

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



Hour
of universal
Grace.

«I am the
Immaculate
Conception».
«I am Mary of
Grace, Mother
of the Divine
Son, Jesus Christ
'Rosa Mystica'».



The extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

(FOLLOW-UP TO THE PREVIOUS ISSUE)

On September 1, Pope Francis wrote a letter with which he intends to grant indulgence on the occasion of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which he launched with the papal bull *Misericordiae Vultus* last April 11, 2015: «Dear brothers and sisters, I have often thought of how the Church could make clear its mission of being a witness of Mercy. It is a journey that starts with a spiritual conversion. Therefore, I decided to hold an extraordinary Jubilee that is focused upon the mercy of God. This Holy Year will start on the forthcoming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 2015, and will end on November 20, 2016, Sunday of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and the visible face of the Father's mercy». The letter of September 1 is an opportunity to prepare ourselves to live fully this time of Grace, which helps us to celebrate with the

greatest possible result of the sacrament of Reconciliation, which will be administered by the priests in a particular solemn and special way. We have therefore decided to publish the letter of Pope Francis in our magazine in two successive stages, in this issue and in the next one, so that all the faithful and pilgrims can appropriate it for their personal preparation. Last issue we published the first part; here is the second and final part of the letter:

One of the serious problems of our time is clearly the changed relationship with respect to life. A widespread and insensitive mentality has led to the loss of the proper personal and social sensitivity to welcome new life. *The tragedy of abortion is experienced by some with a superficial awareness, as if not realizing the extreme harm that such an act entails. Many others, on the other hand, although experiencing this moment as a defeat, believe they have no other option. I think in particular of all the wom-*

en who have resorted to abortion. I am well aware of the pressure that has led them to this decision. I know that it is an existential and moral ordeal. I have met so many women who bear in their heart the scar of this agonizing and painful decision.

What has happened is profoundly unjust; yet only understanding the truth of it, can enable one not to lose hope. The forgiveness of God cannot be denied to one who has repented, especially when that person approaches the Sacrament of Confession with a sincere heart in order to obtain reconciliation with the Father. For this reason too, *I have decided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary, to concede to all priests for the Jubilee Year the discretion to absolve of the sin of abortion those who have procured it and who, with a contrite heart, seek forgiveness for it. May priests fulfil this great*

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The extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy

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task of expressing words of genuine welcome combined with a reflection that explains the gravity of the sin committed, besides indicating a path of authentic conversion by which to obtain the true and generous forgiveness of the Father who renews all with his presence.

A final consideration concerns those faithful who for various reasons choose to attend churches officiated by priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X. This Jubilee Year of Mercy excludes no one. From various quarters, several Brother Bishops have told me of their good faith and sacramental practice, combined, howev-



er, with an uneasy situation from the pastoral standpoint. I trust that in the near future solutions may be found to recover full communion with the priests and superiors of the Fraternity. In the meantime, motivated by the need to respond to the good of these faithful, through my own disposition, I establish that those who during the Holy Year of Mercy approach these priests of the Fraternity of St Pius X to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation shall validly and licitly receive the absolution of their sins. Trusting in the intercession of the Mother of Mercy, I entrust the preparations for this Extraordinary Jubilee Year to her protection.

Mons. Marco Alba
Episcopal Delegate

The Immaculate: history in short

Like every year we are getting close to December 8, the feast of the Immaculate that we too, as usual, celebrate here in Fontanelle in a special way with the «Hour of Grace» which has now entered into the tradition of this place. It is a special hour to join Mary, to rededicate intimately to her Heart, to utter all our demands and those of the world, to ask for assistance and shelter. An hour of intimacy and prayer, of listening and sharing from heart to heart, similar to the hour in which Jesus, suffering in the Garden, asked His disciples to spend with Him; instead, now we are called to do the same in the company of His mother. Of her who, called to be such, was Immaculate, i.e. free from the consequences of the original sin, since her conception. This did not make Mary a saint from the beginning, in the sense that also for her sanctity was a daily achievement, but it certainly made her pure. Thus, it did not remove the freedom to sin, however, it rendered her as already redeemed, that is, particularly open to goodness and to grace. All this, the Christian people sensed very soon, so that already since the early centuries it has been normal to invoke the Mother of Jesus as the «Purest» one. However, to render this prerogative of Mary a dogma, namely, a precise purpose and obligatory faith on the part of all the faithful, it took many centuries. As we know it, it was only in 1854 that Pope Pius IX officially proclaimed Mary as «Immaculate». If all this is well known, not all may know, even so, what had happened around that time, i.e. that Heaven itself seemed to have intervened in a way that certainly seems unusual in this process of theological development that would lead to the proclamation of the dogma. Here are the facts. Firstly, the event in 1830: at Rue du Bac in Paris Mary appears to a Vincentian novice and gives her the mission to have a medal struck of which she herself provides the model. On the front side the Immaculate had to be displayed

as on the iconography in vogue, namely Mary standing upon a globe, and from her hands rays beaming over the globe on which she puts her feet. Around the margin of the frame the words: «O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee». On the reverse, twelve stars surround a large «M,» from which a cross arises. Below the «M,» the medal depicts two flaming hearts. The left heart, circled with thorns, represents Jesus. The right heart, pierced by a sword, represents Mary. Mary accompanies the gift of this medal, that will go down in history as Miraculous, with the promise to distribute many graces to those who will wear it with devotion. Reading these facts, we understand that Heaven, not only seems to relish the devotion to the Immaculate up to that moment, but undertakes to increase it even further, offering the faithful a small object of devotion centered on Mary, precisely seen in her role as the Immaculate. Certainly also favored by this event, in 1854 the dogma was proclaimed. Only four years passed when in 1858 another extraordinary event happened: in Lourdes Mary appeared to a poor and suffering teenager, who used to call her the «Lady»; to her Mary eventually told that she was «The Immaculate Conception». Even here, we can see a clear and precise confirmation of what a courageous pope had accomplished only a short time before. Almost sixty years later at Fatima, the Immaculate Heart of Mary appeared in the center of the apparitions in which she asked mankind to consecrate themselves to her as a refuge and shelter to face all sorts of dangers that each day threaten our lives. Thus, when this year we are going to effectuate our «Hour of Grace», we can be sure of not only doing something very pleasing to the Immaculate Mother of Jesus, but we will also put ourselves in the most favorable condition for receiving from Heaven all the help we need.

