

## Marienfried, Germany

Marienfried is an official place of worship of the Diocese of Augsburg close to Pfaffenhofen on stream Roth in the district of Neu-Ulm (Bavaria, Germany). Core of the sanctuary is the chapel of graces, erected in gratefulness of the community for being spared from war damages under World War II. On 18 May 1947 the Marienfried chapel on the Keller hill was consecrated with episcopal approval [1] receiving the title: "Thrice Admirable Mother and Mediatrix of all Graces." It is also called "chapel of graces" or "sanctuary". The miraculous image of Marienfried is the Schoenstatt image of "Mother Thrice Admirable". In response to the growing number of pilgrims a sanctuary church was built and inaugurated for the first time in 1972 and then again after reconstruction in 2011. Further buildings of the sanctuary complex are the houses for pilgrims: house Marienfried, house Bethanien and house Tabor. The sanctuary further comprises of a Lourdes and a Fatima grotto, Stations of the Cross and a Rosary pathway [1]. The sanctuary has a rich program with regularly held prayer meetings and retreat days. Especially on Sacred-Heart-Fridays and Mary-Expiation-Saturdays a lot of pilgrims are present.

The sanctuary has its main origin in the apparitions of Our Lady after the end of World War II in 1946. Bärbel Ruess is the only seer, born 15.06.1924, later mother of five children and married with deacon Anton Rehm. She died on 11.04.1996 in multiple sclerosis.

Bishop Rudolf Graber, bishop of another German diocese (Regensburg), once called these apparitions "a message of extraordinary significance, which summarizes in about everything that was said in previous apparitions" [3].

The responsible local priest at the time of the apparitions, Rev. Martin Humpf reported in summer 1946 to his bishop, Dr. Victor Joseph Dammertz. A commission was set up accomplishing investigations and surveys until 1950. They found nothing contradictory to the Catholic faith, but they were not convinced of the supernatural character of the phenomena, especially since there were virtually no wonder. Until today, the state of the apparition site of the Virgin from the standpoint of the Church is that there is no definitive rejection but a lack of recognition. In 1966 the Immaculata Rosary and the prayer of the Holy Trinity were approved by the Church [3].

In a brief first appearance on 13.05.1940 (Whit Sunday), the seer encountered the yet unrecognized Virgin during her forest walk in prayer. During this meeting She taught the Immaculata rosary: Here the following sentences are inserted in the rosary instead of the mysteries of Christ:

By your Immaculate Conception, save our country!  
By your Immaculate Conception protect our country!  
By your Immaculate Conception redirect our country!  
By your Immaculate Conception hallow our country!  
By your Immaculate Conception reign our country!

The Blessed Mother amended that in place of the fatherland names of individuals or communities can be inserted.

The three main apparitions received by Bärbel Ruess, take place in 1946 [3] [4] [5].

During the first apparition on 25.04.1946 the village priest Martin Humpf and his sister Anna Humpf are present, but they not hear the dialogue of the seer with the Blessed Mother. The three had been going into the adjacent forest to search for a location for the promised

chapel. The woman who taught Bärbel the Immaculate rosary 6 years ago gave her the following message:

*If I had not the veil, you would recognize me. I am the sign of the living God. I hit my mark on the forehead of my children. The star will chase my sign. However, my sign will defeat the star. There, where the most confidence is prevailing and where one teaches people that I can do all things with God, I will spread peace. Then, if all people believe in my power, peace will reign.*

*The peace of Christ be with you and with all who pray here.*

In the second apparition on 25.05.1946 Bärbel was called by the "Angel of the Great Mediatrix of Graces", who had already appeared already several times, to visit the chapel building site. She went there with Anna Humpf. Arrived there the angel pointed to the Blessed Mother. She said:

*Yes, I am the Great Mediatrix of Graces. As the world can find mercy by the Father only through the sacrifice of the Son; similarly you can find answers of the Son to your prayers only through my intercession. The reason that Christ is that unknown is, that I am unknown. Therefore, the father poured out his bowl of wrath on the nations, because they have expelled his Son. The world was consecrated to my Immaculate Heart, but the dedication became a fearful responsibility for many. I demand that the world is living the consecration. Have complete confidence on my Immaculate Heart! Believe that I can obtain everything from my Son! Replace your sinful heart by my Immaculate Heart, then it will be me attracting the power of God, and the Father's love will form Christ anew in you to completion. Execute my request, so that Christ may soon reign as King of Peace!*

*The world must drain the cup of wrath to the dregs because of the countless sins, insulting his heart. The star of the abyss will bluster more furiously than ever and will wreak terrible havoc, knowing his time is short, and because he sees that many have already gathered around my sign. About these he has no power even if he kills the body of many of them. But my power accrues from the sacrifice offered to me, to guide the rest of the crowd to victory for Christ. Some are already branded by my sign, and they will become more and more. You, my children, I want to say: in the bloodiest days do not forget that exactly this cross is a grace and thank the Father for this grace again and again!*

*Pray and sacrifice for the sinners! Sacrifice yourself and your work through me to the Father! Place yourself completely at my disposal! Pray the Rosary! Do not pray that much about external goods! Today we are dealing with more. Also, do not expect signs and wonders! I want to work in secret as the great mediator of grace. If you fulfil my request I want to mediate the peace of the hearts to you. Only based on this peace the peace of the peoples will be able to be build. Then Christ will reign as king of peace over all nations.*

*Outwards, the devil will get such power, that all who are not firmly grounded in me, will be fooled. There will come a time when you will stand alone and be horribly slandered, because the devil knows how to dazzle the people, that even the best are fooled. But you should ground everything on trust. Wherever the people do not trust on my Immaculate Heart, the devil has power. But where people put my Immaculate Heart in place of their sinful hearts, he has no power. However, he will pursuit my children. They will be despised, but he can not harm them.*

During the third apparition on 25.06.1946 Rev. Martin Humpf and his sister Anna, together with the visionary were present at the place of graces. Mary gave the following message:

*I am the great Mediatrix of grace. The father wants the world recognizes this position of his servant. People need to believe that as the permanent Spouse of the Holy Spirit, I am the faithful mediatrix of all graces. My sign is on the way to appear. God wants it that way. Only my children recognize it, because it shows itself in secret, and therefore they give honour to the Lord. Today I can not yet reveal my power to the world. I need to retract with my children. In the secret I want to act miracles on the souls until the number of victims is full. It is up to you to shorten the days of darkness. Your prayers and sacrifices will shatter the image of the beast. Then I can reveal myself to the world to the glory of the Almighty.*

*Choose my sign, so that the Triune will sonly be adored and honoured by all. Pray and sacrifice through me! Pray always! Pray the rosary! Ask from the Father for yourselves everything through my Immaculate Heart! If it passes to his honour, he will give it you. Pray the immaculate rosary, the gracious rosary, as I have taught you. Do not invoke ephemeral values with it, but solicit graces for individual souls, for your communities, for the nations, in order that all love and honour the divine heart. Keep the Saturday consecrated to me as I have desired it. Especially all the apostles and priests should dedicate themselves to me so that the great sacrifices which the Inscrutable primarily demands from them increase in holiness and value by placing them into my hands.*

*Hand out many sacrifices to me! Turn your prayer to a sacrifice! Be unselfish! Today it's just about that honour and atonement is offered to the Eternal. If you totally campaign yourself for this I will take care for everything else. I want to load my children with crosses, heavy and deep as the sea, because I love them in my sacrificed Son. I beseech you, be ready to carry the crosses, so that peace will sonly be. Choose my sign, so that honour is given soon to the Triune!*

*I urge that people fulfil my wishes soon, because this is the will of our Heavenly Father, and because it is necessary today and forever to His greater honour and glory. A full frighten woe the father proclaims to those who are unwilling to submit to his will!*

