

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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in PESCHIERA SUL GARDA



ITALY, 1510

The Shrine of the Madonna of the Ash Tree is considered a source of pride and joy in these parts. Its origin dates back to a period in history that was turbulent due to political changes and agitated by wars and battles for dominion of the city, that are always accompanied by poverty, hunger, and plague. In May of 1509 it came under the dominion of the French.

On the 11th of May 1510, the Blessed Mother, Comforter of the Afflicted, responded to the invocations and to the cry of the people. Here is what Fr. Bartolomeo Spiciani from Monzambano, a town near Mantua in the region of Lombardy, wrote: "It was the 11th of May in the year 1510. While in the farmland of the district of Pigna, a peasant was putting his vines in order, glimpsing nearby a frightening serpent, he stopped out of fear, as if paralyzed. He raised his eyes to Heaven, and to the Most Holy Virgin, his Advocate, he entrusted himself. Suddenly he saw amongst the lush, verdant foliage of an ash tree a luminous little statue of the Virgin Mary; he knelt down and every fear dismissed, he was full of great consolation, he offered thanks, got to his feet and approached the ash tree, extended his hand, removed it, and completely jubilant, he brought it home with him..." The peasant, having returned home, showed the little statue to his family members full of astonishment, and told them about what had happened to him that morning in the field. A meticulous custodian of "his treasure," so that it would not be stolen, he enclosed it in a strong chest. But the sensational occurrence quickly spread throughout the districts and in the city. Everyone wanted to see, to admire the "Little Madonna" that had saved him. The man, who did not know how to resist the pressing requests, decided to show "his treasure." And so he opened the chest where he had hidden the little statue. But it was no longer there! It is told that the peasant ran right away to his field to check the ash tree of the miracle... The little statue of the Blessed Mother had returned there all by herself.



Painting that depicts the apparition



Outside of the Shrine



Inside of the Shrine



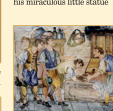
On the 11th of May 1510, Bartolomeo Broglia is assailed by a threatening serpent and invokes the protection of the Blessed Mother



A cry of faith "Compassionate Virgin, save me!" O miracle! Amongst the branches of an ash tree appears the image of Mary. The serpent disappears



The happy Broglia brings home his miraculous little statue



He narrates the extraordinary event to friends who yearn to see it, but the little statue has vanished



Portrait of the peasant farmer Bartolomeo Broglia



Altar



Altar where the ash tree and the little statue are preserved



Ash tree where the little statue of the Blessed Mother was found



The miraculous little statue



Cloister of the Shrine



O wonder! The little statue is miraculously returned to the ash tree where it dispenses graces and favors