Rosanna Brichetti Messori



“JESU PITHAI”

Chronicle of another beautiful day of celebration

Our chronicle, which prefers to let speak the beautiful photographs, begins with the greeting the faithful Sri Lankans love to share: Jesu pithai, which is our «Praised be Jesus Christ». How many times in Fontanelle you hear this greeting accompanied with folded hands, bows and smiles, it is a traditional expression, but as it often also the case with our words of best wishes, it is much more than just a greeting, it is a prayer, a good wish, an exchange of prayers and wellbeing among those who greet as well as a reminder of a mutual commitment to the Lord, to Mary. Sunday, September 1, the annual feast of the Sinhalese faithful in honor of Rosa Mystica in Fontanelle was not merely a happy coincidence with the celebration

of the Marian month. This year to make it even more beautiful the festival was honored with the presence of HE Mgr. Harold Hantony Perera, Bishop of Kurunegala, in charge of the Episcopal Conference of Sri Lanka for migrants. Prepared

with great commitment the feast started on Saturday with a procession, the rosary, the blessing of the pole flags, Adoration and Eucharistic Benediction. On Sunday, at dawn, there was already a coming and going of pilgrims and priests: as many as 19 bus loads of faithful arrived in the morning, not to mention all those who arrived by their own means. At ten o'clock everything was ready for the celebration of the Mass outdoors on an altar decorated with hundreds of yellow, red and white roses, altar boys with scarlet robes and white surplices, children and girls in traditional costumes for the procession and the offertory, musicians, choir and countless seedlings of roses for the Virgin. Upon arrival of the Bishop, amiable and smiling, the feast began. His Excellency put on the vestments prepared on the altar below the big crucifix. Numerous priests concelebrated, assisted by seminarian Jipson, master of ceremonies. The Mass ended solemnly with the procession attended by the Episcopal Delegate of our Bishop, Mgr. Mark Alba, who carried the relic of the Holy Cross. Under a menacing sky predicting a deluge, the great procession was held with solemnity and devotion. Back at the altar, Mgr. Marco spoke on behalf of the Bishop of Brescia and had words of praise and encouragement to all those present, thanking His

Excellency for the great gift of visiting Fontanelle. The cloudburst which unleashed right at the end of the celebration did not spoil the day of celebration nor the picnic. Once the rain had passed rapidly, in the afternoon the celebration was continued with numerous believers, who came from all parts to attend the Sunday Mass, after which the statue of Rosa Mystica was taken again in procession, submerged by white, red and yellow roses.



Like last year, the Marian group of Indian families living in Switzerland came to Fontanelle on October 3 and 4. Always directed by Fr. Thomas, this year they were also accompanied by their Indian Bishop, Mgr. Shaji Ramanalil. In Fontanelle they spent two days of prayer and catechesis for the family in general and for the youth in particular. They are to be admired for their spirit of sacrifice, adaptation and prayer and we thank them for their wonderful example.



Day of World Union of the holy Repairing Communion

The chronicle of the feast of our Sinhalese friends in honor of Rosa MYstica does not leave much room for the record regarding the other **great feast** that we celebrated together during the days of October 10-11-12-13. We just want to assure all our friends around the world that the celebration was prepared and celebrated in the best way. During the various festivities, we all lived moments of genuine devotion and renewed Eucharistic fervor at the school of Mary, whom St. Pope John Paul II defined as «Our Lady of the Eucharist». The beautiful photo taken at the moment of distribution of the blessed bread is the most effective record of



the intense days of the evangelical spirit with the scent of bread. The wish we exchanged is that we all would be able to renew the devotion, fervor and honest reparation in respect of the Blessed Sacrament, which is Jesus, the Bread of Eternal Life.

Timetable for November 2015

Daily:

15:00 Confession 16:00 H. Rosary

Saturday:

15:00 Confession
15:30 H. Rosary
16:00 H. Mass (in anticipation of feast days)

Sunday and on feast days:

15:00 – 17:00 Confessions
15:00 Adoration
15:30 H. Rosary
16:00 High Mass

November 6 and 7: first Friday and first Saturday of the month

15:00 Adoration, H. Rosary, Confessions
16:00 H. Mass

Saturday, November 7:

20:00 Marian vigil with procession – H. Rosary – Adoration

Friday, November 13: Marian day

15:00 – 17:00 Confessions
15:00 Adoration
15:30 H. Rosary
16:00 H. Mass

Sunday, November 22 – Feast of Christ the King

Timetable first decade of December:

December 4 – 5 – 7: first Friday and first Saturday of the month and Vigil of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

15:00 Adoration, H. Rosary, Confessions
16:00 H. Mass

Saturday, December 5 and Monday, December 7:

20:00 Marian vigil with procession – H. Rosary – Adoration

December 8:

09:00 Praying in community
10:00 – 12:00 Confessions
10:30 Procession
11:00 High Mass, follow-up to the Hour of Grace

In the afternoon, according to the timetable for feasts and after the H. Mass: 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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*United in prayer
all your priests bless you!*

Foundation Rosa Mystica-Fontanelle

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