



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

# Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in LICHEN



POLAND, 1813-1850

**L**ichen is a small town of about 1500 people in central Poland. The largest church in the country and one of the most beautiful in the world is located there: the Shrine-Basilica where the miraculous painting of the Blessed Mother, Queen of Poland is venerated. The picture is connected to two apparitions of the Virgin Mary. The first apparition dates back to the beginning of the 19th century, when a soldier, Tomasz Klossowski, in 1813 participated in the battle near Leipzig, in Germany. Tomasz was wounded on the battlefield. He was lying on the ground without the possibility of receiving first aid. Right then he began to pray to the Blessed Mother, asking for help and grasping the medal he wore around his neck. In that instant, according to the accounts handed down by the people, he saw a beautiful Lady that was walking on the battlefield, dressed with a garment of the color amaranth (burgundy) with a sign of a White Eagle on her chest. When she approached, he recognized the Blessed Mother. Mary promised to Tomasz that he would return home. She ordered him to find an image that represented her. She also asked to place that image in a public place. Klossowski was saved. He returned to his homeland. He settled down in the village of Izbabelin, near Lichen. To support himself he became a blacksmith and opened a forge. He went in pilgrimage to various sites of Marian devotion, prayed in front of numerous images of the Blessed Mother, but none looked like the Madonna as he had seen her that night. Klossowski searched in vain for 23 years. Finally in 1836 he went in pilgrimage to Czestochowa. On the return trip, in the village of Lagota near Czestochowa, he saw a group of pilgrims that were praying in front of an image of the Madonna, situated near a chapel. He approached and noticed that the image represented the Blessed Mother with the same features which he had seen her during the apparition. With the consent of the owner he took it with him and hung it in his home. The image was small, measuring 9.5 by 15.5 centimeters. For several years Klossowski prayed in front of the image. However, after a serious illness in 1844, he decided to place it on a tree in the forest of Grablin. In this way he was able to satisfy the promise made many years earlier to the Blessed Mother. Afterward, in 1848, Tomasz Klossowski died. After the death of Tomasz, probably the only person who remembered the image of the Madonna situated in the forest was the shepherd, Mikolaj Sikatka. Precisely to him in the years 1850-1852 the Blessed Mother appeared several times because she chose him as a messenger. The shepherd had the task of transmitting her requests of conversion and of prayer to the people, in particular to recite the Rosary. The Madonna predicted times of epidemic, giving at the same time hope to those that had placed their faith in Her. Other than the requests, the Blessed Mother promised the Polish people mercy in the most difficult moments. A proof of the words of the Madonna was the White Eagle in her arms. An oral tradition bequeaths that Father Mikolaj Sikatka heard from the words of the Blessed Mother the statement regarding the image: "When the difficult days will arrive, that this Nation will ask me for help, I will not ever leave it, but I will protect it and I will embrace it to my heart, as this White Eagle. I ask that this image be transferred to a more worthy place and that it obtains the respect of the people. There pilgrims will arrive from all of Poland and they will find comfort. I will be the Queen of my nation for centuries. In this place will be constructed a splendid church in my honor. If men will not build it, I will send my Angels and they will build it themselves." In the area the apparitions of the Blessed Mother were very popular but no one believed the words of the shepherd. Regarding the issue of the shepherd the authorities of the czar involved themselves. The Russian authorities, worried by the tales of Mikolaj regarding the fact that the Blessed Mother had appeared to him with an image of the White Eagle, decided to imprison the shepherd. They feared that the content of the story might have been able to negatively influence the Poles that were in prison. The Russian officers wanted that the Poles would not have the hope or the strength to fight for independence. In spite of the threats, Mikolaj did not ever retract his testimonies. Thanks to the fact that a doctor issued him a false certificate of mental illness, he was able to leave prison. After having left, he led a very humble life. On the 29th of September 1852, the image of the Blessed Mother was solemnly transferred to the chapel of Lichen. Afterward, for about 150 years, it remained in the church of Santa Dorota. Nevertheless the faithful, obedient to the order of the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the leadership of the rector of the Shrine, Father Euzegnius Makulski MIC, decided to begin the construction of a church worthy of Our Lady of Lichen. All the formalities were settled and the project was chosen. The construction lasted 10 years, from 1994 to 2004. Two years after the building was completed on the 2nd of July 2006, the image of the Madonna of Lichen was transferred from the church of Santa Dorota to the Basilica of Our Lady of Lichen. In this way the words that the Blessed Mother spoke to Mikolaj were accomplished.

