



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at ORNAVASSO



ITALY, 1528

The Shrine of Our Lady of Miracles, called of the Boden, is located at an altitude of 475 meters, a little above Ornavasso and the Toe Valley, on a plateau called Boden in dialect and it is surrounded by a thick chestnut wood. It owes its construction thanks to a miraculous event of the Virgin Mary who saved a young shepherd girl. On the evening of September 7, 1528, while Maria della Torre was looking after her flock, she fell asleep from fatigue. Awakening late at night, she was frightened because she feared of having lost her animals and she began to cry and invoke the help of Our Lady.

Suddenly the girl felt no ground beneath her feet and she had the feeling of falling from a high cliff. Then a very bright light enveloped her, and reaching the bottom of the precipice miraculously unharmed, she saw in the glow of that light the nearby Chapel of Boden and her animals gathered around it. Deeply moved, she thanked the Virgin and pleaded her to accompany her through the darkness of the night, in the section of the road that was left to return home. And behold, a new wonder, the light that shone around the chapel guided her down to the bottom of the valley, where she met her mother and other women who were coming just to look for her. They remained astonished for the brightness of that unusual light surrounding the girl and her flock.

The news of the extraordinary event quickly spread in the surroundings and the people transformed the small chapel into an actual Church in honor of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Two years later, on September 8, 1530, they began to celebrate the feast of Our Lady of the Boden. Numerous were the miracles and the graces performed by the Virgin of the Boden, among them there were also some apparitions. We recall, for example, the episode when the Virgin Mary appeared and saved young Alberto Maffioli, swept away by a terrible landslide of rocks. The image of Our Lady of the Boden was solemnly crowned for the first time in 1868 at the hands of the Bishop of Novara, the Most Rev. Giacomo Filippo Gentile, and a second time at the hands of the Most Rev. Giuseppe Gamba, later Bishop and then Cardinal of Turin.



Painting depicting the apparition



Painting of Our Lady of the Boden



Altar where the painting of Our Lady of the Boden is exhibited



Our Lady appears to Alberto Maffioli and saves him from the terrible landslide



Shrine of Our Lady of the Boden



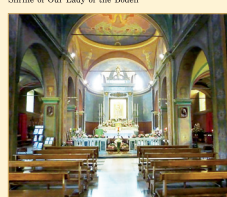
K. E. 1899. An artilleryman of the Sardinian-Adriatic Army, in full uniform, thanks Our Lady of the Boden after returning from the campaign of 1859.



Almost near death, a woman affected by a crisis of haemoptysis, perhaps due to tuberculosis or bronchopneumonia, is saved thanks to divine intervention. The young woman who assists her has already understood that all will go well, despite the appearances, and displays a calm and confident expression.



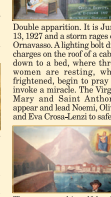
Intra, June 16, 1932. A very powerful collective group has saved the life of Bernardo Albertelli. Francesco Bordini, Francesco Bomenzio, Giuseppe Tarabba, Luciano Marchionni, Ferdinando Bernasconi, Oronzo Stramba, Giuseppe Sorregardi, Luigi Aspinelli and Genesio Trabba. During the construction work of a house, the scaffolding where the nine laborers were working, collapsed, perhaps due to excessive weight, but because of a grace they received, no one died.



Interior of the Shrine



Grace received by Vanda Zanetti on July 9, 1945, when the truck, on which she was fleeing from the bombardments to be evacuated to a safe territory, crashes into a military tank.



Double apparition. It is June 13, 1927 and a storm rages on Ornavasso. A lightning bolt discharges on the roof of a cabin down to a bed, where three women are resting, who, frightened, begin to pray to invoke a miracle. The Virgin Mary and Saint Anthony appear and lead Nomi, Gliva and Eva Cross-Landi to safety.



The many graces granted by Our Lady to her devotees are witnessed by very numerous votive offerings, small pictures that reveal the popular devotion and recall the various events, object of the benevolence of the Virgin Mary. The total number of the votive offerings is 1147. They form a document of extreme interest for the reconstruction of the religious sentiment of the people of the area and of the lifestyles of that time.