

OF OUR LADY APPARITIONS AND MARIAN SHRINES IN THE WORLD

## Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at QUITO



## ECUADOR, 1594-1634

t 1 AM on February 2, 1594, Mother Mariana Torres Berriochoa, a young abbess of the convent of the Immaculate Conception of the city of Quito, went down to pray in the choir of the chapel, as she used to do with great fervor for some time, commending to God the future of her small monastic community. Suddenly she saw a beautiful Lady, dressed as a nun, who with her left hand was holding a Baby of heavenly beauty, while with her right hand she was holding an abbey crosier of burnished gold, studded with precious stones. In contemplating her with surprise, the religious woman was inundated by an infinite joy and experienced an extraordinarily intense love for God. The young abbess astonished by the apparition remained speechless, but as soon as she was able to speak, she asked the Lady who she was, and the lady answered: "I am Mary of Good Success, Queen of Heavens and Earth". Later the Most Blessed Virgin foretold numerous and dramatic prophecies. With two and a half centuries in advance, the public consecration of this nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus: "In the XIX Century a truly Christian President will come, a man of character, to whom the Lord will grant the palm of martyrdom on the square in front of this convent of mine; he will consecrate the Republic to the Divine Heart of my Most Beloved Son and this consecration will sustain the Catholic Religion in the subsequent years, that will be distressing for the Church. At that time an anti-Christian sect, Masonry, will take control of the civil government and there will be a cruel persecution of all the religious communities that will affect also this monastery which will be suppressed" (Apparition of January 16, 1599).

At the end of the XIX century all of this was punctually realized. In fact in 1873, the valiant President of Ecuador, Gabriel Garcia Moreno, solemnly consecrated his nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, after having energetically fought the influence of Masonry in the public lift of his country with his holy example, his governance and his laws. After a few years the anti-Christians exect took revenge by having him assessinated as he was exitting from the church, right in front of the monastery of the Immaculate Conception. as Our Lady had prophesized. Later the persecution of all the religious congregations broke out ferociously.

Many years later, on the night of February 2, 1634, Sister Mariana received another prophetic message, even more upsetting because it regarded the situation of the world and the Church in the XX Century. One night, while the abbess was praying in the choir of the chapel, the lamp of the Tabernacle went out, leaving her in almost complete darkness. Suddenly Our Lady appeared again, overcoming the darkness with her splendor and illuminating the church as if it were midday. Sharing one of her secrets to the visionary, the Most Blessed Virgin explained to her the meaning of this apparition: "The extinguishing of the lamp burning in front of the Love kept in the Tabernacle has many meanings. The first one is this: at the end of the XIX Century and for a great part of the XX, many heresies will spread, and under their power the precious light of the Faith will extinguish in the souls through the work of the corruption of customs. At that time there will be great physical and moral calamities, public and private. The few souls that remained faithful to the grace will suffer a martyrdom as cruel and unspeakable as prolonged; many of them will descend into the tomb for the violence of their sufferings and will be considered like martyrs sacrificed for the Church and their Country. "The second reason for the extinguishing of the light of the Shrine is that my Convent, being drastically reduced in number, will be submerged in an incomprehensible ocean of indescribable bitterness, and it will appear to drown in these different waters of

The Virgin Mary continued: The third meaning of the extinguishing of the lamp is due to the spirit poisoned by impurity that will dominate at that time, traveling roads, squares and public places like an unclean sea and experiencing such a surprising liberty that almost no more virgin souls will be left in the world. The fourth meaning is the acknowledgement of the power of the sects, that will cleverly infiltrate in the families extinguishing the innocence in the hearts of the little ones, suffocating in this way also the priestly vocations [...] Unfortunately, the Church will then go through a dark night in which there will lack a prelate and a father who keeps vigil with love, with gentleness and strength, acumen and prudence, and many as only will get lost jeopardizing the jornate arm a sharten. The fifth reason of the extinguishings that samp is in the inseasability and indifference of those people who, the wile possessing abundant teches, will remain a slinity ment to obtain the destruction of vide not persecute or the persecution of the virtue.

Since the beginning of the apparitions all the Bishops who have succeeded in the diocese have always officially and publicly promoted this devotion,























