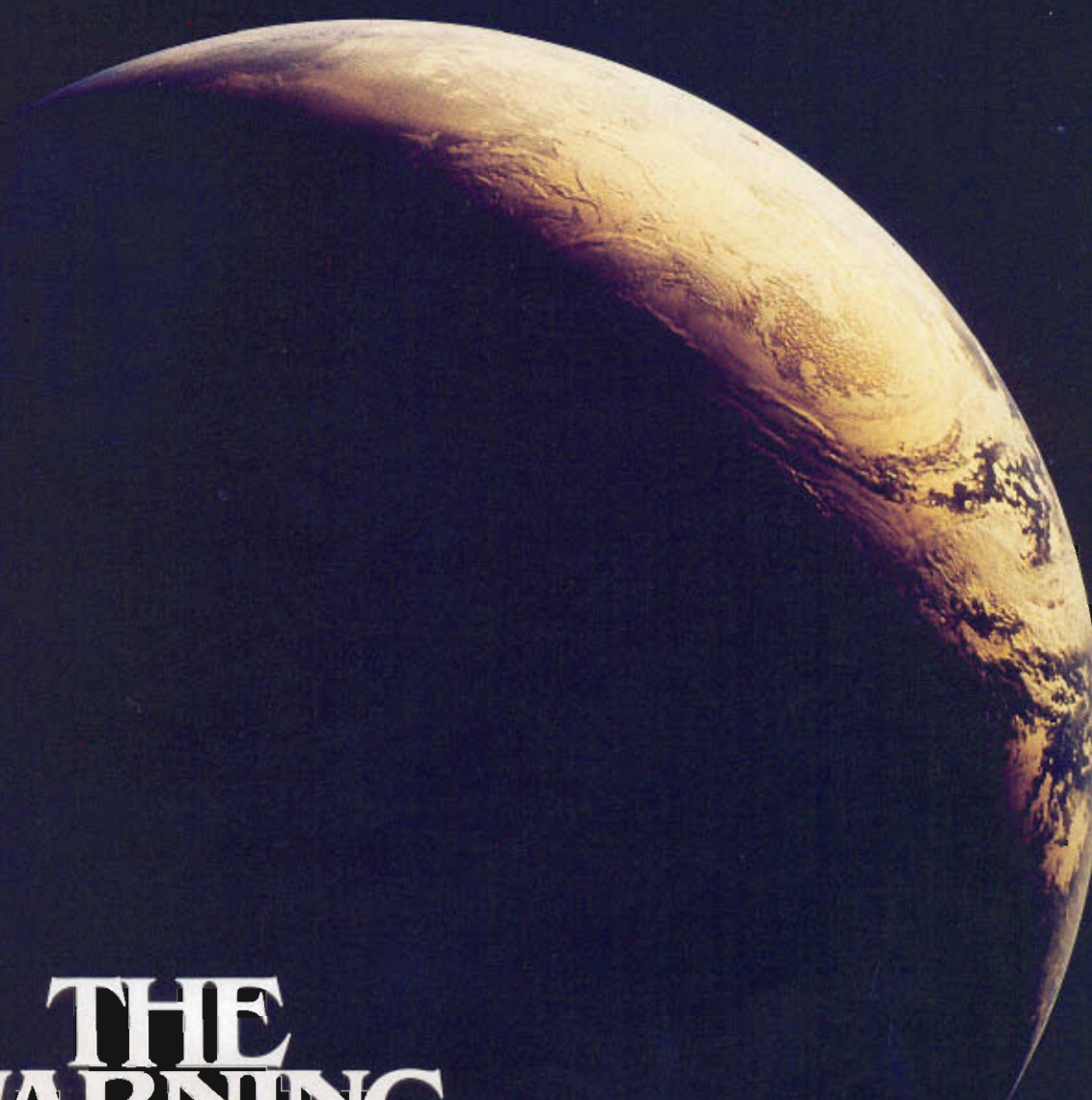


GARABANDAL

THE MESSAGE OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

SPECIAL EDITION



THE
WARNING
AND
MIRACLE

Where and what is Garabandal? It is an isolated hamlet of some 300 people nestled in the Cantabrian Mountains of north-western Spain. Like Fatima and Lourdes, Garabandal is a place of unearthly serenity and beauty. A fiction writer's imagination could not create a more appropriate setting for a religious event of great significance.

San Sebastian de Garabandal is situated at the very end of a winding road cut into a mountainside that leads up from the village of Cosio. A solitary cluster of nine pine trees stands out starkly against the horizon to the south. The village itself consists of some 80 solid, rustic stone houses huddled together on a small strip of land overlooking a wooded valley. This is the stage for "The Story of Garabandal."



The saga opens on Sunday, June 18, 1961, at 8:30 in the evening. Four simple, unsophisticated girls were playing in a sunken lane called the *calleja*, at the southern extremity of the village. Suddenly, a sound of thunder was heard and later a brilliant angel appeared, first to Conchita (Maria Concepción) Gonzalez and then almost immediately afterwards to Mari Loli (Maria Dolores) Mazon, Jacinta Gonzalez and Mari Cruz (Maria Cruz) Gonzalez. The angel did not speak and in a few moments disappeared.

The Coming of Our Lady

The angel appeared several times more. The first time he spoke was on July 1, 1961. He said, "Do you know why I have come? It is to announce to you that tomorrow, Sunday, the Virgin Mary will appear to you as Our Lady of Mount Carmel." The angel's mission was to prepare the children for Our Lady's coming and to be her messenger. He returned with her the next day, but came back much less frequently after that. However, the Blessed Virgin began appearing almost every day and occasionally was accompanied by the Infant Jesus Whom she carried in her arms.

Appearing as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, the Virgin wore a diadem of 12 stars on her head, a large brown scapular on her wrist and looked to be about 18 years of age. Above, St. Michael prepared the way for Mary's coming.



A Mother with Her Children

The four girls talked with the Blessed Virgin with great simplicity. They talked about their everyday life, about working in the fields, and about getting bronzed by the sun. Our Lady delighted in their talk.

A charming and almost disarming spontaneity marked the apparitions. In her *Diary*, Conchita mentions that the angel and Our Lady often smiled and laughed at their childish remarks. She says several times that the Blessed Virgin kissed them. On a few occasions when Mary came with the Infant Jesus, she allowed them to take Him in their arms. They also did simple little things to amuse and please Him, such as hiding pebbles in their sleeves and in the tresses of their hair. Once, Our Lady took the crown of small golden stars from her head and permitted the children to hold it in their hands. What is the meaning of this? Perhaps it teaches us the value of childlike simplicity and unquestioning faith.

