



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in TROIS-EPIS



FRANCE, 1491



GOn May 3rd in 1491, Thierry Schoéré, a blacksmith of the town of Orbey, having gone to the market of Niedermorswihr, saw a little figurine image of the Pietà in a carved niche, situated in an oak tree, that was placed in memory of a peasant who died two days earlier. Thierry got off his horse, knelt down and began to pray for the man when suddenly he was blinded by a dazzling light that surrounded a beautiful woman wrapped in long white veils. It was the Virgin Mary. She held in her right hand three ears of wheat and in the left an icicle.

The Madonna pronounced with much gentleness: "My son! The inhabitants of this area have provoked the rage of God. The ice is a symbol of the hailstorm, of the bitter cold, of hunger, of contagious diseases and of other chastisements. Only if the sinners will convert, God will pardon them and will bless their fields. These three spikes are a sign of benediction from the high heaven. They are the symbol of abundance, of the beautiful harvests that will come to reward those virtuous and generous beings, and to bring well-being and happiness into the homes of faithful Christians. Tell the people that which you have seen and heard!"

Immediately after the apparition, Thierry resumed his journey and went to the village, but fearful of being ridiculed, he decided to keep quiet about what had happened to him. Upon arrival at the market he bought a sack of wheat but strangely not him nor anyone else was able to lift the sack which had become extremely heavy. The farmers gathered there became worried and some began to accuse him of sorcery. Thierry understood at that point that he needed to reveal that which the Blessed Mother had told him and penitent he knelt down in front of everyone and began to describe what happened. Everybody became deeply touched and began to pray and beg pardon from God for the sins committed. They organized expiatory processions in atonement and they erected a commemorative church in remembrance of this event.



Paintings that illustrate the apparition of the Blessed Mother



Picture which illustrates the miracle of the sack of wheat that no one was able to lift



The little figurine placed in the oak tree in memory of the farmer who died, where the blacksmith Thierry Schoéré had the apparition



In 1968, in honor of the apparition and to accommodate more pilgrims, the Shrine of Our Lady of the Annunciation was constructed by the architects Pierre Keller and Pierre Dumas, whose structural shape calls to mind a modern interpretation of the three spikes



Interior of the Shrine



In the course of the centuries the first Chapel was destroyed due to the Thirty Years War. It was then rebuilt. Currently it is supported by the Redemptorist fathers



Statue that was present in the old Chapel which portrays the Virgin Mary with the three ears of wheat and the long icicle



Interior of the Shrine