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Our Lady of Mercy

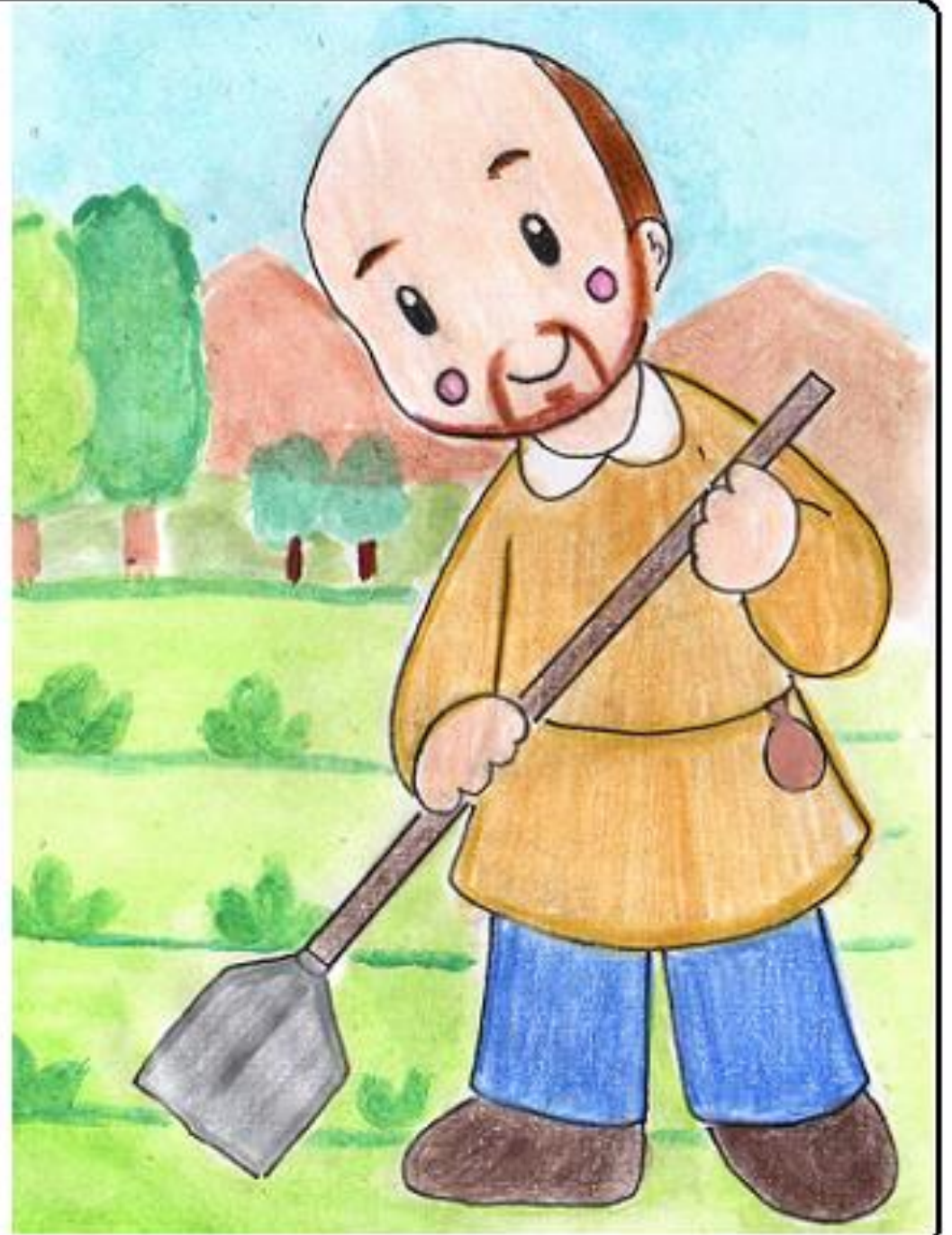
A brief history of the Apparition
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Savona (Italy)



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Many, many years ago,
there lived in Savona,
Italy, a simple man,
named Antonio Botta.

He was a humble man
and was very kind
toward the poor.





On March 18, 1536, very early in the morning, Antonio Botta was on his way to visit a sick relative.

While he was washing his hands in the waters of the Letimbro River, an unusual light appeared and in the middle of it he saw the figure of a beautiful lady.

