



**THE APPEALS
OF OUR LADY
APPARITIONS
AND
MARIAN SHRINES
IN THE WORLD**

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at HEEDE



GERMANY, 1937-1940

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rom the evening of November 1, 1897 to November 3, 1940, the Virgin Mary appeared to four girls in the small German town of Heede, near the border with Holland, in the Diocese of Osnabrück. The visionaries were Anna Schulte, Greta (stigmatized in the spring of 1939, died on January 27, 1996), Maria Ganseforth and Susanna Bruins, of ages ranging between 12 and 14 years.

Our Lady manifested herself shortly before the start of the Second World War, on the Vigil of the Solemnity of All Souls, at the height of the Nazi regime. The apparitions occurred primarily near the church of the town, inside the cemetery. The Virgin had the appearance of a young woman, beautiful, about 18 years old. Her eyes were light blue, like those of Baby-Jesus. She wore an elaborately decorated golden crown, a long white dress held at the waist by a small ribbon. A white non-transparent veil came down from every side creating some few folds that concealed her hair. On her left hand covered by the veil was seated Baby Jesus with a golden globe on his right hand topped by a cross. The Virgin Mary was raised about one meter from the ground and rested her feet on a small cloud of light blue color. As it occurred with other apparitions, an ever increasing number of devotees and curious started to flock to Heede. That continuous pilgrimage of people aroused very soon the suspicions of the 'Gestapo'. The agents of Hitler's police forced the four girls to go to the sanatorium of Göttingen where they then examined by psychiatric experts. But the medical exam, which lasted four weeks, ended with a sentence of absolution for the four girls who were observed to be perfectly healthy and normal. Then the Gestapo prohibited the girls to go to the place of the apparitions but these prohibitions were useless; indeed the Virgin Mary continued to appear to the girls in other places. The message of Heede is primarily a heartfelt exhortation to conversion and a serious warning for the world. Several times Mary Most Holy showed herself in tears, and like in her other apparitions she made an urgent appeal to penance and prayer. Our Lady appeared as the 'Powerful Mediatrix of Grace'. Moreover she asked to be invoked in the Litanies with the titles of 'Queen of the Universe' and 'Queen of the souls of Purgatory'. She gave each girl a message containing a secret that the others could not hear, to tell only to the Holy Father.

On the day November 3, 1940, at 8:30 PM, the Virgin appeared for the last time to the visionaries to whom she said farewell with these words: 'Now, my dear girls, I bless you with this goodbye. Remain good and faithful to God! Pray the Rosary often and willingly ... See you in Heaven' Here is a summary of the main appeals that the Virgin Mary made during her apparitions at Heede: 'Pray and make sacrifices for sinners. Offer yourselves and your works to the Eternal Father through my mediation and abandon yourselves to me without reservations. Pray the Rosary. Do not ask much for exterior things... Do not expect miracles and wonders. I will work in secret as powerful Mediatrix. I will make you obtain the peace of the heart, if you shall accomplish my will. Then Jesus Christ shall reign as King of Peace upon the nations, do your part to make my will known everywhere. I am the powerful Mediatrix of Grace. It is the will of the Eternal Father that the world may recognize this mission, entrusted to His Handmaid. The people must recognize me as the eternal spouse of the Holy Spirit, the faithful Mediatrix of all graces... It depends on you to shorten the period of darkness. Your blood and your sacrifices will destroy the image of the beast. Then I will be able to manifest myself to everyone through the glory of the Almighty. Choose my sign, so that the One and True God may soon be adored and honored. Pray and offer sacrifices through me. Pray always. Recite the Rosary. Make your requests to the Father through my Immaculate Heart; if they lead to His glory, He will grant them to you. In your prayers do not ask for transient things, but ask for graces for the souls, for your community, for the nations, so that all may come to love and honor the Divine Heart. Keep the Saturdays that were consecrated to me according to my desire. The apostles and priests must consecrate themselves to me, so that the great sacrifices asked to them by God, placed in my hands, may increase in holiness and value. Bring to me many sacrifices as offering. Offer me your prayers, as sacrifices of 'atonement'. If you apply yourselves without reservations, I will take care of the rest. I will place crosses heavy like the sea on my children because I love them in my Immaculate Heart. I ask you to be ready to carry the cross in order that peace may be obtained. I urge the people to fulfill my desires promptly, because the fulfillment of my will is necessary today and always for the greater honor and glory of God. The Eternal Father threatens a terrible tragedy for all those who reject his will. The announcement of these revelations must be given, at first, to the general public. However, the crowds will not take them seriously... I will work wonders like there never have been, in the souls of that small group that begins to do my will. But only my children will know these wonders. It is my will that my message be made known to the public literally. A small group will understand correctly my message and will bring

it to fulfillment. The majority of the people will not pay attention to it, and rather will reject it and resent it. But do not fear! I am with you. These times require atonement. If you will pray I will take care of the rest...'

