



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in SZCZYRK

POLAND, 1894



On July 25, 1894, under the peak of Mount Magura, Our Lady appeared to three little girls: two ten year olds named Marianna and a twelve year old named Julianna Pezda. That day the girls were going to the woods to collect mushrooms. Once they filled their baskets, they decided to rest on a clearing. It was nice and warm outside; they were tired from being up early that morning, and the girls fell asleep. They woke up late in the afternoon. Worried by the reaction that their parents would surely have, they got up in a hurry. While they were heading back an extraordinarily intense light caught their eye. The source of the light was behind them. Julianna turned first and was dumb-struck. In the background of the beech trees stood a stupendous woman who was smiling softly. The other girls also saw her. All three knelt down and held hands in prayer. Our Lady ordered them to listen carefully to her words. It would not be necessary to repeat it; the girls could not take their eyes off of her. Mary said: "I have noticed that people do not recite the Angelus. This worries me a lot and I beg of you to tell everyone that you meet. Recite the Angelus every day at noon and you will be able to count on my intercession with the Omnipotent Lord. I beg of you also to recite every day the Supplication to Our Lady. I would like that a chapel be built here and in the future a monastery. I promise you all that in this place a spring will be detected. Every person in need who arrives here and washes in this water, with faith, will be healed. I promise that I will return again to you". Mary disappeared. When the girls returned home it was already evening. The mother of Julianna was waiting nervously for her and reprimanded her harshly. The girl even forgot her basket with the mushrooms and had to go back and get it the next day. Mary appeared yet other times to the girls. Every time she renewed her request to recite the Angelus and the Supplication to Our Lady, and asked that the location of the apparition be called "Górka". The girls told their experience to adults who initially did not want to believe their story and consulted the parish. The parish priest listened to the girls with much attention. The details in which they told the story demonstrated its validity.

News of the apparitions spread quickly. At the site pilgrims from Cieszyn and Zywiec in Slesia began to arrive. The pilgrims that came from Ustronie handed the inhabitants of Szczyrk a picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa. It was decided to hang the picture on that beech tree where Our Lady appeared. That same year, on the southern slope of the Mount Magura, from which an extraordinary view of Mount Skrzyczna can be enjoyed, the faithful built a chapel. In November, during the excavations for the foundation, a spring of crystal water appeared. On the site in which the chapel was erected, in 1848 a stone church was built: the shrine was run by the Salesian monks who arrived from Auschwitz.



Picture depicting the apparition



Panoramic view of Szczyrk-Górka



Painting of Our Lady that is worshipped in the shrine



The Shrine of Our Lady of Szczyrk



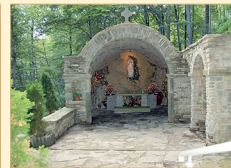
Inside the shrine



The chapel of the apparitions holds the beech tree where the Virgin Mary appeared



The miraculous spring promised by Our Lady



The grotto built by the Salesians from Auschwitz