



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

# Apparition of the Virgin Mary in TEROR

CANARY ISLANDS, 1481

Popular tradition narrates that around the year 1481 the image of the Virgin Mary appeared in a supernatural manner on the top of a pine tree situated in the vicinity of the location in which, many years later, was constructed the Basilica that hosts it. The various procedures of identification of the pine tree upon which the apparition of the image of the Virgin were observed in order to validate the information provided by tradition. The pino, a robust and local species, was 41.75 meters high and had a circumference of 6.72 meters. The strange platform used as a pedestal by the Virgin, however, was seen only by a very few who climbed to the top of the tree, given that it disappeared when the tree fell down. According to tradition, the apparition took place on the 8th of September 1481, date from which the image began to be venerated, more than by some shepherds, even by Juan de Frías, Bishop of the then Diocese of the Canaries. According to tradition, the events occurred in the moment of the culmination of the conquest of Grand Canary, which happened between 1478 and 1483. The site of the apparition was a very dense forest that, during the 15th century, extended into the central and northern zones of the island; some historians believe that it could be an extension of the so-called Forest of Doramas. The pine upon which appeared the image was situated in a zone known by the name of Aterura, which in several writings of the time appear with the names of "Terore" or "Terori" and that, with the passing of time, came to be definitively called "Teror," name by which it is known even today.

With the Apparition of the Virgin of the Pine, Teror became an important center of pilgrimage where visitors began to flow into from the whole island. History of the feast dates back to the 16th century, when the statue was carried to Las Palmas de Gran Canaria to request a favor due to the extreme drought which afflicted the island in that period.



The Pine of the apparition is of an indigenous species of the Canary Islands, whose scientific name is *Pinus Canariensis*. This fact supported the apparition in the small Marian town from the first moment because in the 15th century this region of the Canaries was rich with sources of water covered by abundant vegetation. Near the riverbank of the small Marian town, a very singular Pine stood out that elevated itself as King of the Forest. It was so large that it became classified as *Pinus Canariensis*, a majestic tree that measured 41 meters in height and about 32 palms (span of hands) in circumference of the trunk. It is narrated that it was precisely this majestic tree to be chosen for the apparition of the Virgin of Grand Canary. There was also a fount of water from which gushed forth curative water, surrounded by three unique examples of dragon trees. This Marian apparition created much disorder, since so many people went to the holy site because of the miraculous fountain, and the Bishop Cristóbal de Cámarra and Marga was obligated to order



Basilica of Our Lady of the Pine, Teror



the construction of a fence in order to limit access to the holy site. Because of a severe tempest, on the 2nd of April in 1604, the Pine of Wonders was uprooted from the fertile soil, causing great problems for the inhabitants of the surroundings who, very alarmed, asked for the intervention of the Bishop. Today the Chapel of Our Lady of the Pine hosts a cross of wood, created with the tree trunk of the majestic Pine of Wonders, known as the Green Cross.



Interior of the Basilica

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The Virgin of the Pine



Cross constructed with the wood when the Blessed Mother appeared



Procession



Dances in honor of the feast of the Virgin of the Pine