Dutra
Art Barry Hanratty
Jerome Matejka
Production Rhoda Van der Clute
Ann Dugo

The Purpose of GARABANDAL Magazine
GARABANDAL is dedicated to promoting and expounding upon the messages given for the world by the Blessed Virgin Mary in her alleged apparitions to four children in San Sebastian de Garabandal, Spain, during the years 1961 to 1965, and to reporting new developments as the Garabandal events approach fulfillment. For additional background and supplemental information, see "Garabandal Materials" in this issue.

This is a private publication by those who personally believe that Our Lady appeared at Garabandal even though the original investigation commissioned by the Bishop of Santander concluded that no apparitions had occurred and that all phenomena were explained by natural causes. To date, this determination of the Bishop's office has not been amended by the Bishop of Santander or by The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The publishers of this magazine hope that the Church's official position will, after further investigation, be amended in the future.

On the Cover

Jesuit Father Luis Maria Andreu with the four visionaries in the background.

A Message from Joey Lomangino

Dear Readers,

At Garabandal, Our Lady spoke daily of the importance of the priesthood and the urgency of prayer for priests. This issue of GARABANDAL focuses on the priesthood. The new Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us "Through the ordained ministry, especially that of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is made visible in the midst of the community of believers." We recommend you get a new Catholic Catechism and as part of your spiritual reading, see what the teaching Church has to say about all aspects of the priesthood. (You can receive a Catholic Catechism for a \$10 gift to Mother Angelica, EWTN, 5817 Old Leeds Road, Irondale, AL 35210.) I'm



sure you, too, like myself and the visionaries of Garabandal, will heed Our Lady's request and remember all priests in your prayerful thoughts. From the first article in the magazine on Father Luis Andreu, S.J., who dedicated his whole life to perfect holiness and sanctity, to the last article, by Father John A. Hardon, S.J., a renowned theologian, and all the priests mentioned on the pages in between, we have real examples of "the presence of Christ . . . made visible." Finally, I urge you to read the letter on the back cover on the life of our friend, Father Francis Schlooz, written so eloquently by his Superior. It touched my heart and I'm sure it will touch yours, too. In union of prayer,

JOEY

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Our Lady's Message of Garabandal

October 18, 1961—We must make many sacrifices, perform much penance, and visit the Blessed Sacrament frequently. But first, we must lead good lives. If we do not, a chastisement will befall us. The cup is already filling up, and if we do not change, a very great chastisement will come upon us.

June 18, 1965—As my message of October 18 has not been complied with and has not been made known to the world, I am advising you that this is the last one. Before, the cup was filling up. Now it is flowing over. Many cardinals, many bishops and many priests are on the road to perdition and are taking many souls with them. Less and less importance is being given to the Eucharist. You should turn the wrath of God away from yourselves by your efforts. If you ask His forgiveness with sincere hearts, He will pardon you. I, your mother, through the intercession of Saint Michael the Archangel, ask you to amend your lives. You are now receiving the last warnings. I love you very much and do not want your condemnation. Pray to us with sincerity and we will grant your requests. You should make more sacrifices. Think about the passion of Jesus.

The Fifth Visionary of Garabandal

By Teresa Tseu



There were not only four visionaries at Garabandal but five and significantly enough, this fifth one was a priest, Jesuit Father Luis Maria Andreu Rodamilans. And he not only saw Our Lady but also something that not even the four girls were privileged to see, a preview of the great Miracle prophesied to take place at Garabandal.

ON AUGUST 8, 1961, FATHER LUIS Andreu went up to Garabandal with a group of friends. It was his second visit to the village. That evening the visionaries went off on an ecstatic march, the first of many such marches during the course of the apparitions. It was a rather long march that ended at the pines and Father Luis was in the crowd that followed the girls. Later, Conchita recorded the event 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, Father 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 Father Luis, and the Blessed Virgin told us that he was seeing her and the Miracle, too.

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

Father Luis left Garabandal by car that same night with his friends. Stopping at Cosio, he met the parish priest, Father Valentin Marichalar and

said to him, "Don Valentin, what the children are saying 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." The pastor jotted down these memorable words in a notebook that very night.

Continuing his journey with Rafael Fontaneda and his family, Father Luis showed overwhelming joy the entire trip, 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 that the things involving the girls are true. Why should the Blessed Virgin have chosen us? This is the happiest day of my life."

As the car passed through Reinosa, Father Luis, who was sitting in the front on the passenger side, repeated these words once again. Then he raised his head slightly and fell silent. His friend Fontaneda sitting in the back seat asked him, "Father, are you all right?" "Yes, I am just sleepy," came the reply. Then he lowered his head to his chest, made a slight

coughing sound—and died. He experienced no pain, no death agony, but passed from this life to the next with a smile on his lips.

