

The Eparchy of Mukachevo until World War I had its own place of pilgrimage, where the Greek Catholic (Byzantine Catholic) faithful venerated the miraculous icon of the Theotokos in Mariapoch (Hungary). Due to the redrawing of borders after the war, many parishes of the Mukachevo Eparchy remained in Romania and Hungary. Thus Mariapoch, with its miraculous icon, remained outside the jurisdiction of the Mukachevo Eparchy. Bishop Petro Hebey tried to bring back to Transcarpathia the original icon of the Mariapoch Mother of God, which is enshrined in the Cathedral of St. Stephan in Vienna. Unfortunately that was impossible to arrange. That is why through the mediation of the Apostolic Nuncio in Prague, the Most Rev. Franc Marmadzi, an audience was arranged where Bishop Petro Hebey addressed the Pope. In 1926 Pope Pius XI gave a gift for the Mukachevo Eparchy, the ancient icon of Mother of God, painted in 1453, which was entrusted to the Basilian Fathers on the Mount Chernecha in the city of Mukachevo.

The solemn transference of the ancient icon of the Mother of God to Mount Chernecha occurred on June 27, 1926, the Sunday of All Saints, in the presence of over 30,000 faithful. The enthronization rite of the miracle-working icon was performed Bishop Petro Hebey. His Excellency entrusted to the protection of the Mother of God the entire Mukachevo Greek-Catholic Eparchy with all its faithful. Since that time this icon served in its mission as a "Patroness of Mukachevo", and St. Nicolas Monastery on the Mount Chernecha became the main place of pilgrimage for the entire Transcarpathian region.

The origins of icon date to the XVth century. Together with frame it is 55cm wide and 68cm high. It was painted on wood in Byzantine Constantinopolitan style with gold leaf background. Depicted is the Theotokos with the Savior, who holds in his left hand a globe and with his right hand blessing. From both sides of the Mother of God can be seen Greek inscription: MHTHP KYPIOY (Mother of the Lord). At the bottom from the left side we read the year of the icon's creation – 1453, the same year as the fall of Constantinople to the Muslim Turks.

About the past of this icon we do not know much. It is also unknown when and by what circumstances this icon was brought to Rome. For long years it was hidden in the Vatican museums, until the time when Pope Pius XI decided to give it to the Mukachevo Eparchy. In 1947 when communist regime of the USSR began the closing of Basilian monasteries, an exact copy of this miraculous icon was made and placed in monastery church in Mukachevo where it is even to the present day. The family of Basilian Brother Julian Migovich OSBM in the town Svaljava hid the original. He himself also fled to Svaljava soon after expulsion of all the monks from the Mukachevo monastery. After a short while also this hiding place became insecure for Brother Julian who was constantly watched and his residence was often checked by KGB agents. Thus, he decided to pass the icon to the Ljahovich family to keep it in Mukachevo. They hid the original icon until the fall of the USSR and the end of communism. In 1998 by the efforts of Basilian Fathers the miraculous icon was rediscovered, but its return to Mount Chernechy and St. Nicholas Monastery is not possible since the monastery is today under the Orthodox Church. The original ancient icon was transferred to the Basilian monastery in Malij Berezniy where it is today. Every year during monastery's feast day celebration and also on all Marian feasts the icon is put out for public veneration.