Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in
LA PRENESSAYE

FRANCE, 1652

In 1652 in La Prenessaye in France, the young girl twelve-year-old girl, Jeanne Courtel, a deaf mute since birth, saw the Virgin Mary who healed her. The Blessed Mother told her that, in that area a statue of her, sculpted by some other than Saint Gallen, 1000 years earlier, had been thrown into the pond. The sacred depiction was recovered miraculously intact on the 26th of August in 1652. Afterward, on the site of the apparition, a church was built where the statue was placed known by the name of Our Lady of Bussan-Ala. In total there were fifteen apparitions investigated and approved by the Bishop, Monsignor Denis de La Bard, of Saint-Brice. On the 11th of September 1652, he went personally to the site of the apparition, interrogated various testimonies under oath, and gave favorable approval. The Bishop then blessed the first stone of the Chapel requested by the Virgin Mary.

It was the 15th of August of 1652 when the Virgin Mary appeared to Jeannne Courtel while she was praying: "Beautiful shepherdess, give me one of your sheep." It was then that the young Jeanne spoke her first words: "These sheep are not mine... they belong to my father." The Blessed Mother then said to her: "Return to your parents... and ask for a lamb for me." "But who will watch over my herd?" "I myself will watch over your sheep!" the beautiful Lady reassured her. The young girl quickly went back to her parents, reassuring everyone in hearing her speak. "Papa, a Lady came to visit me and she asked me for one of your lambs." "Ah! My daughter, if this Lady knew how to give you back speech, then we will give her the whole herd!" "She also said it is necessary to search the pond in order to locate an image of her that sank centuries ago." "And what else did she ask you?" "She says to be the Virgin Mary and that we must build for her a chapel in the center of the village so that many pilgrims can come to give her honor." "If you speak the truth, we will go ask the Bishop for permission to build for her a Shrine."