Needless to say, Father Luis' death was a devastating blow to his family and caused quite a stir among those associated with Garabandal, but one would have thought that his death would have ended his involvement in the events. This was not to be the case. In the days that followed, the girls actually spoke with him. Conchita relates in her Diary entry for August 16, 1961:

...at eight or nine o'clock in the evening, the Blessed Virgin said to the four of us, 'Father Luis will now come and speak with you'. A moment later he came and called us one by one. We didn't see him at all but only heard his voice. It was exactly like the one he had on earth. When he had spoken for a while, giving us advice, he told us certain things for his brother, Father Ramon Maria Andreu. He taught us some words in French, German and English, and also taught us to pray in Greek.

Father Luis did one other thing. His sudden death had come as a great shock to his mother for he had been in excellent health. On the day he died, she was packed and waiting for

his return from Garabandal because together they were going to Germany. But instead of seeing her son with his usual big smile, she received a death notice. Therefore, to console her, Father Luis sent, through the girls, this beautiful message: *"Be happy and content, for I am in heaven and see you every day."*

A short time afterwards this good mother realized her long-time ambition and entered a Visitation Convent in the city of San Sebastian.

But there is still more concerning Father Luis and Garabandal. Three years after his burial in the Jesuit cemetery at Oña, Spain, the Blessed Virgin told Conchita during a locution (a voice without any accompanying vision) on July 14, 1964, that on the day after the great Miracle, the body of Father Luis will be removed from the grave and found incorrupt, just as it was on the day he was buried.

A Good Tree Bears Good Fruit

Father Luis Andreu was born of a religious family on July 3, 1923, at Bilbao, Spain. Of his five brothers, three became Jesuit missionaries: Alejandro in South America, Ramon in California and Marcelino in China (he is currently in Taiwan). On July 18, 1965, during a Mass celebrated at Garabandal by Father Marcelino, Conchita had a locution in which the

Virgin said that Father Marcelino Andreu of China and Father Alejandro of South America will both see the great Miracle.

Like his brothers, Father Luis had volunteered for the missions and was headed for China with Marcelino. A Jesuit friend seeing that the mother was about to be separated from all four of her priest sons, spoke to the Jesuit Superior. It was therefore provided that Father Luis would remain in continental Europe so as not to deprive this good woman the consolation of having at least one of them within a reasonable distance. One cannot help but see the hand of Divine Providence at work here arranging for Father Luis to remain in Spain to ultimately become an integral part of the Garabandal event.

A Saintly Priest

Father Marcelino recalls a memorable incident that took place on the day of Father Luis' first vows in 1944. He and Luis were walking with their mother on the grounds around the house of Loyola when they came to a small window behind the Chapel of the Conversion of St. Ignatius. From this window they could see the altar and the Blessed Sacrament. The mother took this opportunity to tell them once more of her love and her heart's desire for them. She told them that they should promise very sin-

cerely to Our Lord before the Blessed Sacrament to dedicate their lives to becoming real saints. Father Luis put his hand over his heart and closed his eyes for a moment as in deep prayer. Father Marcelino, while watching him, was sure he was again making the promise his mother had asked: the dedication of his entire life toward perfect holiness and sanctity. Father Luis' seventeen years of devoted service in the Society of Jesus is a testimony to the fulfillment of the promise he made on that day.

When Father Marcelino made his first vows in 1946 and was going to the Junioret for studies, Father Luis asked permission to stay with him for a few days at Altuna so he could personally initiate his younger brother into a life of perfect dedication. There are two things Father Marcelino vividly remembers that Father Luis stressed in a very special way at that time. One was that although high achievement in studies was important, to be excellent in the practice of virtue and striving for sanctity was more important. The other thing stressed by Father Luis was how to say the rosary and how to say it well. He explained all fifteen mysteries with special emphasis on the Visitation which Father Luis said was Our Lady's perfect example of charity and that we should live our lives for others as she did.



A PRIESTLY FAMILY: With their mother are from left, Fathers Alejandro, Ramon and Luis. Above, Marcelino.



An artist's depiction of the scene at the pines on August 8, 1961, when Father Luis Andreu was seeing a vision of the future Miracle of Garabandal.

His Last Letter

From the contents of Father Luis' last letter to Father Marcelino we can get some insight into his personality and the preparation, through suffering, that God was making for his departure from this earth. Father Marcelino recounts: "In it [the letter] he speaks of his sufferings of the past year and said he had never suffered so much. Everything seemed to go just the opposite of what he would have hoped. Yet, those who were close to him during his last year on earth did not detect any of his inner sufferings for outwardly Father Luis was always happy, pleasant to deal with, always ready to help and always joking. He even joked on his way to Garabandal the first time. He said to those who were with him, 'Let's eat good and plenty for St. Ignatius said if our mind and body are weak, we will be easily deceived by the devil'. But once he got up to Garabandal and saw the girls in ecstasy, he realized this was not just 'child's play' as some were saying, but something very serious and deserving of much attention."

