



Chapel of Our Lady of La Vang (Photo/nationalshrine.org)

Testaments to Loving Care: Our Lady of La Vang

The chapel of Our Lady of La Vang stands in memory of the persecution of Vietnamese Catholics during the 18th century. Fearing for their lives, they fled from the local villages and parishes to the nearby jungle, known as the La Vang region. They gathered every night in the jungle at the foot of a great tree to pray the rosary. One night, Our Blessed Mother appeared to them wearing a magnificent cloak, carrying the infant Jesus. Not only did she console them, and remind them of her intercession, but she showed them the leaves of an indigenous fern to treat their physical ailments. Throughout the years, Our Lady appeared many more times in this place, strengthening the faith of the local people.

Commemorating this event, the main focus of the chapel is a statue of Our Lady of La Vang in the same cloak as in her appearance, holding the Christ Child. On the right is a Venetian glass mosaic depicting the initial event, and the villagers who sought the intercession of our Lady. The glass mosaic on the left is a copy of the painting, *The Martyrs of Vietnam*, representing some of the 130,000 to 300,000 men and women that were tortured and killed for their faith.

Prayer to Our Lady of La Vang

In memory of the sacrificial faith of the Vietnamese martyrs, let us pray:

O Mary, Holy Mother of La Vang, Mother of God and our most loving Mother, pour out your abundant blessings upon your children who earnestly implore you. Give us a heart of compassion and charity to build a culture of love and life. Help us to live lives of virtue and hope, so that we may enjoy eternal life and the happiness of the Trinity with you for all eternity. Amen.