

## **The Hand of Holy Virgin: all the coincidences that prove the miraculous medal**

written by Salvatore Carloni. You can read freely in Italian language on the following official internet site at the link:

<https://www.culturacattolica.it/cristianesimo/maria/apparizioni/per-una-storia-della-medaglia-miracolosa>

On November 27, 1830, the Blessed Virgin appeared to Saint Catherine Labouré to give us the miraculous medal. There is an extraordinary series of coincidences that have occurred since the striking conversion of the Jewish atheist Alphonse Ratisbonne. And Father Alphonse Ratisbonne was born and died in two absolutely special days that are a permanent sign before our eyes

### **THEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL PREMISE**

1830: a year of extraordinary grace for France and for the whole world. The Blessed Virgin appeared three times in the heart of Paris at 140 rue du Bac to the very humble Sister Catherine Labouré, entrusting her on November 27, 1830 with the task of coining a very particular medal with a special iconography with the prayer: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee". Our Lady said that those who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck. But Saint Catherine Labouré also knew during her apparition that whoever would wear that medal will have a very special protection of the Mother of God. The Blessed Virgin also predicted to Saint Catherine that her community would live with great spiritual intensity the cult of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the forms requested by Christ through Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in Paray le Monial. The Chapel of the Mother House, where happened these Marian apparitions to Saint Catherine Labouré, was precisely dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Monsignor Etienne, in his circular of December 8, 1853 to the congregation of Saint Catherine Labouré, underlined how Divine Providence had wanted that the Chapel of the apparitions had been dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus well before 1830. We must remember that the miracle to Sister Simon Marie Pierre, approved for the beatification of St. John Paul II, happened on June 3, 2005, the day of the Feast of the Sacred Heart. The second miracle approved for the canonization of St. John Paul II happened on May 1, 2011, the day of the Feast of Divine Mercy. You can read both of these very special liturgical dates with the direct testimonies of the two miraculous miracles in the wonderful book: "Stories about Saint John Paul II" Ignatius Press in which there are also the testimonies of many close friends and co-workers of Saint John Paul II. Both these liturgical feasts were instituted by the Church because Jesus explicitly asked for their institution through Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, mystic of the apparitions for the cult of the Sacred Heart, and Saint Faustina Kowalska, mystic of the apparitions for the cult of Divine Mercy. For both these cults of the Sacred Heart and of Divine Mercy, Our Lord Jesus made many promises perpetually valid for anyone who fulfills his particular requests. You can find everything explained at the two links:

1) promises for the cult of the Sacred Heart:

<https://www.culturacattolica.it/cristianesimo/le-piaghe-del-messia/la-passione-del-signore-vista-dai-mistici/il-tempo-prima-della-fine-di-questo-mondo-%20-%20A8-the-time-of-divine-mercy>

2) promises for the cult of Divine Mercy:

<https://www.culturacattolica.it/cristianesimo/le-piaghe-del-messia/la-passione-del-lord-seen-by-mystics/the-cult-of-divine-mercy>

### **THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL**

In the life of Saint Catherine Labouré there were mystical and prophetic episodes as is told by well-known mariologist father René Laurentin in his book "Caterina Labouré – La medaglia miracolosa" Mimep Docete editions, 320 pages, ISBN 9788884241887, with particular documentation from the Official Archive of the Daughters of Charity Motherhouse at Rue du Bac in Paris. In this book, among other things, you will find in addition to the apparitions of the Virgin to Saint Catherine also various supernatural episodes such as the episode of the prophecy that Saint

Catherine made to the priest Don Olmer and which two years later was accomplished literally. And you will also find the testimony of Sister Dufes, Mother Superior of Saint Catherine, who describes the sweet death of Saint Catherine. As Father Laurentin tells in his book, during the cholera epidemic of 1832 in Paris, which broke out during the carnival season, the miraculous medal was a supernatural protection and healing. After a first setback, the epidemic resumed violently in June 1832 and on pag. 88 Father Laurentin tells the story of little Caroline Nenain (a pupil of the school in Louvre square) suffering from cholera who was the only one in her school class who did not receive the miraculous medal. The sisters of Saint Catherine Labouré gave her the miraculous medal and she recovered immediately. In Paris alone there were about 20,000 deaths from cholera during this epidemic that reached the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies, Portugal and Sweden with an enormous number of deaths.

