

# An Interview with Mari Loli

Although this interview was conducted a few years ago, the substance of the topics covered is ever new and worthy of our thoughtful reflection.



## She was like someone who was very close to me like my mother or a friend.

### The Apparitions

**Garabandal Magazine:** *When you crashed to your knees in ecstasy in the calleja (rocky sunken lane) where the apparitions first began, was it something that you yourselves did such as kneel out of respect, or was there some kind of overpowering force that made you do it?*

**Loli:** It was automatic, like a force that made it happen.

**G.M.:** *Do you remember if the Virgin and St. Michael ever appeared together again after that first apparition of Our Lady?*

**Loli:** As far as I remember, the Angel used to appear first and then afterwards the Blessed Mother.

**G.M.:** *Would St. Michael stay with the Blessed Mother or would he disappear?*

**Loli:** He would disappear.

**G.M.:** *Were St. Michael's wings transparent, in other words, could you see through them?*

**Loli:** No.

**G.M.:** *Do you remember how St. Michael held his hands the very first time you saw him?*

**Loli:** As far as I remember his hands were straight down [at his sides]. At this moment, that's the way I can see it in my mind.

**G.M.:** *Do you ever think about these things for example, when you are alone or doing the housework?*

**Loli:** Sometimes, but I try to put it out of my mind because I think that maybe it was not true, that it was just my imagination. So, I'm afraid to think too much about it. I get scared. I feel "Oh my God, what if the Miracle never comes and all these things never happen." Then I feel bad. I'll have to wait like everybody else.

**G.M.:** *Do you still remember what the Blessed Mother looked like?*

**Loli:** I really only remember what I used to say she looked like. You know, if you see a person many years ago and you try to think of how they

looked, you can almost picture that person in your mind. I cannot do that. I cannot picture the Blessed Mother in my mind.

**G.M.:** *Have you ever seen a picture that reminded you of her, like the Guadalupe image for example?*

**Loli:** No, I never saw any pictures that reminded me of her. In a dream I have had a couple of times it was like I was seeing the Blessed Mother and I said to myself, "Oh, I see her again!" but it is not clear and comes and goes away again.

**G.M.:** *Did the Blessed Mother appear suddenly or gradually?*

**Loli:** It was instantaneous.

**G.M.:** *Was she standing on anything like a cloud for example?*

**Loli:** No, there was just a lot of light all around.

**G.M.:** *About how far off the ground was she?*

**Loli:** I couldn't see the ground or anything else. It was just the Blessed Mother and me.

**G.M.:** *But you could see the other girls, like out of the corner of your eye. You were aware of them.*

**Loli:** Yes, [I was] aware that they were there.

**G.M.:** *Did you know where you were? Could you tell if you were in church for example?*

**Loli:** No. Only if at the time when it [the ecstasy] happened I was in church then probably I would remember. But if I moved from there to another place, I didn't notice that.

**G.M.:** *When you were in ecstasy you couldn't see anyone and you were not aware of anyone except Our Lady or St. Michael and the other girls. What about when you were in church in front of the tabernacle? Were you ever aware of the presence of another Person?*

**Loli:** When I was there I would only know it because the Blessed Mother would tell me I was there.

**G.M.:** *But you didn't feel any presence, like the presence of Our Lord in*

*the tabernacle.*

**Loli:** No, not that I remember.

**G.M.:** *Did Our Lady disappear the same way she came?*

**Loli:** Yes.

**G.M.:** *When she kissed religious objects, did she bend down?*

**Loli:** No. It was as though she were closer so we could reach her.

**G.M.:** *Did she just kind of float down a little bit lower?*

**Loli:** I didn't see her move. It was just like when I put out the object...

**G.M.:** *...she was just there.*

**Loli:** Yes. Sometimes if she were too high, we used to pick up each other to reach her.

**G.M.:** *Some people think of the Virgin as though she were like a statue in a church. They feel she is distant, so holy and so far away that they could never get close to her. But she isn't like that is she?*

**Loli:** As I remember, she was like someone who was very close to me, like my mother or a friend. We used to talk to her about everything we did during the day. It wasn't as if you were afraid, as if you were talking to someone distant and you would only say the important things. We used to say just about everything.

