

The Sacred Heart at Garabandal

ONE OF THE MOST NOTICEABLE THINGS ABOUT THE Garabandal apparitions is the way Catholic practices and traditions were reaffirmed. This was certainly the case regarding the appearance of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Jacinta, one of the seers. And while Our Lord did not appear exactly as He was portrayed by the statue of the Sacred Heart in the village church, there was enough similarity for Jacinta to realize that the One appearing before her was the same One represented in the church. The time of year of this vision also had its significance in terms of Catholic practice since it occurred in June, which the Church traditionally designates as the month of the Sacred Heart, and it is even possible that the vision took place on the feast day itself.

So just how did this vision come about? It happened shortly after the events began while the four seers were still enjoying the visits of St. Michael the Archangel but before the Blessed Virgin had appeared for the first time.

One evening, in anticipation of their vision, the four girls went to the *calleja*, the rock-filled lane where the angel had been appearing to them. Soon Conchita, Mari Loli and Mari Cruz fell into ecstasy and saw the angel as before while Jacinta, a short distance behind them, couldn't see anything. Suddenly she too was in ecstasy, only this time her vision was different from theirs.

Before her, about eight to ten feet away, was Jesus standing on a small cloud a few feet above the ground.

His heart, slightly off center on the left side of His body, was a brilliant red with rays of white and gold streaming from it. With His left hand He pointed to His heart and with the right, beckoned for the girl to come to Him. But she couldn't move even if she wanted to. His glance, while a look of incomparable love, transfixed her and riveted her to the spot.

He wore a white robe with a red garment that hung diagonally down across the body from the right shoulder. His hair, beard and eyes were dark and His skin coloring "normal." Jacinta later described Him as "the handsomest of men." Against a cloud-like background, brilliant rays of light emanated from His body that even exceeded in brightness the subsequent visions of Our Lady.

A few moments later He was gone; the vision was over and the child, now out of ecstasy, was back to normal.

A Secret

It was not until 1976 when Jacinta, rather shy and introverted by nature, gave the full details of the vision. There were two aspects of it that she particularly noted and which are worth commenting upon. The first was Our Lord's bearing, which Jacinta described as "majestic." She said seeing Him was different from seeing Our Lady who, although sinless, was nevertheless one of us, that is, a fellow creature. Jesus, on the other hand, while taking the form of man, was also God.

The other aspect of the vision that made a deep and lasting impression on Jacinta was the glance of Jesus that penetrated to the very depths of her being. She said, "It was as though it would tear the soul right out of my body." She added that she could not have stood it for more than the few moments the vision lasted.



Above, Jacinta in 1961

Workers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
PO Box 606
Lindenhurst, NY 11757
www.Garabandal.us

