



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at ABSAM

 AUSTRIA, 1797

On January 17, 1797 the teenage girl Rosina Puechner saw the image of the Blessed Virgin on the glass of her window. After contemplating it for about an hour, Rosina wiped the glass with the intent of erasing it, but it was impossible. The phenomenon was carefully examined by an ecclesiastical commission and eventually was declared to be miraculous. The windowpane with the image of Mary was brought into the church of Absam where it still remains exposed for the pilgrims as a special devotional object of Marian piety.

Afterwards the pastor had the windowpane removed to facilitate examination by some experts, who noted how the image would disappear when it was immersed in water, but it immediately reappeared as soon as the glass dried. The window was given back to the Puechner family, but at the request of the inhabitants of the village, who maintained: "Where the Son is, there the Mother must also be!", the miraculous image was carried into the church in a festive procession at the sound of bells. That took place on June 24, 1797.

Initially the image was located on the main altar, now its place, visible to everyone, is below the fresco of Our Lady. Since then many pilgrims continue to come to ask Our Lady of Absam for help and consolation. Indeed the news spread rapidly and numerous pilgrims began to flock to Absam, to pray in front of the image: thus began a remarkable series of miraculous healings.

The miraculous image of the Virgin Mary can be viewed still today in a side altar of the parish church of Absam. The glass is only seven centimeters high and five centimeters wide, but the face of Mary can be seen clearly. It is enclosed in a metal reliquary with golden rays, a golden crown, golden flowers, and precious jewels. The face of the Virgin in the image is young and delicate and befits the most affectionate title commonly used by Austrians and Germans for the Virgin Mary: "Beloved Lady" (Frau Liebe).



Early painting depicting the miracle



The metal reliquary with golden rays



The image imprinted on the glass on January 17, 1797



The image of the face of Mary imprinted on the glass in 1797 has made Absam one of the most famous Tyrolean shrines



On June 24, 1797 the image of the Virgin Mary that was imprinted on a windowpane in the house of the former Rosina Puechner on January 17, 1797 was transferred into the church of the town; the church was then called Shrine of Our Lady of Absam. On June 24, 2000, feast day of Saint John the Baptist, the second patron of the town, the church was proclaimed Basilica, becoming the first Tyrolean shrine to obtain this title without being a monastery



Interior



Panoramic view of Absam

