Apparition of the Virgin Mary in FILIPOV

CZECH REPUBLIC, 1866

The constriction of the Basilica of Filipec is celebrated in the apparitions of the Blessed Mother which occurred there in 1866. Located nearby is the house in which the Virgin Mary was born on the 5th of June 1866, in presence of German origin. At the age of sixteen, Magdalena St. Elizabeth, known as Magdalena, was deeply ill. She suffered from paralysis and insomnia, and was then also overcome by anxiety. In 1865 a certain acquaintance appeared on her door. Taking care of her were not only her brother Jean, but his whole family, but also two priests from the archdiocese of Breslau and Dr. Emil from the Reformation. Magdalena was in a state of despair due to the pain. Her elder sister Elisa, her friend who lived in the house next door, comforted her. Strange things happened. In the middle night, she felt a pain. She asked her, what happened. Magdalena replied, 'Last night I saw the Virgin Mary and she told me I would be healed. And I am healed. Nothing more and nothing less happened.' One year later, the news spread very rapidly. All those who lived nearby wanted to be present at the event. The Virgin Mary visited the town of Filipec and Magdalena had to repeat to everyone what happened to her. Then the house became a destination of pilgrims coming from villages around. In May 1866 the family cleared out the next in which the miracle occurred and transformed it into a sort of temporary chapel. The old table became the altar upon which people prayed from the morning to the evening. In the place where the house of Magdalena now the Virgin Mary was placed a statue with beautiful iconography.

Another miracle took place a year later, in the period in which the first anniversary of the healing of Magdalena Kale was approaching. On the 5th of June 1867, in the same house, Magdalena Lenghammer of Jerzby was not able to walk and her relations had to carry her into the house. They made her lie down in the same place where Magdalena Kale had been, and this girl, and because for 11 years she had been helpless with deformed legs, got up from the bed completely healed. The news of the miraculous happenings began to be widespread, making the number of pilgrims attempt to increase. Dr. Emil, deputized the house of Kale and decided to have a chapel built in the place. Later it was then decided to build a construction of a church. The spiritual management of the pilgrimage was entrusted to the Reformation. The Basilica of the Virgin Mary was built on the site of Shetek in 1885 and is now a monument of Filipec Basilica.

Around 1892, Filipec represented one of the most frequented pilgrimage sites of Central Europe. But after the end of World War II, the inhabitants of German ethnicity were broken from Filipec. The new inhabitants of Czech origin that arrived were not able to establish a proper support with this pilgrimage site that already existed. Due to the difficult circumstances, the necessary funds were not raised to maintain the Basilica. The fact that the Basilica is located very close to the border of the country, failed frequent attempts, on behalf of the Government authorities, to raise the funds that were needed to keep the Basilica in its original state. When the Basilica was restored, the congregation of the Virgin Mary was placed in the Basilica of the Virgin Mary. At the time of the restoration of the Basilica, the construction of the Basilica was taken over by the Czech Government. The Basilica was then restored and reopened for worship. It is now a major spiritual center in Central Europe.