Apparition of the Virgin Mary in NAZARÉ

PORTUGAL, 1182

From the early centuries of Christianity, the area of Castelo de Abrigo that also included Nazaré, was always characterized by an intense Marian devotion. From then onwards, the devotion to Our Lady of Nazaré, in particular, was offered as one of the most ancient and important on earth, from the 10th century, extending itself even past regional borders. The story of Our Lady of Nazaré and the story of the Miracle of Don Pau Rosipina are both part of the tradition of the Portuguese people.

The work of Pau Tomé de Ribas, a Dominican monk, contributed considerably to the diffusion of this information because in his writings "Memoria Locutae" he linked the Medieval devotion of the Blessed Mother of Nazaré to the miracles of the knight, Don Pau Rosipina.

Therefore, according to the vision of the Dominican monk that rapidly was spread in the memory of everyone, the image of the Virgin was endowed by Saint Joseph himself and painted by Saint Luke the Evangelist, originated from Nazaré of Galilee. In the 6th century, the image was in the possession of the Greek monk Cosmas, who then entrust it to the protection of Saint John, whom he later advised to bring it to Ales, and finally it to Saint Augustine, Bishop of Hippo. It was Saint Augustine who brought the venerable image to the Byzantine peninsula, and gave it to the Monastery of Cafarnaum, located in the region of Miletus, in Spain, where many miracles were performed. The Virgin of Nazaré remained in that monastery until the 8th century, when the Byzantine peninsula was conquered by the Moors. After the defeat of the Muslim army in the battle of Guadalete, Don Rodrigo, the last king of the Moors, took refuge in the monastery of Carcabalsa. Later, together with Pau Rosipina, his Fedirían the Arab occasion, belonging with him the sacred image of Our Lady of Nazaré. Pau Rosipina, with the help of God, restored the image to the Christian people, telling him the story of Don Rodrigo's converted soul, and the miraculous events which he experienced in his lifetime. On 13 November the two saints finally arrived at the place known today as Penedos. Then, they sought refuge on an abandoned hermitage in the mountains of Odemira, and Pau Rosipina took shelter in the cave which is now known as the "Cave of the Virgin." After some time, the two saints returned to Nazaré, where they were welcomed with great joy. Pau Rosipina was later martyred by the Moors, and his body was buried in the same cave where he had lived. The Virgin of Nazaré was taken to the Cathedral of Nazaré, where it is still venerated today. From that day, every time he saw himself in the sacred image, he went to venerate the image of Our Virgin. On a sunny day, the 15th of September 1182, during one of the many battles, Don Pau Rosipina took his horse to the direction of a door. Blinded by the desert light, he charged the mural in the very edge of the cliff. Only at that point did he realize that the door had fallen into the precipice and that he himself was on the brink of the rocky cliff. It was in that moment that the heavenly reappeared to the image of Our Lady hidden in the niche, and he looked for help to be saved. Immediately the image was suspended in the air by the two figures, thus preventing Don Pau Rosipina from meeting certain death. After the miracle, the knight went back to the image to which the image was linked to thank his protection and to offer a prayer, with the promise of evening that same spot a sanctuary in honor, the Chapel of Remembrance.