# Vatican Introduces Updated Guidelines for Authenticating Visions and Supernatural Events



On May 17, 2024, the Vatican introduced updated guidelines for authenticating visions and supernatural events. This move responds to the increasing spread of suspicious claims, fueled by social media, causing confusion among the faithful.

Historically, the Catholic Church has faced numerous claims of supernatural phenomena, such as Marian apparitions, bleeding statues, and stigmata. Confirmed cases like those in Fatima, Portugal, and Lourdes, France, have turned into major pilgrimage sites.

Pope Francis, known for his cautious stance on recent supernatural claims, has reaffirmed his devotion to recognized apparitions, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Fatima. However, he has expressed skepticism about more recent claims, including those at the shrine of Medjugorje.

The new norms, set to be unveiled by the Vatican's doctrinal office, revise guidelines from 1978. They aim to provide a clear procedure for bishops, who primarily handle the investigation of these claims. The guidelines now include six possible conclusions for church leaders when investigating alleged supernatural events.

Noteworthy instances of skepticism include the “Madonna of Trevignano” in Italy, debunked by a local bishop, and historical cases such as the disputed apparitions at Lipa, Philippines, in 1951.

These revised norms reflect the church's effort to balance faith and discernment, addressing the influx of unverified supernatural claims in the digital age.