Filled with fear, Antonio wanted to run away, but he heard the mysterious lady say to him:

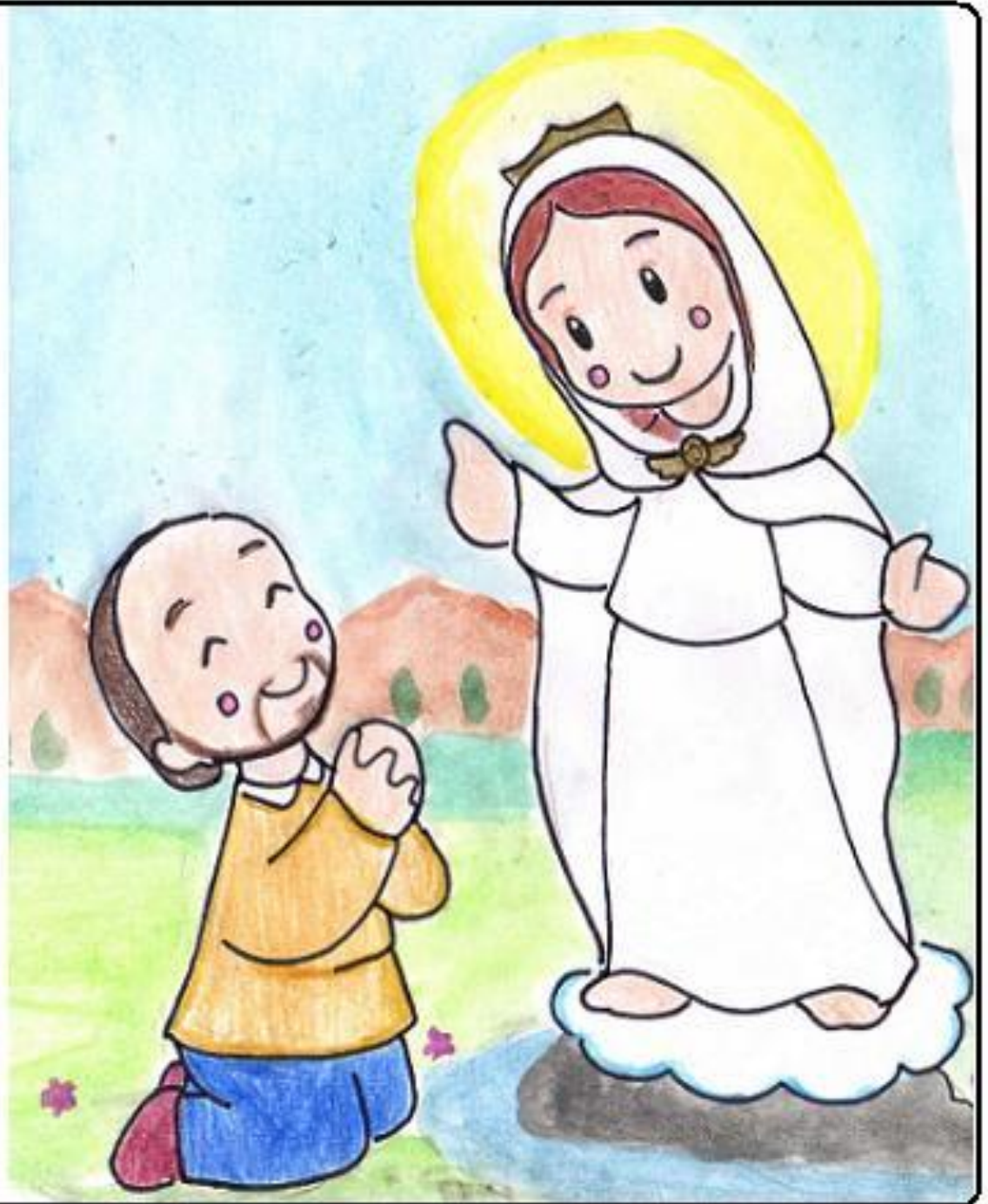
**“Do not be afraid,
I am the Virgin Mary”.**

The Blessed Virgin had an important message for him.



The Blessed Virgin told Antonio to go to Savona and ask the Christian community to make sacrifices and do penance for the next three Saturdays.

On the fourth Saturday he was to return to the same place.





Antonio, as the Blessed Virgin had requested, went to the pastor and told him the request of the Blessed Virgin.

The people of Savona were amazed by the wonderful event and they did what the Virgin asked.



On the fourth Saturday,
April 8, Antonio Botta
went back to the same
place of the apparition.

A light overpowered him.
The light was brighter
than the one he saw in the
first vision,

The Blessed Virgin told
him that God was very
pleased with their
sacrifices and penances.

Before disappearing, the Virgin raised her eyes toward heaven and said three times:

**"Mercy, my Son,
and not justice".**

The message of the Blessed Virgin was, without doubt, one of deep love for everyone.





The people of Savona, touched by this manifestation of the merciful love of God, built a Shrine to Mary where she is invoked as "Our Lady of Mercy."

Besides, as an expression of love, they built a home for the poor and the sick.

Many years went by.
The people of Savona
continued to have a great
devotion to Mary, Our
Lady of Mercy.