**G.M.:** *Once during the apparitions the Blessed Mother told you that you should always practice bodily cleanliness. She said that she had always done this during her earthly life. Did*

Loli in 1962.





Loli on her way to Cosio to pick up supplies for the small, family-run restaurant. It was during a return trip that she encountered the man in the long garment.

*she ever say anything else like that? Did she ever say anything to you about how you should sit, or stand or talk?*

**Loli:** No. The only thing I really remember is that she said we should dress modestly, you know, about how long the dress should be or how long the sleeves should be or how open around the neck.

**G.M.:** *She talked about those things?*

**Loli:** Yes. She said the neck shouldn't be open and the dress shouldn't be short and the sleeves shouldn't be open either.

**G.M.:** *Do you feel she was just talking to you then as children or did she mean you should also dress this way when you grew up?*

**Loli:** I think it was even more for when I grew up.

**G.M.:** *What about jewelry? Did she ever say anything about wearing jewelry?*

**Loli:** The only thing I can remember is that we shouldn't be—what's the word in English?—vain. I thought that meant jewelry so when we were in ecstasy if I had a watch on I would

take it off. I thought it was these things but today I think it is other things. Just because you wear a watch doesn't mean it's vanity. It all depends on how you wear it. That's the way I think today.

**G.M.:** *Do you remember the time you heard that strange voice and the Blessed Mother said that you were to follow that voice but not to be afraid? Did Our Lady ever say whose voice it was?*

**Loli:** No.

**G.M.:** *Were you frightened?*

**Loli:** Only because we didn't know who it was.

**G.M.:** *What did it say?*

**Loli:** It was just calling us by name.

**G.M.:** *There was an incident during the apparitions when you were walking along the calleja and you saw a man with long hair and a long robe. I think he asked you for your lunch. Do you remember that incident?*

**Loli:** That wasn't in the calleja but on the road to Cosio. I remember it because it happened much later. I was sixteen years old and at that time was going to Cosio every day to get bread.

We used to sell bread in the store.

**G.M.:** *Is it true that the man disappeared?*

**Loli:** He didn't really disappear out of nothing. He just walked away and I just kept moving away myself.

**G.M.:** *There are some people who say that that was St. Joseph.*

**Loli:** That's what they say but I never said it.

**G.M.:** *Do you think that it was a real person?*

**Loli:** At the time I thought it was a real person. Later on I thought that maybe it wasn't.

**G.M.:** *You mean like an apparition.*

**Loli:** Like an apparition or some kind of teaching that was given to me like to be generous, to give.

**G.M.:** *Did you give him your lunch?*

**Loli:** I had plenty of bread and some sandwich meat and I gave him some of that.

**G.M.:** *Then you never had a vision of St. Joseph during the time of the apparitions?*

**Loli:** No.

**G.M.:** *Did the Virgin ever say anything about the Jews? Did she ever say anything about the Jews being converted (through Garabandal)?*

**Loli:** No, not that I remember. I only remember what I would think of saying to her because she was Jewish. I guess it was because in my mind I had certain ideas about the Jews because they were different in how they thought about God or Jesus. I remember one time we asked her, "Are you a Jew? Somebody told us you were a Jew." To me it was something surprising that she was a Jew.

**G.M.:** *Did the Blessed Mother ever say anything about the antichrist who is said to come near the end of the world and who will deceive many people? Did the Blessed Mother ever speak to you about this?*

**Loli:** (No answer)

**G.M.:** *During the apparitions the bystanders heard you say that the*

## The way I saw it at the time, it was more like a big silence, like a sense of emptiness.

*Churches would unite. Do you remember what the Blessed Mother said about that?*

**Loli:** (No answer)

**G.M.:** *Did the Virgin or St. Michael ever give you any secrets that you can't reveal?*

**Loli:** Yes, the Blessed Mother did a lot of times.

**G.M.:** *Were they personal things for you alone or were they things that were going to happen to the world?*

**Loli:** Sometimes they were personal things, sometimes about other people who I could not tell at the time but later, and sometimes they were about the world.

**G.M.:** *About things that were going to happen?*

**Loli:** Yes.

**G.M.:** *Have these things happened or are they still to come?*

**Loli:** Some are still yet to happen.

**G.M.:** *But this is separate from the Warning.*

**Loli:** Yes.

**G.M.:** *Were these things just for Spain or for all countries?*

**Loli:** It was in general.

### The Warning

**G.M.:** *Do you remember what the Blessed Mother said about the communist tribulation that is to precede the Warning?*

**Loli:** It would look like the communists have taken over the whole world and it would be very hard to practice the religion, for priests to say Mass or for the people to open the doors of the churches.

