



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in ARCOLA



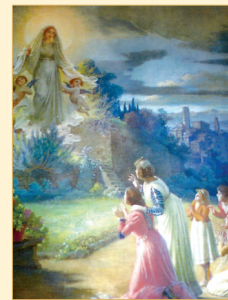
ITALY, 1556



On May 21, 1556 five young girls named Barbara, Camille, Elizabeth, Catherine and Angela while praying the rosary, saw the Holy Virgin surrounded by two angels and she asked them to do penance, fast and have a shrine built on the slope where she appeared. After a committee conducted a thorough analysis of the investigation, in 1884 a local bishop recognized the authenticity of the confirmed facts, and later the Congregation of Rites declared that the image of the Virgin in Arcola was "praiseworthy and miraculous".

The morning of Pentecost, Baldassare Fiamberti, his wife and their five children participated in religious ceremonies at Church Pieve di Arcolo; at noon the five girls (Barbara, Camille, Elizabeth, Catherine and Angela) went to play in a nearby woods owned by the Carbonara family. When the bell of the nearby Olivitan Monastery started ringing, the girls quit playing and knelt to recite the Angelus Prayer, and in pious meditation, begged God to help the Church, the world, and the desolate people of their town. While they recited the rosary, a blinding light wrapped around them. Shocked, they turned their gaze and on the leaves of a rosemary plant they saw the majestic Virgin Mary, glowing more than the sun, dressed in white, accompanied by two angels. The Virgin calmed them down right away, introducing herself as the "Mother of Christ" and "Queen of the Angels", and gave them this message: "Have no fear, oh daughters, I am Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ, the Queen of the Angels" and raising her hand: "Go, go, precious ones, tell the people to pray and do penance; yes, go and preach prayer and penitence. Your requests have reached my heart, now it is time to act: Go! Go!" The seers recomposed themselves with much grace: "But Our Sweet Lady", they responded, "we are ready to do what you tell us, but we are not suitable for preaching, we are not tall enough." The Virgin Mary then told them: "Dear girls, have no fear, with my help everything will come easy to you all. Go and tell the good countrymen to build, in my honor, a temple in this place." And the Virgin escorted by her angels, slowly slipped from their view into the Heavens, leaving them filled with faith.

Recomposing themselves after the vision they looked at each other in shock, they got up, and hurried back to their house. Immediately they reported to their loved ones, their parish priest and the townspeople. An indescribable joy, a certain faith ran through the souls of each and every person: the town has been saved. The news spread in the valley, and right away crowds of pilgrims started to stream into town. Meanwhile numerous graces confirmed the blessing of Mary on this place and its people that listened to her teachings and almost four centuries later the devotion to the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Angels is still alive and well in Arcola and the neighboring towns.



Depiction of the apparition



Statue of Mary in the shrine depicting the moment of the apparition



The shrine



Inside the shrine



Front of the Shrine of Our Lady of the Angels