The First Formal Message

On July 4, 1961, Our Lady gave the girls what has come to be known as the "First Message." This Message was inscribed on a sign that had appeared under the angel's feet in June, but the children did not understand the inscription at the time. Our Lady told the girls to announce the Message publicly on October 18. They did. In the fall of

1961, the children made known to the world the Message of the Blessed Virgin at Garabandal:

"We must make many sacrifices, perform much penance and visit the Blessed Sacrament frequently. But first, we must lead good lives. If we do not, a chastisement will befall us. The cup is already filling up and if we do not change, a very great chastisement will come upon us."

The Second Formal Message

The "Second Message" was given four years later toward the end of the apparitions. The Blessed Virgin told Conchita on January 1, 1965, that the archangel St. Michael would appear on June 18, and would deliver a message for the world in her name. Through St. Michael, Our Lady complained that her First Message was not heeded and warned the world this would be her last. She said:

"As my Message of October 18 has not been complied with and has not been made known to the world, I am advising you that this is the last one. Before, the cup was filling up. Now it is flowing over. Many cardinals, many bishops, and many priests are on the road to perdition and are taking many souls with them. Less and less importance is being given to the Eucharist. You should turn the wrath of God away from yourselves by your efforts. If you ask His forgiveness with sincere hearts, He will pardon you. I, your

The only one in ecstasy, Mari Loli accompanied by her three companions, is in full flight as she follows her Vision.

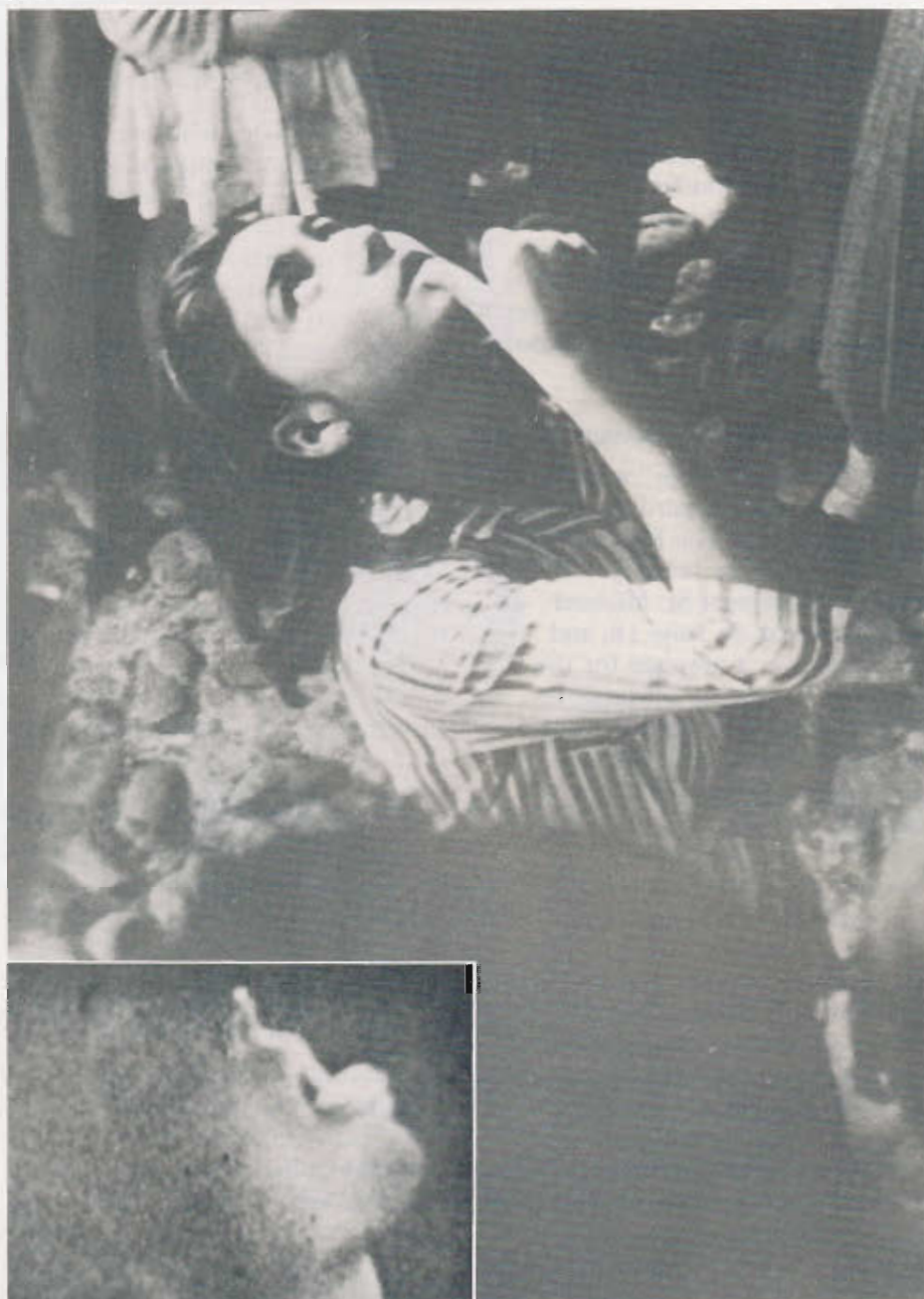
mother, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, ask you to amend your lives. You are now receiving the last warnings. I love you very much and do not want your condemnation. Pray to Us with sincerity and We will grant your requests. You should make more sacrifices. Think about the passion of Jesus."

The Private Messages

Many of the messages delivered by Our Lady were of a purely private nature. Some were words of enlightenment or comfort directed to people who came to the village with personal problems. Others were statements that revealed the hidden thoughts or actions of visitors, some of whom were doubting priests. The Blessed Virgin, on March 19, 1964, told Conchita that the great American apostle of Garabandal, Joey Lomangino, would recover his eyesight on the day of the great Miracle which will be worked by God at Garabandal.

The Miracle of the Visible Host

A miracle to confirm the events was requested by the girls early in the apparitions. One was given to them, one that Conchita called a "little miracle," *un milagrucho*, using a diminutive proper to the Santander region. A visible Host appeared suddenly and mysteriously on Con-



chita's tongue at 1:40 in the morning on July 19, 1962. This precise miracle was announced 15 days in advance by Conchita at the bidding of the archangel St. Michael, who gave her the Communion. Many people were on hand for the event and one man, who was standing inches from Conchita, took some pictures of it using only flashlight illumination. The miracle of the visible Host was performed to confirm the apparitions of Garabandal. However, the greatest proof of all will be the "extremely great" Miracle for the world which Conchita speaks of in her *Diary*.