## SOME MIRACLES OF OUR LADY OF LICHEN

**Testimony of Stanislaw Basia, 78 years old, resident of Tyczewski, parish of Lichen**  
I came to know of this miraculous event by grandfather Agnieszka, who died in 1900 at the age of 85 years old. My grandfather often told me about being seen with her own eyes above the forest of Grablin on numerous glow coming from the sky on the forest in which now stands the image of Our Lady. This glow would appear around 1900 in the morning and lasted for several hours. This occurred once on the day which the image of the Blessed Mother was transferred from the forest to the church in Lichen. It seemed as if gold and silver were falling from the sky in this place of now on a certain day of the year. This strange phenomenon was observed by thousands of people who arrived in Lichen to celebrate the solemn transfer of the image. In that instant all were convinced that the apparition were real and that the image of Our Lady was miraculous. My grandfather spoke of the fact that the Madonna appeared to the shepherd three times, twice in the garments of a regular woman and the last time as the Queen of Poland and with the image more extraordinary. These who saw near the image were healed. My grandfather and other elders remembered that the epidemic of cholera predicted by the Blessed Mother was very grave. There were houses and families in which everyone got ill and died. I myself remember the reason that arose because of the epidemic. I still remember the image hanging on the pine tree in Grablin, that was seen by Tomasz Klossowski, the blacksmith from Izbabelin, to whom Our Lady had appeared when he was still a soldier. The pine tree was still, this tree did not die, but afterward the lightning began to strike pieces of it with fire, once they had cut the tree and then the tree began to dry up. It was finally required to pull it away from falling. In 1992 the pine was cut away by a well - this way it was treated in the forest! This testimony was registered in 1982 by Father Euzegnius Makulski MIC.

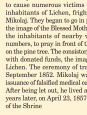
**Testimony of Holodow Lianowski, 60 years old, from Grogowierow, province of Kalozin**  
In 1901 I began working on an estate in the parish church of Lichen. In that time Father Jan Trzaskowski was the parish priest. There were numerous requests for miracle and help from the forest to Our Lady of Lichen. These miracles were reported in a magazine that was distributed by the German consulate in the parish. The articles were written during the reign of the Emperor of Germany. Some books and logs were destroyed. In 1940 there was a flood of indifference, on the 15th of August, but on the contrary of many people were. After the arrival of the parish priest, Father Przeworski, several people the leaves of the church were kept in the parish. In the autumn of 1942, Pilsa de Polanski reported in the anniversary office of the parish church of Czestochowa, Wladyslaw. That in the church in Lichen is a precious image made of gold. After having heard this news, four officers together with Przeworski came to see the reproduction image of Our Lady. The first who they saw was the same commander Wladyslaw, but without success, and he weighed about 100 kilograms. Afterward Przeworski had him and the other officers, soon had his success. They could not help under the threat of using their weapons. I pulled with them, but the image did not move. In that instant a person entered from the forest announcing that the village there had been an accident and the presence of soldiers was necessary. The officers left the church with the man in the direction of the village. I was left alone in the church and I decided to see who I did not see. I went to the forest and I saw which I was being, the image moved an inch. In that instant I decided to put the image in a safe place, taking it from the church. I decided the statue, removed the image from the forest, cut it by the 1 meter the image of the apparition in Grablin pointed on a chest of iron. I wrapped the reproduction image in newspaper and hid it inside the altar. As soon as I finished, the officers returned, went to the altar and opened with violence the altar. Przeworski removed the image and gave it to Wladyslaw, saying that it was gold, silver. "That image is gold" and there on the ground. I bent down, I pulled up the image from the ground and I put it under my jacket. The German did not stop me from doing so. The second statue was hidden behind the Father's Altar. The officers closed the church and brought the keys to Grablin. All that occurred before noon. The day of the evening, I decided to take the image to the church. Stanislaw Grogowierow and Miszyslaw Strycki helped me. They brought the ladder. Around 11 o'clock at night, by way of a window behind the altar, I removed the statue and took it away from the altar, being and hiding it in the open room. After the end of the war the image returned with a solemn ceremony in the church. The transfer was completed by Father Przeworski on August 16th, 1985 by Father Euzegnius Makulski MIC. This testimony was registered on August 16th, 1985 by Father Euzegnius Makulski MIC.



