

They say that "to sing is to pray twice" and that is what has inspired a 35 year old tradition at the Assumptionist shrine of Lourdes in Santiago. On Saturday, February 4, 1977, more than 35 singers came to sing at the feet of the Virgin.

They came from small towns from Valparaiso to Curicó. They had been invited to this well-known shrine to mark its 70th anniversary. "There were two women and a young man, Arnoldo Madariaga, who planted the seeds of a tradition that would last to this day," recalled Br. Ramón Gutiérrez, A.A., one of the organizers of the 1977 event.



"Today," he added, "Arnoldo Madariaga is one of the most famous singers of religious music in Chile." For over thirty years this event has taken place uninterrupted at the shrine in the nation's capital city and is an attempt to save a tradition that is over 400 years old and whose origins date back to the arrival of the Jesuits in central Chile.



