

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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in AGRES

SPAIN, 1484

In August of 1484 the church of Saint Mary in Alicante had completely burnt down, but an image of the Virgin mysteriously disappeared. On the 1st of September of that same year, the young shepherd, Tomás Gaspar, who in the past had suffered the mutilation of an arm, was preparing to put his herd out to pasture and to pray the Rosary near Agres, when suddenly he caught sight of the image of the Virgin that had vanished during the blaze. Then he immediately heard a sweet voice that called to him. He turned and saw in person, amid the ruins of the Moorish castle, the Virgin Mary who exhorted him: "My son, go down to the village and say that I have chosen this place as throne for my kingdom and Shrine in which to come to pray."

The young man was most happy to have seen the Virgin Mary, but also distressed, since he thought that no one would have taken him seriously. The Blessed Mother then promised to Tomás Gaspar the healing and restoration of his physical entirety: "The proof that your mission is celestial and of divine origin will be given by the fact that I restore your arm, this will elicit the amazement of everyone and you will be believed." And so the young pastor, happy for the apparition and for having been made whole and healthy, urgently ran to Agres to announce the apparition of the Blessed Mother and to show everyone the miraculous return of his arm. All the faithful went in procession to retrieve the sacred image and transport it solemnly in church.

Nevertheless, the following morning the image disappeared from the church and was found in the place of the apparition. This was interpreted as a clear sign that the Virgin Mary desired that the Shrine was to be built exactly at the spot where she appeared and had healed the young Tomás Gaspar.



Representation of the apparition



The Shrine sits on top of the remains of an ancient castle



Ceramic portrayal that illustrates the apparition of the Virgin to Tomás Gaspar



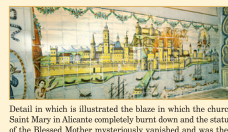
Inside of the Shrine



The statue of the Blessed Mother that is venerated in the Shrine



Antique ceramics of Valencia as "ex voto" religious offerings for favors received



Detail in which is illustrated the blaze in which the church Saint Mary in Alicante completely burnt down and the statue of the Blessed Mother mysteriously vanished and was then found by the shepherd Tomás Gaspar



Altar



The Shrine is adorned with precious majolica (glazed earthenware pottery) upon which the story of the Shrine is illustrated

