

# MARY, HUMANITATIS SPLENDOR

## PART 2

### THE BROTHERS ANDREU

By William F. Kuhn

ON JULY 29, 1961, THREE OF THE girls, Mari Loli, Mari Cruz and Jacinta were experiencing an apparition in the *calleja*. The vision was broken off abruptly because of the turmoil in the crowd and the girls were directed by Our Lady to go up to the Pines where the vision would be continued.

Present at this episodic incident were two Jesuit priests, brothers Ramon and Luis Andreu. Ramon, the elder, had received permission from the diocesan office at Santander to witness the Garabandal events, and was prepared to make notes for a report of his visit. Both brothers were to become involved in these events, but quite differently.

Obviously the two brothers had many similarities. They were of the same genetic background; from the same environment; educated in the same schools, probably by the same teachers; and they participated in the same profession at the same institution. Father Ramon, seeking to determine whether the ecstasies of the girls were "genuine," apparently was the more sophisticated and being older could have been more aware of how the world of disbelief and earthly realism viewed this world of the spirit. Father Luis, although in great part the product of the same influences that formed Father Ramon, nevertheless seemed less aggressive, more malleable, more open to these strange events which he was viewing.

There were four visions on July 29 which repeated to some extent the explanation of the message that was on the sign beneath St. Michael's feet in prior apparitions. That explanation was being expanded to include elements of a punishment that would befall the world if it did not repent of its sins. During the fourth vision of the day which occurred at the pines, a rather skeptical Father Ramon prayed that if what he was witnessing were true, then

let one of the girls come out of ecstasy. He had no sooner formulated this thought when Mari Loli immediately returned to the normal state.

Seeing Father Ramon, she spoke to him briefly and acknowledged that she was not now seeing the Blessed Virgin. She then abruptly reentered the ecstasy and asked the Blessed Mother why she had been released from the vision. The reply, which Mari Loli repeated orally, was "so that he would believe." At hearing this, Father Ramon drew closer to his brother Father Luis and warned him to be careful of his train of thought because thought-transference was occurring with the speed of light. But Father Ramon gave no indication that his mind had been changed; his structure of Jesuit rationalization had not been shaken, he was still skeptical.

This unusual incident gives a little insight into the relationship the Blessed Mother wishes to maintain with priests. Although Father Ramon

remained skeptical even after receiving his asked-for proof, Our Lady understood and immediately began to show her predilection for those in religious life. She also manifested her patience.

#### New Phenomena

The visions went on exhibiting stranger actions. On July 31 the little visionaries experienced oscillations swaying to and fro on their knees, even in the *calleja* with its rocks and stones. In one instance two of the girls came out of ecstasy leaving Mari Loli alone in ecstasy. Mari Cruz, now in the normal state, looked at Mari Loli and asked, "Why is she looking over there? She should be looking more in this direction." This underlines an extraordinary aspect of these ecstasies. Many of the photographs taken of the youngsters in ecstasy display the fact that girls are not always looking in the same direction, although each is seeing the Blessed Virgin. This seems to indicate that multiple, perhaps unshared,

UNUSUAL PHENOMENA: Conchita, left, and Jacinta oscillating during an ecstasy.



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visions are occurring which are not contradictory experiences. This is difficult to understand but may account for what appears to be different explanations by the girls for a shared ecstasy.

Ecstatic falls began on August 3. One such incident happened in the church before the altar and apparently lasted for thirty minutes.

Since the visionaries had no awareness of what they were physically experiencing, being entirely wrapped up in their ecstasies, the Blessed Virgin was utilizing their activities as signs and signals to the onlookers. Signs of mysterious power supporting these visitations, signals to unbelievers that indeed there was an Intelligence guiding the world.

### Father Luis Becomes Involved

On August 8, Father Luis was taken to Garabandal by members of the Fontenada family in their car. Father Ramon was not present. Remarkably, on this day, Father Luis was to do what no one else would ever do, that is, participate in the ecstasy of the visionaries at Garabandal.

There were a number of apparitions on this day. The first involved all four girls and included forward and backward ecstatic walks and ecstatic falls. The second seems to have occurred about halfway up the lane (*calleja*) leading to the pines. It was during a third apparition at the pines later in the evening when Father Luis became involved. As he was drawn into the ecstasy of the four girls he shouted out when he apparently saw some extraordinary scene. As he emerged from the ecstasy he was heard to murmur "a miracle, a miracle."

