



Correspondence from *Garabandal Journal*

“I was taken aback by what it said, and since it came unsigned, I [Conchita, in March] kept it in my pocket until the next apparition.

“When our Blessed Mother appeared, I showed her the letter and asked her who it was from. Our Blessed Mother answered that it came from Padre Pio. I did not know at the time who Padre Pio was, and it did not occur to me to inquire further.

“After the apparition, we were discussing the letter. Then a seminarian who was there (Felix Lopez) explained to me who Padre Pio was and where he lived. I wrote to him telling him that if he ever visited my country, I would very much like to see him. He answered me with a short letter that said: ‘Do you think I can climb in and out of chimneys?’ At 12 years of age, I had no idea what a monastery could be.”

(Pio’s initial letter)

Dear girls: At nine o’clock this morning, the Blessed Virgin told me to tell you:
“Oh blessed girls of San Sebastián de Garabandal! I promise you I will be with you until the end of the times and you will be with me at the end of the world, and afterwards united with me in the glory of Paradise.”

I send you a copy of the holy Rosary of Fatima that the Virgin has ordered me to send to you. This Rosary has been dictated by the Blessed Virgin and must be propagated for the salvation of sinners and the preservation of humanity from the worst of the chastisements that the good God is threatening. I give you just one counsel: pray and encourage prayer, because the world is at the beginning of perdition. They don’t believe in you or in your conversations with the Woman in White. They will believe when it is too late.”



Rev. Luis Luna, Conchita, the Secretary of Princess Cecile de Bourbon-Parma, and Conchita's mother Aniceta travelling to Rome.

“When in Rome in 1966, she met Dr. Enrico Medi, friend and personal doctor of Pope Paul VI. As stated in the magazine, she stated, ‘Medi suggested taking advantage of their trip to visit San Giovanni Rotondo and see Padre Pio.’

“Conchita was overjoyed at this idea, since she vividly remembered the message that the Capuchin had transmitted to them on behalf of the Virgin: ‘I promise you that you will be united to me in the glory of Paradise.’

“Conchita herself tells the story. We arrived around nine o'clock at night and we were told that we could not see Padre Pio until the following morning at his 5:00a.m. mass. Before Mass, Father Luna and Professor Medi went to the sacristy. The professor told me afterwards what had happened there. He said that Father Luna had told Padre Pio that the Spanish Princess was there to see him (Cecilia de Borbon-Parma). Padre Pio then told Father Luna: ‘I don't feel well and won't be able to see her until later on today.’ Professor Medi then said: ‘There is another person who also wishes to see you. Conchita wishes to speak with you.’ Padre Pio then said: ‘Conchita from Garabandal? Come at eight o'clock this morning.’

“Upon arrival, we were led to a small room, a cell with only a bed, a chair and a small table....I remember that I had the crucifix kissed by Our Lady and I told Padre Pio: ‘This is the cross kissed by the Blessed Virgin. Would you like to kiss it?’ Padre Pio then took the cross of Christ and placed it on the palm of his left hand, over the stigmata. He then took my hand which he placed over the crucifix....He blessed my hand and the cross while he spoke to me.

“Conchita cites his name in her diary, indicating that according to Our Lady in an apparition, he will see the miracle from wherever he may be. That is why when the Capuchin monk died in 1968, Conchita was perplexed. Nevertheless, a month after the death of Padre Pio, on October 16, 1968, the young woman received a telegram from Lourdes. The telegram asked her to go there, to receive a letter that Padre Pio had left for her. Two Frenchmen who were at Garabandal at the time, Father Alfred Combe and Bernard L’Huillier, offered to take Conchita and her mother to Lourdes. They left that very night.

“Father Bernardino Cennamo, OFM Capuchin was waiting for them there. Cennamo explained to the young lady that Father Pellegrino, a priest who took care of Padre Pio in his last years, had transcribed a note for her that had been dictated by the Saint.

“Father Cennamo acknowledged that he did not believe in Garabandal at the beginning, but shared with Conchita that when Padre Pio asked him to give her the veil that covered his face after his death, he changed his views. At Lourdes, on that day, ‘the veil and the letter were delivered to Conchita.’ But, something else interested her more. And, so she immediately asked Father Cennamo: ‘Why did the Virgin tell me that Padre Pio would see the miracle and he has died?’ To which the Capuchin responded: ‘He saw the miracle before he died. He told me himself.’

“That being so, then the saint of the stigmata has entered into a close circle of Garabandal protagonists who, just before their death, have seen the big announced miracle. It links Padre Pio to Garabandal in a much deeper way than having a spiritual interest in its message, having supernaturally seen the miracle, something not even the seers have experienced.”

Saint Padre Pio

