

later when the Franciscans of the monastery became aware that they were being forewarned by three knocks of the approaching death of one of their members. Known as golpes, these rappings are instinctively recognized as warnings, and have been associated with the relics and pictures of various Saints including St. Paschal Baylon and Bl. Anthony of Stroncone.

The little image of Our Lady of Santa Anita, holding the Child Jesus on her left arm, is now held in the greatest veneration. Of Spanish origin, it is made of wood and was painted over gilt by the process known as estofo. The tunic is of opaque vermillion, while the mantle is green enamel. Restored about the year 1918, the image's wardrobe consists of several garments, all beautifully embroidered in elaborate designs and bordered in golden fringes and tassels. Jeweled crowns adorn the heads of both figures, and a golden halo of rays and stars is positioned behind the head of the Holy Mother.

The miraculous statue welcomes her devotees who regularly visit from outlying villages. Each year solemn novenas are made and a grand fiesta is celebrated in her honor with great rejoicing.

**(excerpted from: Miraculous Images of Our Lady)*

******Historians believe that the statue was originally an Immaculate Conception image, standing on the crescent moon without the child. Around 1700, the Virgin of Santa Anita began to be celebrated on August 15 as Our Lady of the Assumption. Around 1800, the image acquired an infant and candle in addition to the moon, becoming Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria, celebrated on February 2, the Feast of the Purification of the Virgin or Candlemas.

In 1918, Our Lady of Santa Anita acquired another title, *Abogada de los Enfermos*, Advocate of the Sick. In 1988, this statue was crowned by diocesan authority and by papal authority on May 29, 2004.

Candlemas remains a huge fiesta in Santa Anita. Festivities begin nine days before, on January 24. Thousands of poinsettias line the route from the highway to the sanctuary. On February 1, the Entrade de la Cera (Wax Entrance) takes place: a parade of pilgrims bring votive offerings of giant candles, sacred vessels, perfumes, and adornments for the statue, such as jewels, garments, and wigs made from the hair of young women whose prayers were answered. On February 2 a procession bears the Virgin of Santa Anita along a red carpet of some 300,000 flowers cut from the poinsettias lining the route.

****(excerpted from: www.wherewalked.info)

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.pamphletstoinpire.com

Our Lady of Santa Anita

Advocate of the Sick
Santa Anita, Jalisco, Mexico
Seventeenth Century



***Mary dear Mother, please
obtain for me the healing I need.***

Mary, health of the sick, pray for me!

Our Lady of Santa Anita

*Many unusual and mysterious events have surrounded this small wooden sculpture known as Our Lady of Santa Anita. Measuring only a foot and a half high, it dates from before the year 1700 when an elderly hermit, who came from Europe, carried it with him as he traveled through Mexico. Upon reaching the little Indian village then known as Atlixac, but which now is called Santa Anita, the holy man became seriously ill. A Christian Indian woman named Augustina, who was regarded by the villagers as their *curandera*, or native doctor, took the hermit to her humble dwelling and cared for him. In spite of her efforts, it became increasingly evident that her patient would die. Realizing the gravity of his illness, the hermit entrusted to Augustina his treasured statue of Our Lady, who held it in great veneration. Following the hermit's death, Augustina hid the statue, fearing that the authorities might take it from her. It was then that the Blessed Virgin began to grant special favors on behalf of Augustina's patients.

As a devotee of the Blessed Mother, Augustina would encourage her patients to have devotion and confidence in the Mother of God. After each visit to the sick, she would routinely light a candle before Our Lady's image and would carefully observe the features. If the face became bright and glowing, Augustina knew that the patient would recover. If the face of the image became dark, she knew that her patient would soon die. She would then notify a local priest and prepare her patient for the reception of the Sacraments.

When the Franciscans at Tlajomulco learned of the prophetic image they questioned Augustina. She told how the face of the image changed in color, and by this method she was able to prognosticate health or death. Understandably skeptical, the friars decided to test the alleged marvel and carried the statue to their friary. On their arrival, they placed the image in the cell of a friar who was ill. The ailing religious looked intently at the image and

exclaimed, "You are beautiful, O Lady, but very dark." Soon thereafter, he died a holy death.

The image was returned to the Indian woman, but when she died it was placed in a local chapel. Soon devotion to Our Lady's image diminished until it was almost completely neglected.

In the middle of the seventeenth century, a Franciscan friar, Ignacio Tellez, was traveling through the village and visited the chapel. He was astonished to see an image of the Blessed Mother in a dirty and ragged condition. After learning of its unusual history and the many marvels that had attended it in the past, he resolved to restore the image to its former prestige. He had the statue vested in new garments and began to build another sanctuary directly opposite the chapel. The first stone of this new sanctuary was laid on the feast of the Assumption in the year 1700.

During the consecration ceremony, Friar Nicholas de Ornelas Mendoze, the chronicler of the Franciscan Province of Jalisco, told of new miracles of healing attributed to the miraculous statue — in particular the case of Friar Jose Nunez, the Superior of the monastery of Tlajomulco. The friar had been suffering for a lengthy time with a sickness that was accompanied by a high fever. After the Sign of the Cross was made upon his chest with oil from the lamp that burned before the image of Our Lady, the friar was immediately cured.

When a terrible epidemic of influenza swept through Mexico in 1918, it was promptly arrested when the holy image was carried in procession through the streets of the village.

A new and different marvel attended the image sometime