

THE VOICE OF ROSA MYSTICA

MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH
FONTANELLE DI MONTICHIARI - (Brescia)

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of the **Foundation Rosa Mystica - Fontanelle**
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FROM THE ANNUNCIATION TO THE ASSUMPTION

Paul VI Apost. Exhort. «Marialis Cultus» (I, A 6)

«**T**he Annunciation of the Lord: has been deliberately restored, but the feast was and is a joint one of Christ and of the Blessed

Virgin: of the Word, who becomes the Son of Mary (Mk. 6:3), and of the Virgin, who becomes Mother of God. With regard to Christ, the East and the West, in the inexhaustible riches of their liturgies, celebrate this solemnity as the commemoration of the salvific «fiat» of the Incarnate Word, who, entering the world, said: «God, here I am! I am coming to obey Your will» (cf. Heb. 10:7; Ps. 39:8-9). They commemorate it as the beginning of the redemption and of the indissoluble and wedded union of the divine nature with human nature in the one Person of the Word. With regard to Mary, these liturgies celebrate it as a feast of the new Eve, the obedient and faithful virgin, who with her generous «fiat» (cf. Lk. 1:38) became through the working of the Spirit the Mother of God, but also the true Mother of the living,



and, by receiving into her womb the one Mediator (cf. 1 Tm. 2:5), became the true Ark of the Covenant and true Temple of God. These liturgies celebrate it as a culminating moment in the salvific dialogue between God and man, and as a commemoration of the Blessed Virgin's free consent and cooperation in the plan of redemption.

The solemnity of August 15 celebrates the glorious Assumption of Mary into heaven. It is a feast of her destiny of fullness and blessedness, of the glorification of her immaculate soul and of her virginal body, of her perfect configuration to the Risen Christ; a feast that sets before the eyes of the Church and of all the image and the consoling proof of the fulfillment of their final

hope, namely, that this full glorification is the destiny of all those whom Christ has made His brothers, having «flesh and blood in common with them» (Heb. 2:14; cf. Gal. 4:4).

WITH MARY FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE END

Once more guided by blessed Paul VI, we are now continuing our path of growing knowledge about the great mystery that has had in Mary a very important protagonist, with the purpose that we too will reach a deeper and joyful participation of the fundamental principles of our faith. Therefore, from the Annunciation to the Assumption. Perhaps the most inter-

esting thing of this reading about the life of the Virgin is that through the liturgy, pope Montini proposes us to allow us to catch with one single glance the beginning and the end, an increasingly glorious parable. In the Marialis Cultus, he also lingers over the intermediary stages like the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth, the presentation of Jesus in the temple, the Mother of Sorrows at the feet

of her dying Son. In this document, however, the space does not allow us to treat these events as well. We therefore will only discuss the departure, i.e. the Annunciation and the arrival, i.e. the Assumption. We will draw the extraordinariness from these events, watching with renewed amazement at the wonders God has operated in the history and which will also be reproduced in our own life if

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

On Sunday, January 11, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Fontanelle experienced a genuine historical day, namely the visit and the celebration of a Solemn Mass offered by the **General Vicar of our Diocese, Mgr. Gianfranco Mascher**, as well as the celebration of the renewal of the baptismal promises. Announced, well prepared and since long expected, the visit of the General Vicar was developed in the intense climate of prayer that characterizes our Sunday celebrations. The heavy morning fog and the mist in the early afternoon certainly did not give the idea of a feast, but later on, the sun accompanied our Celebration and Marian Procession in a spectacular sunset. Our Chapel is always neat and adorned with many candles and flowers. Crowds of loving believers kneel down for the Adoration to pray the Rosary and to receive the Eucharistic Benediction, as is the case in every Marian sanctuary. In our Cenacle, where it is so easy to become one in heart and soul, we have prayed the Saint Mysteries during the beautiful and solemn Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In this special circumstance, the Mass always begins with the eloquent rite of the sprinkling of purifying holy water in memory of our Baptism. As the Celebrant crossed the aisle, the choir sang in unison the «Kyrie» and during the «Gloria in Excelsis» of the Latin Mass of the Angels, the faithful prayed with them in silence, favorably disposed towards the Word of God. After having illustrated the sacred texts of the Feast, the Vicar exhorted all to absorb the readings they had just heard as well as the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, a feast of baptism that concerns us all. He invited everyone to know the date of our own baptism and to celebrate it every time, even in a better way than that of the birthday. He underlined the necessity to live in a way conform to the received baptism and invited all not to do the renewal of the baptismal promises only by lip service saying three times «I reject satan» and «I believe», but very consciously. In conclusion, the Vicar asked to put our

