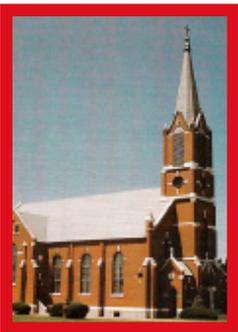




Blessed 8th Day!



May Jesus and Mary be loved by all hearts!
Happy New Year and Happy Feast to all Theotokans!



You are invited to join Wichita Theotokans January 1st

'Tis the season to celebrate with family! I'll be in Kansas a few days to see my siblings *and* my *spiritual* Brothers and Sisters! Father Bernie Gorges will also be happy to see the Theotokans. He is the new pastor at Saint Joseph parish in Ost, Kansas (about half an hour NW of Wichita). He will celebrate the Sunday 9:00am Mass of the Solemnity of the Mother of God, then join us in the parish hall for fellowship, coffee and a bit of pot-luck. Bring friends! **12917 E. Maple Grove -- Mt. Hope (Ost), KS**



More on Melanie's "Purgatory-marked" Clothing

TV2000it, a large channel in Italy, filmed an interview at the Redemptorist convent where Melanie's "hemographed" linens were discovered in early 2022. A YouTube follower in Ireland has graciously translated the interview into English. She reached out to the Italian channel and they will be adding our captions to the video. What a *grace* to have such a discovery nearly 120 years after her death!!! Truly this is the time for Melanie to become known!!! *Transcription and link at the end of this newsletter.*

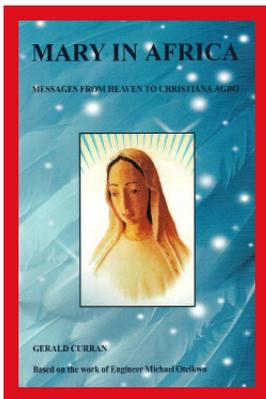


Amazing Polly

Grueling research to alert Catholics to possible deception

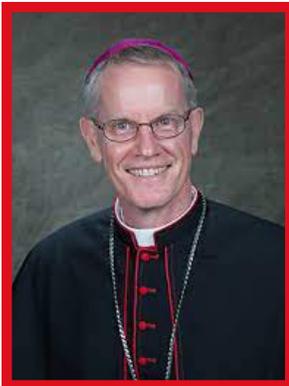
I have never had an "inside" source to fully vet several popular, but dubious, apparitions coming from Nigeria. The Tulsa Diocese is blessed with several Nigerian priests. I had the privilege of sitting down with one who stays in close contact with his clergy friends back home. He promised to discuss my concerns with them on his post-Christmas vacation, if I would provide the information. I had collected a great deal in past years, and assumed I could just forward the documents to him. But, some websites had gone dormant and new ones have appeared! I've spent many days and nights this Advent going down mind-boggling rabbit holes. *Amazing Polly*

investigates connections between political entities. I feel like I've become *Amazing Anne* because many of these visionaries are interconnected! I look forward to sharing with you new and trustworthy information when this priest returns to the USA.



Unexpected reward, a publishing solution!

A Youtube follower recently sent me a copy of his self-published book on the beautiful Aokpe apparitions. I didn't explore his material until I began my research for the Nigerian priest. I was greatly impressed with the quality of the layout, the binding and the printing, so I researched this company and several competitors. Two French publishers have insisted that I find a market for our English translations before they release the © to us. This will be a practical and economical solution for publishing, marketing and storing the inventory of our Marian books and e-books!



Kept in a holding pattern waiting for permission to land

My November meeting with the Vicar General in Tulsa was delightful. He is a prayerful man and enthusiastic for religious life. I presented him with a full dossier and 19 letters of recommendation because he asked for a "big stack." His homework was to review my documents, and to study the new procedures laid down by the Vatican for the process of a diocese to assist new congregations. Evidently I passed the first test with Bishop Konderla's "gatekeeper" because he is planning to present my "case" to the Bishop in early 2023. *Pray!*



First Saturday Apostolate and Music

I was advised to get better known in the diocese. St. Thomas More parish has a unique celebration of First Saturdays. Their lively interactive meditation bonds Catholics into a spontaneous prayer group. Many keep coming back, long after they complete the 5 Saturdays. I am helping to promote this method because so many lay Catholics today want to pray with others and this is wonderful fellowship. We are culling talents to add Marian hymns to 1st Sat. Mass. I am also serving as Sunday musician for a Catholic retirement center. I need to keep up my cithara skills to promote Gregorian chant, as part of the Rule of Mary.