The Great Future Miracle

The "extremely great" Miracle which Conchita mentions in her *Diary* is more fully discussed in the notes she gave Francisco Sanchez-Ventura, author of *The Apparitions of Garabandal*: "I am the only one to whom the Blessed Virgin spoke of the Miracle. She forbade me to say what it will consist of. I can't announce the date either until eight days before it is due to occur. What I can reveal is that it will coincide with an event in the Church and with the feast of a saint, martyr of the Eucharist; that it will take place at 8:30 on a Thursday evening; that it will be visible to all those who are

A Eucharistic theme dominated the events as Conchita blesses herself in preparation for receiving invisible Communion from St. Michael. (inset) On one occasion, the Host became visible on her tongue.



in the village and surrounding mountains; that the sick who are present will be cured and the incredulous will believe. It will be the greatest miracle that Jesus will have performed for the world. There won't be the slightest doubt that it comes from God and that it is for the good of mankind. A sign of the Miracle—*un señal del milagro*—which it will be possible to film or televise, will remain forever—*para siempre*—at the pines.”

On September 14, 1965, Conchita said: “The sign that will remain forever at the pines is something we will be able to photograph, televise and see, but not touch. It will be evident that it is not a thing of this world but from God.” At another time, concerning the great Miracle, she added that, “it would last about 15 minutes.” On August 10, 1971, while talking to a group of Americans, she offered this revealing information: “It will take place on or between the eighth and sixteenth of March, April or May. It will not happen in February or June.” Eight days in advance of the Miracle Conchita will give notice to the world about its coming. Prior to the eight-day notice, God will send a Warning to the entire world to purify it for the great Miracle. Therefore, the world will receive two advance notices—the Warning and the eight-day notice.

The Warning

In a letter dated June 2, 1965, Conchita writes: “The Blessed Virgin

told me on the first of January that a Warning would be given before the Miracle so that the world might amend itself. This Warning, like the Chastisement (another prophesied event explained below), is a very fearful thing for the good as well as for the wicked. It will draw the good closer to God and it will warn the wicked that the end of time is coming and that these are the last warnings. There is more to it than this, but it can't be said by letter. No one can stop it from happening. It is certain, although I know nothing concerning the day or the date.”

In another apparition, the year of the Warning was made known to Mari Loli but she has felt impelled not to reveal it.

The Chastisement

Our Lady showed Conchita, Mari Loli and Jacinta in July of 1962, a vision of the impending Chastisement. The visionaries screamed in terror upon seeing this vision and begged Our Lady for God to spare the children. The Blessed Virgin told the girls the Chastisement was conditional on whether or not mankind would heed her Messages given during the apparitions.

The Chastisement is mentioned only briefly by Conchita in her *Diary*. She describes it as something “very, very great, in keeping with what we deserve.” But she advises, “if the world changes,” the Chastisement can be “averted.” Conchita elaborated on this event in a note

Some of the striking phenomena to mark the Garabandal events were ecstatic falls, ecstatic marches, ascending and descending stairs frontwards and backwards without looking, and presenting religious objects for the Vision to kiss.

to Francisco Sanchez-Ventura, “The Chastisement is conditional and depends on whether or not mankind heeds the Messages of the Blessed Virgin and the Miracle. If it should take place, I know what it will consist of because the Blessed Virgin told me about it, but I am not permitted to say what it is. Moreover, I have seen the Chastisement. I can assure you that if it comes, it is worse than being enveloped in fire, worse than having fire above and beneath you. I do not know how much time will elapse between the Miracle and the Chastisement.”

Unexplainable Events

Other unusual things, for which there is no human explanation, also took place along with the apparitions or visions. Taken all together, they constitute a powerful argument in favor of the authenticity of the events. The three calls, or *llamadas*, which preceded and announced Our Lady's coming; the ecstatic marches; oscillations and falls; the children's excessive weight to others and exceptional lightness to each other in ecstasy; their unexplainable knowledge of what people totally unknown to

(continued on page 24)



THEY SAW T

Fr. Luis Andreu and Padre Pio saw th

By Jacques Serre

FR. LUIS ANDREU

On August 8, 1961, accompanied by about 20 people from Aguilar de Campoo, Fr. Luis Maria Andreu arrived in San Sebastian de Garabandal to witness the events taking place there. This was to be his third and last visit.

Pastor, Fr. Valentin Marichalar had to go to Torrelavega for the day, so he asked Fr. Luis to serve as parish priest in his absence. Although skeptical about the events occurring in the village, Fr. Luis accepted the assignment because of his devotedness and sense of loyalty to the Church. Also present on this memorable day were Rev. Antonio Royo Marin, O.P., a noteworthy theologian who specialized in the fields of lay spirituality, and mystical theology; Andres Pardo, a seminarian who was to become and still is Secretary of the Spanish National Commission on the Liturgy; and

Rafael Fontaneda, owner of the famous biscuit company that bears his name.

A Proof Is Sought

At 2:11 in the afternoon an ecstasy began. The children spoke to their Vision and were often heard repeating that most people did not believe them and that she (the Virgin) had to give a *proof*. "Give it right away! You keep saying that you will give it, that you will give it," said Loli. Then Conchita surprisingly and cunningly added, "Do you know what I want to tell you? You have to give a proof—*una prueba*. You must give them a proof . . . You gave the people a proof at Lourdes and Fatima."

Shortly before the ecstasy ended, the Vision told the children that they would have another apparition in the evening, which was unusual. Our Lady had not answered

the seers when they asked for a proof although she had done so previously in similar cases saying, for instance, "they will believe."

That evening, as on all others in San Sebastian de Garabandal, there was recitation of the rosary in the little village church. Afterwards, while still in church, the visionaries went into ecstasy. Then they came out and as they had done during previous weeks, stopped and prayed at various places. When they arrived at the point where the apparition was expected to terminate, the seers, in a surprise move, ascended the steep incline leading to a grove of nine pine trees on a ridge above the village. (It is at these pines that the great prophesied Miracle is to take place leaving afterwards and "forever" a permanent visible supernatural sign—*señal*, and where the chapel in honor of St. Michael is to be built—with proper permission of Church authorities—as was mentioned during an apparition on July 16, 1961.)

It was a Tuesday about 10:00 p.m. and Fr. Luis was among the crowd that followed the visionaries.

"Milagro!"

As soon as the girls arrived at the pines, Loli mentioned the future chapel to honor St. Michael the Archangel, Protector of the People of God, i.e., the Universal Church, the "eschatological Israel." They knelt, sang a hymn to St. Michael (*San Miguel Arcangel, gran batallador, etc.*), and kissed an invisible person or thing (probably

This picture of Fr. Luis intently studying the visionaries in ecstasy was taken during one of his visits to the village prior to August 8.



THE MIRACLE

Miracle of Garabandal before they died.



the Vision).

During the dialogue between the young girls and Our Lady, Conchita again asked for a proof as she had done in the afternoon ecstasy, and becoming almost desperate said, "... but we did not give any *proof* whatsoever and the people don't believe."

Then, as the ecstasy continued, something new and absolutely unique occurred. Fr. Luis, who was intently observing the girls, "was suddenly overcome by deep emotion and we heard him say four times movingly and in a high pitched voice, 'MILAGRO!' " (testimony of Rafael Fontaneda). He looked very grave, in fact, so serious and so moved that Pepe Diez, an important witness, told Fr. François Turner that at one point his face looked like a "huge tear."