From the documents preserved in the archives of the parish and of the diocese it is known that Mikolaj, son of Wojciech and Magda Sikatka, born on the 10th of November 1797. He was the youngest of three children. He worked in the house of the local court. In 1810 he married Tekla Madzowiecka, daughter of Antoni and Barbara de Wladyslaw. In 1810, when the Blessed Mother appeared to Mikolaj Sikatka he was 63 years old. He was a simple man, honest and respectful to the people that came to him for his services. He began to tell the people that at that year there appeared to him numerous times the Blessed Mother. He said that she asked him to invite the people to live their lives better and to do penance for sins if they wanted to be saved from the punishment from God that should descend over them. The Blessed Mother had ordered the man to transport the image to a more worthy place, as a way of inviting to proper and devout manner of people. For the sake about the apparition of the Madonna, Mikolaj paid a heavy price. The image was hidden in a forest and covered by thick bushes and ferns. When these methods proved useless, the authorities decided to imprison the shepherd. In 1852 a doctor examined him and began to cause numerous victims in the area. In that moment the inhabitants of Lichen, frightened, convinced the words of Mikolaj. They began to go in pilgrimage to the forest, in front of the image of the Blessed Mother. Many buildings had given. From the inhabitants of nearby villages began to arrive in great numbers, to pray in front of the image of the Madonna hanging on the pine tree. The constancy of the Bishop decided to transfer with decorated band, the image from the forest to the chapel of Lichen. The ceremony of transport took place on the 29th of September 1852. Mikolaj was released from prison after the issuance of falsified medical certificate obliging his mental illness. After being let out, he lived a very humble life. He died several years later, on April 23, 1867. His tomb is in the old part of the forest.



In 1813 Tomasz Klossowski, Polish soldier of the Napoleonic army, was seriously wounded on the battle of Leipzig, involved the Virgin Mary appearing to him to be saved and holding the medal around his neck. She promised him to help return home and asked him to find in his area an image similar to that of the 23 years later while accompanying him to his homeland. He took it with him and hung it in his home near his forge. The image quickly became an object of veneration.



Tomasz Klossowski was born in Izbabel, Klossowski, a small town, situated several kilometers from Lichen. He lived from the years 1790-1848. He was the heir of a magnificent palace and of a vast extension of fields of cultivable land. Because of the participation in the war and in the results he was deprived of his patrimony and estate. He settled in Izbabelin near Lichen, where he built a forge and worked as a blacksmith. In September 1813 he participated in the battle of the army of Napoleon under Leipzig and was gravely wounded. Not wanting to die on the battlefield, he supplanted the Blessed Mother for intervention. According to the tales of the people, the wounded soldier image that looked like her and to place it in a location for public devotion. Tomasz healed. He was convinced that it was thanks to the intercession of Our Lady. He decided to visit her image in the village of Lagota, near Czestochowa. The image was to be placed by the road. With the consent of the owner he brought it home and then hung it in his home. On the 15th of August 1844 he died. In Lichen is found a remarkable reproduction of the image of the Madonna, which was made by the same artist and the same date, in which is situated the image that represents the scene of the apparition in Lagota. Two years after the death of Tomasz, in the place where he being, he occurred the apparitions of Our Lady to the shepherd Mikolaj Sikatka.



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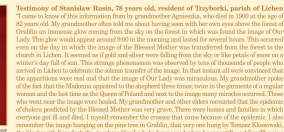
The miraculous son of Our Lady



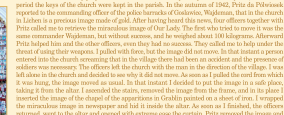
St. John Paul II praying in front of the miraculous image of Lichen



At 25 meters in height was reconstructed Golgotha, the hill of Calvary, where one can do all the Stations of the Way of the Cross



View of the Basilica



The majestic Shrine of Our Lady of Lichen



Interior of the Shrine during a celebration