**APPARITIONS OF MARY – KWL 11.9**

The Catholic Church believes that people can have a private vision of Mary, the mother of Christ but requires the visions (apparitions) to be judged and approved before Catholic pilgrims can pray there.

The apparition authentication process involves TWO things:

1. The vision does not contradict Church teaching.
2. The vision appears to be supernatural.

Possible findings:

1. Case is authentic
2. Case isn’t supernatural, but is approved for prayer and devotion
3. Case in not authentic and Catholics are warned against believing in it

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| **Apparition Name. Location & Date** | **Description**  What happened? What message was given? |
| *Our Lady of Guadalupe* Mexico, 1531 | Juan Diego, a converted catholic, lived in Tepayac Hill. There, he heard music unlike any he had heard before, before being called by Mary, who asked him to build a small house on the spot of the meeting, and asked Juan to go to the local bishop.  The bishop didn’t believe Juan initially. Juan went to go get evidence, but before he could show it, he had to go to his uncle, who had become ill. The woman said that she would protect his uncle, and sent him to get flowers. Juan ended up finding roses in barren, frosty ground.  Juan returned to be blessed by the woman. Juan gave her the roses, and Juan was exposed to a clear image of the woman, who had brown skin and was waring a pink robe, and who was assumed to be pregnant. She was also surrounded by rays of light. |
| *Our Lady of La’Vang* Vietnam, 1798 | The king at the time started a persecution of Vietnamese Catholics, which lasted until 1886. This led to all Catholic Churches and seminaries being destroyed, and the killing of many Catholics and priests.  People fled to La’Vang to hide, despite the bad conditions. During the night they would pray, which on one instance led them to see an apparition of a woman, who they recognised as Mary.  Mary comforted the people and answered their prayers. Throughout the years, Mary would come to people who prayed there. This led to the building of a chapel. Once the persecutions ended, a larger church was made, and Our Lady of La’Vang was proclaimed as the protector of Vietnamese Catholics. |
| *Our Lady of Lourdes* France, 1858 | Bernadette Soubirous, a young poor girl, was gathering firewood when she saw a vision of a woman. The woman invited her and her friends to pray the Rosary. Bernadette experienced this 17 more times during the span of 6 months, although the apparition was only visible to her.  Bernadette was asked to dig a hole which would fill up and heal anyone who bathed in it. She also asked her to get the priest to build a chapel in her honour. The priest didn’t believe her, which led Bernadette to leave and come back after Mary identified herself. This led to the Church’s acceptance of her. |
| *Our Lady of Fatima* Portugal, 1917 | In a small town in Portugal, three children claimed to have seen an apparition of a woman. All three saw the apparition, but only Lucia and Jacinta heard her speak. They were asked to return each month.  Everyone was trying to disprove the vision, which led to October 13th, the last time the children were asked to visit the woman. Thousands gathered to see the apparition, but only the children could see her. The woman told the children to pray the Rosary every day, build a chapel, and proclaim the need for a moral life.  In 1930, Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the Church. |