



**THE APPEALS
OF OUR LADY**
APPARITIONS
AND
MARIAN SHRINES
IN THE WORLD

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in SWIETA LIPKA

POLAND, 13th century

The famous Marian Shrine of Swieta Lipka is one of the most important pilgrimage centers of Poland. The Shrine is currently part of the monastery complex of the Jesuits and dates back to the Middle Ages. Pilgrims hailing from all over the world go there to make a visit and to pray. The Shrine of Swieta Lipka has an extraordinary historical value in that it is considered to be a significant example of Poland's later Baroque architecture.

Even though not holding the title of "Black Madonna," Our Lady of the Holy Linden Tree (Swieta Lipka) shares several characteristics with other Black Madonna images: being dark, having a strong connection with the earth, with pre-Christian spirituality, and having revealed herself through miracles since the very beginning.

History narrates that in the 13th century a condemned innocent person was saved by the Most Holy Mother in this way: the night before his execution she appeared to him in his prison cell in Rastenburg. Bringing him a piece of wood and a knife, she told him to carve an image of the Blessed Mother with Child. The man sculpted a beautiful image of the Virgin Mary with Baby Jesus. It was so deeply moving that the jailers and the judge believed in the apparition story told by the convict and they gave him back his freedom. Thanking the Blessed Mother for having saved his life, the man, filled with joy, went in the direction of Rössel, looking for a linden tree along the road, upon which he could place his sculpture, as the Glorious Lady had suggested to him during the vision. Precisely here, where the present day Basilica is located, he had found the magnificent linden tree. In a short time the place became famous thanks to miracles and to healings. Astonished shepherds saw their own lambs kneel down as they were passing beside the linden tree, and the blind regained their sight. It is also said that the Holy Linden upon which the statue was hung was not just an old linden tree, but that it was already venerated in a pre-Christian era. It was considered the home of Puskaite, goddess of fertility and of grain, in whose honor certain festivals were held in the spring and autumn.



The visionary hangs the image of the Virgin Mary on the linden, as instructed by Mary



Basilica of Swieta Lipka



Facade



Courtyard of the Basilica



Beautiful cloister decorated with precious frescoes



Antique print that illustrates the apparition



Our Lady of Swieta Lipka. In the 14th century, in Ketrzyn, to a man condemned to death the Blessed Mother appeared and she asked him to carve her image with the Child Jesus



Interior of the Basilica of Swieta Lipka



Pipe organ inside the Basilica



Votive fresco



Commemorative medal



Replica of the linden tree

