



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

Lacrimations of the Virgin Mary in MÁRIAPÓCS and GYŐR

HUNGARY, 1696 - 1697

The Marian image venerated in the Cathedral of Győr comes from distant Ireland. It was brought by Bishop Walter Lynch of Clonfort, who was forced into exile by the ferocious persecution of Oliver Cromwell in 1644. Initially, the image was venerated in the City of Galway on the western coast of Ireland. After the death of Lynch, it was placed for veneration in the Saint Anne Chapel in the Cathedral of Győr. In 1697, on the 17th of March, feast day of Saint Patrick, patron of Ireland, from 6:00 to 9:00 in the morning, the image shed tears and blood in the presence of a huge crowd. The Cathedral authority examined the phenomenon while it was happening and certified the supernatural quality of the occurrence. Still preserved is the linen cloth that was used to collect those tears, and still visible are the marks on the Irish Madonna's face that were left by her lacrimation. The echo of the event was vast and word of it even reached Ireland. Since that year, the principal feast of the Cathedral of Győr in Hungary became that of Saint Patrick, anniversary of the weeping.

The village of Máriapócs became famous only at the end of the 17th century, in 1696, thanks to the miracle of the weeping of the icon of the Blessed Mother. In those days, the Catholic community of the Byzantine rite of Pócs had a little church at their disposition for religious services, it was built of wood (typical construction for the period and the region). In 1675 the pastor at the time, Fr. Dániel Papp, wished to restore the iconostasis (placed near the altar in Byzantine churches to delineate the sanctuary of the clergy from the nave of the faithful) of the little church. At the same time, a member of the community, László Csárgi, commissioned to have an icon of the Blessed Mother painted so he could donate it to the church as an act of thanksgiving to the Virgin for his return home from Turkish imprisonment. The painter, István Papp, brother of the pastor, demanded 6 gold florin coins for the icon. The parents of the benefactor, however, were not able to pay the sum demanded. For this reason the icon was sold to Lőrinc Hurta, the village mayor, who then donated it to the church. The icon, as a work of art, was not of great worth. It was painted on a wooden tableau of maple, which measured 70x50 cm. The icon is a Hodegetria ("She who shows the Way"). The Virgin Mother of God holds the Child Jesus in her left arm and points to Him with her right hand. Near the heads that are each encircled by a halo, visible are the Greek letters "MP-OY" and "IC-XC" - which are "Mother of God" and "Jesus Christ." Mary is clothed in purple, the Child with his right hand imparts a benediction and in his left hand holds a lily flower with three branches, similar to a fleur-de-lis. The cross near the Child's neck is a rarity in iconography. On the upper part of the icon Angels are seen. After the Second World War, the icon was restored. During the restorative works the following inscription appeared: "I, servant of God, had this icon painted in remission of my sins." On the 4th of November 1696, during the Holy Mass, a peasant noticed that from the eyes of the Madonna tears were falling and her face became sad. From that day, people began to flock toward the little church: peasants, nobles, soldiers, and officers of the imperial army, officials of the committee. The Catholic parish priest of Kálló lifted up to the icon the dying child of an official who, after having touched it, had immediately regained health. From the 4th of November to the 8th of December the icon wept nearly continuously. In the church even General Corbelli presented himself, commander of the imperial army in Eastern Hungary. He, in the company of other people, among whom were also some faithful Protestants, accurately examined the icon. A investigation of the church was immediately ordered and conducted. The original records of the investigation were entrusted to Saint Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna, today they are found in the Library of the University of Budapest. After the first miracle, Pócs became a pilgrimage destination. The little church of wood proved itself to be too small to accommodate the great number of pilgrims, for this reason the necessity of constructing a new church was imposed, which is the current Shrine.

On the 1st of March 1697, after the order of Leopold I, the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Hungary, and of his wife Eleonore, the Archduchess of Austria, a pious Catholic who fervently honored the Virgin Mary, the miraculous icon was transferred to Vienna and put on display in the Cathedral of Saint Stephen. Numerous copies of the icon were made. In Hungary, Austria, Germany, and Switzerland are found many reproductions of the icon of Our Lady of Máriapócs. In the place of the miraculous icon that was transferred to Vienna, a copy (gift from the Bishop of Eger) was put on display in Máriapócs. The new icon, however, was only acknowledged by the faithful in 1715, when tears also appeared in this icon's eyes on the 1st, 2nd and 5th of August. After this event, the church authorities granted the veneration of the second icon. In December 1905, the icon wept a third time, for nearly an entire month. The unquestionable fact of the miracle was verified by church and state commissions.



Icon of Máriapócs which lacrimated in 1696, 1715, and in 1905. The miraculous icon. The miraculous image of Our Lady of Győr that wept tears and blood in 1697. Basilica of Győr. Interior of the Basilica. Linen cloth that absorbed tears and blood shed from the face of the Madonna of Győr in the painting. Shrine of Máriapócs. Statue of the Madonna of Győr. The Shrine of Máriapócs. Interior of the Shrine. Icons which appear which, in 1905, fell the tears shed by the Virgin of Máriapócs. Precious Crosses reserved in the Shrine of Máriapócs. Interior of the Shrine.