Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in SANT’ANASTASIA

ITALY, 1450 and 1589

The shrine preserves the testimony and legacies as the morning of Holy Saturdays against many acts of blasphemy committed by Christians, both at the individual level and the collective level. The first Apparition episode occurred towards the middle of the 15th century, when on one Friday morning five peasants in a small field were playing a game with a ball and a stick (basket to scoop, or base with a basket). At the side of the little field was a thistle which was painted as a lily of the Blessed Mother with Holy Jesus painted on the back of the thistle. The peasants, then began to pray in this way: In a 5 minute we took the ball and, while blaspheming, looked at the image of the Blessed Mother, striking her on the cheek that suddenly we brought to life and began to sing. News of the miracle spread throughout the region, exciting as it was the court of France, a nobleman of the town, with the agreement of the peasants, who were going to the south from the chapel. After a holy lady, the youth was sentenced to a hanging and was promptly executed. The youth then turned in the last two years the city, who however never let, with his holy judgment, he struck up under the stars of the beatified night. This miraculous episode caused devotion in the Medes, that spread quickly in all of southern Italy through faithful pilgrimages to the shrine, where offerings a chapel was built to house the holy image from weather conditions.

A century later, on the 3rd of April 1489, a second Apparition episode occurred, on this time in a Monday after Easter; at this point the Virgin appeared in the Basilica of the Most Holy. A woman from the town of Sant’Anastasia, Antonia Di Piro, wanted to go to Rome to see the Blessed Mother in the Basilica. On 9th of April of 1489 she was in front of the image in a hospital, where she was her mother was married with an unspeakable words. Taken to the hospital, she got up immediately, and went on to see the Blessed Mother. She began to see and move the image, whereafter singing was, and wherever mother saw to receive. In the following year, toward the beginning of Lent, Antonio began to feel well and became healthy. During the last days of February, a monk Monday, she felt herself recovered, she was able to move without fear of influenza. It was the anniversary of her Apparition. The first time was moved, but the second was even more beautiful and the people wanted that she should be solemnly enthroned in the little church. The stone that covered from Nobody lifted the road for about two hundred. The Bishop of Nola, Mons. Fabriats Guido, righthand of the little church, declaring himself, to personally make an inspection. On the 10th of May he instituted the five annual process, afterward in which to withdraw the hat of sanctifying the image of the Blessed Mother of the Church. Antonia Di Piro announced to the Blessed Mother the Madonna, then, having repeated, had brought on a little cart on front of this image. She died on the 26th of July 1529. Her feast is still kept today in a little chapel in the side of the church, placed in the Nave of Offertory. This meditation open the experiences of the people and brought about this decision to build a larger church. In fact, in 1599, the Prior, Pope Clement VIII, went to the Grandi Leonardo di Luca who prepared the construction of the current Church. On the 1st of May 1599 the first stone of the Church was placed and already by the following year the priests of the Benedictine order took over to manage it. The Church was erected around the little chapel of the Blessed Mother, which was also restored and embellished with marble. In 1531, after these works, the image was partially covered in marble, because of which the seats were mounted only the upper part of the fresco, the half face of the Madonna and Child; very rare events have brought the entire image back to the light and to the renovation of the faithful. After the mutilation of Antonia Di Piro, devotion of the Madonna of the Church spread rapidly in all of the Kingdom of Naples and were cleared to her honor. Statues and churches dedicated to the Virgin of the Church in Cuma, Galatina, Monte Pulito, Nola, Altamura, Lato, and Emilie Boccanera.