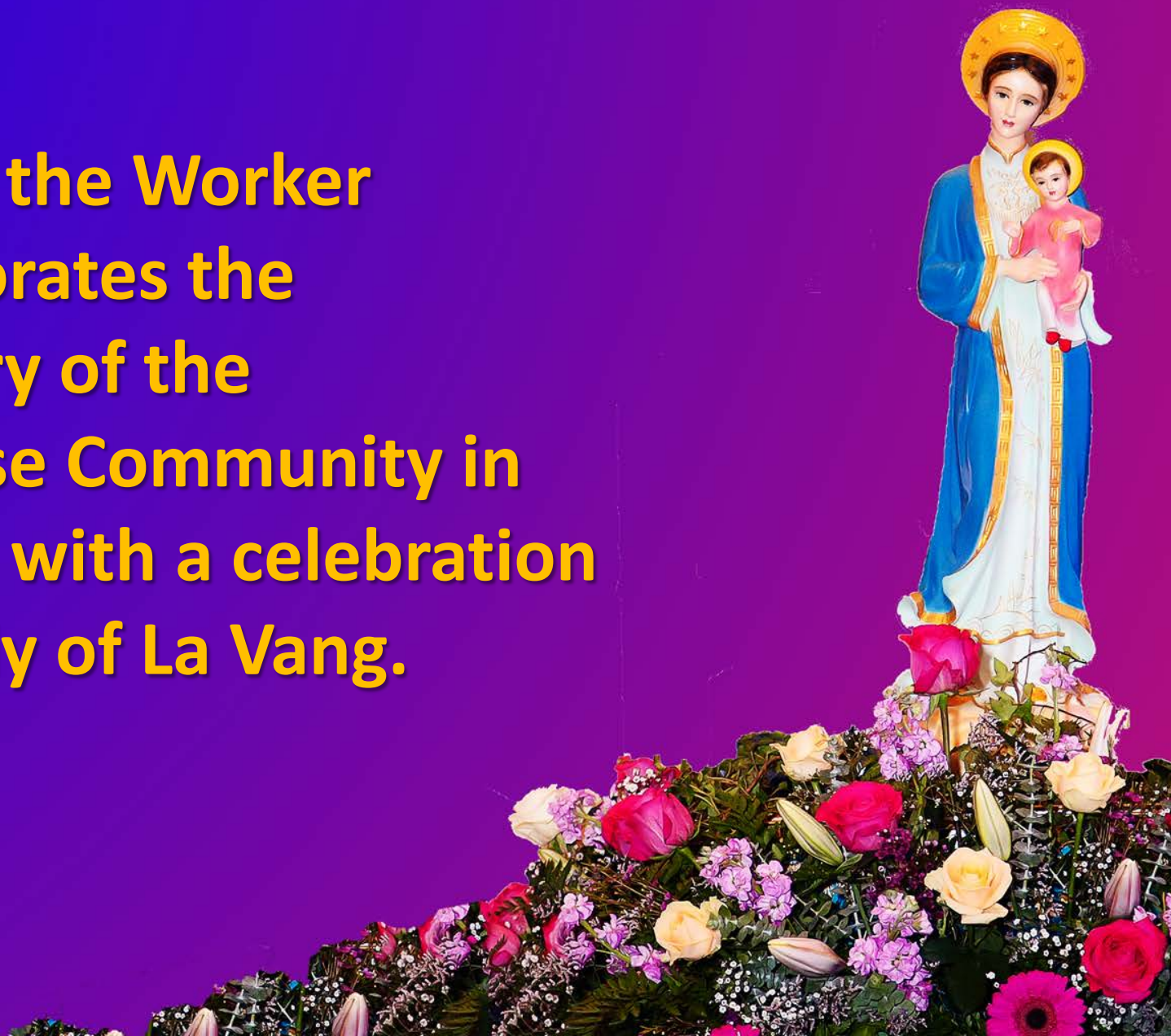


Our Lady of La Vang Celebration 2016



**St. Joseph the Worker
commemorates the
anniversary of the
Vietnamese Community in
our parish with a celebration
of Our Lady of La Vang.**



**The observance coincides
annually with the Solemnity of
the Assumption of
the Blessed Virgin Mary
(August 15).**



In the weeks leading up to the feast day, the Vietnamese community devotes time before each Mass to prayers and songs to Our Lady of La Vang.



To begin the celebration, parishioners and visitors, many in traditional dress, process with the statue of Our Lady of La Vang, beautifully decorated with multicolored flowers, from the Conference Center Hall, along Sherman Way, into the church for the Sunday 5:30 p.m. Mass.



