



### *The Conception of the pilgrimage site at Máriakéménd and the History of the pilgrimage church of Assumption*

The old village called Kemend (later Kéménd) was situated here around the church and was destroyed by the end of the Turkish times. The Saint Nicholas church, stood at the place of the present pilgrimage church, which was built in the 15th century and had its walls unharmed only until the beginning of the 18th century. Arriving here in the 1720s, German settlers had a mass at the ruins once a year on Saint Nicholas day.

### **Revelations at the Shrine**

In the spring of 1740 five girls including Margaretha Rogner and Anna Weiß collected grass in the old cemetery around the church ruins. From a sunken grave the brightening image of Virgin Mary appeared, holding her child in her arm. The girls tried to lift up the picture but they couldn't. As they touched it, their hands were shining bright. Hearing their cries, Elisabetha

Blumenthaler rushed there from the nearby fields and tried to lift up the picture but it disappeared. Some days later a young man saw Virgin Mary with her child in her arms entering the sanctuary of the ruins of the church encircling gloriously. Locals remember another legend that says that Germans worked at the fields around the ruined church at harvest time. In the evening when they finished their work a great storm was approaching. They thought to see Virgin Mary in a cloud who told them : Don't be afraid, the storm steers clear of you.

Hearing about the visions, more and more pilgrims arrived. In 1742 Franciscans started to rebuild the church, and later parish priest György Lipussy led the reconstruction, during which the remnants of the old church and its 15th-century Gothic apse had been used. The church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary was consecrated on December 8., 1754, Sunday, by Pr. György Lipussy. Due to the quick spread of the Cult of the Virgin Mary, the Baroque parish house was raised by 1762.

The glazed Zsolnay relief of Virgin Mary above the entrance of the church is the work of Lajos Lontay.

The angel statues in front of the church were made in the 1890s in Zsolnay Manufacture, Pécs.