There was another unique feature of this ecstasy involving Fr. Luis as related by Conchita in her *Diary*:*

We could see him. Now in our ecstasies we never see anyone (except the Blessed Virgin). But we saw Fr. Luis and the Blessed Virgin told us that he was seeing her and the Miracle too.

Conchita also mentioned this event in a letter to Fr. Ramon Andreu dated November 27, 1964: "And the Virgin then told us that he was seeing her and the Miracle that God, Our Lord, was going to perform—*iba hacer*." Although Fr. Ramon was not in Garabandal on August 8, he returned on the fourteenth and made the following

*Our Lady Comes to Garabandal, Joseph A. Pelletier, A.A. p. 64.

The veil that covered Padre Pio's face was given to Conchita.

entry in one of his notebooks after a conversation with the visionaries:

[Fr. Luis] was with the four girls who were kneeling in ecstasy. Drops of perspiration were falling from his forehead. The Virgin was looking at him ... she seemed to be telling him, "Very shortly, you will be at my side."

On August 16, Fr. Ramon made another entry in his notebook after the first mysterious conversation between the seers and his deceased brother.*

Loli, for one, kept saying, "yes, it is your voice ... we would like to see you ... tell us what you saw at the pines when you said 'Miracle! Miracle! Miracle! Miracle!' ... you saw her on the branch of the tree in the middle ..."

A final testimony is that of Avelina Gonzalez, one of the village

*During the apparition of August 16, the Blessed Virgin said, as she had announced to the seers previously, "Fr. Luis will come now and speak with you." The girls did not see him but heard his voice.

women who saw Fr. Luis coming down from the pines after the evening ecstasy of August 8:

The good Father climbed up to the pines that day. I must say that he did not believe in the apparitions of Garabandal, absolutely not. ... But as he was coming back from the pines, I heard him say, "A miracle! A miracle! What a miracle the Virgin has performed for me. ..." Yes, I heard him say that.*

It is interesting to note that Our Lady during the afternoon ecstasy remained silent to the repeated demands of the visionaries for a proof, but later gave this affirmative answer involving Fr. Luis, in such a remarkable way.

PADRE PIO

In a letter dated July 4, 1969, addressed to Mr. Anthony O'Brien of London, England, Fr. Bernardino
(continued on page 24)

*Garabandal—The Village Speaks, Ramon Perez, p. 241.



INTERVIEWS WITH THE SEERS

THE WARNING

Conchita

September 14, 1965^(A)

Q. Will the Warning be a visible thing or an interior thing or both?

A. The Warning is a thing that comes directly from God and will be visible throughout the entire world, in whatever place anyone might be.

Q. Will the Warning reveal personal sins to every person in the world and to persons of all faiths, including atheists?

A. Yes, the Warning will be like a revelation of our sins—es como si revelase nuestros pecados, and it will be seen and experienced equally by believers and non-believers and people of any religion whatsoever.

Q. Is it true that the Warning will cause many people to remember the dead?

A. The Warning is like a purification for the Miracle. And it is a sort of a catastrophe. It will make us think of the dead, that is, we would prefer to be dead than to experience the Warning.

Q. Will the Warning be recognized and accepted by the world as a direct sign from God?

A. Certainly—claro, and for this reason I believe it is impossible that the world could be so hardened as not to change.

October, 1968^(B)

Q. We have heard that some say the Warning may be a natural phenomenon but will be used by God to speak to mankind. Is this true?

A. The Warning is something supernatural and will not be explained by science. It will be seen and felt.

Q. Conchita, can you explain the statement that during the Warning we will know ourselves and the sins we have committed?

A. The Warning will be a correction of the conscience of the world.

Q. What about the many people who do not know Christ; how will they understand the Warning?

A. For those who do not know Christ [non-Christian] they will believe it is a Warning from God.

1973^(C)

Q. What will occur on the day of the Warning?

A. The most important thing about that day is that everyone in the whole world will see a sign, a grace, or a punishment within themselves—in other words, a Warning. They will find themselves all alone in the world no matter where they are at the time, alone with their conscience right before God. They will then see all their sins and what their sins have caused.

Q. Will we all feel it at the same time?

A. Yes, at the same time.

Q. How long will it last, a half hour, an hour?

A. I really don't know. I think that five minutes would be an adequate time.

Q. How will we feel it?

A. We will all feel it differently because it will depend on our conscience. The Warning will be very personal, therefore, we will all react differently to it. The most important thing will be to recognize our own sins and the bad consequences of them. You will have a different view of the Warning than me because your sins are different from mine.

Q. Will something happen to me because of my sins? I mean will physical harm come upon me as a result

of them?

A. No, unless it's something that results from the shock, for example, a heart attack.

Q. So then it will bring no physical harm but will consist of facing God alone with my sins. How about the good things; will I see them also?

A. No. This will be only a Warning to see what you have done with your sins. It will be like a purification before the Miracle to see if with the Warning and Miracle we [meaning the whole world] will be converted.

Q. So this Warning can occur any day now?

A. Yes, but I don't know the date when it will occur.

February, 1977^(D)

Q. When did you learn about the Warning and from whom?

A. The only thing that I remember well is that it was the Virgin who told me of it.

Q. Would you repeat for us what you know about the Warning?

A. What I remember now is that the Virgin told me that before the Miracle God will be sending us a Warning so as to purify us or prepare us to see the Miracle and in this way we may draw enough grace to change our lives toward God. She told me what the Warning will consist of but not the date. I am not able to say what it consists of but I am able to say what it will be like, more or less. It is a phenomenon which will be seen and felt in all the world and everywhere; I have always given as an example that of

Conchita in 1961 at the beginning of the events and as she is now, pictured in the backyard of her New York home just a few feet from the rear of the local parish church. Conchita and her husband, Patrick, have four children.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE SEERS

two stars that collide. This phenomenon will not cause physical damage, but it will horrify us because at that very moment we will see our souls and the harm we have done. It will be as though we were in agony but we will not die by its effects but perhaps we will die of fright or shock to see ourselves. May the Virgin forgive me if I do not explain it the way it is, but I am trying to tell you . . . after knowing what the Warning will be like that day.

Q. Did you 'see' or 'hear' about the Warning?

A. The Virgin told me of its coming.

Q. If the Warning only lasts a short time, will the world remember it as coming from God or will it only appear to have been a dream or an illusion?

A. I have never said that the Warning will be a short moment. What I have said is that even if it were a moment it will be very impressive and terrible. No one will have doubts of it being from God, and of its not being human. I, who know what it is, am very much afraid of that day.

Q. Many years ago you told us the event of the Warning begins with the letter "A." Since Our Lady never told you not to reveal it, can you now mention it?

