



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

# Apparition of the Virgin Mary at GALLIVAGGIO



ITALY, 1492

**G** On October 10, 1492, at the first light of dawn two girls of the villages of Vho and Lirone, in the Chiavenna Valley, went through the woods to collect chestnuts. After working a lot they sat on a boulder near a chestnut tree, to rest awhile. Suddenly they found themselves blinded by an unusual flash of light, much brighter than the light of the sun. There appeared to them a young woman who showed herself ever more majestic and astonishing. She had a veil that descended from her head to the shoulders and around her there were numerous angels. The splendid Lady rested her feet on one of the boulders in front of the young girls, who remained speechless, and said: "What are you doing my young girls?" The girls answered: "We are here to collect chestnuts." "Are you finding enough of them? Are you poor?" She continued in a gentle tone. "We have enough of them thanks to God and to the Blessed Virgin." Smiling the Lady said: "It is I the Virgin Mary." The girls knelt and taking courage asked her: "Our Lady, why have you come to this desert?" The Virgin answered with clear and severe words: "I go to every place where there are sinners to convert. My Son is disgusted by the behavior of the people and I myself have intervened crying to him: mercy, mercy, mercy."

At these words the girls saw fresh blood flowing from the knees and the hands of the Lady. The Virgin continued to speak: "You too have seen the threatening flame that crossed the sky; you too have felt the earthquake that occurred on the day of Saint Anthony Abbot, you have observed the terrible thunderstorm that devastated meadows and roads, that uprooted plants and destroyed buildings and bridges. Also, Coira had to be totally destroyed. Proclaim that if the sinners will not repent, if the obligation of the holy days will not be observed better, if acts of prayer and penance will not be done, the anger of the Son of God will come down terribly to punish humanity. Say also that, following the practice of my devotees, all should resolve to keep Sunday holy from the Vespers of the Saturday, in my honor and that of my Son. Only after this He will grant my prayer to obtain for you salvation". Immediately afterwards, the Holy Virgin disappeared and on the place of the apparition a wooden chapel was built which was modified and enlarged over time.



The message of the Virgin appears as a severe warning, however in her final words it contains also a message of hope. Mary puts at ease the two girls by showing concern for them and for their own needs. Their attitude is at once respectful, in this way begins the dialogue during which Mary will leave, in her message, a plan for the restoration and growth of Christian life: Eucharist, prayer and penance.



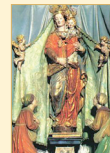
The apparitions must be understood as maternal interventions of Mary, who at the foot of the Cross in John took care of each one of us. They do not add anything to the depositary of our faith, but they are extraordinary interventions that encourage the restoration of the life of faith in daily activities.



Exterior of the small Shrine of the Virgin Mary at Gallivaggio



The Shrine of the apparition is found along the road for the Splügen Pass that leads to Switzerland, at about 800 meters of altitude, and it is overlooked by a large rocky cliff.



Statuary ensemble depicting the apparition



Interior of the Shrine



Fresco



The rock where Our Lady stood



Fresco located on the facade of the Shrine