

THE VOICE OF ROSA MYSTICA

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

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Monthly bulletin of the Foundation Rosa Mystica - Fontanelle Montichiari (Bs) - Italy



The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field



MARY SYMBOL OF FAITH FOR EVERYONE: SIMPLE OR LEARNED

“In respect of Mary, there is a strange fact: from whatever perspective you look at it, in whatever condition of life you are in, she will always have something to suggest. This is imputable to the fact that having realized in her the redemption in all its richness, she became the prototype of humanity, the paradigm to refer to. Thus, the possibility to fathom her life, to meditate her behavior, to analyze the meanings and to draw knowledge and spiritual nourishment from it, seems inexhaustible.”

This time, we will be accompanied by a giant of reflection and spirituality named John Henry Newman. He was, more or less all that we know. A great English intellectual, as well as an Anglican priest who, after a long research converted to Roman Catholicism; in the course of the years he was appointed cardinal and at the end beatified. A rigorous man, who left no room for sentimentality. Even

thus, he challenged rationalism that wanted to lock up intellectual research; instead, he proofed a correct relationship between faith and reason as possible, even highly preferred. This theme also concerns Mary. Let us analyze what he writes in one of his University Sermons. Also starting from the fact that very little is told in the Scripture about the Virgin, he, somehow, points out that there is an aspect, justifying the Evangelists to take her as a “model”. This aspect is the faith of this woman, of whom he, first of all, explains the characteristics based on the analysis of the few facts we know. Starting with a comparison between the reaction of Zechariah, who first questions the angel concerning the birth of John the Baptist, and that of Mary, who instead

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adheres immediately: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." (Lk 1,38)

Newman continues:

But Mary's faith did not end in a mere acquiescence to the providence and divine revelation: as the text says, she "meditated". When the shepherds came and stated about the vision of angels, which they had at the hour of the birth and how one of the angels had announced that the Child in her arms was "the Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Lk 2:11), while others did nothing but wonder, "Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart". Once more, when her Son and Savior had arrived at the age of twelve, leaving him for

a bit of time to the service of his Father, to her surprise, she found him back in the temple amidst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. She accepted his answer, justifying his conduct; the Scriptures mentioned that "His mother kept all these things in her heart" (Lk.2,51). Likewise, at the marriage at Cana, her faith anticipated His first miracle, and she said to the servants, "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2,5).

Well, from all this, Newman explains, we can understand what were the characteristics of Mary's faith; we thus can make Her our model both in receiving, as well as in studying the divine truth. In fact, she did not merely accept this truth, she remained in it; it was not enough to possess it, she

used it; it was not just assenting to it, she developed it; it was not sufficient to subdue it to reasoning, she meditated about it. Unlike Zechariah, who thinks and then believes, Mary believes first without reasoning, then, out of love and reverence, she reasoned after having believed. Therefore, she is a symbol to us, not solely for simple persons, but even for doctors of the church, who have to investigate, to delineate and to measure besides professing the Gospel; they have to draw the line that separates truth from heresy; to anticipate or to amend the various aberrations or an erroneous reasoning, to combat pride and temerity with their weapons, thus triumphing over sophistry and innovators.

Let us understand well, religion and reason must help and sustain each other. The attitude of a heart, open towards God, willing to live with Him and to be in relationship with Him just like Mary, is, nevertheless, the foundation of everything. This also applies for philosophers, theologians and even for doctors of the Church. Obviously Newman spoke from personal experience, as he belonged - and quite deservedly - to this category. This, because **the faith illuminates the reason, which then investigates in turn, providing the rational basis, necessary to provide support.** Meanwhile, reasoning alone is likely to take the wrong roads, of which Newman speaks, chasing sophistry, falling into that pride, which convinces men that they understand the Truth more and better than all others and therefore crave to be "innovators"; a term that Newman considered dangerous because it is ill understood, moving away from the path of Scripture and Tradition. Maybe that is why he loved so much the proverb he often repeated: "We, Christians, are like dwarfs, it is true, but lifted on the shoulders of giants."

