In May 1341, Thierry Schoy, a blacksmith of the town of Orbe, having gone to the market of Niedermorschwihr, saw a little figure of the Virgin in a carved niche, situated in an oak tree, that was placed in memory of a peasant who died two days earlier. Thierry got off his horse, knelt down and began to pray for the man when suddenly he was blinded by a dazzling light that surrounded a beautiful woman wrapped in a long white veil. It was the Virgin Mary. She held in her right hand three ears of wheat and in the left an apple.

The Madonna pronounced with much gentleness: “My soul! The inhabitants of this area have provoked the rage of God. The tree is a symbol of the hailstorms, of the bitter cold, of hunger, of contagious diseases and of other chastisements. Only if the sinners will convert, God will pardon them and will bless their fields. These three spikes are a sign of benediction from the high heavens. They are the symbol of abundance, of the beautiful harvests that will come to reward those virtuous and generous beings, and to bring well-being and happiness into the homes of faithful Christians. Tell the people that which you have seen and heard!”

Immediately after the apparition, Thierry resumed his journey and went to the village, but fearful of being ridiculed, he decided to keep quiet about what had happened to him. Upon arrival at the market he bought a sack of wheat but strangely not him nor anyone else was able to lift the sack which had become extremely heavy. The farmers gathered there became worried and some began to accuse him of sorcery. Thierry understood at that point that he needed to reveal that which the Blessed Mother had told him and permit he knelt down in front of everyone and began to describe what happened. Everybody became deeply touched and began to pray and beg pardon from God for the sins committed. They organized expiatory processions in atonement and they erected a commemorative church in remembrance of this event.