A Word to Mary's Volunteers Standing in the Wings

Why have I "wasted" your good will and talents by failing to provide many of you with projects? *Please* believe that you are deeply appreciated, and you will be called upon in 2023. We have hundreds of "gems" that could be uploaded to the House of Mary website, but if we hold back a little longer, I am hoping we can brand them with the official name of the new Congregation and its Diocese. Also, I've been culling information from our English translations to build tables to append to our publications, thus providing some historical background regarding Melanie's saga with Mary's Rule. A new friend in Tulsa let me use his business software to test templates. I was coming to the ideal solution when I discovered the self-publishing companies, mentioned above. *It's all coming together!!!*

("Purgatory-marked" Clothing next page)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx_U22vWFog

TV2000it - Investigation - At the boundaries of the Sacred: “Garments and Strange Phenomena of the Visionary of LaSalette”

English translation

A new investigation “At the boundaries of the Sacred” with a report on the discovery, in the archives of the Basilica of St. Alphonsus Maria de’ Liguori in Pagani (Salerno Province), concerning some clothing that probably belonged to Melanie Calvat, the visionary of LaSalette. This discovery could rewrite the history of one of the most important officially recognized Marian Apparitions ever!

David Murgia - We have arrived in Pagani in the Province of Salerno. We are here because this is an important place: here in fact St. Alphonsus Maria de’ Liguori, the saint of the century of enlightenment, died. Well, in this very place an exceptional discovery has been made that, if confirmed, could change the history of one of the most important Apparitions of the Church namely that of LaSalette! Father Paolo, where is St. Alphonsus Maria de’ Liguori buried?

Father Paolo - Currently his mortal remains rest in the little chapel that is next door, within the very framework of this wonderful Basilica, dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel and St. Alphonsus.

David Murgia - Would you show them to us?

Father Paolo – Of course.

David Murgia - Right in the place where one of the greatest proponents of devotion, of true and authentic devotion to Our Lady died, you have discovered something that has to do with one of the greatest Marian Apparitions of the last century, that is, the Apparition of Our Lady at LaSalette.

Father Paolo - St. Alphonsus loved Our Lady viscerally. He defended the Immaculate Conception so vigorously, and then the Apparition (of the Immaculate Conception) that is to say, the one in Lourdes where everything was resolved in the moment when Bernadette’s priest asked: “but what is the name of this Lady?” and she responds: “Her name is the Immaculate Conception.”

David Murgia - What do we have then in this box?

Father Anthony Pupo - So in this box we have some clothing with clear blood traces, or hemographs.

David Murgia - So blood.

Father Anthony Pupo – Blood, yes.

David Murgia - When did you find them?

Father Anthony Pupo - These clothes have been here in this archive for a very long time, we just didn’t know until a few days ago to whom they belonged. They had been set aside in a corner of the archive.

David Murgia - Can we say that if our, and your, hypotheses were confirmed, it would be an incredible discovery that would change the history of one of the most important Apparitions of the Church?

Father Anthony Pupo - I think so, because we—as until very recently did not know to whom they belonged. Then through our work of research in the archives, we discovered in a manuscript by one of our Redemptorist Fathers that these garments had been given by Melanie Calvat's confessor to our Postulator General at the time, who then deposited them here in the archives.

David Murgia - So here would be the clothing worn by one of the visionaries of LaSalette, that is, of Melanie Calvat, the girl, the French woman, the recipient, together with Maximin Giraud of the Apparition of LaSalette. This was the first official publicly recognized Apparition of the Catholic Church, but more importantly it is the Apparition that were made famous in the world because of the famous Secret, or Secrets, of LaSalette of which both visionaries said they were recipients.

Before we show you the exceptional discovery, however, we must take a step back into the past when, again in one of our (television) investigations, we had managed to document that these so-called Secrets of LaSalette had been discovered in the secret Archives of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the former Holy Office.

In 1846, a beautiful Lady appeared in a village, LaSalette, to two shepherds Melanie Calvat and Maximin Giraud. This Apparition gained the official recognition of the Church. The beautiful Lady also delivered a Secret to each to the two seers, and these, known precisely as the Secrets of LaSalette, for over 170 years have been the focus of attention of scholars and the curiosity and even a morbid fascination of the Faithful. The contents of these Secrets have been much talked about, and over the years, more than one version of these Secrets had been written, versions that do not, however, coincide with the original writings.

We must remember, however, that because of these Secrets and the speculations regarding their contents, the two seers would be shrouded in a kind of black legend, and for this they would suffer greatly in life. After death they were consigned to oblivion and forgetfulness. Especially for Melanie, the affair of the Secrets made her life difficult by creating around her a climate of distrust and sometimes even derision. Because of this Melanie was forced to wander from town to town until she died in Altamura.

Father Gian Matteo Roggio - Melanie Calvat is a complex person because in her own right she is a wounded woman, wounded by life. She was a child forced to beg in the streets of her town. And a person who felt rejected, excluded, cast aside, almost a person who had no right to live. The Apparition gave her a new life; the Apparition gave Melanie a chance to get out of this situation. The Apparition gave Melanie the chance to feel welcomed, the chance to feel alive.

