



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

# Apparitions of the Virgin Mary at GEROSA



ITALY, 1558



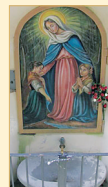
On July 2, 1558, two girls of the town were pasturing their flock in the woods and the meadows of the valley facing the territory of Gerosa. After spending the entire day tending their sheep, they became extremely thirsty towards evening, but did not find any water and besides they could not abandon their flock. Thus they decided to get on their knees to pray and it is at this moment that the Most Blessed Virgin appeared to them. She held tightly their hands, comforted them with her "celestial smile" and pointed out to them a stream of very pure water that started flowing at their feet inviting them to cool off. Then she ordered them to announce her will to the inhabitants of the town: that a church be built in that place. As proof of her apparition she told the girls to show to everyone the spring, then she departed from them announcing: "I will come to get you within eight days and you will enter Heaven", something that indeed occurred. The people of Gerosa immediately believed the two holy girls, rushed to admire the spring and immediately became occupied with starting the construction work for the chapel in honor of Our Lady.

In the documentation written by the special commission and given to the Episcopal Curia on October 15, 1886, is stated: "It is an ongoing and widespread tradition in the town that since the place of the apparition seemed unsuitable to the inhabitants of Gerosa for the construction of a Shrine, being the ridge was narrow and not visible from the main part of the town... they had planned to build the church on the hillside not more than fifty meters farther, which besides decreasing all the mentioned difficulties, would have been more convenient and would have offered a beautiful view of the town... and that they had already gathered here the materials and started the construction of the Shrine. But since the Virgin Mary arranged things differently, they found every morning some of those materials moved to the place of the apparition and even ants were coming in procession to pick up the grains of sand prepared for the cement and placing them here. Thus they became convinced to build it where it is now located."

The first apparition was followed, about fifty years later, by a second one, precisely in 1630, the year in which spread the pestilence brought by the Protestant mercenaries, the Landsknechte. As in all of Lombardy, the epidemic was spreading also in the Brembilla Valley. The Virgin Mary appeared in a dream to a girl named Diana Locatelli, resident of the Bura locality and told her that all those who would have gone to honor her in her new Shrine of Foppa (Small Valley), would not have been infected by the disease, and so it happened.



The small Shrine



Spring of miraculous water



Interior of the Shrine



Statue depicting the apparition



Votive offerings