

Our Lady of Consolation, September 4th



The Annals in Beaugency mention an event which will stand out in the History of the Ursulines in this town: since the big convent had been built, the community venerated a statue of our Lady of Consolation set up there by Mother Tardif.

In 1792, some revolutionaries wanted to take the statue away and destroy it, but its weight was such that they couldn't move it and so they gave up.

Later on, Sister Saint Euphrasie came to entrust herself and her Sisters to the Virgin Mary's care, and she asked a worker in the convent to take the statue to a safe place. The good man carried it easily by himself! Where? It was not said and the secret was well kept!

It is only in 1829 May 2nd that the Sisters are allowed to go back to their convent. And on that very day the Virgin Mary found her place back where it was 37 years ago.

In 1904 - a period of laws against religious congregations - the community in Beaugency was ordered to empty and close the convent.

For fear of new desecrations, the Sisters thought it cautious to part with the statue.

As the community had just entered the Roman Union, it was decided to send the statue to Rome where the Mother General would willingly offer hospitality to it.

On the chosen day, the community walked to the altar in a procession to renew their consecration and ask Mary to bless them.

In 1904 July 6th, the venerated statue left for Rome by train. It arrived on the 9th ...

Transferred to the generalice House, where it is always at the same place, at the bottom of the big staircase, it welcomes all the visitors of the Casa.

Cf: Annals of the Ursulines in Beaugency. Volume 1, p.95 and Volume 2, p.10, quoted in the Newspaper of the Association "Together with Angela Merici" n°6. December 2000.