He Is in Heaven

Father Luis was exceptionally intelligent and was sent to study in Innsbruck, Rome, Geneva and Paris. In addition to his native Spanish he spoke German, French, Italian, Latin, Greek and English.

On July 30, 1955, at Oña, Spain, he was ordained a priest by Archbishop Federico Melendro of Anking, China. He celebrated his first Mass on the feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola at the Chapel of Loyola. One can imagine the joy that filled his angelic heart!

A little later, after he received his Doctorate in theology, Father Luis joined the Jesuit faculty in Oña and became professor of theology. This is the position he held when he heard about the apparitions which were taking place at Garabandal. Because of his great love for the Blessed Virgin, he decided to go to the village and investigate. He

went to Garabandal for the first time on July 29, 1961, and observed the raptures of the four girls, taking notes of everything he saw and heard. He was deeply impressed.

A week later he wished to go again to Garabandal to study more. He did so on that memorable August 8, never realizing that he himself would become the object of much study due to the special favors Our Lady had prepared for him on that fateful day. □

Sr. Maria Luisa (mother of the Andreu brothers) at her convent in San Sebastian where she lived to be over 90.



At Last the Angel Speaks

She Went in Haste to the Mountain: Part 6

By Father Eusebio Garcia de Pesquera and edited for GARABANDAL by Irene Dutra

AS IF A RESPITE WERE NEEDED FOR everyone to recuperate from the frenzy and excitement of the last few days, on June 26 and 27 (Monday and Tuesday) there were no apparitions.

The girls, beginning to fear that everything had ended, were very sad because they thought the people wouldn't come back again. Perhaps the entire reason for the angel's coming was to communicate what was contained in the writing seen the previous weekend and the visionaries had not given it proper attention. Adding to the poor girls' dejection was the bitter reaction of the large crowd of visitors who had come up to the village on June 26 and 27, anxious to see something. However, on those two days only prayers had been said in the *calleja*—and the people had not exactly come to pray. So returning home, the visitors manifested their disillusion in harsh words: "It's obvious! Since there are so many of us and the people in Garabandal are not used to this, the girls aren't cheeky enough to pull off these things in front of outsiders!"

The four girls went to school as usual, visited the Blessed Sacrament and did their daily chores, but they could not hide their interior suffering. So

evident was their suffering that the good people of the village felt it necessary to console them, as Conchita notes in her diary entry for Wednesday, June 28:

As we left school, the people of the village, noticing we were sad, cried and kissed us and said to us: "Pray a lot for the angel to return!"



From left: Mari Cruz, Conchita and Mari Loli answer questions by a priest during the early days of the apparitions.

And that night the angel did return, as Conchita goes on to tell us:

In the evening we went to the *calleja* and did as usual. The people prayed the rosary with more faith than ever for him to appear to us. When we had finished reciting the litany, he appeared to us and was smiling more than ever.

The girls showered the angel with questions, asking him above all to tell them why he had come, but they got only smiles from him, no clarification. They were filled with such happiness in his presence, however, that the ecstasy, which lasted an hour—

from 9:00 to 10:00 p.m.—seemed to them to last a minute or less.

June 29 was the last Thursday of the month and the feast of Saints Peter and Paul. On that day Faustino Gonzalez and ten or eleven fellow herdsmen decided to go to Garabandal to see what was happening. Faustino was a cowherd who lived in the neighboring town of Obeso in the district of Rio Nansa. He often had to go to the mountains around Garabandal, where he had a barn for his livestock near the grazing pastures. The things that were happening in the village at the time were naturally the subject of conversation between Faustino and the other cowherds. They were no doubt going to the *calleja* more in a mood to ridicule than to pray devoutly. They thought it was hardly possible that heaven would concern itself with such insignificant earthly creatures as the children of Aniceta, Ceferino, Simon and Escolastico.

In the village the people gathered at the *calleja* at the usual hour, as the sun set behind the horizon. Faustino and his fellow herdsmen, clumsy and coarse, got there early to be in the front row so that they could comfortably observe all that was going on.

That day an old woman from the village started the rosary. The girls took their usual place within the *cuadro*. For a while the prayer continued without anything happening; it seemed that the angel was in no hurry. The cowherds, who had not really come to pray, amused themselves



Dr. Celestino Ortiz noted a change in the herdsmen after they witnessed the girls in ecstasy.

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