



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at CHAGUAYA

 BOLIVIA, 1750

Chaguaya is a small town in southwestern Tarija, 60 km south of the city of San Bernardo de Tarija, at the edge of the borders with Argentina and Paraguay. In Chaguaya there is the Shrine of the "Virgen de Chaguaya" (Virgin of Chaguaya). The name "Chaguaya" or "chaguayana" derives from the Quechua or Aymara word meaning "to order milk for household or commercial use".

In 1750 two shepherds returning from the pasture were lamenting about the severe drought that had struck those places, commenting that rain would have been the only salvation for the animals and the harvest. Suddenly, not very far from them, they saw a glow and thus they headed towards it. As they were approaching the rays of multicolored light became intertwined forming a marvelous vision from which soon emerged a statue of the Virgin Mary on top of a pepper tree, typical plant of the area. They took the statue and brought it home notifying everyone of the miraculous event. Upon arriving home they placed it on a niche to expose it to the veneration of all. They fell on their knees and kissed the ground exclaiming: "My Lady, thanks be to God!". The news soon spread and some people began to hasten to it but the two peasants realized that the statue had mysteriously disappeared from the niche. The following day, at the first light of dawn, they returned again to the place of the apparition and there they found again the image of Our Lady. A little later they were joined by a great number of people who also were witnesses of the miracle. Then it was decided to build immediately a small chapel in honor of the event. The miraculous statue, known by the name of Virgen de Chaguaya (Virgin of Chaguaya), became always more famous for the miracles that it performed. In 1980 the current Shrine was built around the old chapel, which by then had become too small to hold many people.



Image representing the apparition



Typical pepper tree similar to the one where the miraculous statue appeared



Procession with the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Chaguaya



On the occasion of the celebrations in honor of Our Lady of Chaguaya, numerous pilgrims gather at the Shrine and participate in the processions



The devotion to Our Lady of Chaguaya is widespread in southwestern Bolivia and in northern Argentina



Panoramic view of the Shrine



Shrine of Our Lady of Chaguaya



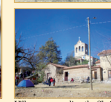
Shrine of Our Lady of Chaguaya



Shrine of Our Lady of Chaguaya



Interior of the Shrine



Village surrounding the Shrine