A. She did not forbid it, but I don't know why I haven't said it and I don't feel as though I should say it now.

Q. You once said to Fr. Marcelino Andreu, "When you see the Warning you will know we have opened up the end of time." Can you explain what you meant by this?

A. The Virgin told us that the Warning and Miracle will be the last warnings or public spectaculars that God will give us. This is why I believe that after them we will be near the end of time.

Q. Do you have any words of

advice for the people in order that they might prepare for this event?

A. We must always be prepared with our souls in peace and not tie ourselves down so much to this world. Instead, we must think very often that we are here to go to heaven and to be saints.

August, 1980^(E)

Q. *It [the Warning] is not going to hurt you?*

A. No. To me, it's like two stars... that crash and make a lot of noise and a lot of light but they don't fall.... It's something that's not going to hurt us but we're going to see it. In that moment, we're going to see our conscience. You're going to see everything wrong that you're doing.

Q. *You're going to see everything wrong that you're doing?*

A. Yes. And you're going to see the good that you're not doing.

Mari Loli

July 27, 1975^(F)

Q. *You have said that you know the year of the Warning. Can you tell us if it will occur in the next few years or is it still in the distant future?*

A. No. I can't say anything.

Q. *Did the Blessed Mother tell you not to speak about the Warning?*

A. No, she didn't, but, because the Warning and the Miracle are within the same year, I feel it inside not to say anything.

Q. *How do you know the Warning and the Miracle are within the same year?*

A. During an apparition—I don't remember just when—the Blessed Virgin told me.

Q. *Reportedly, you have said that when the Warning occurs every-*

thing will stand still, even planes in the sky. Is this true?

A. Yes, but just for a few moments.

Q. *You mean that everything will stop at a given moment and at that moment the Warning will occur?*

A. Yes.

Q. *When was this information revealed to you?*

A. During an apparition the Blessed Virgin told me all this.

Q. *Was all the information given you during one apparition, or did Our Lady tell you this over several apparitions?*

A. She told me all of this during one apparition. I don't remember now if she spoke about the Warning during any other apparition.

Q. *Do you know how long the Warning will last?*

A. Just a few minutes.

Q. *Are you afraid of the Warning?*

A. Yes. Like everyone else, I have faults, and the Warning will show me my faults and this makes me afraid.

Q. *Can you tell us anything else about the Warning?*

A. All I can say is that it is very close and that it is very important that we prepare ourselves because it will be a terrible thing. It will make us feel all the wrong we have done.

February, 1977^(D)

Q. *Have you ever discussed with Conchita the dates of the Warning of which you know the year, and the Miracle which she knows?*

A. I have never talked to Conchita about these dates.

Q. *Have you any words of advice for the people in order that they might prepare for this event?*

A. To do much penance, make sacrifices, visit the Blessed Sacrament every day that we are able to, and to pray the holy rosary daily.

September 29, 1978^(G)

Q. *Since you are the one who knows the most about the Warning will you tell us if this event is to take place before the Miracle promised through Conchita Gonzalez?*

A. ...Everyone will experience it wherever they may be, regardless of their condition or their knowledge of God.... It will be an interior or personal experience. It will look as if the world has come to a standstill,...however, no one will be aware of that as they will be totally absorbed in their own experience.

Q. *About the nature of the Warning, how do you sense it?*

A. It is going to be something like and interior feeling of sorrow and pain for having offended God. God will help us to see clearly the harm we are causing Him and all the evil things we do. He will help us to sense this interior pain because often when we do something wrong we just ask the Lord's forgiveness with our lips, but now [through the Warning] He will help us sense physically that deep sorrow.

October 19, 1982^(H)

Q. *Do you remember what the Blessed Mother said about the communist tribulation that is to precede the Warning?*

A. It would look like the communists have taken over the whole world and it would be very hard to practice the religion, for priests to say Mass or for the people to open the doors of the churches.

Mari Loli, with the other visionaries in ecstasy, holds up a rosary for Our Lady to kiss. Now 35, Loli says the 15 decades every day with her husband, Frank, and recommends the recitation of the rosary as a means of preparation for the upcoming supernatural events.

Q. *Is that what you meant when you said that it would seem as though the Church had disappeared?*

A. Yes.

Q. *It would be because of the persecution and not because the people would stop practicing their religion?*

A. Yes, but I guess a lot of people will stop. Whoever practices it will have to go into hiding.

Q. *Will this only be in Europe or do you think it will be here in the United States as well?*

A. I don't know because for me at that time, Europe was the whole world. I just assumed it was that way. The Blessed Mother didn't specify in what place. To me it looked like it was everywhere.

Q. *Approximately 67% of the earth's land is now dominated by communism. Do you think that's sufficient to fulfill Our Lady's prophecy?*

A. I really don't know. It sounded to me like it would be more than that.

Q. *In other words you think it will*

(inset) Jacinta and Mari Loli shortly after the ecstasies commenced. Jacinta now lives in California with her husband, Jeff, and daughter, Maria Jacinta, while Loli resides in Massachusetts with her husband and three children.

be worse than it is now?

A. That's what I thought from what she said but I really don't know exactly. To me it looked more like it was every place out there, the places I saw in my mind. In a lot of countries in Europe you can still practice your religion.

Q. *So, the situation in the world is not bad enough for the Warning to happen?*

A. The Warning is not going to happen yet so it's probably going to get worse.

Q. *You said that it would be very difficult for priests to say Mass. Was this something that the Blessed Mother told you or was it something that you thought yourself because of the communist tribulation?*

A. From what I remember, it was something she said.



INTERVIEWS WITH THE SEERS

Q. *And the Virgin said that it would seem as though the Church had disappeared?*

A. Yes.

Q. *Did the Blessed Mother ever say anything about the Holy Father having to leave Rome at the time of the Warning?*

A. No, but what it looked like to me—maybe at this time I was confusing in my mind what I was seeing and what the Blessed Mother was saying to me because it's been so many years—but what it looked like to me was that the Pope couldn't be in Rome either, you know what I mean, out in the open. He was being persecuted, too, and had to hide just like everybody else.

Q. *You said that when the Warning comes, the planes would stop in the air and that all engines would stop. Is this what the Blessed Mother told you?*

A. She said that everything, everywhere, for a moment would stop and the people would just think and look inside themselves.

Q. *Will there be any noise with the Warning like a wind blowing?*

A. The way I saw it at the time, it was more like a big silence, like a sense of emptiness. Everything was very silent. That's the way I saw it.