**Members of the community's
ministries participate in this very
special liturgy.**

**A dinner reception with
music and entertainment
follows the Mass.**





Opening Procession of Prayer and Song





Opening Procession of Prayer and Song





Opening
Procession
of Prayer
and Song —
Our Lady carried
into the church



**Anniversary Mass —
Mothers Guild**





**Anniversary Mass —
Sacred Heart Group**





**Anniversary Mass —
Fr. Joseph Vu
(principal celebrant),
Fr. Kevin Rettig,
Deacon Gus Mora**





**Anniversary Mass —
Choir and Musicians**



After the Mass ...





... Dinner and
Entertainment in the
Conference Center Hall





**Entertainment —
Hoang, Ngoc Tuyet**





Entertainment —
MC Le, Tram Janelle





Entertainment — Eucharistic Youth Group



History of Our Lady of La Vang

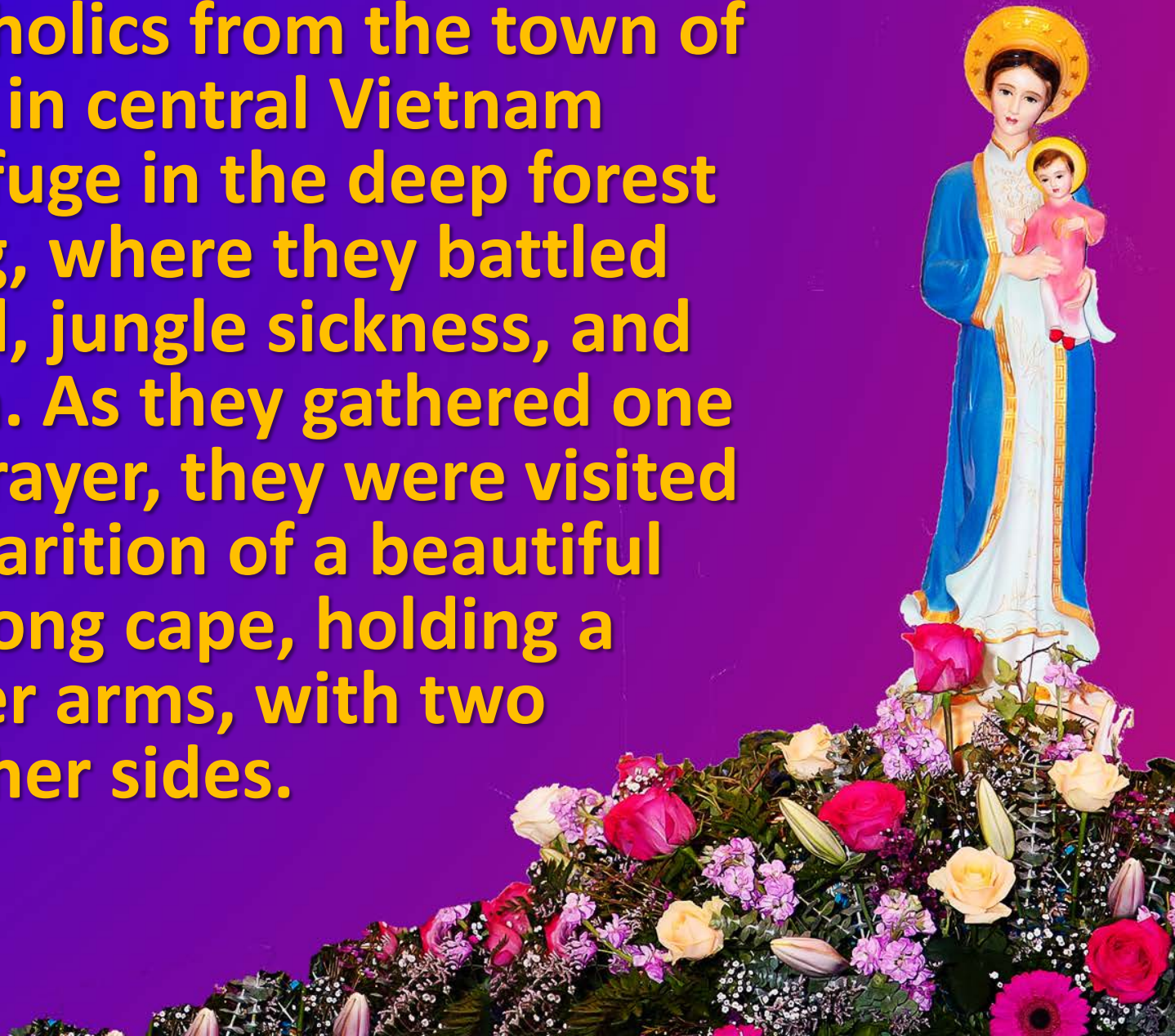
Our Lady of La Vang Shrine, located approximately 40 miles north of Hue, the former capital, is an important faith symbol for Vietnamese Catholics.



