



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

# Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at AKITA

JAPAN, 1973

The title of Our Lady of Akita originates from the locality where the apparitions began and were witnessed by the forty-two year old Sister Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa, of the order "Handmaids of the Eucharist". In 1981 a Korean woman, Mrs. Chun, received an immediate miraculous healing from a terminal brain tumor, while she was praying in front of the statue. Afterwards, the Most Reverend John Sojiro Ito, Bishop of Niigata, authorized the devotion of "Our Lady of Akita". In 1988 the then Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Joseph Ratzinger, expressed the definitive ruling on the matter, declaring that the event was credible and worthy of faith.

The first apparition occurred on July 6, 1973: Sister Agnes, who at that time was afflicted by a form of deafness, from which she later will miraculously heal, saw in the chapel of her convent a statue of Our Lady light up and come alive, and simultaneously she heard a voice saying: "... My daughter, my novice, you have been very consistent in the faith you have shown. Your sick ear is something very painful for you, but it will be cured. Be patient. Sacrifice yourself and atone for the sins of the world. You are for me an indispensable daughter. Make your own the intentions of the Handmaids of the Most Holy Sacrament, pray for the Pope, the Bishops and the priests".

Some fellow sisters who entered the chapel on the same day, noted that on the right hand of the statue of Mary a stigmata had appeared in the shape of a cross, like the one that had appeared a few days earlier to Sister Agnes. The second apparition took place on August 3: "... With My Son, I desire souls who will have to make reparations for the sinners and the ungrateful, by means of their own suffering and their poverty. In order that the world may know His anger, the Heavenly Father is preparing to inflict a great Chastisement on all humankind. I intervened many times with My Son to appease the anger of the Father. I prevented the arrival of calamities by offering Him the sufferings of the Son on the Cross, His Precious Blood and the beloved souls who console Him forming a cohort of victim souls. Prayer, penance and courageous sacrifices can mitigate the wrath of the Father. I desire also this from your community ... that it love poverty, that it sanctify itself and pray in reparation for the ingratitude and the offenses of many people...".

On October 13, 1973 the last apparition occurred, accompanied by a message in which the nature of the imminent Divine Chastisement is explained. This is the synthesis of the message: "As I told you, if people will not repent and will not improve themselves, the Father will inflict a terrible chastisement on all humanity. It will be a punishment greater than the Deluge, such as it was never seen before. Fire will fall from the sky and will wipe out a large part of humanity, the good as well as the bad, without sparing either the priests or the faithful. The survivors will find themselves so afflicted that they will envy the dead. It will be the only weapons that will remain for you are the Rosary and the Sign left by My Son. Recite every day the prayers of the Rosary. With the Rosary pray for the Pope, the Bishops and the priests. The work of the devil will enter also into the Church in such a way that one will see Cardinals opposing other Cardinals, Bishops against Bishops. The priests who venerate me will be despised and hindered by their fellow priests... churches and altars will be sacked; the Church will be filled by those who accept compromises and the devil will lead many priests and consecrated souls to leave the service of the Lord. The devil will be implacable especially against the souls consecrated to God".



Depiction of the apparition



The statue of Our Lady, made in wood by a local artist, reproduces the image of the Lady of all Nations of Amsterdam



Medal of Akita



Entrance to the Convent where the manifestations of Our Lady have occurred



Convent of Akita



Statue located in the park of the Shrine



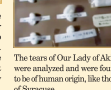
Our Lady of Japan



Most Reverend John Sojiro Ito, Bishop of Niigata



On July 6, 1973, before the apparition, Sister Agnes saw her guardian angel who appeared to her also in the following years. The tears of the statue of the Virgin Mary, along with frequent emanations, were observed by hundreds of faithful



The tears of Our Lady of Akita were analyzed and were found to be of human origin, like those of Syracuse



Sister Agnes Katsuko Sasagawa