Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Imola

ITALY, 1483

A pious pilgrim, by the name of Stefano Mangielli, was solemnly walking through the regal streets of Imola when he was led to the city of Rimini. He was returning from Cremone and was going to Loreto, to venerate the Holy House of Nazareth, where the Word was made flesh. Along the journey, the pilgrim never missed a chance to pay homage to the many images of the Blessed Virgin that he encountered on the road he was on and to light a candle in front of each of them.

Holy Thursday of 1483, that year it fell on the 27th of March, it was still a cold wintry day. The pilgrim arrived three miles from Imola, where he caught sight of, at the intersection with a secondary street, a crude pillar, fashioned by a little pear tree, a "Pirandello," which was shedding, in a niche, an image of the Blessed Mother with Child, sweet and maternal. The small town, because of that little pear tree or "Pirandello," was also called "the Pirandello" or "Pirandello." The pilgrim approached to carry out the usual ritual of reciting a prayer and lighting a candle, when a marvelous event occurred: his candle tipped over and extinguished, but immediately after, as if by the hand of an Angel, it raised up again and rekindled all by itself. The stare of the pilgrim increased when he distinctly heard a sweet voice that said to him: "Go, tell the people of Imola to come to this place, and to make a chapel here because I want to be honored; do not have doubt nor fear because I am the Mother of Jesus... If they do not believe you, show them these roses." The Blessed Mother then also made bloom a rosebush, an unusual occurrence for the season. While the Madonna was speaking to him, Stefano seized his jacket fill with roses, regardless of the still cold season. With joy in his heart and the certainty that Mary had truly spoken, the pilgrim breathlessly ran the three miles that separated him from the city and he presented himself to the Magistrate of Imola, to whom he recounted what had happened.

The bundle of very fresh roses, which he had in his lap, regardless of the frigid winter, served to dissuade every doubt of the veracity of the message that he bore. They immediately began to ring the church bells at great length and the joy of everyone was indescribable when the pilgrim, waving the bundle of roses, proclaimed in a loud voice the Message of Mary. An immense crowd made its way to the miraculous pillar, preceded by the pilgrim, the Magistrate, and the Vicar of the Bishop. The miracles succeeded them and the enthusiasm of the faithful grew uncontrollable. A roof was quickly erected to protect the Pilaster and in front of the altar for the celebration of the Mass. The pilgrim departed again after 5 days to fulfill his vow at the Shrine of Loreto, and then he returned to Cremone, close to his family.