

Blessed Vincenzo Grossi

1845-1917

Blessed Vincenzo Grossi was born in 1845 at Pizzighettone. He entered the seminary at a very young age and was ordained a priest in 1869.

In 1873 he moved to Regona as a parish priest, and then in 1883 to Vicobellignano. A witness describes him thus: "He was for all an illustrious example of poverty, of the spirit of self-denial, of a simple life, of a total, humble obedience to the Holy Father and his Bishop. Thus with gentleness, united to a habitual good humor and joviality – to which he warmly encouraged his Sisters – he easily won the faith of many to win them for Jesus Christ." In 1885 he established the Institute of the Daughters of the Oratory, giving them a rule according to the spirit of Saint Philip Neri with special attention to the Christian education of the young. He was often helped in this endeavor by the Angels. One day he had set out with his friend, Don Corbari, to visit one of these Oratories. He was late, and night had already fallen. The two priests, not being familiar with the road, took shelter in a small forest. Don Vincenzo said to his friend: "Providence will not abandon us, but will send us some Guardian Angel. Let us not be discouraged." Don Corbari listened with confidence to the words of the founder, and began to say the Rosary. Suddenly an Angel,

under the appearance of a young boy, met them and led them along the road that ran to the village, saying to them: "Don't take shelter in the woods after dark. It is not wise. The main road is safer." Then he vanished from before their eyes.

