



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at CORTES

SPAIN, 1222

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The Shrine of the Virgin of Cortes is built on the place where the commemoration of the apparition of Our Lady took place on May 1, 1222. On that occasion the Mother of God asked the shepherd Francisco Álvarez, paralyzed in one arm since birth, that in that place a shrine in her honor should be built and also told him that she would heal him completely from the paralysis in his arm.

On May 1, 1222 the shepherd Francisco Álvarez was on the mountains of Cortes with a flock of sheep. The livestock were very restless and started to run across the meadow when suddenly a light, brilliant like a thunderbolt, passed over an oak illuminating the entire sky. From out of the oak came heavenly harmonies sung by countless hosts of angels, while encircled by the branches of the oak Our Lady of Cortes (Nuestra Señora de Cortes) appeared surrounded by heavenly lights. Between the branches, next to the Virgin, an artistic depiction of Our Lady also appeared. The Virgin turned to the visionary with these words: "It is my will that in this place in my honor be built a temple and a house of prayer where my devotees will offer prayers to me; indeed this place is to be considered holy because God will perform miracles and will grant abundant mercy to those who will venerate my image".

Then she continued saying: "In order that everyone may know that this request comes truly from me, you will show your arm, that I have completely healed, to all the inhabitants of Alcares, who knew that your arm was paralyzed from birth".

That same evening the image was carried into the parish of Saint Ignatius to be kept safe, but the following morning the depiction had disappeared. The visionary, remembering the words of the Virgin Mary, returned to the place of the apparition near the oak, and there again he found the image of Our Lady surrounded by a glowing and sparkling cloud.

The first chapel was inaugurated on September 8, 1222. Still today the pilgrims can venerate the image: a wooden statue of the Virgin Mary.



Paintings depicting the apparition



Wooden statue still venerated today in the Shrine



View of the Shrine



View of the convent adjacent to the Shrine



Interior of the Shrine



The miraculous Statue is adorned on the occasion of the solemnities