

73

*The Stained Chasuble*

*Just as Holy Mary cleanses faithful souls from sin  
so can she make the unsightly beautiful.*

On this theme I will tell you of a fine miracle which Holy Mary performed in la Chiusa, as I found in a book; and I know and believe that she performed many other such wonders in that place.

There was at that time a large community of monks who served the Blessed Virgin with all their heart and among them was an almoner who fervently worshipped Our Lady.

And whenever he lacked anything he would at once ask Our Lady for it and she would provide it; and so all his mind and wit were set to serving her.

Now it happened at Christmastide, when the monks were to sing morning Mass, that the almoner took chasuble of white cloth, and prepared to place it on the altar.

And, as I heard tell, in the other hand he took the wine with which the holy sacrifice was to be offered, and as he went to the altar, it befell that he tripped on a flagstone

and when he tripped, he spilled some of the wine over the chasuble, and the wine was very red, and stained the chasuble as if fresh blood had been spilt on it.

Now that wine was of a red hue so very deep that no paint maker could make a red to equal it. and the stain it made could never be removed

And when the monk saw it, he was so upset that he very nearly lost his reason, and he said: "O Holy Mother of Him who keeps us, O Blessed Virgin Mary, come to my aid!

And do not let me bear this great disgrace, for after this, as long as I live, I will never dare to come before the abbot, nor to meet my fellow monks, wherever it might be.

And as he said this, his eyes full of tears, the Mother of God came swiftly to his aid, and worked such a wonder, that many pilgrims came from afar to worship before the chasuble.

For where it had been stained, she made it whiter than it had ever been before. And so all who heard tell of it praised Mary, our Lady of great worth