Apparition of the Virgin Mary at SAINT BAUZILLE DE LA SYLVE

France, 1873

The village of Saint Bauzille-de-la-Sylve is located in the Herault department. The Virgin Mary appeared there twice in 1873. On June 8th, 1873, a thirty-year-old woman, Augustine Appar, went into her stables to collect hay. She was married and had two children. It was Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Trinity, and she had not yet worked in the fields. She was a very devout Christian, as she often went to Mass as a Penitent. After having worked for two hours, Augustine went out for a moment to rest and meditate. She took her place under a tree when she suddenly saw in front of her a luminous figure, a young woman draped in white. She was a young girl with a white veil and a golden crown on her head. She began to weep, covering her face with her hands. Augustine got up and asked her in the dialect of the region: "Who are you?" The appearance answered in the same language: "I am the Holy Virgin. Do not be afraid!" Augustine, reassured, listened with emotion to the words of Mary.

You have the blame of this reappearance. You have abandoned Saint Bauzille. Your heart must be celebrated on the day in which it occurs. Next Thursday, you should go to Saint-Maurice to present a wreath of flowers. I have been celebrated. From tomorrow and the following fifteen days, you should go in procession to Notre-Dame. For all the men of Bagnols, Montpelier and the city of Toulouse. You should erect a new cross and replace the current one. You will have to cross the figure of the Virgin Mary as soon as the procession and you will have to go to every house in your community. Go immediately to tell it to your father and your mother. In a month, I shall return to this place. After these words, the apparition rose high towards the sky like a place that disappears a little at a time. At the end of the vision, Augustine stopped working, left the stables and returned home, with her heart uplifted by a sense of peace. Upon arriving home, Augustine Appar recounted the incident to her father. She then went to the chapel of the village to pray to her. She was not able to go further. She went to the shrine of the Virgin with her father, who had already seen the visions of the Virgin. The bishop of the diocese, Dominique de Caunes, was present at the apparition, and after having questioned the visionary and her witnesses, he recognized the authenticity of the apparitions in 1873. Augustine Appar lived as a poor woman in faith and devotion to Mary without ever tiring to get rich and always observing the Sunday rest. She suffered much for the sanctification of 1835 that hastened the canonization of the Virgin. In the death of this life and of those of her children, none of them a priest. She faced these trials with great courage and considereed them as a merit of God. She was never taken by force or by Auguste, who knew how to make the sacrifice for the sanctity of her apparitions. It was the symbol of the profound peace that enveloped her soul, even in the moments of sorrow. A chapel was built near the place of the apparition as well as a convent in which lived the Franciscan Nuns who arrived in 1883 to be in charge of the shrine.