

AN UNLIKELY RELIC

(Compact Powder-case kissed by Virgin)

Reprinted with kind permission from GARABANDAL JOURNAL / September-October 2007
Translated from Spanish by Dr. Edward Serrano

From a letter dated July 3, 1962, by Rafael Fontaneda to Father Cipriano Arana



Don Ramón Pifarré, a pharmacist, from Barcelona, told me that he and his family were there to give thanks for a cure of a family member, and that he had given Conchita a **compact (powder-case)** so that she would give it to the Blessed Virgin to kiss. Conchita told him that the Virgin didn't kiss such things and continued playing with her friends. Falling into ecstasy, she left it on the table and from the words we could make out, it sounded as though the Virgin has asked to kiss it. Holding it up, the girl asked why she [the Virgin] wanted to kiss it. After listening, she opened a breviary to a page that spoke of Christ the Redeemer. This gentleman told me that during the war, this compact had been used to hold Hosts (see below) and that he was sure the girl knew nothing about that.

The Story Behind the Compact

During the Communist era, Fr. E. Bayon—he was assassinated by the reds—was chaplain of a convent of Carmelite nuns across from my house. With the impossibility of celebrating Mass in the chapel of the nuns, he used a certain house nearby. When it got to the point where he could no longer celebrate (I don't remember exactly, but I think he received an anonymous death threat), he came to my house and asked if we had any object in which to put the Sacred Hosts. My wife offered him this compact that had never been used. Thus we had the happiness of having the Blessed Sacrament in our home for quite awhile until it came time to consume the Hosts which we did having been given permission by the priest to do so.

[In her ecstasy] Conchita had been told more than what she first revealed but did not dare to say it without the Virgin's permission. I insisted that she ask for permission and we remained there for another ecstasy when she did ask. Afterwards she said she was allowed to repeat what the Virgin said: "They keep it as a relic and more than a relic." --- Ramon Pifarré

Among the many people in the village were four seminarians from [the Pontifical University at] Comillas who had told the girls they were two seminarians and two soldiers. When Loli went into ecstasy, she said to her Vision: "Two seminarians and two soldiers have come. Ah! All four are seminarians."

In another vision Loli was to have from 2:30 to 3:00 A.M., those of us who were with her, including the four seminarians, Andrés Pardo, one of my sisters and myself, decided to change the hour for her vision had passed. She was in no way disturbed by this, and later during the ecstasy she asked the Vision why she had come much later. Then we heard her say: "Then they were trying to trick me? They changed the clock."

My wife and I had taken our ten children and they were sleeping when Loli, in ecstasy, went to the beds where they were and gave all of them the crucifix to kiss except the two youngest. With them, she made the sign of the cross on their faces. After the ecstasy, my wife asked her why she hadn't given the babies the cross to kiss and she answered that the Virgin told her they didn't know how to kiss.