



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary at CASTEL GODEGO



ITALY, 1420

Godego is a word of Longobard origin that means "thicket", in fact, in the past many woods filled the area, thus the road that leads from Castelfranco to Bassano del Grappa passed amid thick undergrowth. It is in these thickets that the miracle occurs, which will give rise to the Shrine of Our Lady of the Little Cross. On July 2, 1420, an Hungarian merchant, known as Pietro Tagliamento, heads with his herd of cattle towards Bassano del Grappa. Although not being very familiar with the place, he embarks on the journey trusting in the protection of the Lord and of Our Lady to whom he is very devout.

Pietro Tagliamento, upon reaching the dense brush near Castello di Godego, realizes he has lost his way. In an attempt to find it again, he abandons his herd, and very soon loses both road and herd. Finally, discouraged by the useless searching, but confident in the assistance of the Blessed Virgin to whom he is very devout, Pietro in tears kneels and prays. All around there are only the shadows of the evening, woods and a profound silence. The prayer of Pietro becomes ardent and confident. All of a sudden there is a great light! While Pietro, bewildered, tries to realize what is happening, he sees in the light a young woman of supernatural beauty, with a light blue dress and a crimson mantle; she holds a child in her left arm, and holds a Cross with her right hand. Two angelic figures hold a crown on her head. To the astonished man, the beautiful Lady addresses these words: **"Take courage Pietro, peace to you! You will find your herd along the wide and straight road that you see. Go safely to Bassano, but first present yourself to the Rector of this town of Godego. Announce to him and to the people that I desire that where I plant this Cross, a small temple is built in honor of the Mother of God, from whom they will obtain abundant blessings and will see performed great and wondrous things"**.

At sunrise, Pietro finds his herd again, and keeping it in a safe place, before walking towards Bassano, he reaches the leaders of the community of Godego to fulfill the mandate he received. After initial skepticism and having considered that after all Pietro has no reason for personal interest in lying with the story of such a wonder, they set out curious into the woods to the indicated place and find there the Cross of the vision already planted. This fact convinces them and they immediately decide to build a chapel. The news of the apparition and the Cross left as a gift to the people of Godego as a sign of blessing from the Virgin Mary, spreads quickly. The people hasten to it, solemn processions are organized, and the flow of the faithful is large. It is time to place the first stone of the chapel, chosen and offered by the population, the moment is solemn and moving. While they are praying for the laying of the first stone, the beautiful Lady appears to all the people, dazzling in broad daylight, clothed with the same garments described by the visionary. This second marvel profoundly moves all the faithful present and remains imprinted forever in their hearts as proof that it is a work of God.

Other marvels follow through the years increasing the devotion to the Mother of God and it was decided to build a full church which better conveys the piety of the faithful of Godego, and gives greater glory to the Mother of God: thus the church is completed in just two years.



Painting commemorating the apparition



The many graces that Our Lady of the Little Cross has granted to her faithful are attested by the pictures of the vision offerings, very numerous at all times



The miraculous cross brought by the Virgin Mary



View of the Shrine



Interior of the Shrine



View of the Shrine



Wooden statue



Altar