

Bishop Approved Apparitions with Vatican Recognition

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Vatican Recognition (after Investigation and approval by Local Bishop)*

Please select:

* *Please note:* As established in the Council of Trent (1545-63), the local bishop is the first and main authority in the judgment of apparition claims. Vatican approval is not required for an apparition to be considered authentic. After an episcopal approval, the Vatican may do nothing but it may release an official statement or after some time give non-written forms of approval as a papal visit with the crowning of the associated icon or a gift such as a golden rose, the approval of the construction of (or an existing shrine to) a basilica, the establishment of a feast day, or the canonization of the associated visionary.

Positive judgments by the local bishop (but not yet by the Vatican) theoretically are able to be reversed by a subsequent bishop; this has never happened in the history of the Church. Negative judgments (Constat de non supernaturalitate) and rulings of no supernaturality (Non constat de supernaturalitate) have later been changed to positive judgments on a few rare occasions by a subsequent bishop.

If a Marian apparition is recognized by the bishop, it means that the message is not contrary to faith and morals, that Mary is venerated in a special way at the site and that the faithful can believe with confidence in the supernaturality of the event. But belief in a private revelation is not required by the church, Catholics are at liberty to decide how much personal spiritual emphasis to place on apparitions and the messages they deliver.

[Click here for more on the discernment of apparition claims.](#)

Vatican Recognized Apparitions



[More Information](#)

Guadalupe, Mexico (1531)
Title: [Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
Feast Day: [December 12th](#)
Investigated: 1666, 1723
Approved: 1555 by [Archbishop Alonso de Montúfar \(1551-1572\)](#)
Visionaries: [St. Juan Diego \(57\)](#), Juan Bernardino
Miracles & Signs: Tilma of Juan Diego with imprint of image of Virgin; conversion of millions of Indians
Summary: Mary proclaimed herself "the Mother of the true God who gives life" and left her imprint permanently upon the tilma of Juan Diego, a recent convert to Christianity.

First Apparition:
Dec 9, 1531

Last Apparition:
Dec 12, 1531

Number of Apparitions: 5



[More Information](#)

Lezajsk, Poland (1578)
Investigated: [Henryk Firlej, Bishop of Przemyśl \(1631-1635\)](#)
Approved: [Maciej Pstrokowski, bishop of Przemyśl \(1601-1608\)](#) built a larger church on the site of the apparition in 1606; [Henryk Firlej, Bishop of Przemyśl \(1631-1635\)](#) confirms the supernatural origin of the miracle; On September 8, 1752, [Pope Benedict XIV](#) himself crowned the image with [Wacław Hieronim Sierakowski, Bishop of Przemyśl \(1742-1760\)](#), who afterwards personally blessed the crown.
Visionaries: Thomas Michalek (woodcutter)
Summary: A pious woodcutter saw a bright light in the forest. The Virgin asked him to alert the authorities to build a church. Thomas, scared, did nothing. The Virgin, then, appeared again, a him to take action and ending his silence. Thomas went to the authorities but was not believed the death of the curate who was against the vision, a chapel was finally built by the parish priest

First Apparition:
1578

Last Apparition:
1578

Number of Apparitions: 2



[More Information](#)

Siluva, Lithuania (1608)
Title: [Our Lady of Siluva](#)
Feast Day: [September 8th](#)
Investigated: 1612
Approved: Aug 17, 1775 by [Pope Pius VI.](#)
Visionaries: 4 children
Miracles & Signs: Complete conversion of Calvinist town; blind man cured.
Summary: One summer day, in 1608, a number of children were playing while tending their field on the outskirts of the village of Siluva. They beheld a beautiful young woman standing on a rock holding a baby in her arms and weeping bitterly. The town which had lost its Catholic identity over the course of 80 years was restored to the Faith.

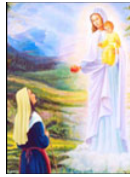
First Apparition:
1608

Last Apparition:
1612

Number of Apparitions:
Many over 4 years

Laus, France (1664)

Title: [Our Lady of Laus / Our Lady of Happy Meetings](#)



[More Information](#)

Feast Day: [September 27th](#)

Investigated: 1665, 2007

Approved: May 4, 2008
Bishop Jean-Michel di Falco of the Diocese of Gap

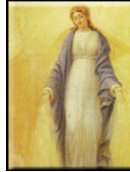
Visionaries:
Benoite (Benedicta) Rencurel (17)

Summary: Benoite Rencurel, a poor shepherdess, was born in 1647. The Virgin Mary started appearing to her in 1664 and continued visiting her throughout the rest of her life. The Blessed Mother told her to "pray continuously for sinners."

