

# Book of the Month

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## THE MARIAN APPARITIONS

### Are they biblical and should we submit to them?

By Andrew Mayfield

For the nearly 7,5 million Catholics who make pilgrimages annually to the sites of Fatima, Lourdes, Medjugorje, and the Knock Shrine, as the 1,3 billion Catholics around the world, the Marian appearances and messages over the last two hundred years are both very real and absolutely central to their worship in the Roman Catholic religious system. There should be little doubt, based on the very Words of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, (Mark 13:22) that these apparitions are actually occurring all across the world; the big question we must ask is: do we know their messages and should we heed to them ?

At the heart of the Roman Catholic system we find the Marian apparitions, and the Marian dogmas. The Vatican is aggressively pursuing its *fifth* Marian Dogma as stated in these excerpts from the article "*Is the Time Ripe for a 5<sup>th</sup> Marian Dogma ?*" by Robert Moynihan. This Dogma moves the church towards solidifying Mary's role at the very center of their worship and salvation doctrine:

"Since the moment on Good Friday ... the maternal role of Mary has been a central element of Christian faith and devotion ... The great Marian apparitions, especially at the Lourdes in 1858 and at Fatima in 1917, suggest to observers of the mystical life that Mary continues to "draw near" to the "little ones," to children, to encourage the and to share with them a message of maternal comfort and exhortation..."

With a growing movement in the Church in favor of a 5<sup>th</sup> Marian dogma regarding the role of the blessed Virgin as ***the Spiritual Mother of All Humanity***.

*As we can see from this excerpt, not only does the church believe these apparitions are worthy of belief, but that Catholics should believe them blindly, without question.*

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