



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at CUAPA

NICARAGUA, 1980



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The apparitions of Cuapa are recognized by the Episcopal Conference of Nicaragua and the site of the apparitions has become a national shrine where indulgences were granted during the Jubilee of 2000. The seer was laughed at and received death threats, eventually having to flee his own country. On August 20, 1995, at the age of 64 and over 15 years since the last apparition, he was ordained a priest in the Cathedral of Leon in Nicaragua.

Bernard Martínez was born in Cuapa, Nicaragua, in 1931. His grandmother raised him and educated him in a Christian manner. The beginning of May 1980, Bernard was feeling sad, at age 49 he had financial and spiritual problems and he was unemployed. His family accused him of making no progress financially because of his involvement working in the sacristy, a job he considered a service to God, without considering any financial benefits. Due to these problems, at certain times he was even to the point of desiring death. On the night of May 7th, Bernard could not sleep. That morning he got up very early to go fishing in the river. He felt strangely content, immersed in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility, in spite of the rain that limited him to finding shelter under a tree. Around three in the afternoon, after fishing, he gathered some fruit and recited the rosary, he saw lightening and a glowing cloud that came down from above to rest on a cedar tree. On top was a beautiful woman with bare feet; her dress was long and white, with long sleeves and she had a blue cord tightened around her waist. Her head was covered by a very pale cream-colored veil with golden trim. Her hands were joined at her chest. Bernard wasn't afraid, but initially he thought that either someone had brought the statue of the Virgin Mary from church to play a trick on him or he was dreaming. Soon thereafter he realized that it was not a statue, the eyes were moving and she even seemed alive. He also realized that he could not move or speak anymore. Our Lady extended her hands down and emitted glowing rays of sun. When she then directed the rays towards Bernard's chest, he managed to speak and move again and then he asked her name. With the sweetest voice that Bernard had ever heard, she replied: **"My name is Mary"**. Bernard asked her where she was from, **"I come from Heaven. I am the Mother of Jesus"** – said Our Lady. When he asked her what she wanted, she replied: **"I want you to say the rosary every day...not only in May. I want you to recite it permanently, with your family...including the children that are of the age of reason...at a scheduled time, when there are no problems with the house duties"**. After a pause she said: **"Nicaragua has suffered much from the earthquake. However, there is still a threat of future suffering. Nicaragua will continue to suffer if there is no change. My son, recite the rosary for the whole world...Tell the faithful and the non-believers that the world is in serious danger... The Lord does not want material temples. He wants living temples."**

Later, Our Lady invited everyone to renew the practice of the first five Saturdays for five consecutive months, just like she had said in her apparitions in Fatima. During the next few days, Bernard was afraid to talk about the apparition, but a new apparition pushed him to finally confide in the priest. On October 13, 1980 during the last apparition, Bernard spoke to Our Lady about the many requests he had received from the people of Cuapa. The Virgin responded to him: **"They ask me for unimportant things. Ask for faith in order to have the strength so that each can carry his own cross. Suffering in this world cannot be removed. Suffering is the cross that must be carried."**

Other apparitions followed, and the conversions in Cuapa were many. In spite of the many attempts to discredit the apparitions, the Virgin of Cuapa had already become an object of worship in Nicaragua, believers loved her and they invoked her constantly. On November 13, 1982, Monsignor Pablo Antonio Vega, Bishop of Juigalpa, gave his official approval on the apparitions of Cuapa. Then the apparitions were given recognition also by the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference and the site became a national shrine.



Representation of the apparition of Our Lady to Bernard Martínez



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Bernard Martínez, the seer, becomes a priest at age 64



Inside the old church of Cuapa where Bernard Martínez is buried



Statue of Our Lady that appeared to Bernard Martínez



The new shrine in the open