



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

Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at PORZUS DEGLI SLAVI



ITALY, 1855-1856

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he story of the apparitions of Our Lady to Teresa Dush began on September 18, 1855, Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. "Little Teresa, - recounts Father Carlo Gamberoni in the publication *Ecco la Croce* (Reana 1993) - after having spent part of the morning, first at church and then at the square, playing simple and innocent games, had returned home for a frugal meal, after which she expressed to her mother the desire to go back to her friends. It was then that she was ordered to go down to the fields and cut some grass for the cows. Teresa, who was then ten years old, resisted the order of her mother, arguing that it was a feast day of the Virgin Mary in which one must not work. But at the end, the little girl "bowed her head and with tears in her eyes" after taking the sickle and the small basket left her house and started towards the fields. Upon reaching the meadow, as she was about to start working, still weeping a lot, Teresa saw an extraordinary light spreading around her. She raised her eyes and in front of her there was a beautiful Lady who looked at her and smiled ... The Heavenly Lady, smiling at her, said: "My little daughter, you have obeyed your mother and wept because you did not want to disobey God. Now do not cry anymore. Console yourself and please give me the sickle". The little one obeyed and handed over the humble tool. While the girl watched with astonishment, the Blessed Virgin bowed, cut some grass and after getting up gently, gave it to her saying: "Take it to the barn, it will be enough for the whole day". "Oh Mother of Heaven, this grass is not much - observes little Teresa - it will not be enough".

"Have confidence, my child, it will be sufficient. Tell everyone not to work on feast days, but to sanctify the day of the Lord, otherwise the cholera epidemic will not end, and not to blaspheme, because in this manner they offend my Son and grieve my motherly Heart. Also tell them to observe the fasts and vigils and to pray the Rosary with faith and love" (op.cit., p.19-21). From September 1855 to June 1856 Teresa had two other apparitions in the church of Porzus dedicated to Saint John the Baptist during the chanting of the Vespers and the recitation of the Rosary.

When little Teresa was near the altar, the Mother of God first made her contemplate the Crucifix, then inviting her to extend her hand, the Virgin Mary imprinted a small cross on the back of her hand saying: "This is the sign of my Son, sign of his eternal love for everyone, show it to your mother and to everyone who is weak in faith and they will believe you" (op.cit., p.23-24).

Teresa carried for her entire life the small cross, about 3 cm high, on the back of her left hand. At first it was glittering like gold, then over time it became red, and white towards the end of her life. During a subsequent apparition the Virgin Mary shared a secret that Teresa never wanted to reveal. Following this experience and the death of her parents the visionary was taken to Udine into the "House for the Destitute" of Father Luigi Scrosoppi. From 1860 to 1864 she worked for a few families. But she was always directed by Mother Serafina Strazzolini of the Teaching Sisters of Father Scrosoppi. In 1864 she applied to become a nun and she had the last apparition during which Our Lady granted her the gift of being able to read the breviary in Latin although she was illiterate. In 1866 she had the religious investiture and Father Scrosoppi gave her the name Maria Osanna. In the following years she was in Cormons at the Shrine of the Most Holy Mary, Mystical Rose and in Orzano, with the task to supervise the girls during their games.

Sister Maria Osanna spent the last months of her life in Udine, because of her illness. She died a holy death on August 17, 1870.



Painting depicting the apparition of the Virgin Mary



Small church dedicated to the apparitions of Porzus



Sister Maria Osanna with some students



Porzus



The baptismal font where Teresa Dush was baptized



Sister Maria Osanna with some students



Small chapel built on the place where the apparition occurred

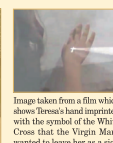


Image taken from a film which shows Teresa's hand imprinted with the symbol of the White Cross that the Virgin Mary wanted to leave her as a sign



Stone with the message of Our Lady at Porzus, blessed by the Most Rev. Loris Capovilla on September 1, 1986