

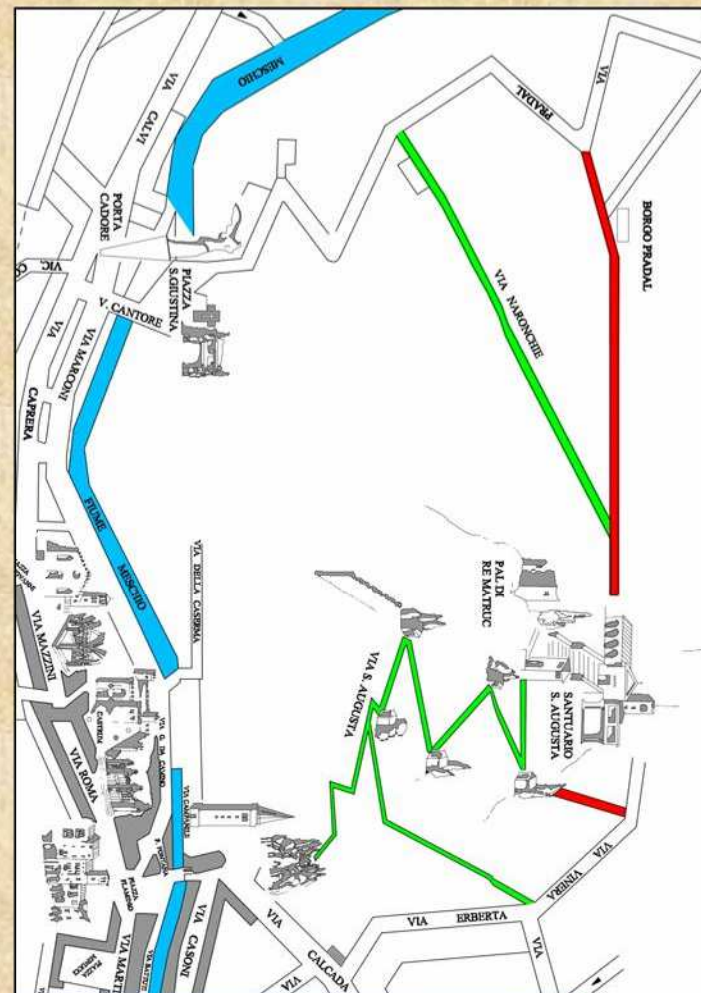
ON THE PILGRIM'S ROUTE



Reaching Saint Augusta

Realized by the class 2[^]B

"Liceo Scientifico M. Flaminio" 2012-2013





 Strada silvo-pastorale
 Percorso pedonale

THE MIRACLE: according to the legend, one day Augusta was walking carrying some bread that she used to take to the poor, when her father arrived and asked her: " what are you carrying inside your apron? "And she, not in the least worried, answered: " Wild flowers for the poor, sir". And she thought to herself: " it isn't a lie: isn't charity to the poor a flower in the eyes of God? So Matrucco, suspicious, opened his daughter's apron and he saw some colorful flowers.

Inside the church there are some frescoes, by Giovanni Antonio da Meschio, a local artist of the fifteenth century, that represent the evangelists and some saints. The presbitero, on the right side of the main access, contains the saint's remains, in a splendid altar covered by a gold leaf and decorated with marble bas-reliefs.

The church has been a beacon in the most dark moments of the history of the Serravalle community.

The simple gabled facade of the sanctuary shows a gabled portal, two rectangular single-lancet windows on its sides and a rose window. On the left side there is an open gallery, that is supported by equilateral arches, and in the centre of it there is a well. On the right side, instead, there is an embattled bell tower, once used as a watch tower.



The example of the plague of 1630 is emblematic: the citizens made a vow to Saint Augusta (and an inscription still remembers it) so that they would be spared from the epidemic.

The reward for the effort of the pilgrim, that advances on the path that reaches the top, is to see what is considered one of the symbols of the city.

There's a path which reaches the mountain-top in Serravalle of Vittorio Veneto, known for its historical, naturalistic and religious value. On the side of Marcantone mount winds a lane which, after lots of sharps bend, and steps, reaches Sant'Augusta's sanctuary, patron saint of Serravalle.



The short worldly event, of the Saint happened in a very remote epoch ,when the Roman empire was already about to collapse and barbarians,from the North of Europe and Asia's steppes started their migratory flow to the more hospitable and fertile Mediterranean lands.

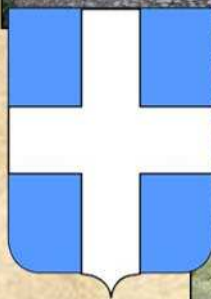
In 402 a.C. Alaric, the Visigoths ' king, came to Italy and entrusted the lead of these lands to Matrucco, Augusta's father. The young girl brought up by the nurse Cita, according to the christian principles, found herself in conflict with the Aryan religion professed by her father. Therefore she was subjected by her own father to martyrdom and she was proclaimed Saint after her death



The devout pilgrim, who decides to face the ascent to the sanctuary to obtain the advantage of the saint's benevolence and to purify himself from all sins, starts his way at the imposing stone staircase. The route is narrow for a while and wrapped by vegetation. Advancing in the wood,



you come across very high chestnuts and hornbeams that, being blurred with the maze of shrubs, sink their roots in the mossy and damp ground, strewn with many-coloured species of flowers. During the ascent the pilgrim is cheered by sweet songs of different birds and by the



shy looks of little animals like amphibians which live in the luxuriant vegetation.

Along the gravelly route we see six holy shrines which bear the names of Rome chapels, one on every bend. The pilgrim arrives at a chapel in front of which there's a little octagonal rock where, according to the legend, the miracle of the bread tran-



sformed into flowers occurred.

At the end of a flight of one hundred steps, the pilgrim sees a modest structure built in the Renaissance on the foundations of the Visigoth general Matrucco's



castle, of which it still bears the traces.

From this point it is also possible to admire the beautiful view of Vittorio Veneto and the neighbouring territories, characterized by morain reliefs, and extend the look, in a clear day, until the Venice lagoon.