Q. *Seven years ago you said that the Warning was soon. Many people thought it would have happened by now. What would you say today?*

A. It is soon. Everything looks soon to me because time goes by so fast.

Q. *You're the only one who knows the year of the Warning. Did you ever tell it to anyone else, like a priest for example?*

A. No.

Q. *Will people be fighting with one another when the Warning comes?*

A. (no answer)

Jacinta

August 17, 1975^(I)

Q. *Did Our Lady ever speak to you about the Warning?*

A. Yes, she spoke to me about it but she never told me the year...

February, 1977^(D)

Q. *Can you tell us what the Warning will be like?*

A. The Warning is something that is first seen in the air everywhere in the world and immediately is transmitted into the interior of our souls. It will last for a very little time, but it will seem a very long time because of its effect within us. It will be for the good of our souls, in order to see in ourselves our conscience, the good* and the bad that we've done. Then we'll feel a great love toward our heavenly parents and ask forgiveness for all our offenses.

Q. *Will the Warning be felt by all people regardless of their beliefs?*

A. The Warning is for everybody because God wants our salvation. The Warning is in order for us to draw closer to Him and to increase our faith. Therefore, one should prepare for that day, but not awaiting it with fear because God doesn't send things for the sake of fear but rather with justice and love and He does it for the good of all His children that they might enjoy eternal happiness and not be lost.

August, 1979^(J)

Q. *Do you recall anything about a great tribulation, communism....?*

A. Yes, it was an invasion, well, something that seemed to me like an invasion; something that was a great evil in which communism

played a great part, but I no longer remember which countries or what region was stricken. The Blessed Virgin insisted in telling us to pray (that it be averted). These difficult events will take place before the Warning because the Warning itself will take place when the situation will be at its worst.

April 16, 1983^(K)

Q. *In a 1979 interview (above), you said in describing the communist tribulation that "it was like an invasion." Did you see scenes of this invasion?*

A. Sometimes I confuse an invasion with a persecution.

Q. *You have also said that when things were at their very worst then the Warning will happen. How do you know this? Did the Virgin tell you or did you see it in a vision?*

A. The Virgin said that the Warning would come when conditions were at their worst. It wouldn't be just the persecution either because many people will no longer be practicing their religion.

Q. *When the Warning comes it will be seen and felt by everyone on earth. Does this include little children who have not yet reached the age of reason?*

A. Yes. That's why we felt sorry for them because it was such a terrifying experience.

Q. *Can you tell us anything about what the world will be like when the Warning comes?*

A. Bad.

THE MIRACLE

Jacinta

February, 1977^(D)

(Jacinta was never told about the Miracle by the Blessed Virgin. She

said that whenever she questioned Our Lady about the Miracle, the Virgin simply replied, "Everyone will believe.")

Mari Loli

February, 1977^(D)

Q. *Were you told about the Miracle in an apparition, and if so, by whom?*

A. The most Holy Virgin told me.

Q. *What do you know about the Miracle?*

A. All I know is that it will take place within a year after the Warning.

Q. *Will you and your family go to Garabandal for the Miracle?*

A. If it is God's will.

Conchita

1973^(C)

Q. *What is going to happen on that day [of the Miracle]?*

A. I will tell you all that I can just as the Virgin told it to me. She told me that God was going to perform a great Miracle and that there would be no doubt about the fact that it was a miracle. It will come directly from God with no human intervention. A day will come—and she told me the day, the month and the year so I know the exact date.

Q. *When is that day?*

A. It is coming soon but I can't reveal it until eight days before the date.

Q. *What exactly is going to happen*

on that day?

A. I am not permitted to say exactly what is going to happen. What I can reveal is that the Virgin said that everyone who would be there [in Garabandal] on that day would see it. The sick who are there will be cured no matter what their disease or religion. However, they have to be there.

Q. *On the day of the Miracle, did you say that those present would be converted?*

A. The Virgin said that everyone present would believe. They would see that this was coming directly from God. All sinners present would be converted. She also said that you would be able to take pictures and televise it. Also, from that moment on there would be a permanent sign at the pines that everyone will be able to see and touch but not feel. I can't explain it.

Q. *On the day of the Miracle there will be an extraordinary sign not made by human hands?*

A. Yes. And this sign will remain until the end of time.

Q. *Did you say that this sign could be televised and photographed but not felt by touching?*

A. It will be like smoke. You can touch it but not feel it.

Q. *With respect to the sick people... the Virgin mentioned one particular person, a blind man called Joe Lomangino. What did she say about him?*

A. She said that on the day of the great Miracle he will recover his sight. She also talked about a paralytic boy whose parents came from my town [Garabandal]. This boy will also be cured. These are the only two people she mentioned.

Q. *Can you tell us something about Fr. Luis Andreu?*

A. Yes. This priest came frequently to the village to see if the apparitions were real or not. After a while he believed in them. Once, while we were in ecstasy at the pines, he began to shout, "Miracle, miracle, miracle." When this happened the Virgin said, "At this moment the priest is seeing me and the Miracle that will occur."

(continued on page 28)

On June 18, 1965, Conchita received the second Message from St. Michael as the crowd pressed around her. The oldest of the visionaries, she also bears the greatest responsibility having to announce the date of the Miracle eight days in advance.



THEY SAW THE MIRACLE

(continued from page 9)

Cennamo, O.F.M., attested to Padre Pio's belief in Garabandal:

... I was in Garabandal May 30 of this year [1969] and I saw Conchita (again). The same Padre Pio during his lifetime had guaranteed the authenticity of the apparitions of the Virgin. He met Conchita in San Giovanni Rotondo [1966] and furthermore, during the last days of his life, he spoke with his brothers, leaving a personal message for the principal protagonist of the apparitions. The message, entrusted to Padre Pellegrino, was ... given to Conchita at Lourdes in October of the past year, I too being present ...

We know from the notes of Fr. Valentin Marichalar and those of Dr. Celestino Ortiz that Padre Pio's anticipated vision of the Miracle of Garabandal was an-

nounced on September 8, 1962. But, it is possible that the famed stigmatist—and Conchita as well—knew it earlier.

Conchita received her first letter from Padre Pio on March 3, 1962, and answered him the same day, her letter containing a personal message from Our Lady. The prophetic words of the Virgin through Conchita, "... and Padre Pio also will see the Miracle," could be ascribed to either of the above two dates.

The actual fact that Padre Pio did see the Miracle in advance is ascertained by the testimony of Fr. Bernardino Cennamo mentioned above.

In October, 1968, Conchita met Fr. Cennamo at Lourdes. She had

received a telegram requesting that she go there, and left immediately with her mother in the car driven by Fr. Alfred Combe, an important witness of all that transpired.

Fr. Cennamo said to Conchita that he did not believe in the apparitions until Padre Pio told him to give her the veil that would cover his face after his death. The conversation ended like this:

Conchita: How is it that the Virgin told me that Padre Pio is supposed to see the Miracle and he has died?

Fr. Cennamo: He saw the Miracle before he died. He told me so himself.* □

*NEEDLES, Spring 1975 (Conchita Speaks of Padre Pio), and *Conchita Parle du Padre Pio*, a French translation of the NEEDLES article with additions and corrections by Fr. Alfred Combe.

