

## Garabandal and our personal experiences.



Garabandal is a small village in northern Spain, in the Santander province, near the Picos de Europa mountains, a rugged and beautiful setting. Its full name is San Sebastian of Garabandal. It is located 600 meters above sea level, some 57 miles from the capital of the province. To get there one must climb steep, poor roads. No more than 300 people live in Garabandal. The town is impressively quiet. There is no doctor in the town and

no resident pastor at the parish church. The pastor from Cosio, the next town down the road, used to celebrate Mass there on Sunday.

In the mid 1990's Nick and I went on a pilgrimage, there were about 50 of us all together, part of that pilgrimage was to visit Garabandal. As we approached the area we noticed the beauty of the mountain range and how steep it was. As the bus began its trek up hill, we all held our breath as we didn't know how we would make it, then we had some pretty treacherous bends in the road to contend with. We all began praying the Rosary for the bus driver to stay on the narrow road. As we got closer to the top of the mountain, we felt the bus lean to the left side, we thought that the bus was going over the side, when all of a sudden we felt something or someone lift the bus and put it back onto the road. We all felt that St. Michael was with us. Thankfully we reached our destination.

While visiting Garabandal we met some of the visionaries and also a very nice couple named Helen and Beville Outlaw who are from Melbourne Beach, Florida. These people have bought land in Garabandal and started their ministry by living in a trailer, they have since built the most extraordinary home. Their home has been specially adapted to accommodate the disabled and infirm who will come for the time of the Great Miracle. They graciously invited us into their home and took us on a tour. It is incredible. On the lower floor, it is situated for stretchers and wheel chairs to be placed, and a view of the Pines (the top of the mountain) for the infirm to view. We were invited to view a video of their ministry and they also had some relics of Padre Pio which they let us venerate. As I was sitting at their dining room table, Beville said to me "you are sitting in the same chair that Mother Angelica sat when she was here a few months ago, now come with me and I'll show you which room she stayed in." As I followed him and we went into which I called 'the blue room', he opened a door and there was a deck overlooking the mountain, it was the most incredible view I had ever seen...then Beville said to me "when you come back for the Miracle I would like you and your husband to stay with us, and this will be your room." These are only a few of the extraordinary blessings we experienced on this pilgrimage.

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## *Our Lady of Garabandal Spain*



*The long treacherous climb to the top  
of the mountain,  
which is called 'The Pines'  
is lined with  
the Stations of the Cross.  
It felt as if you were walking  
towards Heaven.*

## Garabandal

\*On the evening of June 18, 1961, four girls were playing on the outskirts of the town—Conchita Gonzales, Maria Dorores (Mari-loli) Mazon, Jacinta Gonzalez and Maria Cruz Gonzales (not related despite having the same name.) Maria Cruz was eleven, the others twelve, and all were from poor families.

Suddenly they heard a loud noise, like thunder, and saw before them the bright figure of the Archangel Michael. On the following days the Archangel appeared to them again in the same place. He announced that on July 2 they would see Our Lady. This was the beginning of the Garabandal events. Over a period of 4 years the children witnessed and spoke with Our Lady and during that time She issued many warnings and requests for a return to prayer.

One of the really significant events to occur was the Miracle of The Host. On May 2, 1962, the angel told Conchita that God would perform a miracle so that all people would believe: they would see the Sacred Host on her tongue at the moment of Communion and that she should make this known fifteen days in advance. On July 18, 1962, the town was crowded with visitors, At midnight Conchita, who had remained in her home continually surrounded by visitors, entered into ecstasy and went out into the street. At a short distance from her house she fell down on her knees in the midst of the crowd. Lanterns were focused on her. Conchita put out her tongue upon which nothing was resting, as everyone could see. In a few moments, a white host appeared on her tongue and remained there for a few minutes. A businessman from Barcelona, Don Alejandro Damians, standing less than three feet from the girl, secured some very good moving pictures. In the film there appeared 79 pictures of the extraordinary scene.

The apparitions in Garabandal were many but the main theme was the request for a return to God and at the end of Her time with the children Our Lady told of three time periods - the Warning, The Miracle at the Pines and The Punishment. The Warning is to happen 1 year prior to the Miracle which will be announced to the world 8 days prior by Conchita. Our Lady told Conchita that if we do not pay attention to the message, the Punishment will be visited on the whole world after the Miracle.

"The cup is already filling up. Since the message of 1961 has not been heeded the cup is flowing over. Many cardinals, many bishops and many priests are on the road to perdition and are taking many souls with them. Less and less importance is being given to the Eucharist." The reference to the 'cup flowing over' was made in 1965.

As always, the Church has acted with great prudence toward the apparitions. It took thirteen years for the Church to give the official approval to the Fatima apparitions even after seventy thousand people witnessed the miracle of the sun. No condemnation has come from either the local Bishop or Rome as to the reported apparitions in Garabandal.

The Garabandal events are of such an awesome nature that the seal of authenticity can only come from an act of God and that is what we eagerly await in the Warning and Miracle and in the Sign that will be left at the Pines in Garabandal until the end of time. And let's not forget that Fr. Luis Andreu and Padre Pio have already been given a preview of the Miracle. So those who believe in the events of Garabandal can take heart and be assured that the status of the events is the same as it has always been and will probably remain so until the great events take place. Then, as Our Lady has assured us, "All will believe." \*(excerpted from: [www.circleofprayer.com](http://www.circleofprayer.com))