

## CHURCH APPROVAL

Unfortunately, there is no written documentation of these apparitions: such documents were perhaps kept in the Hue church archives, which were destroyed during two local wars: in 1833, under King Minh Mang, and in 1861 in the reign of King Tuduc.

No formal approval has been given to the apparition of Our Lady of La Vang - the Vietnamese hierarchy has not officially pronounced on the historicity of Mary's apparition at La Vang. The elevation of the church to Basilica status and the visit of Pope John Paul II gives implicit approval to the apparition claim.

In recent times, the La Vang Shrine has had close relations with the Holy See. John XXIII, after reordering the ecclesiastical circumscriptions of Viet Nam and creating an ecclesiastical hierarchy (24 November 1960), made another gift to the country by granting the title of Minor Basilica (22 August 1961) to the national shrine of La Vang... John Paul II, for his part, has shown many signs of affection for Our Lady of La Vang. **\*\***(excerpted from: [www.miraclehunter.com](http://www.miraclehunter.com))



Church of Our Lady of La Vang, built in 1928 and destroyed in 1972 during the war.

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## *Our Lady of La Vang* *Vietnam*

Feast: November 22



***Blessed Lady of La Vang,  
be my mother and comfort me,  
especially in times of trial and unhappiness.  
Enter my heart and stay with me wherever I may go.  
Grant that one day, through you,  
I may find rest and peace in my Father's house. Amen.***

## ***Our Lady of La Vang***

**\*Our Lady of La Vang** refers to a claimed Marian apparition at a time when Catholics were persecuted and killed in Vietnam. The Shrine of our Lady of La Vang is situated in what is today the village of Hai Phu, in the county of Mai Linh, and the Quang Tri Province in Central Vietnam.

### **HISTORY**

Fearing the intrusion of the Catholic Church, Emperor Canh Tinh restricted the practice of Catholicism in the country. Soon thereafter, the emperor issued an anti-Catholic edict in which persecution ensued.

Many people sought refuge in the rain forest of La Vang in Quan Tri Province Vietnam, and many became very ill. While hiding in the jungle, the community gathered every night at the foot of a tree to pray the rosary. One night, an apparition surprised them. In the branches of the tree a lady appeared, wearing the traditional Vietnamese áo dài dress and holding a child in her arms, with two angels beside her. The people present interpreted the vision as the Virgin Mary and the infant Jesus Christ. They said that Our Lady comforted them and told them to boil leaves from the trees for medicine to cure their ills. Legend states that the term "La Vang" was a derivative of the Vietnamese word meaning "crying out". Modern scholars believe it comes from the ancient practice of naming a location for a genus of a tree or plant native to the area, *La* meaning "leaf" and Vang "*herbal seeds*".

In 1802 the Christians returned to their villages, passing on the story of the apparition in La Vang and its message. As the story of the apparitions spread, many came to pray at this site and to offer incense. In 1820, a chapel was built.

From 1830-1885 another wave of persecutions decimated the Christian population, during the height of which the chapel in honor of Our Lady of La Vang was destroyed. In 1886, construction on a new chapel began. Following its completion, Bishop Gaspar (Loc) consecrated the chapel in honor of Our Lady Help of Christians, in 1901.

On December 8, 1954, the statue of Our Lady of La Vang was brought from Tri Bun back to the holy shrine. The Vietnamese Bishops Conference chose the church of Our Lady of La Vang as the National Shrine in honor of the Immaculate Conception.

La Vang became the National Marian Center of Vietnam on April 13, 1961. Pope John XXIII elevated the Church of Our Lady of La Vang to the rank of a minor basilica on August 22, 1961.

Though there is no official Vatican recognition of this event as a Marian apparition, on June 19, 1998, Pope John Paul II publicly recognized the importance of Our Lady of La Vang and expressed desire to rebuild the La Vang Basilica in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the first vision.

\*(excerpted from: en.wikipedia.org)

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE VIRGIN**

**\*\***According to tradition it is reported that, one evening, a lady of great beauty appeared to the refugees in the jungle, clad in white and surrounded by light holding the infant Jesus in her arms, with two charming boys holding torches at her side. The lady walked back and forth several times in front of the Christians, her feet touching the ground. Even the non-Christians who were there witnessed the vision.