



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

# Apparition of the Virgin Mary at CRESCENTINO



ITALY, 1525

The miraculous Statue of Our Lady was brought to Crescentino by Saint Eusebius of Vercelli (IV Century), Bishop and Martyr, who donated it to Placilla, a woman of imperial blood exiled to Crescentino by Julian the Apostate, who desired to reintroduce paganism into the empire. The noble woman placed the venerated image in a room, where soon flocked the first Christians of the area, and precisely because it was venerated in a room of the Roman palace, it took the name of "Madonna del Palazzo" (Our Lady of the Palace).

The Barbarian hordes that in those years invade Italy and destroy everything, raze to the ground the Roman fortress, but spare the Statue of Our Lady and her Chapel. In 1525, after the battle of Pavia between Francis I, King of France, and Charles V, Emperor of Germany and King of Spain, wandering groups of Landsknechte Lutherans, who are laying siege to the Castle of Verrua Savoia, want to tear down the Statue of Our Lady and destroy it with fire. But the ax, after the first strike breaks with a crash; the soldiers flee terrified and the Statue disappears.

Not far from the Chapel there is a spring of clear and fresh water still visible today. At this spring a young girl deaf and mute, but sincere and ardent of love for the Lord, comes every day to give water to her small flock. Suddenly a Lady, radiant with light, greets her and with infinite sweetness tells her: "Go and tell the Pastor that in this spring, where you usually give water to your heifers, there is the venerated Statue". The girl, after miraculously acquiring her speech, runs to announce the news to the Pastor and to the inhabitants of Crescentino. With much solemnity and with extraordinary participation of people, the Statue is recovered and placed in her ancient Chapel. The fame of the Shrine increases more every day. Entire communities rush to the feet of the Virgin Mary, and there they lay aside hatreds and resentments. A plaque with a Latin inscription recalls how after four centuries of discord and war for border disputes, the inhabitants of Verrua and those of Crescentino reconcile themselves in a pact of friendship.



Fresco depicting the apparition



Fresco depicting the soldier as he attempts to destroy the statue of the Virgin Mary but miraculously the ax breaks and the soldier flees frightened



Exterior of the Shrine



Stained glass window of the Shrine depicting Saint Eusebius, first Bishop of Vercelli



Main Altar



Altar of the Virgin Mary



Statue of the Virgin Mary



Detail of the ceiling of the Shrine



Votive offering



On March 26, 1796 Crescentino Serra moved the bell tower of the Shrine amid the awe of the people