confidence in Mary, the Mother who told the servants at the wedding of Cana and to each of us, «Do whatever He tells you... do everything that He will tell you». After this warm homily the audience remained very silent as to confirm to the Vicar that they had been listening attentively, eager to understand and to live according to his words. Then all stood up as one man, ready to pronounce «I reject» and «I believe»; prayers, which especially in this time are very necessary and right to say. While everybody prayed, the murmuring chant of the water from the source of Rosa Mystica accompanied their words like a perennial reference to the Saint Baptism. The Mass was concluded with the Benediction and the invitation to participate in the brief Procession, symbolizing the path of life from the baptismal font to the celestial Jerusalem. While the sunset made place for the evening, the procession reached the small chapel and recited together the prayer to Rosa Mystica. The General Vicar thanked all for the beautiful ceremony, the priests who served in this place, the Foundation and the cooperators, the volunteers, all those who were present. The faces of all the people shone with serenity, thankfulness and joy. At that point words came into my mind, the famous words of one of the protagonists in the Italian historical novel, *The Betrothed* (*I Promessi Sposi*). This man was a feared criminal known as the Unnamed and he did not understand the happiness of all the people that set out towards the village church on a feast day, «What joy is there... what kind of beauty all these people have?»... But why... all these people are so happy?!» Well, in Fontanelle we can say, «These are people that have just celebrated the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and have pronounced «I reject» as well as «I believe» in the best possible way. These are people who know that life means walking from the baptismal font to the Jerusalem in Heaven; they are all heading for it, they are all expected there. These people are full of happiness because they have reached out their hand to Mary, who keeps repeating to every heart, «Do what He tells you... do everything that He will tell you». And this, my friends, is the only way to obtain genuine joy and happiness.

