



THE APPEALS
OF OUR LADY
APPARITIONS
AND
MARIAN SHRINES
IN THE WORLD

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at VALVERDE DI REZZATO



ITALY, 1399 and 1711

In 1399 at Valverde near Rezzato (BS) a pious farmer, while plowing his field right in the vicinity of a small church dedicated to Our Lady, sees that suddenly his oxen stop, fall on their knees and refuse to proceed. During the apparition Jesus reveals to the man that thanks to the intercession of the Virgin Mary, He had suspended two terrible chastisements by which He wanted to punish the local people because of their numerous sins: "I cannot deny anything to my Blessed Mother. For love of her I suspend two of the chastisements and also, if the people turning away from their immoral habits will purify themselves profoundly in the tears of penance, the third one will be much mitigated". At the end of the apparitions Our Lady invited the farmer to spread her appeals: "Exhort the people to abandon the ways of irreverence, exhort them to live in a Christian manner to placate the divine justice that they have seriously provoked. Recommend to them purification in the Sacrament of Penance, they must pray devout novenas with processions... dress in white garments... participate in the Holy Mass with devotion... receive Holy Communion with faith. The Stabat Mater Dolorosa is very pleasing to me among the hymns". Afterwards the man, accompanied by a group of disciples dressed in white like him, went from town to town to describe what he saw and announce the words he heard, preaching penance and prayer and leading processions. It was in this manner that the movement of the Whites or Disciplined was born. Near the place of the apparition there was a small octagonal church dating from the XII Century. Since it proved inadequate to receive the growing influx of pilgrims, the faithful decided to build a more spacious Shrine that was completed in 1615.

In 1711, towards the end of summer the province of Brescia is affected by a serious epidemic with great mortality of cattle. The inhabitants of Rezzato and nearby towns recur to Our Lady of Valverde and plan a solemn celebration in the Shrine for Friday, October 2. On the preceding day, Thursday October 1, two boys, eight-year old Paolo Ognà and eleven-year old Francesco Pelizzari, go to collect chestnuts on the hill of San Pietro, near the small lake of the Shrine. Observing more attentively, they see a woman clothed in white and bright like the sun. She was dressed in candid garments and with a light blue mantle flowing almost by a mysterious breeze. Their curiosity prompts them to dash down the mountain and run to the lake. The lady is kneeling towards east and praying. The two boys stop ecstatic: "This is the Virgin Mary!". And after kneeling, they recite the Salve Regina in front of her. The vision soon disappears, but the glow has been noted also by a woman who was collecting wood in the surroundings. The boys run to tell what happened. The people run to the Shrine certain that the epidemic would cease, as it actually happens.



Painting that depicts the apparitions



Small lake of Rezzato



Statue that depicts the apparition



Shrine of Valverde di Rezzato

