



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

# Apparitions of the Virgin Mary in IMOLA



ITALY, 1483



apious pilgrim, by the name of Stefano Mangelli, was solitarily walking through the regal street, that from Bologna led to the cities of Romagna. He was coming from Cremona and was going to Loreto, to venerate the Holy House of Nazareth, where the Word was made flesh. Along the journey, the pilgrim never missed a chance to pay homage to the many images of the Blessed Mother that he encountered on the road he was on and to light a candle in front of each of them.

Holy Thursday of 1483, that year it fell on the 27th of March, it was still a cold wintry day: the pilgrim arrived three miles from Imola, where he caught sight of, at the intersection with a secondary street, a crude pilaster, flanked by a little pear tree, a "Piradel," which was shielding, in a niche, an image of the Blessed Mother with Child, sweet and maternal. The small town, because of that little pear tree or "Piradel," was also called "the Piradello" or "Piratello." The pilgrim approached to carry out the usual ritual of reciting a prayer and lighting a candle, when a marvelous event occurred: his candle tipped over and extinguished, but immediately after, as if by the hand of an Angel, it raised up again and rekindled all by itself. The stupor of the pilgrim increased when he distinctly heard a sweet voice that said to him: "Go, tell the people of Imola to come to this place, and to make a chapel here because I want to be honored; do not have doubt nor fear because I am the Mother of Jesus... If they do not believe you, show them these roses." The Blessed Mother then also made bloom a rosebush, an unusual occurrence for the season. While the Madonna was speaking to him, Stefano sensed his jacket fill up with roses, regardless of the still cold season. With joy in his heart and the certainty that Mary had truly spoken, the pilgrim breathlessly ran the three miles that separated him from the city and he presented himself to the Magistrate of Imola, to whom he recounted what happened.

The bundle of very fresh roses, which he had in his lap, regardless of the frigid winter, served to dissipate every doubt of the veracity of the message that he bore. They immediately began to ring the church bells at great length and the joy of everyone was indescribable when the pilgrim, waving the bundle of roses, proclaimed in a loud voice the Message of Mary. An immense crowd made its way to the miraculous pilaster, preceded by the pilgrim, the Magistrate, and the Vicar of the Bishop. The miracles succeeded them and the enthusiasm of the faithful grew uncontainable. A roof was quickly erected to protect the Pilaster and in front of the altar for the celebration of the Mass. The pilgrim departed again after 5 days to fulfill his vow at the Shrine of Loreto, and then he returned to Cremona, close to his family.



Painting that depicts the apparition



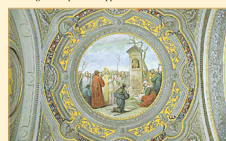
Miraculous image of the Blessed Virgin of the Pear Tree in Imola



Edicola



View of the Shrine

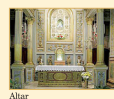


The Blessed Mother chose a pilgrim, Stefano Mangelli, to whom

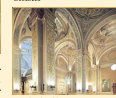
to entrust the message, which is at the root of the devotion of the Shrine of the Four Trees, place of many graces of Mary for her devotees. For this she is venerated as the Patrons of Pilgrims. Pope John Paul II reminds us: "We are all on a journey through the roads of the world, toward our ultimate destination, which is the celestial homeland..." "Down here we are only passing through. For this reason, nothing can give us a profound meaning of our earthly life, the stimulus to live it as a brief phase of experimentation together and of enrichment, as much as the interior disposition of feeling oneself to be a pilgrim." The Marian Shrines, scattered around the world, are like milestones to mark the times of our journey on earth. They allow for a refreshment break on the journey, to give back to us the joy and security of the road, together with the strength to go forward, like an oasis in the desert, born to offer water and shade." (from his speech of March 19, 1982)



Cloister



Altar



Inside the Shrine



Process that illustrates the pious pilgrim Stefano that goes to the desert, born to offer water and shade." (from his speech of March 19, 1982)



Representation of the first miracles of the Virgin of the Pear Tree