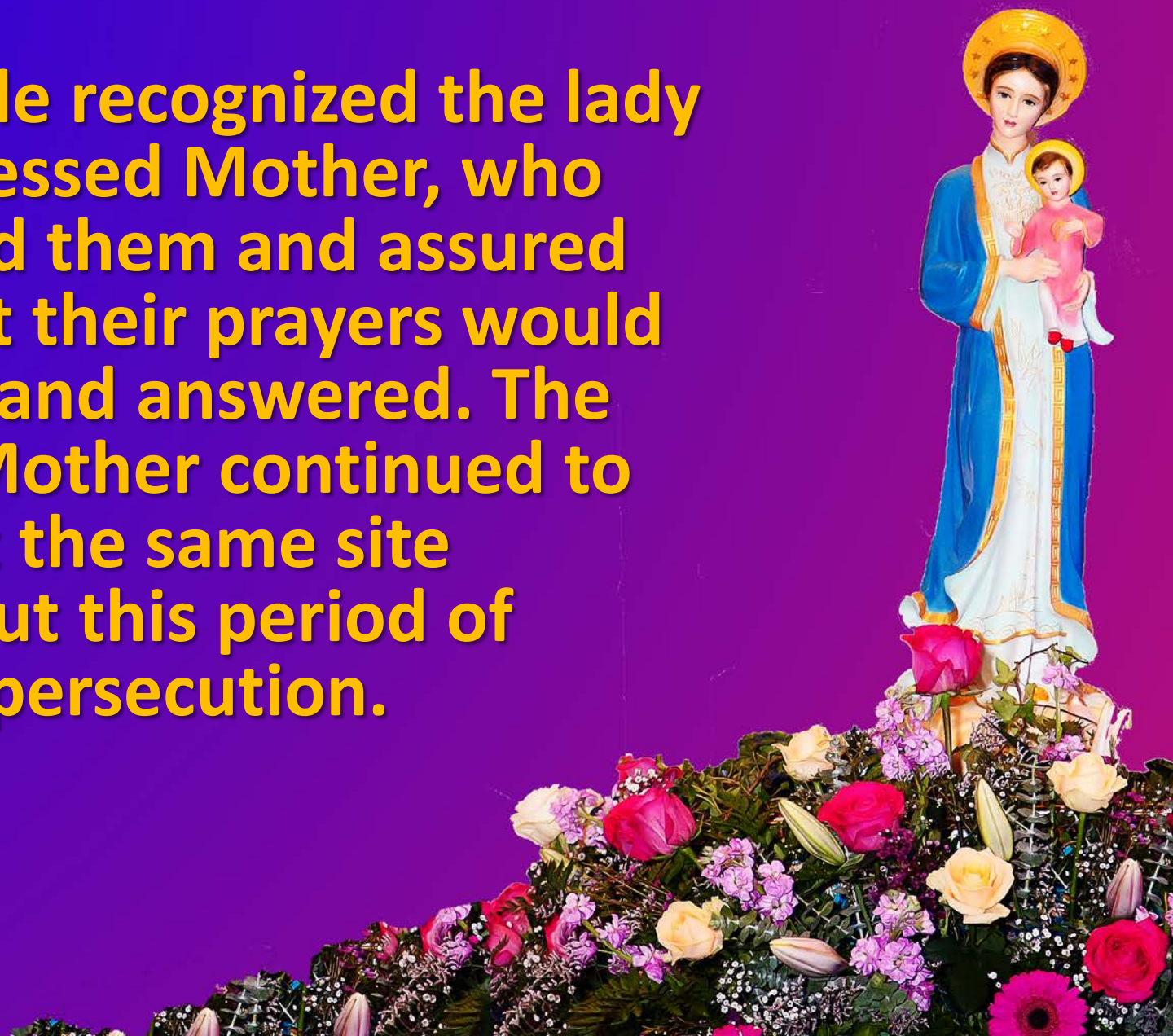
It is believed that Mary first appeared to the Vietnamese people at this site in 1798, during a time of intense persecution of Vietnamese Catholics and missionaries.



