



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

# Apparition of the Virgin Mary at CORBETTA



ITALY, 1555

The Shrine of Corbetta appears on the site occupied in ancient times by an oratory dedicated to Saint Nicholas, the origins of which seems to date back to the 12th century. Gregorio de' Zavattari, in 1475, decorated the facade with a fresco of the Blessed Mother with Child, a work of refined elegance which harkens back to the thematic of the Tuscan models of the preceding century. The painting became an object of veneration for the miracle which occurred in 1555. On the 17th of April, three children of the area, Cesare dello Stampino, Antonio della Torre, and his brother Giovanni Angelo, nicknamed del Novello which means of the new wine, a deaf-mute from birth, were playing on the little square in front of the church. The painted Baby Jesus, having detached Himself from the fresco, began to play with the three children. As a result, Our Lady descended to retrieve Him. The children, having recovered from the astonishment, left the game and ran to tell the story of what happened to their parents. The news scattered in a lightening flash, in the little village and beyond. Even though the episode initially seemed to be fruit of the children's fantasy, it was so incredibly wonderful, confirmed by the irrefutable fact that the young Novello was speaking rapidly and was able to hear, whereas before he was mute and deaf! It was the first miracle of a long series: in the time span of only 80 days after the apparition, over fifty were counted, so much so that the Blessed Mother of Corbetta took the name of Our Lady of Miracles.

The following year, 1556, the Chapter of the Canons, in order to accommodate the numerous pilgrims and to protect the weather-beaten painting, decided upon the construction of a Shrine, nominating a commission that would continue the works that slowly followed in those dismal years of calamity, which took place, among the many difficulties, also of the historic and terrible pestilence, remembered by the author Alessandro Manzoni in his book "The Betrothed," and of the numerous wars of invasion.

However, already in 1560 the Roman Curia had begun the process to examine the authenticity of the Apparition, and Pope Pius IV granted the plenary indulgence, in the form of the Jubilee with the papal bull *Unigeniti Filii Dei* on August 31, 1562. This exclusive privilege did nothing other than increase the number of the faithful who flocked toward the sacred temple.

Tradition claims that the day in which the miracle occurred that brought about the construction of the new Marian Sanctuary in Corbetta was the Thursday after Easter and this date has remained tied to the celebration of the festivity of the Blessed Mother of Corbetta. Saint Charles Borromeo himself came many times to visit the Shrine of Corbetta.



Fresco which illustrates the Apparition



Facade of the Shrine of Corbetta



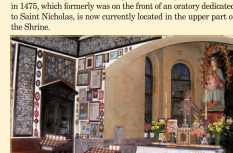
The 18th century Rococo altar of the upper level of the Shrine harbors an image of the miracle painted by Gregorio de' Zavattari in 1475, which formerly was on the front of an oratory dedicated to Saint Nicholas, is now currently located in the upper part of the Shrine



Miraculous image of Our Lady of Corbetta



The papal bull *Unigeniti Filii Dei* establishes the plenary indulgence for those who visit the Shrine, go to Confession, receive the Holy Eucharist, and recite prayers for the intentions of the Pope from the Thursday after Easter until the Sunday after Easter in which is also added the day of April 17th if it does not occur during Lent



The chapel with all the offerings and the statue of the Blessed Mother with the seers



Statue in the Shrine that portrays the apparition