First Apparition:
1664

Last Apparition:
1718

Number of Apparitions: Many (over 54 y)



[More Information](#)

Rue du Bac, Paris, France (1830)

Title: [Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal](#)

Feast Day : [November 27th](#)

Investigated: 1836

Approved: July 13, 1836 - Archbishop Hyacinthe-Louis de Quélen of Paris

Visionaries:
[St. Catherine Laboure](#) (24)

Miracles & Signs: Miraculous Medal; Prediction of Paris Revolution (1871); incorruptible body Catherine Laboure

Summary: In the chapel of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Mary showed hers three times to novice Catherine Laboure. Laboure said she was commissioned by the Virgin to the medal of the Immaculate Conception or "Miraculous Medal" made in order to spread devotion to Our Lady.

First Apparition:
July 18, 1830

Last Apparition:
Nov 27, 1830

Number of Apparitions: 2



[More Information](#)

Rome, Italy (1842)

Title: [Our Lady of Zion](#)

Feast Day : [November 17th](#)

Investigated: Feb 1842

Approved: June 3, 1842 by the Vicar General of Pope Gregory XVI, Cardinal Patrizi

Visionaries:
Marie Alphonse Ratisbonne (28)

Summary: Marie Alphonse Ratisbonne, an anti-Catholic Jew, befriended a baron in Rome and began wearing the Miraculous Medal as a simple test. On Jan 20, 1842 while waiting for the bell at the church Sant Andrea delle Fratte, Ratisbonne encountered a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He converted to Catholicism, joined the priesthood, and began a ministry for the conversion of

First Apparition:
Jan 20, 1842

Last Apparition:
Jan 20, 1842

Number of Apparitions: 1



[More Information](#)

La Salette, France (1846)

Title: [Our Lady of La Salette](#)

Feast Day : [September 19th](#)

Investigated: 1846

Approved: Nov 16th, 1851 by Mgr de Bruillard

Visionaries:
[Maximin Giraud](#) (11), [Melanie Mathieu](#) (14)

Summary: Six thousand feet up in the French Alps, Mary is believed to have come to Maximin and Melanie while they tended sheep. Her appearance in sorrow and tears called for conversion and penance for sins.

First Apparition:
Sept 19, 1846

Last Apparition:
Sept 19, 1846

Number of Apparitions: 1



[More Information](#)

Lourdes, France (1858)

Title: [Our Lady of Lourdes](#)

Feast Day : [February 11th](#)

Investigated: 1858

Approved: Jan 18, 1862 by [Bertrand Serey](#) Laurence, Bishop of Tarbes

Visionaries:
[St. Bernadette Soubirous](#) (14)

Miracles & Signs: Healings, Conversions, Incorruptible body of St. Bernadette.

Summary: At the Grotto of Massabielle, the Virgin showed herself 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous. Under the title "the Immaculate Conception," she called for penance and prayer for conversion of sinners.

First Apparition:
Feb 11, 1858

Last Apparition:
July 16, 1858

Number of Apparitions: 18



[More Information](#)

Filippsdorf, Czech Republic (1866)

Title: [Help of Christians](#)

Feast Day: [January 13th](#)

Investigated: 1866

Approved: Bishop's commission examined the miraculous event and recognized the healing and supernatural character. Church was elevated to minor basilica and consecrated by Pope Leo XIII in 1885.

First Apparition:
January 13, 1866

Last Apparition:
January 13, 1866

Visionaries: Magdalene Kade (31) **Number of Apparitions:** 1

Miracles & Signs: Cure of Magdalene and many others at the shrine.

Summary: Magdalene Kade, an orphaned 31 year woman bedridden due to many illnesses, received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary who immediately cured her. A bishop's commissic examined the miraculous event and recognized the healing and supernatural character. In the between 1870 and 1885 a neo-Romanesque church was built and was elevated to minor basil Pope Leo XIII, who officially consecrated it and dedicated to Mary, "Help of Christians."



[More Information](#)

Pontmain, France (1871)

Title: [Our Lady of Hope](#)

Feast Day: January 17th

Investigated: 1872

Approved: February 2, 1872 - Casimir-Alexis-Joseph Wicart, Bishop of Laval

Visionaries: Eugene Barbadette (12), Francoise Richer (11), Jeanne-Marie Lebosse (9), Eugene Friteau (6)

First Apparition:
Jan 17, 1871

Last Apparition:
Jan 17, 1871

Number of Apparitions: 1

Miracles & Signs: Prussian army halts advances after soldiers see Virgin in the sky.

Summary: Mary appeared on a farm to students at the nearby convent school. Mary's messa written on a banner that unfurled from her feet: "But pray my children. God will hear you in a sl time. My Son allows Himself to be moved by compassion."