If you have Mary in your heart, her love fulfills all your needs

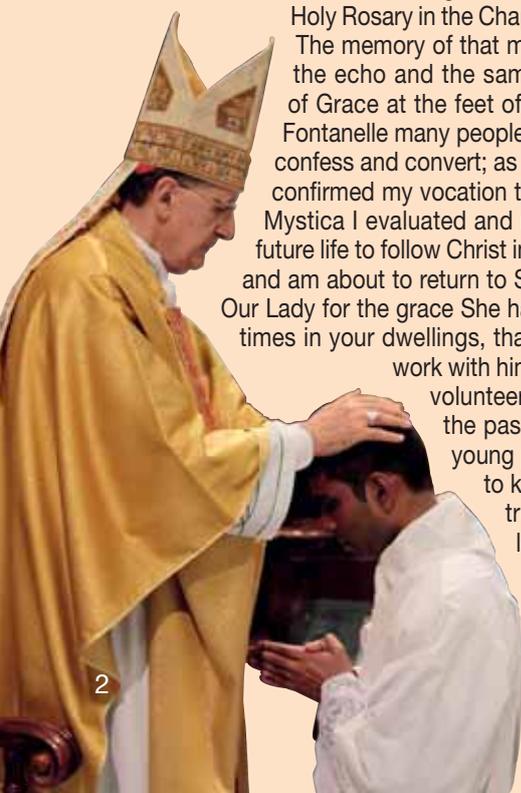
"Late have I loved you, Beauty so ancient and so new, late have I loved you!" These were the words of St. Augustine, which resonated in my heart after praying the Holy Rosary in the Chapel of Rosa Mystica on a summer day last year.

The memory of that moment is so clear in me that I still experience the echo and the same emotion of that day; and it is at that hour of Grace at the feet of the Virgin that I attain my brief testimony. In Fontanelle many people rediscover their Christian vocation, they pray, confess and convert; as for me it is the place where I rediscovered and confirmed my vocation to priesthood. Briefly, at the feet of Mary Rosa Mystica I evaluated and reevaluated my vocation and the path of my future life to follow Christ in priesthood. Now that I've finished my studies and am about to return to Sri Lanka, with my whole heart I want to thank Our Lady for the grace She has given me, permitting me to stay here many times in your dwellings, thanks to Don Giancarlo and to the priests who work with him, to Mgr. Marco, the Foundation, the staff, the volunteers, the faithful and the pilgrims whom I met in the past two years. And allow me a final word to the young people seeking their vocation: if anyone wants to know his vocation, his path in life, just turn with trust to Our Lady. If Mary is in your heart, her love fulfills all your needs. With infinite gratitude, I bless you in the name of the Lord.

Don Sashika

Don Sashika was ordained as deacon on May 1st, 2015 by H.E. Cardinal Stella in the Basilica of S. Apollinare.

Rosanna Brichetti Messori



THE THREE WONDERFUL ROSES OF ELIO

Dear friends, after the month of May during which we have lived with faith and love in the school of Mary, we are now in June, dedicated by the tradition to the worship of the Sacred Heart. The fields around Fontanelle are ready for the harvest of the crop of wheat and barley... and the marvelous color palette of summer surprises us again with the dark green of the corn, the golden yellow of the harvest, the lighter green plane trees and the thousands of colorful roses in their triumph, the many shades of green... but certainly nothing more beautiful in the beginning of the summer are the fields of mature wheat... and, if you listen well through the rustle of the ears of the wheat swaying in the morning and evening breeze, you can hear the sad words of Jesus to the Apostles: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field..."

"The harvest is there, but God wishes to use men to bring it into the barns... the call which comes from the heart of God must always find its way into the heart of man... praying to the Lord of the Harvest for this means to stir God's heart."(Benedict XVI)

Here is the true story of a saint boy at Lourdes, who knocked at the Heart of the Virgin Mary to stir the heart of our good God.

"The Eucharistic Procession passed by. Among shivers of emotion and faith, urgent petitions rose to Jesus, "Lord, make me see! ... Lord, make me walk! ... Lord, the one you love is so sick! ..." I followed the bishop who carried the monstrance and with sweeping gestures blessed the sick lying on stretchers in an endless line. You should have a heart of stone not to be moved by the sight of it and I cried all the time during the procession. Among the sick, I saw a sick boy with a pallid face and very kind eyes. With clasped hands, he was staring in great love at Jesus who was blessing him. After the procession, I went to the hospital to look for him and found him all alone, lying on a mat under the trees of the Ave. de l'Accueil. - What is your name? - Elio. - Where are you from? - Rome - I, too, live in Rome and I'm so glad to be here to accompany you a bit. I know lots of guys, because I'm an assistant of the Catholic Aspiring Action. - Yes, I know them, but I could not become a member because since three years I am ill. Do you know, father, how long three years are without ever getting out of bed?! - I know, son, but aren't we here asking for the grace of the Virgin? I will pray for you, do you like that? But tell me, did you ask the grace of healing to Jesus and the Madonna? The boy looked at me and making sure nobody would hear him, he whispered: - No, I did not ask for the grace to heal and I won't ask it. There are other things more important to get from the Madonna. - Which ones? - Well, I have asked these three graces:

- ▶ that Our Lady may heal those who suffer more than me
- ▶ that the priests may become more holy
- ▶ that the poor sinners may convert and do not make Jesus suffer anymore.

