



January 22, 1998

A letter to the Reader:

With great joy and interest I read Mr. Christian Ravaz's book entitled "The Apparitions in Damascus" prefaced by Rev. Father Laurentin and I bless this work.

I was Apostolic Nuncio in Syria from October 1988 to February 1993 and at the beginning I purposely ignored the "Soufanieh phenomenon" for various reasons while at the same time I followed with care that which was occurring knowing that two excellent priests were guiding Myrna as her spiritual directors. After some time during which I prayed and meditated much I decided to visit her home unannounced, and the place of apparition along with the secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature. For a while we prayed before the Icon and were then taken to the rooftop to see the place where Our Lady appeared to Myrna and where remained on the ground the mark of oil where the feet of Our Lady posed. While looking down on the spot where the oil was left I began to see with much surprise the resemblance of the Face of Christ crucified. I turned to the secretary and asked him what he saw and he confirmed what I was seeing. We remained looking for quite some time and it seemed to become clearer and clearer. Those standing behind us, including Myrna and her husband Nicola also noted this and exclaimed: "The Nuncio came her incredulous and was given this sign"!

Following this I invited Myrna to the Apostolic Nunciature Chapel to assist at Holy Mass. Many friends including Sr. Maria Fiorin of the Italian Hospital, the Italian Ambassador and his wife and the staff and Sisters of the Nunciature. At the conclusion of the Holy Mass Myrna sang a most beautiful Arabic hymn and then abundant pure olive oil flowed from her hands.

On many occasions this episode was repeated. When I left Damascus my last act was to celebrate Holy Mass at midnight on the 10th anniversary of the apparition in the presence of many priests, religious and members of the Diplomatic Corp. At the homily I announced my desire to open in Rome an ecumenical center "Our Lady of Soufanieh for Unity and Peace" when suddenly oil flowed again from Myrna's hands and the priests interpreted this as a sign that Our Lady was pleased.

When I arrived in Rome and had the Audience with the Holy Father, I gave him the large picture of Our Lady of Soufanieh and a letter from Myrna. His Holiness asked me what was my thinking on Soufanieh and I humbly expressed my positive opinion requesting him to have this very important matter studied. I thank God for this special and important gift He has bestowed on the Land of ST. Paul - Damascus. I encourage the readers to pray for the unity and peace as wished by Our Lady of Soufanieh! May the Holy Spirit in this year dedicated to Him, illumine and open all hearts to Christ.

*+ Luigi Accorbi*