

# The Sanctuary of the Madonna of Pietralba

*“In virtue of article 255 of our Constitutions, I communicate to you that the celebration of the CCXIII General Chapter is planned for 13 September to 2 October 2012 in our priory of Pietralba [via Pietralba, 9 39050 Nova Ponente (BZ)J, Italy”.*

Located at an altitude of almost 1500 meters, the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Pietralba was founded in 1553, after a small statue of Mary, an alabaster Pietà, was discovered by a local farmer who saw a vision of the Virgin Mary and was healed of an illness. In thanksgiving, he was asked to build a small church, which really only began to be constructed in 1638 and was finished in 1673. The adjacent priory was built in 1722 through the initiative of the Servants of Mary of Innsbruck.



In 1787 the Sanctuary was suppressed by Emperor Joseph II and the statuette of the Madonna was brought to Laives. But in 1836, again through the initiative of the Servants of Mary, the Sanctuary was restored to a place of prayer which today is entrusted to the care of the Veneto-Lombardy Province of the Servants of Mary.



Among the many pilgrims who have visited the Sanctuary of the Madonna of Pietralba, were Pope John Paul I who, as a cardinal, used to spend his vacations there, and Pope John Paul II, who visited in 1988.