**G.M.:** *Is that what you meant when you said that it would seem as though the Church had disappeared?*

**Loli:** Yes.

**G.M.:** *It would be because of this persecution and not because the people would stop practicing their religion.*

**Loli:** Yes, but I guess a lot of people will stop. Whoever practices it will have to go into hiding.

**G.M.:** *Was this something that would only be in Europe or do you think it will be here in the United States as well?*

**Loli:** I don't know because for me at that time Europe was the whole world. I just assumed it was that way. The Blessed Mother didn't specify in what place. To me it looked like it was everywhere.

**G.M.:** *Much of the earth's land is now dominated by communism. Do you think that's sufficient to fulfill Our Lady's prophecy? [This interview was prior to the breakup of the Soviet Union.]*

**Loli:** I really don't know. It sounded to me like it would be more than that.

**G.M.:** *In other words you think it will be worse than it is now.*

**Loli:** That's what I thought from what she said but I really don't know exactly. To me it looked more like it was every place out there, the places I saw in my mind. In a lot of countries you can still practice your religion in Europe.

**G.M.:** *So the situation in the world is not bad enough for the Warning to happen.*

**Loli:** The Warning is not going to happen yet so it's probably going to get worse. [Editor's Note: Loli said this in 1982.]

**G.M.:** *You said that it would be very difficult for priests to say Mass. Was this something that the Blessed Mother told you or was it something that you thought yourself because of the communist tribulation?*

**Loli:** From what I remember, it was something she said.

**G.M.:** *And she said that it would seem as though the Church had disappeared.*

**Loli:** Yes.

**G.M.:** *Did the Blessed Mother ever say anything about the Holy Father having to leave Rome the time of the Warning?*

**Loli:** No, but what it looked like to me—maybe at this time I was confusing in my mind what I was seeing and



Mari Loli in ecstasy in 1961, shows religious articles to her vision.

what the Blessed Mother was saying to me because it's been so many years—but what it looked like to me was that the pope couldn't be in Rome either, you know what I mean, out in the open. He was being persecuted too and had to hide just like everybody else.

**G.M.:** *You said that when the Warning comes the planes would stop in the air and that all engines would stop. Is this what the Blessed Mother told you?*

**Loli:** She said that everything, everywhere, for a moment, would stop and the people would just think and look inside themselves.

**G.M.:** *Will there be any noise with the Warning like a wind blowing?*

**Loli:** The way I saw it at the time, it was more like a big silence, like a sense of emptiness. Everything was very silent. That's the way I saw it. □

NEXT ISSUE: Loli continues discussing the Warning and comments on the doubts foretold by Our Lady, and her concern for her family in today's world.

# An Interview with Mari Loli:

**Garabandal Magazine:** In 1975 you said that the Warning was soon. Many people thought it would have happened by now. What would you say today?

**Loli:** It is soon. Everything looks soon to me because time goes by so fast.

**G.M.:** You're the only one who knows the year of the Warning. Did you ever tell it to anyone else, like a priest for example?

**Loli:** No.

**G.M.:** So nobody else knows it except you. How do you feel about that?

**Loli:** Because of the doubts that I have, I never want to think too much about it. What if that time comes and nothing happens?

**G.M.:** Did the Blessed Mother ever say that you couldn't reveal the date of the Warning?

**Loli:** She never said I couldn't say it. I just feel I shouldn't.

**G.M.:** Will people be fighting with one another when the Warning comes?

**Loli:** (No answer)

**G.M.:** During the two nights of the screams (June 19 and 20, 1962) you saw the communist tribulation. Did you see pictures of the world during that time?

**Loli:** I remember one part where I saw people crying with mothers holding their children up as if to say, let God take them.

**G.M.:** In other words, let God take them rather than have them go through what they were going through.

**Loli:** Yes

**G.M.:** Could you tell if what you were seeing was the tribulation or the chastisement? Since you saw

both could you tell them apart?

**Loli:** I think it was more like the chastisement. But they were like mixed together. Today my mind is the same way. I cannot separate one from the other.

