Apparition of the Virgin Mary in BECHWAT

LEBANON, 2004

A mother called the three children present during the apparitions of the Virgin Mary that took place in Pontmain, France in 1871. A few days later the signature of the ascension with Praxedes arrived and as Our Lady promised, the citizens of Pontmain were spared a war. In 1904, a statue similar to the one from Pontmain was sent to Lebanon, to the small city of Bechwat, near the Valley of Bekaa. This small village has about 500 residents, spread throughout the mountains where the cedar trees come from, and since August 15, 2004, it has become very famous.

In fact, the statue of the Virgin Mary dressed in blue and studded with golden stars (that represent the vault of the sky), with a cross in one hand and a crown of gold, she gives a "special sign" to pilgrims. A married Muslim couple of Jordanian descent, with their nine-year-old son, Mohammed al-Hassawi and a friend went to pray before the statue of Our Lady of Bechwat, when suddenly the boy started to scream: "Mommy, the statue looked and smiled at me!" Mohammed saw her cross with his own eyes: the dress of the Virgin began to move and flutter lightly, then the Virgin moved towards him and looked at him soothingly in the eyes and blessed him with the sign of the cross.

The friend of the father, a Maronite Catholic, told the little boy that the statue was not moving and smiling. However, the little boy, surprised that the friend did not see the same thing he did, started to pray in a very special way saying: "Greetings to you, oh Virgin Mary, Queen of the world, of peace and love. The elderly, the children, and the women and men kneel before you in the world. Bring peace, love and freedom onto the face of the Earth, oh Queen of the world!"

Surprised by the behavior of the little boy, both parents got closer to the statue and saw that it was breathing and the beads of the rosary that she had in her hand were moving.

That same evening and throughout the following days, many faithful saw the statue causing perfume oil and someone saw her move her eyes. Many healings and miracles were noted. The news spread and the influx of pilgrims was enormous. The miraculous statue of the Virgin became famous amongst the Orthodox and the Muslims that started to bow in great numbers to give homage to the Virgin Mary of Bechwat. The Shrine of Our Lady of Bechwat has become the most important Middle Eastern shrine, a bit like the Lourdes of the East.