Apparition of the Virgin Mary in NAMYANG

KOREA, 1984

It was said that the history of the Catholic Church in Korea is a history of persecution. In the first 10 years of its establishment, there were consecutive periods of persecutions that followed, especially during the Great Namyang Persecution. In 1938, it brought over 10,000 faithful to martyrdom. The severity of the persecution is evident from the fact that at the time the number of Catholics in Korea was somewhere around 15,000. The place called Namyang in Namyang is one of the spots in which many Catholics were martyred during the Great Namyang Persecution. Many testimonies and depictions of the first church in Korea report how often the martyrs invoked the help of Mary and asked the Blessed Virgin in order to overcome the gravity of the persecution. The vividness of the events, found afterwards, are witness to how many martyrs gripped the BMARY under their heads as they met their death. By the request of Bishop Robert Mary, the second bishop of the Korean Diocese, on the 28th of August 1947, Mary became the patroness of Namyang, together with Joseph, the De-Patience of Korea. The Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary of Namyang, known also as Rosary Hill, appeared in a very spot where so many Catholics were martyred during the Great Namyang Persecution. To commemorate their martyrdom as proof of their faith, Namyang was declared a Sacred Place on the 7th of October 1981, feast day dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary. For the first time in the history of the Catholic Church in Korea, a location was dedicated exclusively to the Holy Mother of God and to prayer for peace. In a short time the Shrine was transformed into a center of cultural prayer, by way of the "Blessed Rosary Church Movement", dedicated to peace and brought faith by all those who demonstrated their love for the Holy Mother of God by praying the Rosary. The shrine is a place of meditation and the symbolic of Rosary Hill include the marvelous aspect of the statue of the Holy Mother of Namyang and the road of the 33 stations of the Rosary, a pleasant path surrounded by trees and blossoms. The road of the "33 Rosary Stations," which resemble the very gates of Mary's tomb, is considered a miraculous place in the landscape structure. It is truly surprising how, from up above, the road of the "33 Rosary Stations" of the shrine mysteriously resemble the Rosary Meander with Baby Jesus laid in her arms. The road is surrounded by trees and beautiful flowers. The path of the shrine leads to a basilica, a church dedicated to the Mother of God. The Richesse of the shrine are evident in the statues and the paintings on the walls, the most important of which is the "Our Lady of Rosary Pitying Korea," a miraculous image of the Virgin Mary with the name of the "Blessed Mother of Peace" inscribed. At the foot of the shrine there is a small Well of Life, a natural spring with miraculous properties. From the Well of Life, a stream flows down to the valley and nourishes the plants and the trees. The shrine is surrounded by beautiful gardens and fields, a place of peace and tranquility.