[More Information](#)

Gietrzwald, Poland (1877)

Title: [Our Lady of Gietrzwald](#)

Investigated: 1877

Approved: Bishop Filip Krementz 1878; Warmian Bishop, Jozef Drzazga Sept 11, 1977

Visionaries: Justyna Szafrynska (13), Barbara Samulowska (12)

First Apparition:
June 27, 1877

Last Apparition:
Sept 16, 1877

Number of Apparitions: 9

Miracles & Signs: Healing spring; return of piety and devotion to the villagers; Primate of Pol Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski is cured on 100th anniversary of apparitions.

Summary: In 1877, the Virgin Mary appeared to two girls over the course of 3 months and encouraged a return to prayer.



[More Information](#)

Knock, Ireland (1879)

Title: [Our Lady of Knock](#)

Feast Day : August 21st

Investigated: 1879, 1936

Approved: In 1936 Archbishop of Tuam, Dr. Gilmartin's investigative commission returns a positive verdict.

Visionaries: 18

First Apparition:
August 21, 1879

Last Apparition:
August 21, 1879

Number of Apparitions: 1

Miracles & Signs: 300+ miraculous cures

Summary: During a pouring rain, the figures of Mary, Joseph, John the Apostle and a lamb or plain altar appeared over the gable of the village chapel, enveloped in a bright light. None of th spoke. At least 15 people, between the ages of 5 and 75, saw the apparition.



[More information](#)

Fatima, Portugal (1917)

Title: [Our Lady of Fatima / Our Lady of the Rosary](#)

Feast Day : May 13th

Investigated: 1919

Approved: October 13, 1930 (Dom Jose Alves Correia da Silva, Bishop of the Diocese of Leiria-Fatima)

Visionaries: Lucia dos Santos (9), Jacinta Marto (8), Francisco Marto (7)

First Apparition:
May 13, 1917

Last Apparition:
October 13, 1917

Number of Apparitions: 6

Miracles & Signs: Dancing Sun, Healings, Conversion of Russia, Incorruptible body of Jacinta

Summary: While tending sheep, Lucia de Santos and her two cousins, Francisco and Jacinta reported six apparitions of Mary, who identified herself as "Our Lady of the Rosary." Mary urge prayer of the rosary, penance for the conversion of sinners and consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart.



[More Information](#)

Beauraing, Belgium (1932)

Title: [The Virgin with the Golden Heart](#)

Feast Day : August 22nd

Investigated: 1949

Approved: July 2, 1949 by André Marie Charue, Bishop of Namur

Visionaries: Fernande Voisin (15), Andree Degeimbre (14), Gilberte Voisin (11), Gilberte Degeimbre (9)

First Apparition:
Nov 29, 1932

Last Apparition:
Jan 3, 1933

Number of Apparitions: 33

Miracles & Signs: Miraculous cures, fireball

Summary: Mary is believed to have come 33 times to the playground of a convent school to fi children. Identifying herself as "the Immaculate Virgin" and "Mother of God, Queen of Heaven, called for prayer for the conversion of sinners.



[More Information](#)

Banneux, Belgium (1933)
Title: [The Virgin of the Poor](#)
Feast Day : May 31st

Investigated: 1935-37

First Apparition:
 January 15, 1933

Approved: [March 19th, 1942 Bishop Kerkhofs of Liege](#), [Aug 22, 1949](#)

Last Apparition:
 March 2, 1933

Visionaries:
[Mariette Beco](#) (11)

Number of Apparitions: 8

Summary: In a garden behind the Beco family's cottage, the Blessed Mother is said to have appeared to Mariette Beco (age 11) eight times. Calling herself the "Virgin of the Poor," Mary promised to intercede for the poor, the sick and the suffering.



[More Information](#)

Kibeho, Rwanda (1981)
Title: ["Nyina wa Jambo" \(Mother of the Word\)](#)

Investigated: April 1982

First Apparition:
 Nov 28, 1981

Approved: [June 29, 2001 \(Bishop Augustin Misago of Gikongoro\)](#)

Last Apparition:
 Nov 28, 1989

Visionaries: [Alphonsine Mumureke](#) (17), [Nathalie Mukamazimpaka](#) (20), and [Marie Claire Mukangango](#) (21)

Number of Apparitions: Many

Summary: The apparitions began in November 1981 when six young girls and one boy claim see the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus. But only the visions of the first three -- 17-year-old Alphonsine, 20-year-old Nathalie, and 21-year-old Marie Claire -- have received Bishop Misago solemn approval. Because there were reservations about the other four visionaries, and the supposed visions of Jesus, Bishop Misago didn't confirm the authenticity of either those visionaries.



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