



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at ANDACOLLO

CHILE, XVI Century

The story of the Virgin of Andacollo goes back to the years of the conquest of Chile. The historical data tracing back to that period lead to the year of the founding of the city of La Serena by the work of Don Juan Bohón. It is recounted that in the year 1549 that city, the second one of Chile, was devastated and destroyed by a fire caused by a rebellion of the natives of Copiapó. That same year, the city was rebuilt by the conqueror Pedro de Valdivia. From this event originates the story of the Virgin of Andacollo. It is recounted that, following the destruction of the city, the Spaniards fled south in search of a shelter. They climbed to the top of the mountain and there came upon a small native settlement of Molle origin, with Incan influence. They were so amazed to see the ravines filled with unrefined gold that they decided to hide there the small image and continue south. Thus a native man of that area, named Collo, found the image of the Virgin. Initially Collo would have heard a heavenly voice saying to him: **"Take courage, Collo! Make me and the true God known to your people!"**. Then he realized that the mine where he had gone had suddenly lit and that the light was increasing in intensity. Then he heard again, in a clear and distinct manner, a distant but understandable voice telling him: **"At a few steps from you there is an enormous wealth; search on the highest mountains of the plateau extending over your head. Go, Collo!"**.

The following day the native Collo departed together with some of his relatives, and because of the landslide of a large unstable rock, appeared partly hidden surrounded by a light, a small wooden statue roughly carved, with a graceful face and olive complexion. The native took the image and brought it to his house to venerate it, associating it to Pacha Mama (Mother Earth). From that moment, the inhabitants of the place started to perform dances in honor of the Virgin, very similar to the ones of the natives of Peru and Bolivia. Attracted by the gold of Andacollo, the Spaniards returned and built there the first Marian chapel of Chile at the request of Don Juan Gaytán de Mendoza. The building was simple, with walls of stockade and the roof of rye straw and low bushes. In 1998 the Holy See granted the title of Minor Basilica to the Shrine of Andacollo.



Image depicting the apparition



The Basilica of Andacollo



Festival in honor of Our Lady



Folk costumes worn on the occasion of the processions in honor of the Virgin of Andacollo



Our Lady appears to the native man Andacollo



Interior of the Basilica of Andacollo



Small miraculous statue of Our Lady of Andacollo as it was discovered by the native man Collo



The Virgin of Andacollo attired for the festival



Procession of the Virgin of Andacollo

