



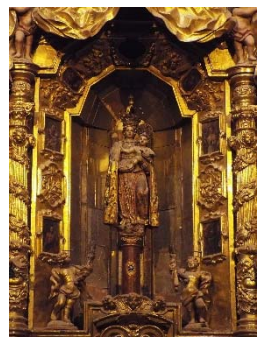
"Saints adoring Jesus Resurrected", by Fra Angelico – Detail of the Fiesole Panel, San Marco Museum, Florence (Italy)

Our Lady of the Pillar

40 A.D.

October 12

Our Lady of the Pillar is the name given to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the context of the traditional belief that Mary, while living in Jerusalem, supernaturally appeared to the Apostle James the Greater in AD 40 while he was preaching in what is now Spain. This is the only appearance recorded of an instance of Mary exhibiting the mystical phenomenon of bilocation. It is also considered the first Marian apparition, and unique because it happened while Mary was still living on Earth. Catholic tradition holds that, in the early days of Christianity, the Apostles of Jesus spread the Gospel throughout the known world, with James the Greater evangelizing in Roman Hispania (modern-day Spain). He confronted great difficulties in his missionary efforts and faced severe discouragement. In AD 40, while he was praying by the banks of the Ebro at Zaragoza, Mary bilocated from Jerusalem, where she was living at the time, and appeared to James, standing on a pillar, accompanied by thousands of angels, to console and encourage him.



According to the account by María de Ágreda, in her *Mystical City of God*, Mary, mother of Jesus, was transported from Jerusalem to Hispania during the night, on a cloud carried by angels. During the journey, the angels also built a pillar of marble, and a miniature image of Mary with the Child Jesus.

Her feast day is 12 October, which coincides with Columbus Day, the national holiday of Spain.