Father Anthony Pupo - We have 18 artifacts.

David Murgia - 18 artifacts, that is 18 garments that possibly belonged to Melanie Calvat and that, if the hypotheses were confirmed, would be the object of particular mystical phenomena.

Father Anthony Pupo - Yes, on some of the artifacts the dates on which these phenomena occurred are also given. And in some other artifacts also names that refer to priests whom Melanie knew. Melanie's confessors were the Fusco brothers who were priests originally from Castellammare-di-Stabia. They were Redemptorists to whom Bishop Petagna—the one who had brought Melanie from France to Castellammare— had assigned these Fathers to her as particular confessors.

David Murgia - Let's open some of these garments now so we can understand what the phenomena are.

Father Anthony Pupo - Here we have the date December 1876, the eve of the Immaculate Conception. As you can see.

David Murgia - So this is a tunic, a dress.

Father Anthony Pupo - A petticoat.

David Murgia - This is the petticoat of one of the seers of LaSalette, and the enigma is these drawings . . .

Father Anthony Pupo - We think they are hemographic drawings.

David Murgia - So they are drawings made with blood. This is a typical mystical phenomenon that so many mystics and saints had, even some canonization candidates for example Natuzza Evolo. Natuzza Evolo was also famous for these phenomena.

Father Anthony Pupo - For these manifestations.

David Murgia - These types of manifestations are common to some figures even for example Natuzza Evolo. The mystic of Paravati was a recipient of them. Or let us think for example of the mystical phenomena of Padre Pio with the stigmata, or with other inexplicable phenomena such as bilocation.

Father Gian Matteo Roggio - These images are hemographs, that is, drawings because a drawing is an ordered image. They are images or letters or words, that in some mystical experiences we find on the clothing worn by these people or even on their bodies. And on a mystic level, at the level of supernatural gifts, hemographs tell us that these images were not made by the person. It is not that the person went and drew something either on his skin or on his clothing. They are not tattoos as are popular today. Instead, they are images that the person does not have authorship of, that is, they are images that he did not make.

Father Anthony Pupo - In the various biographies there is no mention of mystical phenomena of Melanie, only Saint Annibale Maria DiFrancia mentions the mystical phenomena that he witnessed in her. However we have no other testimonies. So if this information that we have before us, is confirmed, it opens up a new story also about Melanie, and phenomena that up to this moment were unknown.

Father Gian Matteo Roggio - If these elements that we have rediscovered today are proven in their authenticity and also provide the possibility of a supernatural origin, this would allow us to rewrite Melanie's life by removing her from those clichés or descriptions that have been attached to her, such as "the hysterical woman" or "the misunderstood saint." Currently Melanie's life is interpreted under these two lenses, under these two categories.

Father Anthony Pupo - There are several handkerchiefs with different initials that probably... here we have a "VV" that could belong to Vincenzo Venditti who was the postulator of the cause of St. Gerard Maiella. Then we have cloths that, we are told, were placed on her forehead to wipe the [blood from the stigmata on her] forehead.

David Murgia - These manifestations, when would Melanie have had them?

Father Anthony Pupo - According to the dates here, we are in 1873, February 25.

David Murgia - But she always had them, normally during the week of...

Father Anthony Pupo - So, some are on the Eve of the Immaculate Conception.

David Murgia - Marian feasts, Marian solemnities.

Father Anthony Pupo - Or see... or at the time of Lent, Holy Week. Here we have stockings

David Murgia - Also here always written...

Father Anthony Pupo - Here the date is given.

David Murgia - We can say that, according to you Father Anthony, that holiness however does not reside exclusively in this manifestation; these are only signs.

Father Anthony Pupo - Yes, they are signs; but they refer to people who already live a holy life.

David Murgia - So it's not that Melanie is a saint because she was the recipient of these phenomena. Melanie, if she will be declared a saint, proclaimed a saint, it is would be for her exercise of virtues.

Father Anthony Pupo - Yes if these are confirmed they help us understand also a bit of her mysticism, that she was also a mystical woman. We have testimonies that she was a woman of prayer. This would affirm even more the spirituality of her way of life.

David Murgia - Her way of understanding, obviously of living also with devotion to the Passion, the day of the Lord's Passion. The important and "curious" thing, is that on the clothes that belonged to Melanie we have drawings, or hemography, on both the front and the back. So, this is the front.

Father Anthony Pupo - This is the back.

David Murgia - The back of the tunic let's turn it together.

Father Anthony Pupo - A different design.

David Murgia - The style is the same, it seems to me.

