



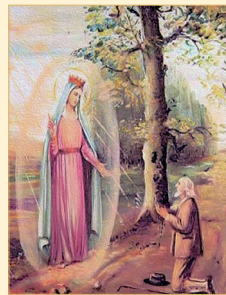
THE APPEALS
OF OUR LADY
APPARITIONS
AND
MARIAN SHRINES
IN THE WORLD

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at CASALBORDINO



ITALY, 1576

The Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Miracles, in the countryside of Casalbordino (Chieti), recalls the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to an elderly man of Pollutri, that took place in 1576. On the previous day, in which recurred the Solemnity of Pentecost, a terrible hailstorm struck the entire territory of Casalbordino, destroying its harvests. On June 11, 1576, the day following the devastating storm, the farmer Alessandro Muzio went to check the conditions of his wheat field. When he arrived to the place where the shrine is currently located, while he was reciting the Rosary the farmer heard the bell of the parish church of Casalbordino announcing the consecration of the Eucharist and he knelt in adoration. Right at that moment, Our Lady appeared to him surrounded by a very vivid light. The Virgin spoke to the man who remained kneeling at her feet with the Rosary beads in his hands. Our Lady pointed out that the sin of the people was the cause of the disastrous thunderstorm of the previous day, assuring the elderly farmer that his field had been spared from the fury of the hail. She entrusted to him the message for the pastor of Pollutri that he would preach respect for the 3rd Commandment: "Remember to keep holy the feast days". These were the words that the Virgin addressed to the farmer: "My devoted one do not doubt, know that yesterday evening my Son was determined to destroy the whole world with the hail and the storm, because of the many sins that Christians commit daily... in fact yesterday at the hour of Vespers the weather had changed and there was a great wind, rain and hail and people already thought that all the sown fields were already ruined... in yours instead there wasn't any damage... When you return to the town tell your Archpriest to request that the holy days be observed and that because of this sin, sometimes my Son sends upon the face of the earth hail, storms, and damaging winds..." At the end of the message Our Lady disappeared, leaving completely dry the soil on which she had rested her feet. The apparition is recounted in a document written and preserved in the parish archive of Pollutri, by Father Giuseppe Muzio, son of the visionary. After the authenticity of the apparition was recognized, a small chapel was immediately built, where numerous pilgrimages continuously took place. The devotion to the Virgin Mary quickly developed in the towns of the area, so much that even before 1614 the small rural chapel was enlarged preserving the altar and the wall on which the image of Our Lady had been painted. The occurrence of numerous extraordinary events soon led to invoke Our Lady of Casalbordino as the "Most Holy Mother of Miracles". Consequently also the locality where the Virgin had appeared, "Pian del Lago" (Plain of the Lake), changed its name to that of "Miracoli" (Miracles). With the passing of the years the devotion increased ever more, attracting countless pilgrims. In 1925 it was entrusted to the Benedictine Monks, and the construction of the adjacent monastery began. The dimensions of the church were no longer sufficient to satisfy the demands of the devotion due to the increase of the faithful and they began to build the present shrine, consecrated on August 11, 1962. The shrine is also called "Our Lady of Miracles" because of the numerous graces received.



The present iconography shows Our Lady of Miracles next to an oak, surrounded by light, in the act of admonishing the elderly devotee, kneeling at the foot of the tree



View of the Shrine



Interior of the Shrine



Interior of the Basilica



Statues illustrating the apparition



Portal depicting the apparition



Several votive offerings



Votive offering