



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

# Apparition of the Virgin Mary in LE PUY EN VELAY



FRANCE, 47 A.D.

The Blessed Mother appeared several times between the year 47 and the 4th century in Le Puy (Haute-Loire) and that place of grace has become the destination of numerous pilgrimages even still today.

The first apparition was directed to a woman, by the name of Vila, recently converted to Christianity. The woman was afflicted by a serious illness that no physician was able to cure. The Blessed Mother, during her apparition, interceded so that she be healed. The news of the miracle diffused rapidly and many people came to pray. Subsequently, the Blessed Mother appeared again so that the local Bishop was contacted and a church was built on the hill. It is told that when the Bishop arrived at the top of the hill, he found the terrain covered with deep snow, even though it was mid-July. A solitary deer walked through the snow, tracing the diagram of the Shrine that was supposed to be constructed. Convinced by these miracles of the authenticity of the desires of Most Holy Mary, the Bishop began the construction of the Shrine.



Depiction of the apparition



View of the city

The great statue of the Blessed Mother with Child

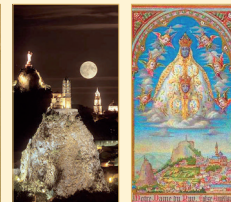
In 1254 Saint Louis IX, upon returning from his seventh voyage, demonstrated his devotion by donating to the Shrine a statue of cedar, called "The Black Virgin." The statue was burned during the French Revolution in 1794 as an expression of the monarchical obscurantism and today that which is offered to the devotion of the pilgrims is only a copy, in which a fragment of the original is incorporated. To amend for the revolutionary vandalism, on the 12th of September 1860 in front of 120,000 pilgrims a gigantic statue was inaugurated that represents the Holy Virgin in the act of indicating to Jesus the city so that He bless it



The cloister



Inside of the Cathedral



Nocturnal view of the Cathedral