He did not elaborate on this statement. Shortly thereafter he was in deep meditation during the drive back down the mountainside through Cosio and on to Reinoso, where he very quietly died, early on the 9th of August, at 4:30 a.m.

Before his death, he had had a short conversation in the car with Rafael Fontenada who affirmed that Father Luis was very happy, content, undisturbed by his remarkable experience of rapture, and calmly joyful.

This incident is astonishing. Apparently Father Luis witnessed something that had not been granted to the young-

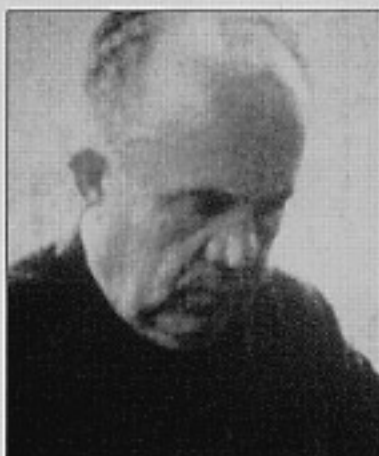
sters during the very same ecstasy. He seemed to have appreciated this as a special gift, as evidenced by his happy reflection during the return trip. Yet he did not reveal what it was that made him so calmly content.

How perceptive Our Lady's love was in recognizing the whole heartedness of Father Luis' attention to the spiritual phenomenon unfolding before him as the girls communicated with her. How considerate of the Queen of Heaven so graciously to allow this priest to participate in this event, even when his participation was to be lim-

ited to this one incident. Yet, how compassionate she was, how understanding!

But more mysterious is the public selection of an observer for inclusion in this unusual process of heavenly communication. That the girls did not witness the same thing as Father Luis in the same ecstasy with them, reemphasizes the multiplicity of images separately witnessed by those in the same rapture. Further, Father Luis witnessed something eventually to be seen by many in the determined future—yet he did not share this information. But

## Garabandal, July 29, 1961





his participation before their eyes were to see it, heightened their interest in the Garabandal events without them having a comparable enlightenment.

How delicately perceive the Blessed Mother was in choosing this priest for the revelation of what the world would have to await. How fine was her reading of the character of this prelate, knowing that he would not prematurely release the information to anyone. How trusting she was. In God's time this information was to come to the world—a weighty responsibility in the meantime—but here in

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Fr. Luis (left) observes Loli and Jacinta in ecstasy. Father Luis. Father Ramon. The scene at the pines. Father Valentin Marichalar, pastor of San Sebastian de Garabandal.



love and confidence she gave this priest privileged information. How beyond common human thought and action.

The death of Father Luis must give us pause. This priest had just been given a privilege no one else has received; he had been drawn into the spiritual experience that four little girls were enjoying, and become aware of information within that ecstasy that the girls did not see or receive. He understood the special honor bestowed upon him, for he was subsequently enveloped in wondering meditation, remaining silent and withdrawn in the car that transported him down the mountain-side.

#### After Death Experiences

On August 14, Father Ramon, having just celebrated the funeral Mass and conducting the Jesuit rites of burial for Father Luis, returned to Garabandal where he received the information that the girls were expecting to speak with Father Luis shortly. This was disconcerting news to Father Ramon whose skepticism had caused him to distrust his own witnessing and to adjudge the ideas and reports of the youngsters as autosuggestion—some disorder of reason due to their total absorption in the visions. Father Ramon awaited this unusual meeting of the girls with his brother.

We cannot fathom the meaning or the connection that Father Luis' death has with his unusual ecstatic experience. Nor can we fully understand his rapid return to Garabandal on the 17th to speak from eternity to these little girls still enshrouded with the darkness of time. We must accept this as a gift of grace presented by God through the Blessed Virgin for the enlightenment of all. But what light it throws upon the message of Garabandal escapes us.

