



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in MARBACH

 AUSTRIA, 1633



Marbach is a little city that sits on an enchanting hill situated on the left shore of the Danube. The Shrine of Maria Taferl is dedicated to the Blessed Sorrowful Mother.

The location of the shrine was formerly inhabited by Celtic populations that participated in Pagan cults. A sacrificial Celtic altar remains outside of the basilica which was discovered during excavations completed near an oak tree. As a sign of veneration to God, the people attached a small wooden cross on the oak tree and a pagan altar was found at the foot of this same tree. The cross was attached to a plaque that gave this place its name, Beim Taferl and then subsequently became known as Maria Taferl.

January 14, 1633, a shepherd named Thomas Pachmann decided to knock down the old oak tree in Taferl. He tried to hit the tree but the ax slipped and gravely wounded both of his legs. Only then he realized that there was a cross attached to the oak. Seeing himself at the end of his life, he repented, and asked for forgiveness for his sacrilegious act. Miraculously then the bleeding from the wounds stopped and he was able to return home completely healed. Based on this event, between 1641 and 1642, Judge Alessandro Schinagl of Kleinkrummsbaum, placed a small statue of Our Lady of Sorrows on the oak tree and it instantly healed him as well from a grave illness. From 1658, 26 apparitions of light and mysterious characters began and repeated various times in the following years, always accompanied by miraculous healings. After positive results from a commission of surveys instituted in 1659 used to study the authenticity of the events, with interrogations of many eye witnesses, it was decided to construct a great shrine. On March 19, 1660 the first Mass was celebrated. On April 25 the first stone of the shrine was put in place and the construction lasted seventy years. The masters of construction were Georg Gerstendbrand, the imperial architect of Vienna, later Carlo Lurago and lastly the designer of the dome, Jakob Prandtauer. The festive inauguration of the shrine took place on April 29, 1724 handled by Cardinal of Passau, Josef Dominik Graf Lamberg, while the main altar was completed only in 1738. Pilgrimages developed quickly and from then on they have never stopped. Pope Pius XII elevated the shrine to the rank of a basilica minor.



The shepherd Thomas Pachmann, after hitting the ax to the old oak tree in Taferl, gravely wounded both his legs



Between 1641 and 1642 the Judge Alessandro Schinagl of Kleinkrummsbaum placed a small statue of Our Lady of Sorrows on the oak tree and he was instantly cured of a grave illness



Starting in 1658, 26 apparitions of light and mysterious characters took place and repeated for various years after, always accompanied by miraculous healings



A panoramic view of the shrine



The Shrine of Maria Taferl



The small miraculous statue placed on the tree by Alessandro Schinagl and now kept in the shrine



The main altar that holds the miraculous statue of Our Lady with Christ Deposed



Inside the Shrine



Outside the Basilica, remains still a sacrificial Celtic altar discovered during excavations completed near the oak tree



The dome frescoes were painted by Jakob Prandtauer