



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in MONTAGNAGA DI PINE'



ITALY, 1729-1730

The young shepherdess, Domenica Targa of the town of Montagnaga di Pinè, was very devoted to the Madonna of Caravaggio, and having made a vow to come as a pilgrim to the Shrine, she prayed to the Holy Virgin to remove the obstacles that opposed the fulfillment of the promise. Around midday on Saturday the 14th of May 1729, Domenica was with her herds in the wide valley of the "Palustel" now called "Comparsa" ("Appearance"), in memory of the apparition. All of a sudden the beasts, as if seized by fear, began to run away all disoriented. Domenica, who was reciting the Rosary, exclaimed: "Jesus, Mary, help me!" As soon as she spoke the invocation, she saw in front of her a very beautiful and noble Lady dressed in clothing white as snow. "Daughter of mine, what are you doing?" she asked. "I recite the Rosary," replied Domenica. The Lady commended her and added: "Obey me. Do not go to Caravaggio. Instead, the evening of the feast of the Ascension, go to the church of Saint Anne, where the painting of the Blessed Virgin of Caravaggio is displayed. You shall kneel on the first step of the altar: for you will see something most beautiful." "I wonder if my parents will permit me to go to Montagnaga at that hour!" remarked the young girl. "Be not afraid, they will permit you for sure!" added the beautiful Lady, and she disappeared.

On the 26th of May 1729, feast of the Ascension, the second apparition happened. Without much difficulty, Domenica was able to go to the church of Montagnaga. That day, the Litanies of the Saints were also being sung, to obtain the gift of rainfall. Upon the invocation "Omnes sancti Martyres" Domenica Targa bowed over on her right side, and remained in that position, unaware of all that occurred around her, until the religious ceremony was finished. When the priests were exiting from the sacristy, they called her, she reported to have been taken by a sweet vision: she saw the Holy Virgin with the Child in her arm, in her right hand she had the Rosary and was inviting her to manifest her apparition to all the people present.

As a result, on the 8th of September, she prepared for a solemn rite with the participation of even the parish pastor of Pinè. The faithful of Montagnaga found themselves gathered in church when the Virgin appeared to the Visionary with the Child in her arms, but this time he was wounded and bleeding and was followed by Saint Joachim, Saint Anne, and Saint Joseph. The Most Holy Virgin herself blessed the painting of the Madonna of Caravaggio which had been brought to reality and then, after having dictated to Domenica to shout out three times "the Most Holy Virgin comes," she assured her that this would have been the place in which she would have received the prayers of those devoted to her. Showing, then, the wounds of her Divine Son, she explained that they were caused by sins, and urged to pray very much for the conversion of sinners. Naturally, even this time, Domenica Targa encountered much skepticism, especially of the pastor.

The Most Holy Virgin, almost to console Domenica, appeared to her two days later for the fourth time, in a locale called "Pralongo," and exhorted her to expose everything to her confessor, Fr. Michele Bernardi, who would have helped her. In fact, it was so: the diocesan authority promoted a regular canonical process, which lasted two years, and concluded with the authorization to solemnly celebrate the feast of the apparition of Mary in Montagnaga on the 26th of May. Upon the completion of the investigation, the first stone of the Shrine was laid in June 1730; the construction was finished in the year 1740.

The Virgin appeared one last time to Domenica Targa in the church of Saint Anne in Montagnaga, on the 26th of May 1730. Enveloped in a brightly shining light, and encircled by a group of Virgins, the Blessed Mother invoked the benediction of the Lord upon the multitude of those present, she worked many healings, she manifested to Domenica her satisfaction, and, lovingly saying good-bye to her, she went away forever. The following encounter would have taken place in Heaven on the 24th of October 1764. Every 26th of May, marking the occasion of the feast of the Shrine, Pope Benedict XIII, granted the possibility to pilgrims, *ad perpetuum*, of earning a plenary indulgence with the full remission of all sins, to all those who visit the altar where the painting of the Virgin of Caravaggio is preserved.



Illustrations of the five apparitions of the Blessed Mother to Domenica Targa



Outside of the Shrine

Inside of the Shrine

Procession that depicts the apparition



Altarpiece painting portraying the Madonna of Caravaggio blessed by the Virgin Mary

Letter in which the Pope, Benedict XIII, grants ad perpetuum the plenary indulgence and the remission of sins to pilgrims that on every 26th of May come to visit the altar of the Virgin of Caravaggio near the Shrine of Montagnaga

Room of ex voto (religious offerings) for graces received