**G.M.:** So you didn't know if you were seeing the tribulation or the chastisement at that time.

**Loli:** No, I don't know exactly.

**G.M.:** Didn't you see fire?

**Loli:** Fire, yes. The people were running toward the water but there was no stopping the fire. I never saw the people in the fire but rather running from it.

**G.M.:** But when you saw the women holding up their children there was no fire.

**Loli:** No. It was more like they were just suffering, crying aloud and holding the children up.

**G.M.:** Have you ever thought about the chastisement? Do you believe per-



sonally that it is going to come?

**Loli:** I feel something is going to happen because of the way the world is going. There's a big change.

**G.M.:** Did the Blessed Mother ever speak to you much about the Miracle?

**Loli:** No, just that there was going to be a Miracle.

**G.M.:** How about the great ecclesiastical event that is to coincide with the Miracle? Do you know what it is?

**Loli:** No.

**G.M.:** Is there anything that you can reveal that no one has ever asked you?

**Loli:** Not that I remember now. Before I used to think of things but now I forget.

**G.M.:** What about the doubts? Do you recall when you started to have them?

**Loli:** Yes, when I was in school in Zaragosa. I was 17 years old. Maybe before that I had some slight doubts but there they started very strongly. I felt as though I should tell everybody the way I was feeling, that it was not true.

**G.M.:** Did you tell anybody? Did you tell a priest?

**Loli:** Yes. I went through a very terrible time. I couldn't sleep at night, was very moody and cried a lot. They had a retreat for all the girls in the school and it was there that my conscience started to bother me, like everything was a big lie. I wanted to tell everybody just to ease my mind. My conscience was not clear and I felt jealous or ugly because everybody was so happy and everything was looking beautiful to them. It was really a beautiful retreat but

Mari Loli in ecstasy returns a wedding ring to the owner after having had it kissed by the Blessed Virgin.



I missed all that because I felt as though I was not like them. Really, I had to go to confession and tell a priest.

**G.M.:** *Do you still have the doubts today?*

**Loli:** Today the doubts seem different. I can think about it and ask myself why should I feel bad if it were true but I don't remember if I saw the Blessed Mother either. It seems like it happened to somebody else. But then I wouldn't even attempt to believe that anyone else could invent such a thing. How could that happen? Then when I think it was me I say, "I don't remember that I saw...., I don't remember those things. How could that happen to me?"

**G.M.:** *So you are confused.*

**Loli:** Confused, yes.

**G.M.:** *That's the way you feel today. Sometimes you think it's true and other times you don't.*

**Loli:** I don't know. When I think about it I say, "How could anybody at that age make up such a thing?" I ask myself, "Why did I make it up?" and I can't possibly see myself making up such a thing. But then I can't remember either. I don't remember Saint Michael. I only remember what I said at the time.

**G.M.:** *Do you think you'll ever remember? Have you ever considered that this forgetfulness is possibly due to some Divine action?*

**Loli:** I don't know. I know I had a locution at the school in Zaragoza and was told that I was going to suffer a lot and one of the things that would make me suffer was that I was going to forget everything about seeing the Blessed Mother. I don't know how long after that it actually happened.

**G.M.:** *When did you first come to America to live?*

**Loli:** It will be 10 years on October 23 [this interview was conducted in 1982].

**G.M.:** *Would you ever consider going back to Spain to live?*

**Loli:** No. I don't think I would like to

live in Garabandal.

**G.M.:** *Any part of Spain?*

**Loli:** I think it would be too hard for my husband because he doesn't speak Spanish. It's easier for me to live here than for my husband to live in Spain. He would have to do things for the family and wouldn't know how to do them there.

**G.M.:** *Do you like living here?*

**Loli:** Yes I do.

**G.M.:** *You don't miss Spain at all?*

**Loli:** Oh, I miss my family very much. A lot of times I feel very homesick. I like to visit Garabandal and see my family and see the town because I have a lot of memories that are very important to me.



Loli and husband, Frank, with former Bishop of Santander, Juan Antonio del Val Gallo.