David Murgia - Melanie begins to wander away from France after the Apparitions of LaSalette, and is hosted by some bishops. She arrives where, and at what period, in this area of Italy?

Giovanni Pepe - So, while she is in Marseilles during her stay in the convent of Marseilles, she met the Bishop of Castellammare, Bishop Petagna, who at that time had been sent by the Pope to France. We are in the 1860s and following. And here he met this person who strikes him in an extraordinary way, so much so, that when he later returns to Italy he invites Melanie to his diocese.

David Murgia - How long does she stay in the diocese?

Giovanni Pepe - 17 years. A very long time.

David Murgia - It is quite likely then that the Redemptorists who were already here...

Giovanni Pepe - . . . were her confessors, in fact one named Father Alfonso Fusco celebrated the Eucharist daily in Melanie's home by permission of Bishop Petagna. So, it is likely that all the manifestations found on these garments were collected by this Father Alfonso Fusco who later gave them to Father Venditti who placed them here in the archives.

David Murgia - How convinced was Bishop Petagna of the sanctity of Melanie Calvat?

Giovanni Pepe - In many letters he referred to Melanie as “a saint.” He used that very adjective repeatedly when talking about Melanie Calvat, also going on to say that she lived in poverty in his diocese. It was Bishop Petagna who hosted her, so he had incalculable esteem for her. Several times he even reproached some bishops who came from France who wanted to force Melanie to return there. He forbade it, saying that Melanie was a free woman and she was free to stay where she wished.

David Murgia - How certain are we that these clothes therefore belonged to Melanie Calvat?

Giovanni Pepe – It was not known to whom these dresses belonged . . .

David Murgia - They could also belong to other mystics?

Giovanni Pepe - In fact, three years ago it was communicated to me by a Redemptorist Father *Ciro Avella*—on that occasion of the translation of [the body] of the mystic *Maddalena Fezza* in the Basilica of St. Alphonsus, — that he possessed female artifacts that could be assumed to belong to *Maddalena*, (ie., the Venerable Servant of God - *Magdalene of Jesus* [1898–1989]).

Since I am very attached to this mystical figure of *Maddalena Fezza* I began to look into the matter to see if this was possible, but it was quite impossible to be certain they were hers. Then, the other day, when looking at this manuscript, and studying this manuscript, I came across a sentence that, in the end, irrevocably attributes these artifacts to Melanie.

David Murgia - What happens now?

Giovanni Pepe – It will require study to determine what those stains and patterns are that we see on the garments. It is true that I, three years ago, quite informally, entrusted a garment to a laboratory for analysis, the same laboratory that is presently analyzing the artifacts of *Natuzza Evolo*, so I entrusted a garment of to be studied.

David Murgia - A garment of Melanie’s.

Giovanni Pepe - Of these clothes. And informally, though it was informally entrusted and always informally there was a response from the doctor who analyzed them. He confirmed to me that it’s blood, but it’s a completely informal thing so it absolutely needs to be studied in order to say with certainty what those figures depict, the nature of those figures. There needs to be interventions and a thorough and scientific study.

David Murgia - What would change if everything was confirmed?

Giovanni Pepe - I don’t know what would change, but certainly Melanie’s story would have to be rewritten. These are manifestations of a mysticism that is not common to any person, and moreover to a person who is in bad faith? These manifestations can only be attributed to sincere souls. So what would change? History would have to be rewritten and hopefully the Church authorities where Melanie is now buried, i.e. *Altamura*, would one day open a canonization process.

David Murgia - Can you show me where you found this sentence and what this sentence says?

Giovanni Pepe - So this is the photo of *Father Vincenzo Venditti* who died in 1898, we read, “*Father Venditti* at the time of the suppression was rector and professor of the seminary of *Conversano*, he was a confessor. He was a confessor and so it is certain that he was also a confessor of the Servant of God, *Melanie*, and he had the scorched shirts of the aforementioned, with the imprints of the souls of purgatory.” [Is *Conversano* a place name, or does it refer to the seminarian-novices because they have committed to a “conversion” of life?]

You can't imagine, when I read this sentence: a gasp! It was as if I had found a treasure! Because this provides mathematical certainty that these clothes belong to Melanie. Everything else is hypothesis, it has to be studied and investigated, but the certain thing is that they belong to Melanie.

David Murgia - Melanie's story was marked by poverty and suffering, but adversity did not break her. She always continued to bear witness to the message of hope delivered to her by the beautiful Lady. Her life was spent in prayers, fasting and withdrawal from the world. She died in Altamura where she had found refuge without having revealed to anyone her true identity. For the people of Altamura, she was just an elderly French lady who went to Mass every morning in the Cathedral. No one knew her identity, it was revealed only after her death.

Please keep your prayers coming.

You remain in mine!

your sister, Anne