On May 10, 1815,
Pope Pius VII crowned
the statue of Our Lady
of Mercy, in thanksgiving
for freeing him from the
captivity of Napoleon
Bonaparte.



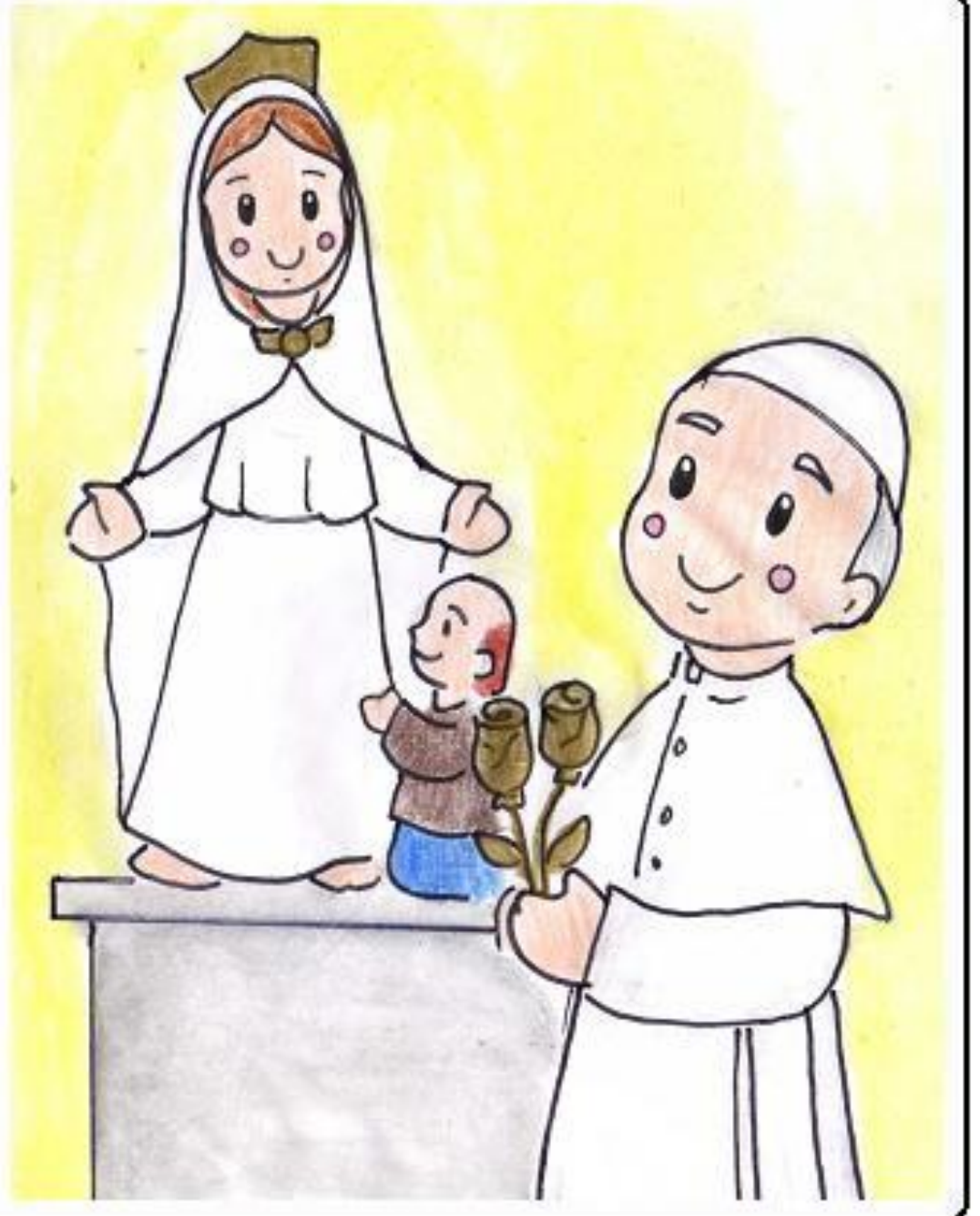


In 1837, a daughter of Savona, Benedetta Rossello, who later became Sr. Mary Joseph, founded the Institute of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, dedicated to the education and the care of the sick.

Saint Mary Joseph Rossello always had recourse to the Blessed Virgin, Mother of Mercy, like a daughter to her mother.

On May 17, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI, while in the city of Savona, visited the Shrine of Our Lady of Mercy.

He prayed to our Lady and placed on the altar a golden rose, a beautiful symbol of Marian devotion.



O Blessed Virgin,
Mother of Mercy,
take me under your mantle
and guide my steps on the
path to Jesus,
your beloved son.

Be with me always and make
of me an instrument of love
at the service of
the most needy.
Amen.

Mother of Mercy,

Pray for us!