Don Giancarlo



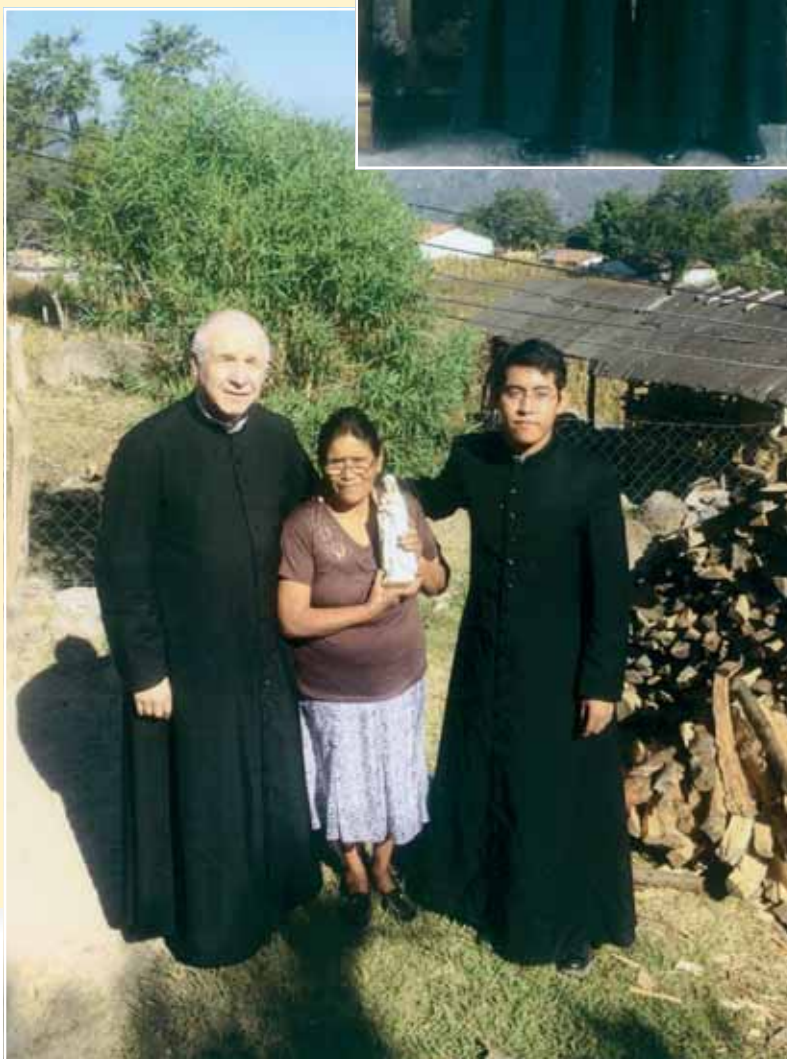
we are open to them. In the first stage, the event is like a storm in the ordinary life and daily routine of a young girl of around fourteen years; an event long expected by her people, but certainly not imagined by her in relationship to her own person. God wants to come down as a human being; He wants to tighten the bond between Himself and mankind to offer to everyone the possibility to fully participate in His divine life. But, He wants a free consent. And He indeed finds it, immediate and confident, in this young woman who, abandoning herself completely to the divine plans, allows its realization. At first it is a great secret; only a few know about it, certainly her parents, Joseph, her cousin Elizabeth, some shepherds, the three wise kings, the prophetess Ann and the old Hebrew, Simeon. Then thirty years of silence pass, during which Mary has the opportunity to guard in her heart the great adventure in which she participates, continuously meditating it. Finally, the extraordinary Son, who had been announced to her, reveals Himself at Cana precisely through her encouragements. It is the beginning of a public life, which is not easy at all. It is the revelation of the great mystery of the Incarnation, but also of the Redemption connected to it at the same time; the Kingdom of God is at hand and the Man who crosses the streets of Palestine, healing bodies and souls and revealing His Father, is the Immanuel, God with us. Yet, that is not all. To flatten entirely the road and defeat the evil definitely, there is a decisive passage to cross. That Son must offer Himself to the Father by giving up His own life for His brothers. A great mystery, a descent to the bottom of hell, followed by a rising up in the glory of the Resurrection. Mary, His Mother, is all the time present, always reserved, apparently apart, yet in reality participating in all principal events. The evangelists speak little of it, but they never neglect to report to us the essential elements. Her Assumption concludes the visible cycle. The faith, which she manifested with great luminosity since the beginning and which has withstood all most crucial and painful stages, that faith made her become the Mother of God as well as a perfect disciple of her Son; that faith is now rewarded and glorified. Now she is the Queen of Heaven, next to Him, in the glory of the Holy Trinity, as witness of God's promises. And, if we want so, she is there to help everyone of us through her intercession to reach a same destiny.

Rosanna Brichetti Messori

We have received

■ *Fr. Felipe, Newly Consecrated Priest in Mexico* - On last December 2, Don Felipe de Jesus Gutierrez was consecrated as a priest in the Cathedral of Cuernavaca in Mexico. Participating in the Sacred Rite, Don Giancarlo has conveyed him the affection, the embraces and prayers of the whole big family of Fontanelle. During his study in Rome, the young priest who is very devoted to Rosa Mystica, has served both as seminarian and deacon in Fontanelle. He has celebrated his first Holy Mass in the Basilica of the Madonna of Guadalupe, assisted by Don Giancarlo and Don Mattia.

