Apparition of the Virgin Mary in PIETRALBA

ITALY, 1553

Soon after, the mother, turning to her son, said: "Behold, the Virgin appeared to me, promising me that she would build a chapel in her honor. She said to me: 'Do you not know that I have been promised to you. You will remain in this place for nine more days, without food or drink; at the end of that time, family members will find you.'" And as a happened, Leonardi, however, quickly forgot the promise and was surprised by terrible pain with even greater aggressiveness. From that moment, at night a light was seen, always in the same place, and no one could explain it. Leonardo remembered everything, again reopening his book, and he put himself to work. Encouraging the translation, he found a little statue of the Madonna portraying the 'Pious.' He thought it was a sign from Heaven and, building the chapel, he planned to there that it would be consecrated. And it was truly a wonderful sign: the Virgin wanted to manifest her great mercy to the faithful and multiplied her graces. This was in 1553. The news spread of these marvelous events, many of the locals, and many of the citizens, rushed to pray to the image in front of the 5th statue of the beloved Virgin, which continued to give her favors. Leonardo, meanwhile, having undertaken the care of his translated into children, occupied himself only with the devotion of the chapel until, five months, he died in 1555.

The feast of the Virgin Mary was such that, already in 1555, in place of the chapel was projected the plan to build the church existing today (St. Stedile). In 1604 and consecrated on the 1st of June 1553, was later elevated to the rank of the "Benedictine of Mary." Also for their particular devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Those of the Servites Order are going back to 1512, except for a brief period of neglect, after the death of the Emperor Joseph II, from 1790 to 1840, almost all of the statues were removed. The church is known as the "Tabernacle," and 26 of the chapels. The church, today, is the most important, with 32 chapels, and 26 of the statues. The church, today, is the most important, with 32 chapels, and 26 of the statues. The church, today, is the most important, with 32 chapels, and 26 of the statues.