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## LE COURRIER DE SAINT MEDARD

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\* **APPARITIONS OF OUR LADY:** The apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes to Bernadette in 1858 (15 times) were recognized by the local bishop, Bishop Laurence of Tarbes. It is at the level of the diocesan bishop that the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin are authenticated and officially recognized. Rome, given the tremendous scope of the pilgrimages and the number of miracles, wanted to give a special sanction of approval by instituting the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, on the first day of the apparitions, February 11. This is an exception. **Rome is not in the habit of recognizing apparitions; the Holy See entrusts this task to the local bishops.** Thus, the apparitions of Our Lady to the children of Île Bouchard, during the insurrectional strikes organized by the PCF and the CGT in 1947, those apparitions asking for prayer for France, were officially recognized by Archbishop Vingt-Trois, when he was still Archbishop of Tours and before becoming Archbishop of Paris. The same is true for the Amsterdam apparitions, under the title “the Lady of All Peoples”, that were recognized recently by the local bishop, without that in any way whatsoever corroborating **the delirious lucubrations of Mrs. Marie-Paule Giguère**, as set down in the last issue of the “*Royaume*” (which parishioners should stop reading and cancel their subscription to it). The so-called apparitions of Medjugorje have not been recognized by the successive bishops of the Diocesan See to which this little village belongs. On the contrary, these two bishops, duly invested with their authority, have successively affirmed, and in the same terms that **there is nothing supernatural in the events that are taking place at Medjugorje**; if souls receive graces at Medjugorje it is solely because they approach the sacraments with faith and in a spirit of repentance. There is **one infallible criterion** for judging the authenticity of phenomena of the supernatural or mystical order: it is the **humility** of those who receive them, and **their humble submission to the legitimate pastors** of the Holy Church. Mrs. Marie-Paule Giguère, who obstinately defends her point of view, in opposition to the opinion of all the bishops of Canada, is **quite simply deluding herself**. The good realized by the members of her community **was contingent upon the sacraments** they received and which they have dispensed, not without devotedness. That can in no way authenticate the messages that the foundress of the Sons of Mary gives to herself. Such a person is **the plaything of the demon**; it is a tactic of the devil to transform himself into an angel of light in order to make souls stray from the path of the Catholic truth. Even if a bishop should erroneously refuse to recognize an apparition, which, according to certain specialists, would have every indication of being authentic, **the faithful would not lose any of the graces they need, in submitting to the judgment** of the pastors legitimately appointed by Rome, that is, the **diocesan bishops**. Mystical graces, when they are truly such, only deepen the humility of those who receive them. If such persons take a stand, with pride and obstinacy, against the judgments of the Holy Church, they must be considered to be under delusion. Let us at least have the lucidity not to follow them in their erroneous judgment, and to hold firm to the sacred doctrine, to the truths of our catechism, to the common patrimony of all faithful Catholics.