



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at PIEVE DI TAGLIAMENTO



ITALY, 1655

On February 2, 1655, Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the temple (called "Candlemas"), Maria Giacomuzzi, a girl about 7 years old, was praying with her sister and two aunts in front of a fresco of the Blessed Virgin Mary, located under a portico of the house of her grandfather Giovanni, at Villa di Rosa, at that time on the left bank of the Tagliamento River. Suddenly, only to her, who was sick with epilepsy, there appeared a beautiful Lady clothed in white, who smiled and invited her to come closer.

During the apparition Our Lady asked little Maria to give a stern warning to the entire community. After the apparition ended, the girl immediately reported to her relatives of having seen a Beautiful Lady near the picture, who had said to her: **"It is not good for me to be in this place, where people blaspheme against my Son; tell your father to convert and to have my picture moved to a Church, tell also the other people to abstain from the sin of blasphemy. Because of this great irreverence, your farms were devastated by hail in the last few years and even more terrible punishments are hanging over your heads; obey my recommendations and from this day forward you will suffer no more the pains of the illness which afflicted you until now."** In fact after the apparition the girl no longer suffered from epilepsy.

Her father, Giacomo Giacomuzzi, was left particularly struck from the account of his daughter. Therefore he reported at once the event to the curate of Villa di Rosa, who did not believe his story and even the pastor of the nearby town, disregarded him as a dreamer. In the Church of San Vito al Tagliamento he was finally listened to attentively by a friar, Father Vitale Vitali, who came to San Vito al Tagliamento for the confessions in anticipation of Easter.

The Giacomuzzi family decided to grant the request expressed by the Virgin Mary during the apparition, to transport the miraculous image, originally placed on a wall of the house of grandfather Giovanni at Villa di Rosa, to the opposite shore of the Tagliamento River, in a better location. For this purpose the family made available its own oxen for the transport, which took place on the Wednesday after Easter of the same year (March 31, 1655). This event will be subsequently commemorated on the first Sunday after Easter. The image is placed inside the Church of San Nicolo, located outside the walls of San Vito al Tagliamento, near the bell tower of the present Shrine.

Father Vitali then prepared a detailed report of all these things and sent it to his superiors. The veneration and devotion to the image of Our Lady of Rosa spread immediately and numerous miraculous events were attributed to it. Over the centuries the Church was enlarged and embellished many times. In 1800, as a project of Lodovico Rosa, an architect from San Vito, the church underwent major improvements and became the Shrine of Our Lady of Rosa. On March 22, 1945, a final and terrible bombardment completely destroyed the Shrine, sparing the bell tower, on which the marks of the shrapnel remained. The image of Our Lady of Rosa was found miraculously intact among the piles of debris. In the postwar period, thanks to the work of the Franciscan Friars and the generosity of many faithful, a new Shrine was built on the opposite side of State Road (463), along which the previous one was located. Still today the Shrine of Our Lady of Rosa is a destination of many pilgrims.



Mosaic that depicts the apparition of Our Lady



Miraculous image



Exterior of the new shrine



The small chapels of the Shrine



Villa di Rosa as it is today



Ex voto (votive offering)



Photo showing how the previous Shrine looked before it was bombed



During the bombing the picture was found intact in the debris