



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in RAPALLO



ITALY, 1597



On July 2, 1597 the Most Holy Virgin appeared on the hills of Montallegro to the farmer Giovanni Chichizola from Carnevale, who had stopped to rest on the road that took him back home. The Virgin Mary asked to be praised with these words: "Do not fear, oh Giovanni! I am the Mother of God, I have chosen you as messenger according to my maternal will. Go to the ecclesiastics of Rapallo and let them know that the Mother of God has chosen this place as her perpetual abode and wants a church erected here. Fast on Saturday".

Mary left confirmation of her apparition in the form of a precious tiny icon, an object of particular devotion in that century, measuring 18cm x 15cm and depicting the transit of Mary into heaven by an unknown author who mystically painted it on a small wood tablet with lively colors, filling the very small space with 10 figures among them the Virgin Mary lying down rising surmounted by the Divine Holy Trinity with the Greek letters "HP OY" identifying her as the Mother of God and her triumphant assumption into heaven. Giovanni Chichizola went to Rapallo right away in order to report the message of the Virgin Mary and accompany the clergy representatives to the location. The news of the apparition spread immediately, even among the people who ran to the location to admire the small painting placed on the rock. A vivid water spring gushed from the spot where Mary had stopped. The small painting was taken to the Church of Saint Gervasio and Protasio and held in the rectory for protection. The following morning the image was returned to the place where Mary had stood and where the water spring appeared. The curator returned to the mount and took the icon back to Rapallo, with a great procession, where it was exhibited in the church all day long. The following morning the little painting was again found in Montallegro as testimony to the desire that Mary wanted to be honored in Montallegro. The Archbishop of Genoa, Gerolamo Sauli, put his Vicar, Monsignor Egidio Falceta in charge of conducting an accurate investigation, listening to direct testimony and verifying the facts. It resulted in two decrees, both bearing the date August 6, 1558, where the extraordinary event was recognized, the richness of the profuse graces on this mount officially gave way to the construction of the shrine.



Painting of the apparition



The Virgin Mary appeared and left a miraculous icon as a sign



The miraculous icon



The Shrine of Montallegro



Inside the shrine



Prayer candles



Offerings



The crocodile, of notable size, was brought as an offering to the shrine by two brothers, Captain Isidoro and Captain Rolando Merello in 1694. The two men were attacked by the large reptile along a tropical river but the worst of it was that some animal cars still be observed today among the millions of offerings that adorn the walls of the shrine



Panoramic view



A statuesque complex that illustrates the moment of the apparition



A procession in honor of Our Lady of Montallegro