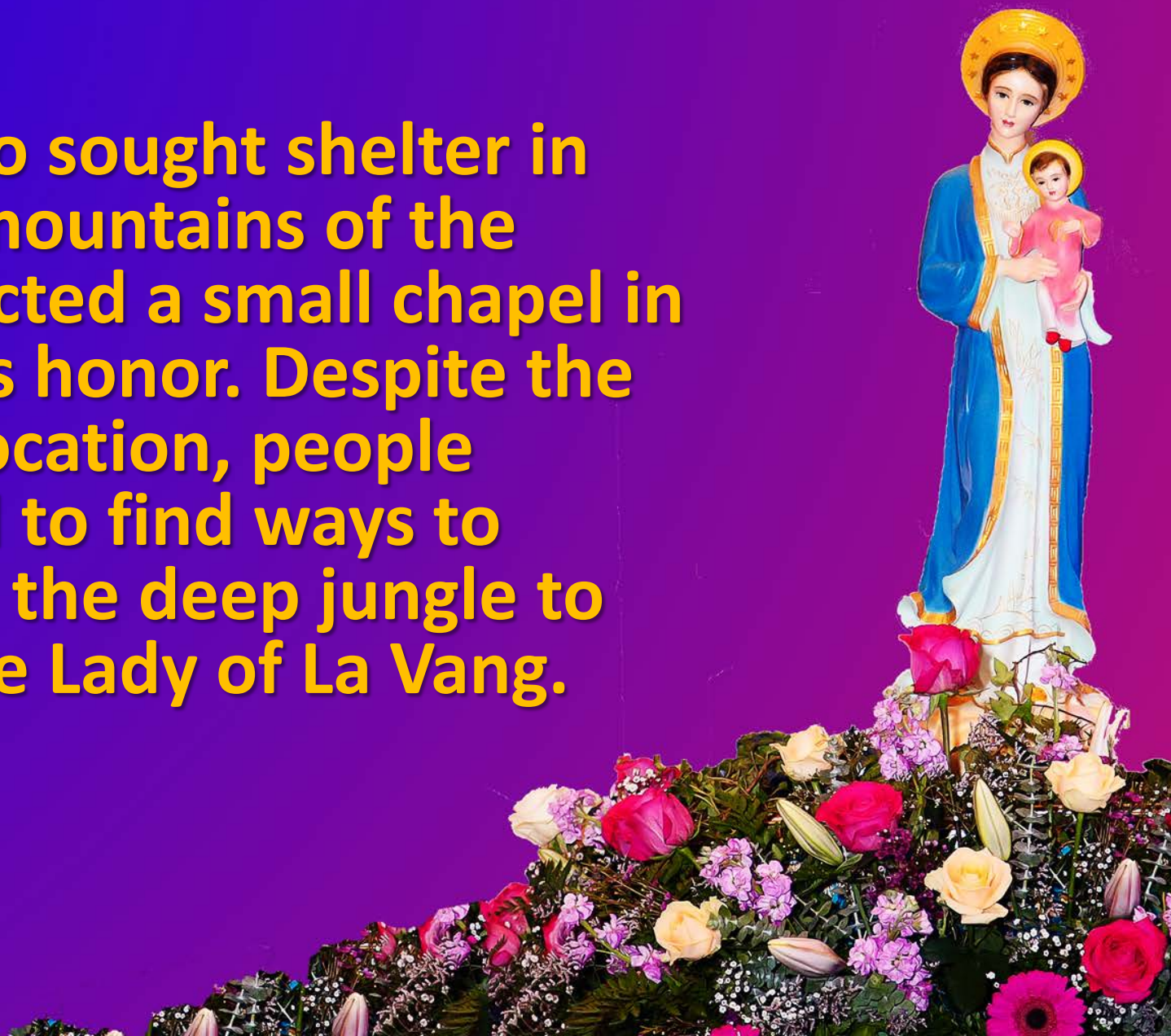
Many Catholics from the town of Quang Tri in central Vietnam sought refuge in the deep forest of La Vang, where they battled bitter cold, jungle sickness, and starvation. As they gathered one night in prayer, they were visited by an apparition of a beautiful lady in a long cape, holding a child in her arms, with two angels at her sides.



The people recognized the lady as Our Blessed Mother, who comforted them and assured them that their prayers would be heard and answered. The Blessed Mother continued to appear at the same site throughout this period of religious persecution.



Those who sought shelter in the high mountains of the forest erected a small chapel in Our Lady's honor. Despite the isolated location, people continued to find ways to penetrate the deep jungle to pray to the Lady of La Vang.



After the persecution had officially ended, Bishop Gaspar ordered that a church be built in honor of the Lady of La Vang. The church of La Vang was inaugurated in a solemn ceremony in August 1901.



The bishop proclaimed the Lady of La Vang as the Protectorate of the Catholics. In 1928 a larger church was built to accommodate the increasing number of pilgrims.



In April 1961 the Council of Vietnamese Bishops selected the holy church of La Vang as the National Sacred Marian Center, and in August 1962 Pope John XXIII elevated the church of La Vang to the Basilica of La Vang.



Destroyed in the summer of 1972 during the Vietnam War, the church has since been rebuilt and remains an important pilgrimage site and symbol of faith and devotion for the Vietnamese people.



Photography

Brandon Phan

