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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Luján

ARGENTINA, 17th century

record the year 1699. Antonio Percha de la Fuente, a Portuguese landowner of Buenos Aires, asked his friend Juan Andrea, a viceroy, to bring him from Brazil an image portraying the Immaculate Conception of Most Holy Mary to be presented in the Chapel that was being built on his property. Juan Andrea gifted the statue and brought him not just one image of Our Lady, but two images of Our Lady, that he had when he arrived at the Port of Buenos Aires. One represented the Immaculate Conception, while the other represented the Mother of God with the Holy Jesus among her arms.

The two images were located in two little crèches and put on a shelf. They arrived at the bank of the Luján river, in the Buenos Aires estate, the evening before the night. The following day, a stormy day in May, ready to go back to the road, it was noticed that the car did not move. Ameñ, they sought to discover the cause. The keeper of the crèches declared: "We have two images with two images of the Virgin Mary that were commissioned for a chapel of Buenos Aires." It was then that a young vendor by the name of Marzo said: "Let us remove from the car one of the images and let us see if in this way it moves." When they opened the door, they found a beautiful image of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, about 60 centimeters tall, and with its hands folded at its breast. As soon as they removed the container from the image it moved again and the icon began to move as in order from Buenos Aires that the car should remain at that place. After having considered it, they concluded it is a gift from the Immaculate Conception and the owner of the house built for a humble altar.

The image of Our Lady was kept and venerated in a little room of the Buenos Aires, adored by all possible devotions and respect. Even afterward, however, the owner decided to construct a Chapel for the Immaculate Conception. That chapel was finished toward the middle of 1698 and was named for Immaculate Conception that was enshrined there, attracted by the image that Our Lady Mary had shone upon the devotions. The chapel was built in a simple style, similar to a modest shrine, with a whitewashed wall of wood, and the natural floor of earth. The only luxury consisted of a coat of white plaster. The small altar, slightly above which the image was placed, was one of primitive simplicity. The Buenos Aires Chapel or Sanctuary measured little more than four meters in length by two meters in width.

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