Among other things, Saint Catherine learned from the Blessed Virgin that 40 years and 10 months later the Archbishop of Paris would be killed, as exactly happened. When the Holy Virgin predicted this death She used the expression "blood will flow" and "week of blood" was called by historians the week from 21 to 28 May 1871 as can be read on the official Treccani encyclopedia website: [http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/la-comune\\_%28Dictionary-of-History%29/](http://www.treccani.it/enciclopedia/la-comune_%28Dictionary-of-History%29/)

Exactly on May 24, 1871 Mons. Darbois Archbishop of Paris was killed.

In the following official video you can see the Chapel where the Blessed Virgin appeared at Rue du Bac in Paris: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aTnzlRultc>

In 1933 the body of Saint Catherine Labouré was exhumed and found uncorrupted: today it is in the Chapel where there were the apparitions of Our Lady and where there are the urn with the heart of Saint Vincent de Paul and the body of Saint Luise de Marillac. Saint Catherine was beatified by Pius XI in 1933 and was canonized by Pius XII in 1947. The story of the miraculous medal starts from Paris but it is in Rome that there is an absolutely striking episode that proves how the Holy Virgin is a Mother who always keeps her promise for the miracolous medal: in fact, near Piazza di Spagna there is the Basilica of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte also known as the church of the Madonna del Miracolo. Pope Benedict XV called this church the "Roman Lourdes": what a special place of grace! Here, on January 20, 1842, the Blessed Virgin appeared to the Jewish atheist Alphonse Ratisbonne who had been given the miraculous medal by his friend Baron de Bussières. Alphonse Ratisbonne wore the medal only to scoff at it but, after the apparition of the Virgin, he converted and became a Catholic priest. That January 20, 1842 Alphonse Ratisbonne was 27 years old exactly (his birthday was on May 1) and precisely on November 27, 1830 the Virgin appeared to Saint Catherine Labouré with the gift of the miraculous medal. As is told by Father Francesco Trebisonda in this TV2000 video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGoK\\_9yhEuk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGoK_9yhEuk)

that January 20 Alphonse Ratisbonne had entered Sant'Andrea delle Fratte with the intention of admiring the artistic masterpieces of art but no artistic work attracted him. Ratisbonne was only attracted to the Chapel where the Virgin later appeared. And there is no doubt why Ratisbonne was guided exactly up there: he had to admire the face of the one whom the sacred liturgy defines as "the masterpiece of the Holy Spirit" in the Missal of the Blessed Virgin Mary promulgated by St. John Paul II: <https://www.latheotokos.it/modules.php?name=News&file=print&sid=1851>

There is a first series of coincidences that unite the two key characters in the story of the miraculous medal:

Saint Catherine Labouré was born on May 2, 1806 and was died on December 31, 1876.

Father Alphonse Ratisbonne was born on May 1, 1814 and was died on May 6, 1884.

It should be noted that:

- 1) they were both born in the month of May which is the Marian month par excellence
- 2) they were born in the first two days of May
- 3) they both lived exactly 70 years and according to Psalm 90 verse 10: "Seventy is the sum of our years".

Let us now return to Father Alphonse and the last days of his life: on May 1 1884 (day of his 70th birthday), Father Alfonso catch pneumonia in Ain Karem where he lived in a small cell with a straw

mattress, a horsehair pillow, a basin and a desk. On May 6, fully aware of the gravity of his evil, he said "I would like to die reciting the Memorare, o Maria" and before dying he seemed to be enraptured by a last ecstasy for a few minutes. Father Alfonso died peacefully by pronouncing the names of Jesus and Mary. But before dying he also said these other indelible words of love: "I offer my life for the salvation of Israel". Will Father Alphonse be a new saint canonized by the Catholic Church? Only the Lord can answer this question but there is a final coincidence about Father Alphonse Ratisbonne: this coincidence is about the dates of his birth and his death. It is an absolutely special coincidence that can only be understood in the light of the fact that Father Alphonse was a Hebrew Catholic and died in Ain Karem, located about 5 west of Jerusalem:

- 1) date of birth: May 1, 1814 that converted in the Hebrew calendar was the 11 of Lyar, 5574
- 2) date of death: May 6, 1884 that converted in the Hebrew calendar was the 11 of Lyar, 5644

In the Talmud it is written that Moses was born on the 7th of Adar and died exactly on the 7th of Adar. In the Talmud, King David was born on the day of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot and he died on the day of the Jewish holiday of Shavuot. The Talmud teaches that truly holy people (tzaddikim) die on their birthday: it is considered a particular blessing to die on one's birthday. It is absolutely striking that Almighty God chose 11 of Lyar as both the dates of birth and of death for Father Alphonse Ratisbonne. Will Father Alphonse be canonized by the Catholic Church? Only the Lord will be able to answer when He wills. Meanwhile, we must remember all the good that Father Alphonse did in the Holy Land: in 1856 Father Alphonse with his brother Father Theodore bought a piece of land in Jerusalem where was found a pavement identified with the Lithostrote, which is the place of the Ecce Homo mentioned in the Gospel of John 19:13:

<https://www.eccehomopilgrimhouse.com/litho>

With his brother Theodore, Father Alphonse had founded the Congregation of Our Lady of Sion, Father Alfonso worked for the good of many in the Holy Land:

<https://www.notredamedesion.org/about/our-beginnings/?lang=fr>

In Jerusalem the two Ratisbonne brothers founded two convents: the Ecce Homo convent in the Old City and St. Peter's convent in the center of the western part. They also bought land in Ain Karem, located about 5 west of Jerusalem, where they founded the third convent and where Father Alphonse is buried: <https://www.notredamedesion.org/centres/ein-kerem-maison-daccueil/?lang=fr> According to tradition, confirmed by archaeological excavations, Ein Karem is the site of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth: in fact, here are the Sanctuary of the Visitation and the Sanctuary of Saint John the Baptist. But the surprises of Divine Providence do not end here about Ein Karem and Father Alphonse Ratisbonne: in his book: "The apparitions of the miraculous medal " Vincentian Cooperation editions, (published in France by Editions Resiac in 1988) on page 120 Father Luigi Chierotti has written the paragraph entitled: " A prodigy on the tomb of Alphonse Ratisbonne (1966)" that contains the exact text appeared in the officiale magazine: "The echo of Mother House" published on June 1966 by the Daughters of Charity in Naples (Italy). This text was written in 1966 by Sister Bernes, Superior of the Daughters of Charity in Jerusalem, who told how in their home in Ein Karem a worker, cutting a branch of the tree that was in front of the statue of the Immaculate Conception, discovered an extraordinary prodigy: in the section of the branch was impressed exactly the back part of the miraculous medal. As Sister Bernes wrote, the Israeli Authorities asked for a map of that property: so Sister Bernes knew that that tree stood on the land bought by Father Alphonse Ratisbonne.

Father Luigi Chierotti, author of this and other books on the miraculous medal, was priest of the Congregation of Saint Vincent de Paul: the whole priestly life of Father Chierotti was indelibly marked by the apparition of November 27, 1830 in which the Virgin had given the miraculous medal. Father Chierotti was born on August 26, 1922 and died exactly on August 27, 2008: the Blessed Virgin wanted to leave her official signature once again.

But about Father Alfonso Ratisbonne and the miraculous medal you must read the extraordinary series of coincidences of dates and facts that are the proves that the Blessed Virgin clearly wanted the approval of the current flag of the European Union:

<https://www.culturacattolica.it/cristianesimo/maria/culto-di-maria/il-grande-mistero-della-b>

Bandiera-dell-immacolata-che-sventola-sull-europa

But the coincidences don't end there. In fact, Father Alphonse Ratisbonne had a nephew named Louis Gustave Fortuné Ratisbonne born in Strasbourg just like his uncle. Louis Gustave Fortuné Ratisbonne is known for his poetic translation into French of Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy, a work that was awarded 3 times by the French Academy: Montyon Prize for L'Enfer in 1854, Le Purgatoire in 1857 and Le Paradis in 1859. Louis Gustave Fortuné Ratisbonne died on September 24, 1900, that is exactly the same day in 1848 when his uncle Alfonso Ratisbonne had celebrated his first mass as Catholic priest.