Five years after the end of the apparitions of the Virgin Mary, in 1945, the celestial visits resumed, but this time it was Jesus Himself to appear. He came to urge humanity to accept the messages of His Most Holy Mother; in His message he spoke of "a minor judgment" and announced (like Our Lady had already done a few years earlier) His next coming to establish His Kingdom on earth, a Kingdom of peace.

'Humanity has not listened to My Holy Mother, who revealed herself at Fatima to urge it to do penance. Now I Myself have come, to warn the world; the times are serious! May the people finally do penance for their sins; may they distance themselves from evil with all their heart and may they pray, pray much, in order that the indignation of God be calmed. May they especially recite often the Holy Rosary; this prayer can do much with God. Fewer entertainments and pastimes! ... I am very near, I am with you, do not fear. You will rejoice and thank me. Those who await me will have my help, my grace and my love. But for those who are not in state of grace, it will be frightening. The angels of justice are already scattered in the world. I will make Myself known to the people. Every soul will recognize me as their God. I am coming! I am at the door! My love has planned this action before the creation of the world. The people do not listen to my calls; they close their ears, they resist grace and reject My mercy; My love, My merits. The world agonizes in the swamp of guilt. Hatred and envy fill the hearts of people. All this is the work of Satan. The world lies in dense darkness. This generation would deserve to be wiped out; but I wish to show Myself merciful. The angel of peace will not delay in coming down to earth. I want to heal and save. Over the wounds, which are now bleeding, mercy wins, and justice triumphs. But may My faithful not sleep like the disciples in the Garden of Olives; rather may they constantly draw from the treasure of my merits. May they prepare themselves for great things. I am coming Myself and I will manifest my will. All those who have suffered in these last times, are My martyrs and they prepare the new harvest for the Church. They have taken part in my sorrowful way. My daughters, I am coming soon, very soon! The things that will come shall surpass by far what happened. The Mother of God, My Mother, and the Angels will take part in it. Hell by now believes itself certain of victory, but I will take it away. Many blaspheme me and thus I must let them fall on the world of misfortunes, since through this manner many will be saved. Blessed are those who endure everything in reparation for those who offend me. I am coming, and with me peace shall come. I will build my Kingdom with a small number of elect. This Kingdom will come suddenly, sooner than what one thinks. I will make My light shine, which to some will be blessing and to others darkness. Humanity will recognize my love and my power. I will make known my justice and my mercy; My dear children: the hour is drawing near. Pray unceasingly and you will not be confused. I gather My elect. They will converge from every part of the world and they will glorify Me. I am coming! Blessed are those who are ready, blessed are those who will listen to me'.

The inquiry on the truthfulness of the apparitions lasted a long time. In 1941 two members of the commission died. On July 23, 1942, Monsignor Berning expressed his position during an homily pronounced at the place: 'A rich blessing has gushed from Heede. I have been able to observe that the Marian devotion has increased in an extraordinary manner... I learned that the sacramental life, in particular, has bloomed in an extraordinary way in your parish'. On February 3, 1943, the prelate sent a positive report to the Holy Office and then he named a new theological commission on March 7, 1946. It authorized the faithful to place in the parish cemetery a statue of Mary Queen of the Universe, made according to the instructions of the visionaries. After the death of Monsignor Berning (1955), his successor, Monsignor Wittler authorized the construction of an oratory in the cemetery. In 1973 nocturnal Eucharistic adoration on the first Saturday of the month was permitted in the parish church. The sick were blessed on the Monday of Pentecost. On August 22, 1977 the new church 'Mary Queen of the Universe' was consecrated. In 2000, Monsignor Franz Joseph Hermann Bode, Bishop of Osnabrück, elevated the two churches of Heede to the rank of Diocesan Shrines. The following year the German motorcyclists chose Heede as their Shrine, where they go on pilgrimage every year on the second Sunday of June.



Depiction of the apparition
Entrance of the Shrine of Heede
Interior of the Shrine of Heede
Every place where Our Lady appeared
Chapel of the Virgin Mary
Every year thousands of pilgrims go to Heede
The visionaries of Heede: Margaret Grottel, Susanna, Anna and Maria in 1898
The cemetery of Heede where the visionaries had the apparitions