

Sister Apolline Andriveau and the “Red Scapular”

Louise-Apolline Aline Andriveau was born on May 7, 1810 in Saint-Pourçain-sur-Sioule (Allier) to Leonardo and Apolline (Grangie) Andriveau. Her father was a notary who saw to it that she received a good education. The family moved to Paris when her father received a promotion. Upon the death of her mother, it was decided that she should complete her studies at the convent of Saint Elizabeth in Paris.

In 1833, she joined the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul as Sister Apolline, and was sent to the convent in Troyes where she spent the next thirty-eight years. Initially, she taught school but was later assigned to visiting the poor and caring for the convent chapel. She had a particular devotion to the Passion of Christ. In 1872 Sister Apolline moved to Caen, France.

In 1830 Saint Catherine Laboure had reported a vision of the Blessed Virgin, which she had experienced in the chapel of the motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, which led to the development of the Miraculous Medal. Ten years later, in 1840, Sister Justine Bisqueyburu disclosed a vision of the Blessed Virgin she had purportedly experienced in the Daughters of Charity house in Blangy. This gave rise to the Green Scapular

On July 26, 1846 and September 14, 1846, Sister Apolline reported that Jesus and Mary appeared to her in the convent in Troyes, France and promised her that those who wear the scapular faithfully and contemplated the Passion of Christ would be granted a great increase of faith, hope and charity every Friday.

She described the apparition of July 26, 1846:

Being in the chapel in the evening of the octave day of our Holy Father, Saint Vincent de Paul, I saw, or thought I saw, Our Lord dressed in a flowing robe of a red color with a blue mantle hanging from his shoulders...He had in his hand a red scapular on which he was represented on the cross..."

The front of the scapular showed Christ on the Cross and contained the words "Holy Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ save us." The back held images of the sacred hearts of Jesus and Mary being adored by angels. It read "Sacred hearts of Jesus and Mary protect us."

She further said that in a subsequent vision on September 14, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, that Jesus told her that the priests of the Mission (Congregation of the Mission – The Vincentians) alone are to give this scapular, and those who wear it when blessed by them will receive every Friday, a full remission of their sins, and a great increase of faith, hope, and charity.

Sister Apolline's spiritual director, Jean-Baptiste Etienne, Superior-General of the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians), advised her to write a letter describing her experiences. Etienne did not, at first, attach any particular importance to Sister Apolline's revelations, but being in Rome the following year, brought up the subject to Pope Pius IX. Much to Etienne's surprise, Pope Pius IX made no objection to the devotion being adopted, and even encouraged it, because of its message of redemption and mercy. On July 25, 1847, Pope Pius IX gave his approval to a new red scapular, to be known as the Scapular of the Passion of Our Lord and the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He further granted to the priests of the Congregation of the Mission the faculty of blessing the scapular and investing the faithful with it. The Superior-General was allowed to communicate the faculty of blessing and investing the scapular to priests outside the Vincentian order and such a scapular can now be invested by any Catholic priest.

In 1887 she moved to Montolieu, where she died on February 23, 1895.

A quote from Sister Apolline Andriveau:

“Meditation on the Passion gives the soul strength to practice virtue, we do not think about it enough. The saints drew all of their strength from meditation on the Passion of Jesus Christ. Oh, how He suffered, and we forget so much love!”

References:

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Scapular_of_the_Passion
2. <https://filles-de-la-charite.org/en/rincon-oracion/sister-apolline-andriveau-the-scapular-of-the-passion/>
3. <https://www.cathcorn.org/sothcc/red.html>

