

# Garabandal and the World— Thirty Years in Retrospect Part 4

By William F. Kuhn

*Between June 19 and July 18, 1962, Garabandal's lessons emphasized the Church. In their ecstasies the girls frequently went to the church; they said the Blessed Virgin liked to visit the village church because Jesus, Her Son, was there in the Eucharist. Indeed, the Mother of God was merely exemplifying what she had asked us to do in the message of October 18, 1961.*

Visiting the Blessed Sacrament is a devotion which in the 50s and 60s had been declining as secular humanism invaded the hearts and minds of peoples. From the apparition's attention to the Eucharist, the theologians who were priests should have drawn the conclusion that their power to establish the presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist was more important to the salvation of the world (and to themselves) than all the notoriety and satisfaction they might derive from

their intellectual success in the field of theology.

## The "Milagruco"

Then on July 18, 1962 (actually early in the morning of the 19th) Conchita was given a consecrated Host by the Archangel St. Michael, a Host which this time was visible to the attentive members of the crowd, in the midst of which Conchita had knelt on the stony ground to receive the Sacrament. And several frames of film of this miracle were shot by an excited

'amateur' with an 8mm movie camera. This was the "milagruco" promised to Conchita by St. Michael a month or six weeks previously, and which the 13-year-old had almost petulantly called a pretty small miracle, a "milagruco."

Other than ridicule and charges of fraud, there was no response to this public display from officialdom nor from those whose attention was centered on making changes in the Church and doctrine that might democratize her. Such a local controversy arose over the witness of many who were present at this Visible Host incident that the hortatory aspect of the miracle for the time being was obscured.

From July into October, 1962, the Garabandal events continued on unabated. The frequency of ecstasies remained high and the village church was approached regularly, although entrance into the church had been forbidden. The girls would stand or kneel at the closed door of the church and recite prayers, then leave on an ecstatic walk only to return frequently to the church courtyard, or to come before the closed door once more.

## The Council

In September, Conchita experienced an apparition during which she discussed the approaching Council; she was heard to say:

**The Council, is it the biggest of all? Will it be a success? How good! That way they will know you better, and you will be very happy.**

This much is clear; that in spite of the turmoil of the world and the evident unease of middle European priests and theologians with the Rome-based

*Cardinal Montini of Milan is crowned Pope Paul VI. The bishops of the Council were surprised when he tightened the reins on the liberal agenda.*



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