



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

Apparition of the Virgin Mary in DESENZANO DI ALBINO



ITALY, 1440

In Desenzano di Albano, near Bergamo, around the year 1440, lived an eleven-year-old girl by the name of Ventura. She was the daughter of Andreolo dei Bonelli of Desenzano, and of an extremely poor economic situation. From the age of fifteen months she suffered from atrocious pains in her left leg, and the ailment worsened each day, to the point which, from the knee down, the leg has lost all feeling and had become infected with gangrene. One October day her mother brought her from Desenzano to the hamlet of Comenduno to be nursed there, but the physicians proposed only an amputation of the leg. The girl's mother opposed it and, upset by the pain, carried her daughter on her shoulders and started on the road to return back home. Shortly thereafter, exhausted from the pain and fatigue, she paused briefly in the church of Saint Peter, the half-way point between Desenzano and Comenduno. The daughter began to console her mother, and together they found comfort in God and in the Blessed Virgin. Meanwhile evening had fallen and the mother left the church alone in order to gather some herbs, but she was assaulted by a horned beast, black in color, which caused her a great fright and ripped off a patch of her clothing, letting it then fall in a field not too far from the church. Then the mother went and put her daughter back on her shoulders and brought her back home. It became very dark and the pain did not bring peace to the young Ventura. After having eaten supper, oppressed by the pain, she dragged herself to the door of the home, raised her eyes and saw in the sky a dazzling light from which emerged a magnificent Lady with a very noble appearance. The Woman told her to lift up her dress and to expose the plagued leg. Then the Lady herself lifted the dress, passed her hand on the leg, on the foot and on the toes. Then she took a white bandage, unrolled it and, after having collected a bit of dirt, moistened with her own saliva, she spread it on the plagued leg. Finally she told the girl that she was the Blessed Mother, and ordered her, at the crack of dawn, to return to the field where the beast had ripped and dropped the fragment of her mother's clothing, to pick it up and throw it into the charnel house of the cemetery. Then she told her to build a chapel and paint an image of her and baby Jesus to make the miracle known to all. The little Ventura mumbled that the condition of her leg would not permit all this. The Virgin replied: **"Do not fear, you will be healed of everything."** It actually happened in this manner, as the Blessed Mother had indicated. Having become day, the miraculous healing was well-known and confirmed by all the neighbors. The people of Desenzano, Albino, and Comenduno arranged with donations of every kind so the desire of the Virgin would be fulfilled, which was to build a chapel in memory of the miracle.

Only in 1579 was the house where the Apparition took place transformed into a little church. The first Shrine was built in 7 years (1592-99), the one of the present day was completed around 1740, three hundred years after the apparition. The religious feast occurs on the 9th of October, the anniversary of the apparition, and is preceded by a novena of prayer.



Depiction of the Blessed Mother that heals the little girl



Exterior of the Shrine



Procession in honor of the Virgin



Interior of the Shrine



Elaborate statue which recalls the apparition



"Ex Voto" Room, containing religious offerings for graces received