



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at ADRO



ITALY, 1519

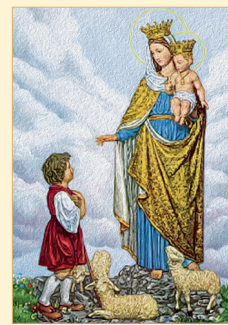
The Shrine was built following the apparition of Our Lady in this place on July 8, 1519 to Battista Comino Bajoni, a young shepherd deaf and mute from birth. The Virgin appeared to him saying she was the Mother of God and giving him a message for the inhabitants of Adro. As a sign of the truthfulness of the apparition, God heals the deaf-mute shepherd immediately.

The message of the Virgin Mary to the people of Adro contained a call to a more authentic Christian life, an invitation to accept one's own cross and the construction of a Shrine. The faithful had to build for her a church there, at the place of the apparition; moreover, they had to amend their sins, change their sinful life, respect the sacredness of holy days, stop blaspheming the holy name of God and all abstain from sins. If they had not done this, they had to expect severe chastisements.

Then Mary added: "And if they ask who spoke to you, tell them that it was the Advocate of Sinners, and as a sign, besides that everybody knew you were mute, take this stone and give it to whoever wants to see that it will change color from time to time: and meanwhile I will watch over your flock".

The miracle of the deaf-mute shepherd who started to hear and speak, led to the construction of a small shrine in a very short time. Only its apse is preserved, with the fresco of the apparition at the side of the present main altar. The fresco is of about 1550. The Shrine was visited by Saint Charles Borromeo in 1581. Having become too small for the flow of pilgrims, it was demolished in 1750 to make room for the present one, inaugurated in 1776. Its life began to flourish again as soon as it had proper stewardship with the settling of the Carmelites of Saint Teresa, who built the convent next to their seminary. The shrine is truly remarkable from an architectural perspective. Its spiritual center, after the tabernacle, is the crypt located below the main altar. The present statue in golden wood is by the sculptor Poisa of Brescia and it replaces the first one by Fantoni. The shrine was visited by John XXIII and Paul VI when they were cardinals.

In the earliest times, right after the apparition, it was not called "Our Lady of the Snow", but was named "Our Lady of the Quarry", from the place where the Virgin Mary had appeared to the young shepherd, and the feast was celebrated on July 8, the anniversary day of the apparition. Later however, the ecclesiastical authority transferred the day of the feast from July 8 to August 5, the day when the dedication of Saint Mary Major in Rome is remembered, called also "Saint Mary of the Snow", which was built by Pope Liberio after the miracle of the snow during the summer in Rome. It was for this that also this shrine took the name of "Our Lady of the Snow" and every year it is a destination for numerous pilgrims.



Depiction of the apparition



Statue



Exterior of the Shrine



Interior of the Shrine



View of the Shrine