

The Third Message (October 13, 1973)
 “If men do not repent and better themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible punishment on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the deluge Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a great part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, sparing neither priests nor faithful. The survivors will find themselves so desolate that they will envy the dead. *The only arms which will remain for you will be the Rosary and the Sign left by My Son.* Each day recite the prayers of the Rosary.... The work of the devil will infiltrate even into the Church in such a way that one will see *cardinals opposing cardinals, bishops against bishops.* The priests who venerate me will be scorned and opposed by their confreres.... churches and altars sacked; the Church will be full of those who accept compromises and the demon will press many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord. The demon will be especially implacable against souls consecrated to God. The thought of the loss of so many souls is the cause of my sadness. If sins increase in number and gravity, there will be no longer pardon for them.”

What Our Lady spoke of—unimaginable in 1973—has come to pass. For 50 years, priests who venerate Mary have been scorned by other priests, but only recently have “cardinals opposed cardinals, bishops against bishops.” Our Lady weeps for the loss of so many souls, each of which is her child, because sins will increase in such number and gravity that “there will no longer be any pardon”: *a point of no return.*

Our Lady smiled to Sr. Agnes and then said: “You have still something to ask? Today is the last time that I will speak to you in living voice.... Pray very much the prayers of the Rosary. I alone am able still to save you from the calamities which approach. Those who place their confidence in me will be saved.”

As at Fatima, Our Lady at Akita asked us to pray, pray very much the rosary, for “only Our Lady of the Rosary can help you.” God has appointed her to save us from these calamities. She has been given a preeminent grace to lead sinners to her Son, and through Him to the Father. Akita, then, repeats and emphasizes the messages of prayer and penance at Fatima.

Ecclesiastical Approval

In 1984, after eight years of investigations, Rev. John Shojiro Ito, Bishop of Niigata (the diocese of which Akita is located), wrote in his approbation letter: “I authorize throughout the entire diocese of which I am charged, the veneration of the Holy Mother of Akita.” The Bishop noted that the events are only a matter of private revelation, not points of doctrine. The Bishop also mentioned that he had known Sr. Agnes Sasagawa for 10 years. “She is a woman sound in spirit, frank and without problems; she has always impressed me as a balanced person. Consequently the messages she says that she has received did not appear to me to be in any way the result of imagination or hallucination.”

Recommended Reading Fr. Tejii Yasuda, Sr. Agnes’ pastor, wrote *Akita: The Tears and Message of Mary* in 1981, but it’s hard to find. EWTN hosts Bob and Penny Lord wrote *Our Lady of Akita* (2011), which is more available.

Our Lady of Akita **Historical Facts** **and Essential Messages** **of Our Lady in 1973**



Welcome to Our Lady’s Shrine here in San Francisco. In this pamphlet, prepared by our pastor, Fr. Joseph Illo, you will learn the basic facts and message of this apparition. You are encouraged to spend some time in quiet prayer and perhaps go to confession. Please keep a reverent silence in the Church, especially when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.

Star of the Sea Church

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What: Three Messages to a Japanese nun

Where: Akita, Japan

When: 1973

To Whom: Sr. Agnes Sasagawa, a novice at the Handmaids of the Holy Eucharist



Sr. Agnes Sasagawa

Buddhist from birth, Sr. Agnes suffered health problems all her life. A Catholic nurse treated her with such kindness that Agnes took instruction and became Catholic, entering the convent of the Handmaids of the Holy Eucharist near Akita,

Japan. On June 12, 1973, Sr. Agnes saw a brilliance emanating from the convent tabernacle, which happened again the following two days. Two weeks later, a cross-shaped wound appeared on her inside left hand, bleeding and causing much pain.

The First Message (July 6):

Suffering, Atonement and Healing

On July 6, while in the chapel, Sr. Agnes heard a voice coming from a 3-foot wooden statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On the same day, the sisters noticed drops of blood flowing from the statue's right hand. A voice came through the statue, calling Sr. Agnes: "My daughter, my novice, you have obeyed me well in abandoning all to follow me. Is the infirmity of your ears painful? Your deafness will be healed, be sure. Does the wound of your hand cause you to suffer? *Pray in reparation for the sins of men.*"

Our Lady continued: "Each person in this community is my irreplaceable daughter. Do you say well the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist? Then, let us pray it together:

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, truly present in Holy Eucharist, I consecrate my body and soul to be entirely one with Your Heart, being sacrificed at every instant on all the altars of the world and giving praise to the Father pleading for the coming of His Kingdom. Please receive this humble offering of myself. Use me as You will for the glory of the Father and the salvation of souls.

Our Lady would deliver two more messages to Sr. Agnes through the statue in August and October, but the statue also manifested signs of distress. At the evening office of September 29, 1973, the whole community saw a brilliant light coming from the statue. Almost immediately the entire body of the statue became covered with a moisture resembling perspiration. From 1975 to 1981 the statue "wept," exuding clear, salty liquid from its eyes, a total of 101 times. In 1979 it was captured by a TV crew for the 11pm news. The sculptor of the statue, Saburo Wakasa, a non-Catholic from Akita, described it: "I sculptured the whole statue from the same piece of wood... the wood was very dry and rather hard . . . [how it wept] is a mystery."



The Second Message (August 3):

Prayer, Penance, and Chastisement

"My daughter, my novice, do you love the Lord? If you love the Lord, listen to what I have to say to you.

"Many men in this world afflict the Lord. I desire souls to console Him to soften the anger of the Heavenly Father. I wish, with my Son, for souls who will make reparation by their suffering and their poverty for the sinners and ingrates.

"In order that the world might know His anger, the Heavenly Father is preparing to inflict a great chastisement on all mankind. With my Son I have intervened so many times to appease the wrath of the Father. I have prevented the coming of calamities by offering Him the sufferings of the Son on the Cross, His Precious Blood, and beloved souls who console Him forming a cohort of victim souls. Prayer, penance and courageous sacrifices can soften the Father's anger. ...Recite the prayer of the Handmaids of the Eucharist ... offer in reparation (whatever God may send) for sins. Let each one endeavor, according to capacity and position, to offer herself entirely to the Lord."

Our Lady states clearly that divine justice will be accomplished, and that those who break the laws of God will themselves be broken. Indeed, in our time the social order is collapsing as we attempt to order our lives apart from the laws of nature and of nature's God. The resulting disorder paralyzes many people in continuous fears, which are easily exploited by others. But, as St. Paul says, perfect love casts out all fear. Fear always indicates some lack of faith.