1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Based on the ideology of Pancasila, Indonesia is one of the new countries in the world that the religious freedom and worship are guaranteed. There are 5 religions that are officially acknowledged and approved by the government of the republic of Indonesia. They are Islam, Christianity, Catholicism, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Catholicism is one of religions found in Indonesia. Catholic religion has been long time in Indonesia. It came to Indonesia since the colonial period of Portugal (V.O.C). In that time, Catholic religion had done hard struggle to be hold out. Despite of many challenges and obstacles it has to face in the past, today there are so many Catholic churches found all over in Indonesia.

As a result of those religions, it can be seen there are so many religious places (the place of worship) for all religions of the five religions approved by the government. So, we have the existence of the place of worship: mosque for Islam, church for protestant Christianity and Catholic, temple for Hinduism, and monastery (vihara) for Buddhism respectively. These places of worship have their unique structure and style to their religious services. So, we can find buildings in classical, neo classical, modern even ethnic and tradition style.

Generally, religious places which in ethnic or traditional style is church. In Indonesia there are many churches that are suited with its region or even the major of ethnic in that region. In addition, for example in North Sumatera in Samosir Island, there are some churches built like tradition house.
In 2005 in millennium era, there was appeared a unique and strange religious building in Medan, North Sumatera. It is Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni *(Graha Maria Annai Velangkanni)*. It is located in Tanjung Selamat, Medan in North Sumatera. It is constructed in Indo – Mogul architecture style with the religious symbols in its ornaments.

Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni is usually called Velangkanni by other people and it is different from church. A church is constructed for having religious service and praying. Marian Shrine - Annai Velangkanni is constructed for having devotion and getting spiritual experience. Velangkanni is a sacred place to have devotion to the Mother of God – Mary *(Maria)*.

In Marian Shrine Annai Velangkanni, people can feel comfortable for praying and staying. The harmony of life is seen because of all nations from many different religions and ethnics can visit and come to this place. We can meet all people from many different backgrounds in one place – Velangkanni.

To make people feel comfortable staying in Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni without seeing any differences of SARA (Ethnics, Religion, and custom), therefore not only the elements of religious are put into the architecture of this building, but also the elements of culture.

Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni is not aimed just for Catholic people. Everybody – from all religions, ethnics and customs can visit and pray here. The region government has determined that Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni is one of the spiritual tourism place because of its unique in structuring and ornaments that is different from others. It is a unique building and
there is no other building like Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni in the world and Velangkanni is a site of Asia Devotion Sacred. Therefore, the writer is interested to choose this topic.

1.2. The Problem of the Study

The problem of this paper which is raised by the writer is to know more about the description of Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni, the history and the meaning of its symbols in its ornaments.

1.3. The Scope of the Study

The scope of the study has an important role in the writing of the paper. It is used to limit the problem therefore the topic in this paper is more focused. The writer just focuses this paper on describing the Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni.

1.4. The Purpose of the Study

In writing this paper, there are 2 purposes. They are:

a) To introduce to the reader about Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni

b) To describe about the architecture

c) To explain to the reader about the meaning of its symbols in its ornament

1.5. The Method of the Study

In writing this paper, the writer uses two methods of research method. They are:

- Field research

Some of the most valuable information and data in the world are not located in the book (library) or even online (social website). Field research is a
kind of research method that is used to find out data and information from the field directly by visiting the object study place or having a survey to the place where we want to know. The writer used this method by having direct observation to Velangkanni to get some information about Velangkanni.

Besides doing observation, the writer also does interview. Interview is a kind of method research by having a conversation and preparing some questions to be asked to the interviewee to get information detail and accurate. In finding out some information and data detail, the writer must have interviewed to a person who is the key one that knows well about the information and he is Rev. Father James Bharataputra, S.J. as the rector of Marian Shrine of Annai Velangkanni.

- Library research

Library research is a kind of method research that is used to find a certain data and information by searching and collecting some books which are relevant to the theme.