THE STORY OF GARABANDAL

(continued from page 7)

them had done or were thinking; the kissing of objects by Our Lady and the amazing way they were distributed to people during the apparitions—these are some of the exceptional unexplainable phenomena encountered at Garabandal.

Garabandal—A Unique Event

Garabandal is unique in the history of Marian apparitions for a number of reasons. 1) The number of apparitions, somewhere in the vicinity of 2,000 is amazing. 2) The appearance and extensive use of a new means of heavenly communication (not usually encountered along with apparitions having a public message) namely the locution (an interior voice), sets Garabandal apart from Lourdes and Fatima. 3) The span of time over which the apparitions (June 18, 1961 to November 13, 1965) and locutions

(June 19, 1961 to February 13, 1966) occurred, is exceptional. 4) The things announced for the future and yet to come—the Warning, the great Miracle and the permanent sign at the pines, and the conditional Chastisement—are most unusual. 5) The variety of the sites where the visions took place—in the church, at the door of the church, in homes on various streets of the village, at the pines, in the cemetery—is astonishing. 6) The time at which they took place, literally at every hour of the day and night, is quite uncommon. 7) The abundance of secondary or supporting mystical phenomena, such as the miracle of the visible Host, the *llamadas* or calls and the ecstatic marches and falls, is almost overwhelming. 8) The trials of the visionaries, the difficulties and opposition that have accompanied the events almost continually are so unusual that there does not seem to be any natural explanation for them. 9) The manner in which

Garabandal has managed to overcome all obstacles and become more and more widely known and accepted is another of the almost unbelievable happenings connected with it. 10) Finally, and most important of all, this spreading of the Garabandal Message has been accompanied everywhere with an amazing explosion of grace manifested in cures, conversions and tremendous growth in love of God, of neighbor, of the Blessed Virgin and of the Eucharist on the part of both those who disseminate the Message and those who heed it.

These are what are known as the "fruits of Garabandal." □

Mass Offering for Subscribers

Special provisions have been made so that on the eighteenth of every month, Masses are offered for all Garabandal workers and benefactors and for GARABANDAL Magazine subscribers.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE SEERS

(continued from page 19)

Q. *Fr. Luis was actually seeing the Miracle?*

A. Yes. That same day on his trip back home he said to his friends, "This is the happiest day of my life. What a great mother we have in heaven. The apparitions are true." As he said these words he died.

Q. *Didn't the Virgin say that something would occur on the day of the Miracle concerning Fr. Andreu?*

A. Yes, she said that on the day of the Miracle his body would be found incorrupt.

February 7, 1974^(L)

Q. *Will you take the baby* to the Miracle?*

A. I don't even know if I'm going. (Asked to expand on her answer, Conchita said): Surely I want to go, but I don't know if circumstances will permit. It is not necessary (for the occurrence of the Miracle) that I be there.

Q. *You have said that the Miracle of Garabandal will coincide with a great event within the Church. Did Our Lady tell you what that event will be, and can you add anything to what you have already said about this matter?*

A. Yes, I know what the event is. It is a singular event in the Church that happens very rarely, and has never happened in my lifetime. It is not new or stupendous, only rare, like a definition of a dogma—something like that in that it will affect the entire Church. It will happen on the same day as the Miracle, but not as a consequence of the Miracle, only coincidentally.

Q. *How will you announce the Miracle?*

A. I don't know exactly. Most definitely at midnight (eight days before the Miracle) I will call Joey [Lomangino], radio, television, and anyone else in the world that I feel can help to spread the word rapidly. I am not worried. I know that if the Blessed Mother wants you there, you will be there.

*Conchita was expecting her first child when this interview was conducted and gave birth to little Conchita (Conchitina) the following April.

Q. *Joey has said he will go to Garabandal immediately after the Warning. Do you know how much time will pass between the Warning and the Miracle?*

A. For Joey to go to Garabandal is a good idea, but I don't know how long will pass between the Warning and the Miracle.

Q. *Do you think of the day of the Miracle often, and are you anxious for the Warning and the Miracle to come?*

A. Sometimes I think of it as so imminent, sometimes far away. It seems so near when I think that people are not answering the Message, because after the Miracle there may come the punishment. I am anxious, yes. I wait. The Blessed Mother never lies. For the words of the Blessed Mother to be complete, there must be the Warning and the Miracle. It is all one message.

Q. *During the two occasions that Our Lady spoke to you about Joey, did she say anything in addition to the prophecy about his eyes?*

A. Concerning Joey, the only thing I remember now is that the Blessed Virgin said to me that at the moment of the Miracle Joey will have new eyes, and he will see permanently after that.

February, 1977^(D)

Q. *Did you 'see' the Miracle or were you told about it?*

A. The Virgin told me of it and made me understand exactly what it will be.

Q. *Were you alone or with the other girls when Our Lady told you about the Miracle?*

A. I don't remember.*

Q. *What will the Miracle be like?*

A. Even if I would try to explain it, I wouldn't be able to do it well. It is better that you wait and see it.

Q. *Would you please restate the information concerning the span of months during which we may expect the Miracle?*

A. March to May.

Q. *It is said by some people that*

*Ed. note: According to the notes of Fr. Valentin Marichalar, pastor of Garabandal during the time of the events, Conchita was alone when she received this communication.

the way you will announce the Miracle will be a 'miracle' in itself. Can you explain this?

A. I believe that the way in which it will be said will be another miracle because it is a very great responsibility for me and I will need a miracle to say it.

Q. *If I am situated far from the village in the mountains, but I am able to see the pines, will I see the Miracle clearly? If I am sick will I be cured at that distance?*

A. You will be able to witness the Miracle clearly, and if God wills it you will be cured.

Q. *Some people have said that in other places in the United States and Europe people could visit Marian shrines and be cured on that day. What do you know about this?*

A. The Virgin didn't tell us anything about this.

Q. *Will those who are firm believers in the coming Miracle but are unable to attend because of their state in life, for example, cloistered priests and religious, receive any special graces on that day?*

A. I don't know, personally. It depends on these people; of their wishes, or their faith, or their sacrifice or their obedience.

Q. *Did Our Lady ever say anything about the vast sea of people who plan on being in Garabandal several days beforehand? Many are concerned as to how they will manage for their food and toilet facilities. Do you have any comment?*

A. Leave that in God's hands. Do what you can and for the rest remember, 'God performs miracles.' □

(A) *Our Lady Comes to Garabandal* by Joseph A. Pelletier, A.A., pp. 148-149.

(B) *Our Lady Comes to Garabandal*, pp. 149-150.

(C) GARABANDAL, January-March 1983.

(D) NEEDLES, July-September 1977 (reprinted in GARABANDAL, January-March 1980).

(E) GARABANDAL, January-March 1984.

(F) NEEDLES, Autumn 1975.

(G) *The Call of GARABANDAL*, April-June 1984.

(H) GARABANDAL, January-March and April-June 1983.

(I) NEEDLES, Winter 1976.