Furthermore, as the french Catholic philosopher Jean Guittou recalls in him: "The miraculous medal beyond superstition" Edizioni San Paolo, Saint Catherine Labouré had a vision on June 6, 1830, the feast of the Holy Trinity, and she had seen Christ the King stripped of his ornaments. Saint Catherine herself affirmed in front of this vision that the King of France was about to be dethroned and that there would be various misfortunes for this. Just the following month from 27 to 29 July 1830 there was the revolution which deposed Charles X, the last king of the Capetian dynasty. Jean Guittou does not remember him in his book but on July 29, 1827, three years before the last day of that revolution, Louis Gustave Fortuné Ratisbonne was born as you can read in his biography on the official website of the Fédération des Sociétés d'Histoire et d'Archéologie d'Alsace at the link: <https://www.alsace-histoire.org/netdba/ratisbonne-louis-gustave-fortune/>

I also recommend another book: it is a collection of some great spiritual and material graces and conversions obtained through the miraculous medal and I found this book in the Basilica of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte in Rome where the Madonna appeared to Alphonse Ratisbonne. The title is: "Our Lady of the Miracle and the medal of the Immaculate Conception. Testimonies of graces received" Publisher Velar, 120 pages, ISBN 9788871359113. On pages 75-76 of this book, there is the direct testimony of Sister Antonietta Ciancullo of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux: Sister Antonietta in 2001 (in the book you will also read the day and the exact month) was hit by a car and rolled onto the hood, then passed out. At this point there is also the testimony of the investor written by her in her hand. After Sister Antonietta was taken to the hospital, the doctors did not find "not even a scratch".

Then read the following testimony of the Ven. Father John Hardon SJ, a well-known American Jesuit who died in 2000: he has held many times in the USA. Father Hardon was an eyewitness of the miracle to the child in a coma (with a smashed skull and brain damage ascertained by radiographic investigations) who woke up after a few moments that Father Hardon himself had put the miraculous medal around his neck:

[http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Miracles/Miracles\\_002.htm](http://www.therealpresence.org/archives/Miracles/Miracles_002.htm)

And the brain damage after waking from a coma was completely gone!

When this miracle happened, Father Hardon was chaplain at Saint Alexis Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. Father Hardon was consultant for the realization of the current Catechism of the Catholic Church wanted by St. John Paul II in 1992.

Then read the story of Mrs. Sônia Perpetua Venâncio Crozatto, missionary of the Canção Nova Community, who after 2 spontaneous abortions, thanks to the medal miraculous, she had two girls: the first was born on May 24, feast of Mary Help of Christians, and the following year the second one was born on October 7, feast of Our Lady of the Rosary:

<https://it.aleteia.org/2019/11/29/miracoli-per-intercessione-della-madonna-delle-grazie/>

Note that the first baby was born in the month of the first Fatima apparition and the second baby was born in the month of the last Fatima apparition. This news in the original Portuguese language can be found with the photo of Mrs. Sônia Perpetua Venâncio Crozatto at the link:

<https://sb24horas.com.br/muitos-milagres-alcancamos-por-intercessao-de-nossa-senhora-das-gracas/?fbclid=IwAR2Lnv7zbR9540sIjxSWErjC5sLv849ItQAAb0T-CzWHF41rKaNjjc0Sww>

Saint John Paul II was personally in the chapel of the apparition to Saint Catherine Labouré on May 31, 1980 for the 150th anniversary of the apparitions. I briefly quote the exact unequivocal words of Saint John Paul II: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who turn to you. This is the prayer

that you inspired, Mary, to Saint Catherine Labouré, in this same place, 150 years ago ". Find this speech on the official website of the Holy See:

[http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/it/speeches/1980/may/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_spe\\_19800531\\_medaglia-miracolosa.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/it/speeches/1980/may/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19800531_medaglia-miracolosa.html)