Let us accompany the service of this new priest in the Minor Seminary, certain that his prayers will be beneficial for all of us.



■ *From Cameroon* - Thank you for the regular dispatch of the «Rosa Mystica» bulletin. It allows me to follow the developments of the activities in Fontanelle and also through the letters and the pictures coming from the various continents to ascertain how Mary, with her sweetness and humility, succeeds in entering and vivifying the different cultures. That is what we also experience in the parish of Obeck-Mbalmayo (Cameroon), especially in this period, between October and December, during which the Marian devotion groups (see attached photo), organized the pilgrimage of the statue of Rosa Mystica to the families in our districts. The warm welcome that Mary receives also from the families, which do not frequent anymore the parish, leads us to conversion. Through the Virgin, the Church has to learn to preach Truth and Justice, not as a distant and severe judge, but as a mother who accompanies and support the suffering of her children, so that they may reach the full life. It is only the certainty of this affectionate proximity that makes the hearts open and heals them. Meeting



places of daily life like hospitals, schools, workplaces and home are thus becoming more human. May Mary always be for us «the Star of the New Evangelization», in accordance with the beautiful words of Pope Francis. With our kindest regards,

P. Giuliano Franco Paladini

Schedule of the Liturgical Celebrations

- I **Every day:** 15:00-16:00: Confessions; 16:00: H. Rosary
- I **Every feast day:** 15:00: Adoration; 15:30: H. Rosary; 16:00: H. Mass
- I **Every vigil of a feast day:** 15:30: H. Rosary; 16:00: H. Mass
- From January 22 - 31: Novena prayer of Don Bosco**
- I **Every day:** 15:30: H. Rosary; 16:00: H. Mass
- February 2 - 3 - 6 - 7 - 11 - 13 - 18:**
15:30: H. Rosary; 16:00: H. Mass.
- February 2, Monday - Candlemas:**
after the H. Mass benediction of the candles. Beginning of the novena to Our Lady of Lourdes
- February 3, Tuesday, Saint Blaise:**
After the H. Mass benediction of throats
- February 6, First Friday**
- February 7, First Saturday**
Beginning of the evening celebrations: 20:00 H. Rosary and procession.
- February 11, Wednesday** - Our Lady of Lourdes
- February 13, Friday - Monthly Marian day**
- February 18, Wednesday - Ash Wednesday: day of fasting**
15:00: Stations of the Cross
16:00: H. Mass with imposition of ashes
- Beginning of Lenten Seasons: Every Friday of the Lenten Season:**
15:00: Stations of the Cross; 15:30: H. Rosary; 16:00: H. Mass
Every Sunday of the Lenten Season: 15:00-17:00: Confessions
15:00: Stations of the Cross; 15:30 Adoration and H. Rosary
16:00: Solemn H. Mass

Important announcement: We kindly ask the priests, the religious and the escorts of the groups to announce their arrival on time to the secretary and the responsible director of the Cult in order to enable us to organize in the best possible way your reception and visit in Fontanelle. In this way we can prepare and provide you a pilgrimage in an orderly, devoted and fruitful way. We cordially invite you to visit the directory in the official website (www.rosamisticafontanelle.it) regarding the Marian worship in Fontanelle, the schedules and the new brochure «History and places of worship». In organizing your pilgrimages kindly act according to the rules of the Directory and the above quoted brochure. Thank you for your kind cooperation!

The Foundation Rosa Mystica Fontanelle

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■ *From Japan* - The group leader communicates us with joy that the 13th of every month Fr. Di Prinzio or Fr. Toshio Ikeda celebrates the Holy Mass in honor of Rosa Mystica. The group, consisting now of more than 30 people, participates in these celebrations. The statue of Rosa Mystica roams from one family to another, creating acceptance and love of so many brothers and sisters.

*United in prayer
all your priests bless you!*

Foundation Rosa Mystica-Fontanelle

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