



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in MANAOAG

PHILIPPINES, 1610



Our Lady of Manaoag manifested her patronage for the population of Pangasinan on numerous occasions: she has protected them from fire, from the invasion of locusts, from drought, and even from the aerial bombings during World War II. Her love for this region is unmitigated and has brought about admiration from the people, as is described in the history of the district. It all began in 1610, when a man who was walking along a deserted road heard the mysterious voice of a woman. Turning himself toward the sound, he was tremendously amazed upon seeing a radiant Lady with a baby in her arms and a Rosary hanging from her right hand. The vision was accompanied by a luminous cloud over a little shrub. At first it seemed she did not say a word, she only turned her sweet gaze toward the man, who knelt in profound devotion. When the inhabitants of the village came to know of the vision, they hurriedly arrived to the place of the apparition and quickly built a little church. In a short time, nearby a city flourished that came to be called Manaoag which means "to call." Since then the Blessed Virgin has always protected this area from every kind of danger in this manner as she did when the mountain tribes were habitual in setting on fire the Christian villages. One day they decided that Manaoag must go up in flames and blazing arrows were launched at the little church; however not even one of them was able to set it on fire. And even, during World War II, when four bombs were dropped on the city. Three of them landed on the plaza in front of the church and damaged its facade, while one burst through its roof but did not explode. Miraculously the church remained intact. Another miracle, in 1689, involved the farms that were protected by the locusts that had begun to devastate the rice fields. They arrived in swarms so huge that the sky was darkened. The image of the Blessed Virgin, which had been brought to the Philippines from Spain by Padre Juan de San Jacinto at the beginning of the 17th century, was carried out to the fields. The farmers had a desperate need of help and they positioned the little statue on the ground, remaining to observe it with astonishment while the locusts began to annihilate each other, in a way totally unexpected and without precedent. The carnage continued until there remained not even only one locust. Another miracle occurred during the drought of 1706, when a shortage parched the fields and the heat withered the sprouts of the little plants. After days of cloudless skies, the people turned to Our Lady asking her for help and, once again, brought her statue into the fields. During the first day of a novena, and after the miraculous statue was carried in a procession, the Blessed Mother showed her compassion gathering clouds and rain as soon as her image was brought back into the church. The sky darkened and soon fell the rain which continued to pour out for days, until the terrain was regenerated and the farms were saved. Another spectacular miracle of the Blessed Mother was reported in 1689, the day of the Resurrection, Easter Sunday, when a blaze of unknown origin devoured the entire city and was decidedly directing itself toward the church. Alerted of the danger, the priest of the parish ran there, entered into the church and seized the statue of Our Lady to bring her to safety. He prayed and implored the Blessed Mother asking her: **"Our Lady, if you do not save the church from this fire, I will throw myself into the flames with you so that together we will be consumed."** History recounts that the flames dimmed immediately and extinguished completely. The devout of Our Lady of Manaoag visit the Shrine all year long, but especially in April and in May, when faithful from all over the world come in pilgrimage annually. The reputation of the Blessed Mother derived from graces and favors granted is well-known, and the miracles attributed to her are represented in gigantic frescos painted on the church's walls. The number of visitors was particularly elevated on the 21st of April 1926, when the Pontifical Nuncio canonically crowned the statue of Our Lady. Nevertheless it is not only the people who go to her; it is also she who goes out to the people, every twenty-five years, when she visits all the quarters of Manaoag and all the cities of the district of Pangasinan.



Our Lady of Manaoag appeared in Pangasinan, in the Philippines, in 1610, to a man who was on his way home. Our Lady was with Baby Jesus in her arms. Later, upon the site of the apparition, a church was constructed. The church was miraculously saved from the explosions and bombardments of World War II.



Tree where the Most Holy Virgin appeared



Our Lady of Manaoag



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Interior of the Shrine



Faithful in prayer



Shrine of Manaoag