The Blessed Mother gave the order to the visionary to announce this message, being her "message to the world." She said to her:

*I want that the people come to know it, as I've said it, word by word. You can keep it in mind. Tell the people that I have a "new message" to the world. External circumstances and details need not be said. It's all just about that people learn my will, which is the will of the Father. The spirits will be divorced by this message. A large crowd will take offence. However, a small crowd will understand and evaluate it properly. They will recognize my will inside and rejoice. This group has recognized my position at the present time and has given me much pleasure. This group has its representatives within many countries, and these will contribute to take care that my message spreads out. Many from this group already have been allowed to see my hidden wonders. They have realized that I am the 'Admirable Mother' and give me the honour by this title.*

Requested by the priest, the seer now asked the Virgin to give a visible sign, so that people pay faith to her message. Then she replied:

*I only then give signs when people meet my wishes. Then I act greater wonders than ever, and in fact wonders at the souls. Many times before I've given outward signs, and many came only because of the external signs.*

*We stand before a time in which all those become insane who only believe because of the visible miracles. Signs only redound to a greater responsibility for them.*

Then the seer asked what image one should choose for the chapel. The apparition pointed at the picture next door and said one should take the image of the "Mother Thrice Admirable", because here a small group already has gathered having prayed and sacrificed underneath this picture.

*I have received this sacrifice and I want that many are led to this picture and that they give me the power to create the kingdom of the king's peace as a sacrifice consecrated to me. If this crowd is beginning to fulfil my will, I will act from here the first and greatest miracles. There, where the people firstly recognize and follow my message, I will act the first and greatest miracles, but visible only to my children, because they will reveal themselves in secret. "*

Then the Virgin asked the seer to pray, saying:

*My children need to praise and glorify the Eternal and thank Him more. For that He has created them: for His glory.*

*A lot must be prayed for the sinners. Therefore, many shall be at my disposal, in order that I can give them my orders to pray. There are so many souls who are just waiting for the prayer of my children.*

After the Mother of God ceased to speak, at once a large, highly visible band of angels was around her. They had long, white dresses, kneeling on the ground and bowed deeply. They prayed a prayer of praise to the Most Holy Trinity. In the beginning it was spoken about a "new song". Then some of the angels prayed another prayer to the Father; Like an echo a group repeated each section. Another group, and they were many, shouted: "Holy, holy, holy ... "The seer was asked to imitate the prayer of praise. The hymn to the Most Holy Trinity is:

1. Hail, Eternal Lord,  
living God, always has-been,  
terrible and just judge,  
always kind and merciful Father!  
Worship to You always new and always,  
Praise, Honor and Glory  
through your sun-wrapped daughter,  
our admirable mother!

2. Hail, sacrificed Man-God,  
bleeding lamb, king of peace,  
tree of Life, you our head.  
Gateway to the heart of the Father,  
forever born from the Living,  
dominant in eternity with the Being!  
You'll get new and always power  
and glory and greatness  
and worship and atonement and price  
by your immaculate parturient,  
our admirable mother!

3. Hail, Spirit of the Eternal,  
pouring always holiness,  
acting from eternity in God!  
You fire flood from the Father to the Son,  
you raging storm,  
you who is blowing power and light and glow  
in the limbs of the eternal womb,  
you everlasting fire of love,  
formative God's Spirit in the living,  
you red stream of fire  
from the Eternal Living to the mortals!  
You'll be new and forever power  
and glory and beauty  
by thy star-crowned bride,  
our admirable mother!

Bärbel was then asked to join the prayer of the Immaculate Rosary. Subsequent, the Virgin prayed a prayer to Most Holy Trinity, and gave a farewell blessing like in May. During that Bärbel saw many rays originating from her hands. The beams then emanated from her entire body and pierced everything around, like a ray of sunlight shines through the window. The appearance now was quite bright and transparent. She was so incredibly beautiful and pure. Bärbel was like blinded so that she averted their eyes, and then the apparition had disappeared.

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## Bibliography

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