Father Ramon did not trust his own emotional reactivity—as his warning to his brother Luis on July 29 shows. And even now he continued to resist believing, remaining skeptical, still questioning, seeking "proof," a perfect example of modern man in the presence of spiritual experience. Yet he was not rebellious or antagonistic, but very cautious, very guarded. He had learned on August 14, that his brother, Father Luis,

## He heard the girls repeating instructions of prayers, saying the Hail Mary in Greek, as Father Luis taught them word, by word, phrase by phrase.

was going to communicate with the girls; he received from Loli the ring rosary she had lost the week before, having been guided by the Blessed Virgin to where it had fallen. And so Ramon was present on the 17th when this unique event took place. With the found rosary ring in pocket—perhaps he was fingering it—he heard the youngsters repeat descriptions of the Jesuit rites of burial, faultlessly, even down to the small changes which had been made in those rites for Father Luis. He was astounded. He heard the girls repeating instructions in prayers, saying the Hail Mary in Greek, as Father Luis taught them, word by word, phrase by phrase. Ramon was confused, mystified and disconcerted; as the Garabandal events continued to unfold he fell into deep doubt and uncertainty. He had not heard his brother's voice, but he recognized the accuracy of the burial rites as the girls repeated them, and no one except Father Luis and the Virgin would have known about them. Besides, small items of information given to the girls for him seemed appropriate and valid. In the face of such testimony, his state of mind bewildered him for another two months. Compared with the swift and surprising entrance into the Garabandal events permitted by the Virgin to Father Luis, this long period of doubt and discouragement for Father Ramon illustrates the great disparity in treatment the Blessed Virgin dispersed to her two priestly sons. One was gathered up in love and understanding, the other was left in dismay and discouragement for about ten weeks. This brings us up close to October 18, 1961, when the first Message which the little girls had been guarding, was to be released. □



### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**Irondale, Alabama:** January 27, 1998, marked the latest appearance of **Joey and Marilynn Lomangino** on the **MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE** television program. The two Messages of Garabandal were the focus this time with both Messages being displayed on the screen in segments throughout the show which started with the reading of the First Message by **Mother Angelica** herself. Other topics covered during the hour-long program were: prayer, conversion, confession, the Holy Eucharist, and featured an explanation of the medals containing a piece of missal kissed by Our Lady at Garabandal. Viewers were then invited to write to The Workers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel for a medal of their own.

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**Lindenhurst, New York:** Many volunteers worked long hours at the New

### Global Spread of the Message

Arrangements have been finalized with EWTN for transmission of the video, *The Message of Garabandal* in numerous foreign languages over their global television network. The New York Center has provided EWTN with master tapes in the following languages in addition to English: Spanish, Italian, German, French, Dutch, Maltese, Portuguese, Brazilian Portuguese, Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Lithuanian, Slovak, Czech, Hungarian, Korean, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Sinhalese, and Tagalog (Filipino).

The EWTN scheduling department will air the programs on the appropriate international feeds as they see fit. This marks a major step forward in fulfilling Our Lady's request to make her Message known.



JANUARY 27, 1998: Mother Angelica with Joey and Marilynn Lomangino.

York Center following the **MOTHER ANGELICA LIVE** program, processing over 20,000 letters and sending out thousands of "missal medals" enclosed in a newly designed folder made especially for this occasion.

During a visit to the New York Center, main visionary, **Conchita Gonzalez Keena**, while watching packages being made up and the mail being processed by Our Lady's workers, said, "You are the ones doing this work for the whole world."

It was through Conchita's efforts that missal pages kissed by Our Lady were made available to the New York Center. This inspired the production of a new medal with a more secure receptacle for the missal piece than the previous medals.

This entire effort was made to comply with Our Lady's request to Conchita at Garabandal on November 13, 1965, to "distribute" her kissed objects.

### SOUTH KOREA

**Pusan:** Quietly promoting the Garabandal Message in his area, **Father Anton Trauner** is nevertheless very effective. Father Anton is a German

priest who came to Korea in 1958, and is devoted to Mary and the unity of the Church.

Garabandal promoter **Chong Min (Catherine) Lee** of Toronto, Canada, an associate of Father Anton recently sent the New York Center a copy of an ad for Garabandal materials that appeared in a Korean newspaper. The book, *Our Lady Comes to Garabandal*, by Father Joseph Pelletier, A.A., (pictured) and the video, *The Message of Garabandal* are now both available in the Korean language and are distributed by the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters in Seoul.



Father Anton Trauner



Catherine Lee

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