**G.M.:** *Have you ever had any visions or locutions since coming here to live?*

**Loli:** No.

**G.M.:** *Do you have any devotion to any particular saint like St. Teresa for example?*

**Loli:** I have devotion to different ones and I have a devotion to St. Teresa too. When I was going out with Frank, I asked St. Teresa, if he were the right person (for me to marry) to send me roses. I made a novena, you know, a five day novena to St. Teresa and I received the roses.

**G.M.:** *Do you remember how you received them?*

**Loli:** Maria [Saraco, Garabandal pro-

moter] was giving a lecture some place, I think Detroit. At the lecture they had a little party and I was given a corsage and the corsage was made of roses. They were little tiny ones. I had asked for three roses and the corsage was made of four roses on one side and three on the top.

**G.M.:** *When was the last time you went to Garabandal?*

**Loli:** It was last year (1981) at the end of February.

**G.M.:** *What do you think of the village today as compared to what it used to be?*

**Loli:** Well, the houses have changed a lot. They are much nicer now and everybody has water in the house. I don't think the people have changed much, I mean the older people.

**G.M.:** *How about all the construction that's going on with people from different parts of Spain and other countries building homes in the village?*

**Loli:** I think it's nice to see. I think it's very nice because the people feel very happy that new things are coming. When I was living there, if someone came up to me and said it was too bad that things were changing, I would get upset. I would say, why shouldn't we have the new things like everybody else? Today, because I live here I like to see the old things because they bring back memories, but I realize that they should have the new things too.

**G.M.:** *So it is good that the village is being improved.*

**Loli:** I don't see why they shouldn't have it. Everybody wants to be comfortable, to have a comfortable house. Why should we ask them to sacrifice just so the people can see the old things? I like to see the old things because they bring me memories. When I think back, even before the apparitions, because Garabandal was even poorer then, I think they were very happy times, beautiful times. There was no embarrassment because we had no water (in the houses) or because we had nothing. The country to me is a very special place—nice.



Loli with Frank and their children, Frank Jr., Melanie (with glasses) and Maria Dolores. Right, Loli knew that Frank was the right man for her.

**G.M.:** *Is it a cross being a visionary?*

**Loli:** Sometimes. People expect you to be more than others, like we should behave differently. I feel just like anybody else. I have the same faults, etc.

**G.M.:** *What is your greatest suffering from one day to the next?*

**Loli:** The suffering I have today is different from when I was younger. As a wife and a mother, trying to be good, I suffer from worrying about my children. I'm always afraid of what might happen, to see if they are OK. I think about how hard it is to be good today and worry about what my children will have to face in the world. To think of the future of my children causes me to suffer because the world is terrible.

**G.M.:** *What do you think of American television?*

**Loli:** What it shows me is that they put on a lot of bad things as if they were normal. Divorce is normal, there's no more marriage, young people living with each other without being married is normal—all these things.

**G.M.:** *Do you think the Virgin is pleased with the way the Message is spreading?*

**Loli:** I don't know. They do spread the Message but it's very hard to get it to everybody. I'm sure there are a lot of bad things that spread a lot faster than the Message (she laughs) and they get to the people a lot easier too. If you go out on the street and ask people if they heard about it, you don't find many who have. You really have to go to special places to find the people who have heard about the Messages. But I don't say it's the fault of anybody. It's very hard to get to everybody. Even if it were on TV they would probably turn it off. It's hard to reach the people, really.

**G.M.:** *What about the situation in Spain with the bishops having been against it?*

**Loli:** The bishop [former Bishop Juan Antonio del Val Gallo] today is not against it. I just recently spoke to him on the phone and he was very nice. We were not talking about the apparitions because I called him about something else. Right away he asked me how Jacinta was and how Conchita was. He told me he saw the movie on Garabandal [BBC documentary]. He was really nice. He's not against it. He asked me if there was any recent news.



**G.M.:** *What is the most prominent thought in your mind about priests? Didn't the Blessed Mother tell you to pray for priests?*

**Loli:** She was always asking me to do that, to pray for priests and so I always felt very strongly about it. One of the main things in my life is to make sacrifices and pray for priests.

**G.M.:** *If you could give a message to the world, what would it be?*

**Loli:** That's a very hard question, I don't know. What I would say to everybody is to be good and love one another. If we love each other we can do a lot of good things. And above all we should love God because when we love Him we are going to think about Him when we do something to somebody else. We're not going to do bad things that will offend God. We'll just do good things. □

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