



SAINT MIRO PAREDI

You can find this point of interest in Canzo - Path 1 - Stage 4

DESCRIPTION

(*Silvia Fasana*)

San Miro is a well-known figure in the Triangolo Lariano and in Upper Lake Como, and combines historical elements with others undoubtedly created by legend. The most comprehensive information on his life can be found in the biography published in Milan in 1723 by Somascan Father Giuseppe Maria Stampa, who came from Gravedona, which incorporates even older sources.

Popular tradition has it that Miro Paredi was born in Second'Alpe in 1336 (although recent historical studies are more inclined to place his birth date in the 13th century) to elderly parents, Erasmus and Drusiana, the latter from Prata Camportaccio. His name, Immiro or Miro, would in fact mean "born in a wonderful way", given the age of his parents. On the place of his birth, in 1986 the Canzo Association of Hunters created a chapel dedicated to his memory. Left motherless at an early age, his father, before he died, asked a hermit who lived in Scarenna to take care of Miro, who remained with him for about twenty years. At the death of his master, Miro retired in the Ravella Valley, where he took up residence in a cave under the *Cèpp da l'Angua*. He lived some years in meditation and prayer, feeding on herbs, roots, wild fruits and the alms of the many pilgrims who went up to him for advice. If need be, he went down to Canzo to bless the sick, assist the dying and settle any quarrels.

He then went on pilgrimage to Rome along the Via Francigena, to venerate the tombs of the martyrs. Biographers narrate that during the stops along the way he took interest in the people he met, soothing their sorrows and offering valuable spiritual advice. Having run into three poor orphans, he is said to have taken them with him to Rome to find suitable accommodation. On the way back he was hosted in S. Giorgio di Lomellina (PV) by the large family of a poor peasant; having learned of the terrible drought that plagued the country, Miro led the people in prayer and acts of penance, until shortly after came the long-awaited rain.

Back in Canzo, he returned to his life as a hermit: his reputation for holiness soon spread throughout the Triangolo Lariano. Old age and the premonition of impending death prompted him to look elsewhere for a place to spend his last days in peace. He therefore decided to go and see the places of origin of his mother in Upper Lake Como. Before leaving his native village, he wanted to greet his fellow villagers gathered under a porch (which no longer exists) called the *Cuerc* and asked them what they wanted as a gift. «*Water*», said a child in his mother's arms, and he replied with the famous words: «*And you shall have water!*».

He is said to have walked down to Onno, and that, at the ferryman's refusal to carry him out of charity, he spread his cloak upon the water of the lake and miraculously arrived in Mandello. He would have then continued his journey to Sorico, retiring as a hermit near the old church of S. Michele, where he died shortly after. As established in 1456 by bishop Pusterla of Como, his feast is celebrated on the second Friday of May.

Saint Miro was invoked for rain and against floods, plague, and deaths in childbirth. Many are the miracles attributed to him: according to local tradition he would also have made water flow out of the rock at the base of the cave which he used as a shelter, near the Shrine later erected in his honour.

This wellspring is considered sacred by the people of Canzo, and its water was used to cure diseases.

He is traditionally depicted dressed as a pilgrim, with a stick and a water bottle.