(J) GARABANDAL, July-September 1982.

(K) GARABANDAL, July-September 1983.

(L) NEEDLES, Spring 1974.

Preparing for the Important Vigil

By Hans Lange and Marie FitzPatrick

What does one need when preparing to attend the Miracle prophesied to take place in Garabandal on a date not yet revealed? Firstly, a plan based on thought and research to determine the minimum number of items needed for such a trip and secondly, patience to wait for the best time to purchase equipment and supplies.

Since the Miracle will take place within a 12 month period after the Warning, it is recommended that you wait until after the Warning before investing in camping equipment for your pilgrimage.

A Mountain Setting

Garabandal (altitude 1,630 ft.) is located in the foothills of the Cantabrian Mountains in what is considered the "damp" part of Spain. Therefore, in March, April or May

when the Miracle is prophesied to take place, which are months of heavy precipitation, one should be prepared for moist and cool weather. In fact, it can be quite cold especially at night and in the daytime even in May. The relatively flat meadowlands that surround the village proper will undoubtedly be marshy and will call for extra ground cover and caution for those choosing to camp there.

The following guidelines can apply to everyone's circumstances

San Sebastian de Garabandal, a mountain setting.



Preparing for the Important Vigil



This EMS "Porter Pack" converts from a large suitcase to a full-sized backpack.

for the trip and the common starting point is to prepare for eight to ten days of camping out with adequate but minimal provisions and supplies for the number of people in your group.

Backpack

The main item for consideration is the backpack. We recommend that serious thought be given to the design best suited for the person carrying the pack. Some stores keep a loaded pack on hand which you may try on. When looking at the various packs, check for the following:

1. See that the padding of the shoulder straps is not too soft because it will compress too much under the weight of the pack and become uncomfortable.
2. Make certain the bag is stitched with nylon thread.
3. A good quality hip belt is necessary as it carries *most* of the weight.
4. See to it that the pack has outside pockets for frequently used small items.
5. Operate the toggles and see that they perform as needed. Even try



When looking at tents, choose one that "packs small"; for example, the above style stands six feet tall, has a floor space of almost 10 ft. x 10 ft., and packs into a bag 30" x 9".

to operate them with gloves on, which is important in cold weather.

6. After strapping the bag on your back, pull hard on the shoulder strap retainers to see that they do not slip and let go under the load.
7. Have a plain canvas bag, a little bigger than the fully loaded pack, made to fit over the pack. Conveyor belts of commercial carriers can play havoc with your straps and the pack frame, sometimes causing irreparable damage, necessitating the purchase of a new bag.

One highly recommended pack is the Trailwise Pack Bag Model 74. Model 73 is also widely used. Other suggested packs are: EMS Back-

packer, EMS Divided Packer, the Kelty Serac and the Kelty Sonora.

Sleeping Bag

The most expensive items in your pack are the sleeping bag and a good quality, waterproof stuff sack to contain the bag. The use of down filled sleeping bags has been abandoned due to the cost and the care they must be given. Bags filled with man-made fibers can protect to a minimum temperature of 0°F. We suggest the North Face Bigfoot mummy shaped sleeping bag. It is filled with PolarGuard and can be used for weeks on end with a frequent airing and reversing of the bag. The sleeping bag is carried rolled up and strapped to the backpack.

Tent

If you are considering a tent check out rentals. Nylon is much lighter than canvas. Tents range in size and cost from \$20.00 to \$400.00. A nylon self-standing, six man tent weighing about 20 lbs. costs approximately \$300.00. If you purchase a nylon tent, go over the lower portion seams and zipper seams with a waterproofer. You will also need a good ground cloth to prevent condensation from forming inside the tent.

Food

The most difficult subject is food. Freeze dried food is best for weight and ease of preparation. It is available from camping and outdoors stores and through catalogs. But it is expensive. Here is a suggested basic menu that will sustain one person for eight to ten days with a normal weight loss of six to ten pounds during that period (alter as desired). The total amount needed for a 10 day supply, per person, is:

Breakfast:

2 cups hot tea with 2 or 3 spoons of sugar
1 cup hot oatmeal—buy individual serving packets

Lunch:

2 cups hot tea with 2 or 3 spoons of sugar
1 cup soup (Knorr cubes, for example)

Dinner:

2 cups hot tea with 2 or 3 spoons of sugar
1 can chili, stew or hash (individual servings)

Special items:

Smoked baby clams, oysters, tuna fish, raisins, chocolate, dried apricots, pears, apples, etc.
You can make up your own combinations.

60 tea bags; 10 cubes of soup; 10 cans of chili, stew or hash; 20 pieces of chocolate; 10 cans or bags of assorted specialty items; 12 bouillon cubes for emergency use; and 12 One-A-Day Multiple Vitamins. Approximate total weight — 10 lbs.

Contents of Backpack

Suggested items for the backpack are: Toilet case, multipurpose knife (Swiss or Boy Scout) not a sheath knife; fire starter (metal match, butane lighter, waterproof matches); nylon twine, 1/8" x 50'; metal mirror; canteen (1 liter); water carrier (3 gal.); sportsman (space) blanket; flashlight with 2 spare Duracell batteries; lantern with 6 volt battery; portable toilet; roll of toilet tissue, not packets; towel; assorted plastic bags; knife, fork and spoon set; metal cup; "Sigg" pot with lid, plates; salt shaker; folding shovel; folding "Swen" saw; first aid kit; tent if small and light; ground cloth; water purification kit; cooking screen; hot

pot tongs; 2 one liter red "Sigg" aluminum fuel bottles (empty) with special pouring caps; Ace bandage; air mattress; small baby bottle to fill canteen from shallow streams; backpack grill with canvas cover; 1 SVEA 123 stove with lid pot.

Clothing

Your clothing should be what you wear plus one change to carry. Basically it should be warm and waterproof, such as, jeans; wool sweater, which can be worn under an EMS Wind Parka; 3 pairs of warm socks; shirts, one should be wool; 3 sets of underwear; 1 poncho large enough to cover the backpack; 1 pair of rainchaps; and 1 pair of hiking boots carefully selected.

These are a few suggestions to help you get started. You know best the needs of your family and yourself (keep in mind the airline regulations for weight and size of luggage).

Your local library's section on camping and backpacking can give you much more detailed information. If you are fortunate to have a good sports (camping) store in your locale talk to them. If you have a large family or if you are not too eager to buy equipment that will not be used after the Miracle, look to see where you can improvise. A couple of examples are: A large tarp with gromets (metal ringed holes) draped over a rope and pegged down can serve as a tent. Plastic garbage bags for rain coats; reinforce the neck and arm holes with waterproof tape. Regular wooden matches dipped in paraffin wax that makes them waterproof.

There are many dried soups, beverages, vegetables, fruits, individual canned meats, fish, cereals, etc., found in the supermarkets that can be used. □