Apparition of Our Lady of Divine Love in ROME

ITALY, 1740

The historical events surrounding the Shrine of Our Lady of Divine Love begin in the XIII Century when in the Campagna area of Rome there stood a type of fortress belonging to the Savello-Orcini family, called the Leva Castle. On one of the towers of the castle was a fresco of the Virgin Mary portrayed as sitting on a throne with Baby Jesus in her arms and a dove floating upon her symbolizing the Holy Spirit, who is indeed the Divine Love.

The first miracle happened in the spring of 1740. A drifter was heading for Rome, he reached the area around the tower and he was attacked by a pack of dogs that were about to tear him to pieces. The unfortunate man lifted his eyes, saw the icon and asked the Mother of God to help him and then the miracle happened: Our Lady manifested and sent the dogs fleeing for the countryside. As a result of this miracle, on September 8th of the same year, the Marian image was sawed off the wall and transferred to a small church, dedicated to Saint Mary Major that stood in the nearby estate called "La Falconiera". Five years later, on April 18, 1745, the image was brought back to its ancient seat, where in 1570 a church was erected and consecrated by Cardinal Charles Borromini, who later became Pope Clement XIII.

The second miracle took place in 1544, with Rome at risk of being destroyed by the war, on January 24, the image of the Virgin began moving to various churches within the city, taken lastly to Saint Ignatius Church on June 4, 1644. The Romans prayed for the liberation of their city and made a vow to the Virgin Mary to renew their lives, build a new shrine and perform charitable work in her honor. "The Virgin granted the miracle and Rome was saved. On June 11, 1644, Pope Pius XII went to pray with the Romans and bestowed upon Our Lady of Divine Love the title "Mater Salvatoris Of Rome".

After the war, the shrine reopened, cultural and apostolic charitable works were developed, and in 1955 the National Marian Youth Camps began. On May 1, 1979 Pope John Paul II visited the Shrine of Divine Love and named it "The Marian Shrine of Rome". He came back again on June 7, 1987 for the opening of the Marian Year and on July 4, 1996 for the consecration of the new shrine. Since 1983, on Palm Sunday and Good Friday, at 8:30am the most spectacular sacred Roman representation of the Stations of the Cross, inspired by the Holy Shroud, takes place at the shrine. In the 1980s, much restoration work was done on the shrine and in 1991 the delicate restoration of the altar of the ancient and precious fresco of Our Lady of Divine Love was accomplished.

The Docean Synod opened (1846) and concluded (1903) in front of Our Lady of Divine Love in Saint Peter's Square, constituting the Roman Church's most authoritative event for abolition from the view through spiritual renewal and growth in communion with the Church and its mission in the city and the world. On May 10, 1999 the mosaic of Our Lady of Divine Love was placed in the Vatican Gardens in front of the Tower of Saint John.