



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in ARDESIO



ITALY, 1607

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he establishment of the Shrine draws its origin from an apparition of the Virgin Mary, which occurred on the 23rd of June 1607, in a house in which there was a chamber full of frescos depicting the Christ, the Virgin, and many Saints, so much so that it was dubbed the "Room of the Saints."

On the 23rd of June 1607, a menacing storm was gathering over the village. The two daughters of Marco Salera and his wife Maddalena, named Maria and Caterina – 11 and 7 years old, were sent by their mother into the room of the sacred images to pray, in order to ward off the imminent and ruinous tempest. While the two kneeling girls were praying, they saw the image of the crucified Christ and His Mother, painted on the wall of the room, illuminate itself with an intense glow, which shined forth from the wound around the nail that pierced the feet of Christ.

Soon after appeared Mary, seated on a throne the color of gold, with Jesus in her arms. Suddenly the storm calmed and a serene sky returned. Upon seeing this spectacle, the two young girls ran screaming to their family members. Accompanied by several neighbors, they went into the room and saw, some entirely and some only in part, the miraculous apparition.

For many days they noticed inexplicable phenomena on the fresco: luminous points and rays that radiated within the room. Maddalena had a second vision three days later, while a wreath of stars made radiant the forehead of Christ.

The church's inquest concluded in 1608 with the authorization to construct a Shrine on the place of the apparition.



Drawing that depicts the apparition



Detail of the painting that brought itself to life in front of the two little girls, Maria and Caterina



Inside the Shrine are found precious carvatures, statues and frescoes; and in particular wooden sculptures



The Shrine, which has received various improvements throughout the centuries, is announced by a majestic bell tower 68 meters high, constructed in the first part of the 1600s.



Statue which portrays the apparition



View of Ardesio