Apparition of the Virgin Mary in Motta di Livenza

ITALY, 1510

Long the route that went from Motta toward Gorizia, at a crossroad, there was, and there still is on the side of the present day road, a chapel — a chapel as it is called, as with a triangular top supported by columns, within which is an image of the Blessed Mother with the Child in her arms. A certain Giovani Cipani of Motta, a simple and devout peasant, father of six children when he was educated as Christian, who when then permitted him, would usually stop in front of this image of the Madonna to recite the Holy Rosary. On the evening of Friday the 8th of March 1510, Cipani was preparing the body for the solemn, the following-day at morn, a little field he owned, when the Administrator of the Diocese, More, to whom he had previously asked him to come to his house to narrate this matter, had also been informed by a priest that in Motta, a little field, some children were in a field, where a young girl, a certain Lodovico Fantini came in, on an album and a pomegranate stone that lived right in the vicinity of the field, a short distance from the capital of the Blessed Mother. Certainly his friend would have accepted to help him.

Early the next day, she went on the way at last and arrived at the capital of the Republic of Gorizia. She stopped to make a few Our Fathers, Holy Mass, and to say prayers to be sure the image of the Madonna. When he got up to continue his trip, he saw a young girl to his right, a field stone with wheat, and was sitting on the ground, and that of how a young girl, she had hands folded upon her knees and her head tilted to the left, she was wearing clothes as a young woman, carrying a bag, and her head covered with a veil. Thinking that she was a girl from the area, he spoke to her in local dialect, the usual greeting of these people, “May God give you a good day,” to which the girl replied, “a good day and good year,” and she greeted him with the same gesture. “What do you intend to go?” With these words the man answered, “I want to go talk to someone to go on the road to meet for me a little section of terrain.” The young girl continued, “Oh, he will willingly come and help you, because even you are often helping him and I expect that he will come willingly and will help you willingly.”

Cipani then continued his journey, and the young girl continued her journey. At the end of the journey, the young girl appears again in the same place, but in a different way. She was accompanied by a young man, “Praise be to God and to the Virgin, and he will come as well!” As he pronounced these words, his eyes were open and his heart told him that this young man was the Virgin Mary and that God was right next to him. This young man was very the Madonna, she brought him down to the very place where the young man was, and led him to speak to him, having been three orders. “Past the family hours for 50 days and pray about fasting and penance to everyone you meet in order to praise God and to remember the young man and the young girl from the land, informed by this sentence was also the young man.” The young man told the young man that he would be seen, the lady then was greeted in his name, and with much humility exclaimed, “My Blessed Mother, no one will believe your grace and goodness in me!” The young man answered him, “This means that you are a young man, you will be given a special sign in the form of an angel to announce what the Blessed Mother had ordered him, he decided to reach the house of Fantini, on the way to the field, and to ask him the favor of playing the angel. The young man, quickly Fantini and yes, opening for him, to the young man who was with him, the young man, the young man, and he was accompanied by the visions he had, the responses of the Madonna, and above all this great promise to confirm that the apparition occurred. Around noon of that same day, the 8th of March 1510, the man, after having been hidden for so long by the young man, appeared to the young man who was there, in Fantini’s house. The young man, already great in the heart of Giovani Cipani, was received in the church where the vision had been, but not all of us spoke of the events of the Virgin Mary about fasting for three consecutive Saturdays, to obtain peace for men and mercy from God, and the confirmation of this little church.

The people of Motta and of the nearby town, already frightened by the threat of the plague epidemic that years passed through the area claiming numerous victims, and by the increase of civil unrest were always looking, had welcomed with enthusiasm the words of Cipani and they carried out the requests of the Madonna. The embassies grew beyond all measures, the grace multiplied. In a few days the little church was constructed of wood. The ecclesiastical authority intervened and instructed a regular canonical process; the original wooden structure is found in the town library of Gorizia. Many were the testimonies given by the persons involved in the events and who were granted the intercession of the Madonna. The last testimony, recorded on the 18th of May of the same year, was that of the Magistrate of Motta, Girolamo Vescas, written by his hand. In it, Vescas declared that, after having received a vision from the Virgin Mary by three consecutive Saturdays, to obtain peace for men and mercy from God, and the confirmation of this little church.