I was stunned, speechless. At that moment, a priest came and invited me to go to visit Elio in Rome, when we would have come back. That night I returned to the Grotto and said to the Madonna, "Thank you, Heavenly Mother, today I have seen a miracle, the most beautiful and the greatest of miracles, I found out how a sick boy of thirteen could become a hero and an apostle with your help and your smile."

Dear friends, don't you think that from Elio we too have received a great and beautiful lesson? We are so concerned about our health, every little sacrifice frightens us, any excuse is good in order not to undergo any mortification, but Elio did not ask anything for himself from Our Lady, not even a healing... from now on it will be necessary that we worry a little less about ourselves and begin to offer the Lord something for the salvation of souls and for those who need our spiritual help, for our priests by choosing a ripe grain, i.e. an important grace, a beautiful rose to put on the threshold of God's Heart.

Don Giancarlo

We have received



This is the family agriculture school Rosa Mystica

■ *From Brazil:* We always receive with great joy your magazine that tells us about all the activities at Fontanelle. Especially the missionaries and the people, who came to visit the sanctuary, remember Fontanelle with special love. I always take spiritual refuge in it, re-experiencing passed moments spent at the foot of the Virgin, praying on the holy staircase, or walking with the rosary in the basin. After this devotion, I return physically and spiritually recovered to the mission that Rosa Mystica has entrusted me. These days I feel so much in need of Her Presence. I sense that she is helping us. **She is our Mama.** Please pray for us... Thank you!

An affectionate hug from

Anna Maria Panegalli

N.B. Sr. Anna Maria returned these days to the family for a short period of rest and often comes to pray in Fontanelle.

We have received

■ *From Mexico:* I am Guadalupe Romero F. from Veracruz, Mexico. I am happy to greet you and to communicate with you. I had the good fortune and blessing to visit the shrine twice in July 18, 2008 and July 13, 2009.

I am the general coordinator of the group of Missionaries of Rosa Mystica of the Veracruz Diocese, Mexico. Herewith I sent you the picture of the National Meeting of Coordinators of the Missionaries of the Rosa Mystica of March 2015.

Fraternal greetings and may God and Our Lady Rosa Mystica bless us!



Summer timetable for June-July

Daily

15:30-17:00 Confession
16:30 H. Rosary

Each Sunday and feast day

15:30-18:00 Confession,
16:00 Eucharistic adoration
16:30 H. Rosary
17:00 High Mass, with a short procession,
once again followed by H. Rosary

Each Saturday or vigil of a feast

17:00 H. Mass

Each first Saturday of the month

20:30 Marian vigil

Friday, June 12 - feast of the Sacred Heart

Timetable for feasts - H. Mass

Saturday, July 13 - monthly Marian day

(feast timetable). H. Mass and Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Sunday, July 12 and Monday, July 13

Feast of Rosa Mystica

11:00 H. Mass - afternoon (timetable for feasts) with procession.

Important notice: We kindly ask the priests, the religious and the pilgrimage group guides to notify your arrival in good time to the Secretariat and the Responsible for the Worship, thus enabling us to arrange in the best possible way your reception and stay in this place of worship. Following this procedure, you will be given the opportunity to experience the pilgrimage in an orderly, dedicated and fruitful way. In the official website (www.rosamisticafontanelle.it) we invite all to visit the Directory about the Marian worship in Fontanelle, the timetable and the new brochure "History and places of worship". We also invite everyone to organize the pilgrimages by following closely the guidelines of the Directory and those in the brochure mentioned above. We warmly thank you for your cooperation!

The Foundation Rosa Mystica Fontanelle

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■ *From Assisi:* Fr. Augusto prays wholeheartedly: "O Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Risen Lord, bring into the world peace and love through your beloved magazine!" As to the workers of the editorial staff, thank you once again for the good work you do in the mystical vineyard of the Lord, who is the Church. May the Virgin Mary be your inspiring Mother. With affection, I bless you all. Amen, Alleluia!

*United in prayer
all your priests bless you!*

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