



**THE APPEALS  
OF OUR LADY**  
APPARITIONS  
AND  
MARIAN SHRINES  
IN THE WORLD

# Apparition of the Virgin Mary in ARCOS DE VALDEVEZ



PORTUGAL, 1220

The construction of the Shrine of Our Lady of Peneda (*Nossa Senhora da Peneda*), in Arcos de Valdevez, parish of Gavieira, was launched most likely toward the end of the 18th century, as indicated in the inscription present on one of the entrance staircases. It is thought that this place had previously been a little sanctuary in memory of the apparition of Our Lady, and was then substituted by the Shrine following the increased devotion to the Virgin.

An element of prominence for this place of reverence is the Staircase of the Virtues, earlier cited, is decorated with statues that represent Faith, Hope, Charity, and Glory, which dates back to 1854. Other important elements are: the terrain of the evangelists, the great field, a staircase almost 300 meters long, and 20 chapels portraying scenes from the life of Christ. The feast of Our Lady of Peneda is celebrated annually and last nine days, from the 31st of August to the 8th of September.

History narrates that on the 5th of August in 1220, Our Lady of Peneda appeared, in the form of a white dove, to a little girl who was guarding a herd of goats. The dove told her to ask the people of Gavieira to build a sanctuary in that spot. The young shepherdess told her parents what had happened to her, but they did not believe her. The next day, while she was again in the same place with her herd of goats, the Lady appeared to her once again, but this time with the human features of the image seen today. On this occasion, the Virgin asked the young girl to go to Roussas and to ask the people of the town to bring to her a woman by the name of Domingas Gregório, who was a paralytic for the past eighteen years. The woman healed as soon as she approached the image.



Depiction of the Apparition



The Shrine of Nossa Senhora da Peneda is found among the mountains of the National Park of the same name, Peneda-Gerês, in northern Portugal. Before approaching the Shrine, a large block of granite is seen on its upper part, resembling a human head profile



Shrine of Our Lady of Peneda, Arcos de Valdevez, Portugal and the emotionally evocative Staircase of the Virtues



Interior of the Shrine



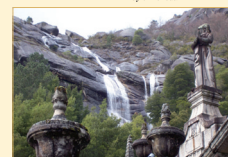
Procession in honor of Our Lady of Peneda



Our Lady of Peneda



Fountain of water of the Shrine



The suggestive waterfall cascade near the Shrine that is seen when approaching the Shrine from its left side