



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at GUANARE



VENEZUELA, 1651

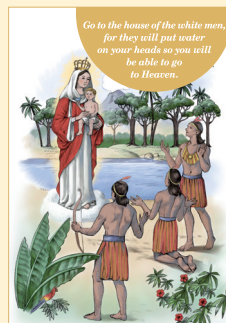


Guanare in 1651 was a very isolated place, encircled by dense vegetation. Here Our Lady appeared to the Indian tribal chief named Coromoto to invite him to convert. To the South American Indian, initially reluctant, a little scroll with the image of Mary was left as a sign. The parchment size of 27 millimeters by 22, based also upon recent studies, truly does not seem to be made by man. In honor of this apparition a grandiose Shrine was constructed, dedicated to "Our Lady of the Jungle," where the testimonies of phenomenal healings and miracles are continuously gathered that are connected to the devotion of she who, for the Catholics of South America, is considered somewhat like the "Lourdes of Venezuela."

When the Blessed Mother appeared to the young Indian Coromoto and to his wife, the first thing she said to him: **"Go to the house of the white men, for they will put water on your heads so you will be able to go to Heaven."** After having done what the Virgin asked, the Indians came out of the forest and received the teachings of the Gospel. Many were baptized. Coromoto however, worried about having lost his freedom, decided to run away into the forest again. At dawn on the 8th of September 1652, the Beautiful Lady appeared again to him, to his wife, to his sister-in-law Isabel and her son. Upon seeing her, Coromoto asked her to leave him in peace, saying that he would no longer obey her. He arose to take his bow and assassinate the Lady, but she approached him to embrace him, and the bow fell from his hand. The man decided to take the Lady by the arm to make her leave his hut, but in that moment the miracle occurred: the Virgin vanished, leaving in the chief's hand a little image of herself.

This image was recently restored by a multi-disciplinary commission. During this inquiry previously unknown elements were identified. The first aspect that summoned attention was the fact that once the waters used in the treatment were analyzed, the resulting pH was inexplicably neutral. Then pinpointed was the presence of various symbols, that according to the studies of the anthropologist Nemesio Montiel, are of indigenous origin. In the same way as the "tilma" of Guadalupe, with microscopic observation it is possible to identify in Our Lady's eyes the presence of the iris, a fact particularly baffling if one considers that the eyes of the image are simply made of dots, measuring less than one millimeter (about two-tenths of one millimeter). Expanding the study of the left eye of the Blessed Mother, it is recognized as an eye with human characteristics; clearly distinguished are the eyeball, the tear duct, the iris and in it a little point of light. Enlarging this luminous point, it was possible to observe that it seems to form a human figure.

The "Virgin of Coromoto" was proclaimed the official patroness of Venezuela in 1942 and in her honor was constructed a Shrine in Guanare where the little scroll is also safeguarded.



Shrine of Guanare



Statue of Our Lady of Coromoto, venerated in the Cathedral of Guanare



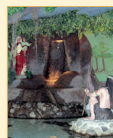
Inside the Shrine



Scroll left by the Blessed Mother to young Coromoto



In the little scroll left by the Madonna to young Coromoto, as the "tilma" of Guadalupe, with observation through a microscope it is possible to see in the eyes of the Virgin Mary the presence of the iris, eyeball, and tear duct, a fact particularly bewildering since the eyes of the image are simply specks, which measure in size to be less than one millimeter (about two-tenths of one millimeter). In the iris a little point of light is seen and with a microscope it seems to form the image of a human figure.



Statues which portray the apparition of Mary



In the scroll various symbols were identified that, according to the studies of the anthropologist Nemesio Montiel, are of native origin



Precious reliquary that contains the scroll left by the Madonna to Coromoto