



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

# Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in LUJÁN

ARGENTINA, 17th century



round the year 1630, Antonio Faria de Sá, a Portuguese landowner of Sumampa, in the jurisdiction of Córdoba de Tucumán, asked his friend Juan Andrea, a sailor, to bring to him from Brazil an image symbolizing the Immaculate Conception of Most Holy Mary, to be venerated in the Chapel that was being built on his property. Juan Andrea fulfilled the duty and brought him not one, but two images of Our Lady, that he had when he arrived at the Port of Buenos Aires. One represented, as requested, the Immaculate Conception, while the other represented the Mother of God with the Baby Jesus asleep in her arms.

The two images were located in two little crates and put on a cart. They arrived at the bank of the Luján river, in the Rosendo estate, the caravan stopped to spend the night. The following day, a serene day in May, ready to go back on the road, it was noticed that the cart did not move. Amazed, they sought to discover the cause; the leader of the caravan declared: **"We have two crates with two images of the Virgin Mary that were commissioned for a chapel of Sumampa."** It was then that a young servant by the name of Manuel said: **"Let us remove from the cart one of the crates and let us see if in this manner it moves."** When they opened the crate, they found a beautiful image of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, about 40 centimeters high and with her hands folded at her bosom. As soon as they removed the container from the wagon it moved again and the mule herders interpreted it as an order from Heaven that the crate should remain in that place. After having venerated it, they conducted it in procession up to the Rosendo property and the owners of the home built her a humble altar.

The image of Our Lady was kept and venerated in a little room of the Rosendo farmstead, adorned with all possible decorum and respect. Soon afterward, however, the owners decided to construct a Chapel for the miraculous image. That chapel was finished toward the middle of 1633 and was opened for numerous pilgrims that gathered there, attracted by the graces that the Most Holy Virgin bestowed upon the devout. The chapel was built in a rustic style, similar to a modest shack, with a thatched roof, walls of mud, and the natural flooring of earth. The only luxury consisted of a coat of white plaster. The small altar, slightly above which the sacred image was placed, was one of primitive simplicity. The Rosendo Chapel or Sanctuary measured little more than four meters in length by two meters in width.

The mercenary Pedro de Santa María recounts: **"The sacred image remained on the property of a certain Rosendo, in an very small oratory, and became very venerated by the whole vicinity. Rosendo entrusted to a servant by the name of Manuel the devotion of the image and gave him custody of the lamp of Our Lady that was to burn incessantly."**

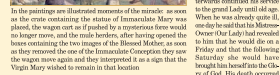
Around the year 1671, Ana de Matos, a wealthy lady of Buenos Aires, who well knew the miracle of Luján, saddened by the situation of abandonment in which the sacred image was found, turned to the parish priest of the Cathedral, the presbyter elder Juan de Oramas, half-brother of the other presbyter Diego Rosendo de Trigueros, to ask him to give it to her or sell it to her. Seeing the isolated location in the middle of the fields and the absence of proper materials, it was not easy to build a chapel; for this reason, the image was enshrined in a small oratory near the house of Lady Matos. The safekeeping of the devotion was again entrusted to Manuel, who was given by his master to the Virgin Mary. Around the year 1677 the work began for the construction of a new chapel made with baked bricks; these labors concluded around 1685, with a celebration of the placing of the image in the niche dedicated to her. The transfer from the old sanctuary to the home of Lady Matos occurred around the 8th of December, in preparation for a new celebration of the Immaculate Conception. There participated the Bishop of Buenos Aires Cristóbal de La Mancha and Velasco (1646-1673), and the Governor Martínez de Salazar. On the 2nd of October 1682, Lady Ana donated land to the holy image of Luján with this motivation: **"Since I am very faithful to the devotion of the Immaculate Conception and her sacred image, I want to offer this image all the space necessary for the construction of her chapel..."** The donation was put into effect on the condition that the image would remain forever in that place. So, with the passage of the property of the sacred location to the dominion of the Church, the Chapel of Our Lady became official and public and gave origin and basis for the effective establishment of the current Basílica of Luján. The Lady Ana de Matos died on the 25th of January 1698.



Painting present in the church that illustrates the miracle.



The servant Manuel entrusted much to the labors of the construction of the Chapel and afterwards continued his service to the great Lady until his age.



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Heavily entrusted the devotion of the image to a servant named Manuel who was entrusted to the miracle. In the chronicles of the year 1608, it is said that Manuel was a man of "good spirit and simplicity" and who fulfilled carried out the duty assigned by his master. The one who had been in charge of the transport of the sacred image, to whom he had said "that he belonged to the Virgin Mary and that the only Owner that he should serve was the Most Holy Virgin." Thanks to his faith in God, Manuel, with the allow of the mule herders, burned in the presence of the sacred image of Most Holy Mary his dependent instructions come to memory if people they gathered at the Chapel from many different places. The servant dispersed these feelings without attracting the attention of anyone other than that of the simple and faithful devotion of the Holy Virgin. Around 1671, when the holy image of the Virgin was still in the century of Lady Matos and the works of the construction of the Chapel were underway, some inexplicable events occurred that had as the protagonist Manuel the servant who many mornings found the Most Holy Virgin full of dew and underneath on her clothing. Manuel then began to tell the Virgin that it was not necessary for her to rest from her work, since she had enough power to be able to do whatever miracle without tiring; these Fatherhood, it occurred that he said and this phrase to her: "How can you be with a friend to answer that you would go and search for dew there, who would have had the dew there?" Manuel died in Bolivia in 1698 and for this reason, it is said that he had been the one who had been behind the high altar of the Shrine so that he could be its support for eternity at the feet of his most beloved image of Our Lady of Luján.



Basilica of Our Lady of Luján



Interior of the Basilica



Mosaic that portrays Our Lady of Luján



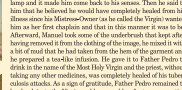
Antique depiction that illustrates how the primitive Basilica was in times past



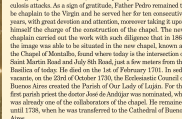
The Virgin of Luján come to visit Pope Francis in the Vatican



Healing of Father Pedro Montalvo, first chaplain of the Virgin of Luján



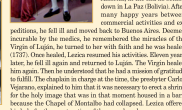
Healing of the Royal Captain, Don Juan de Latorre y Torrealba a miracle pronounced



From 1700, the year in which he exercised the position of Pastor of the Parish of Buenos Aires, until 1776, year in which he carried out the functions of Judge Commissioner of the Royal Court.



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The Virgin of Luján come to visit Pope Francis in the Vatican

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