

# THE VOICE OF ROSA MYSTICA

## MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

### FONTANELLE DI MONTICHIARI - (Brescia)

MAY 2016 - YEAR 26 - N. 3

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



## The celebrations on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

“50 Years have passed since the day that in this blessed place the first prayer flourished to Maria Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church. With a heart full of gratitude the faithful and pilgrims renewed the offer of roses of sacrifice, prayer and penance, invoking the Holy Virgin for the grace of fidelity to the promises of the Holy Baptism.”

Last April was a particularly intense and important month for all the faithful and pilgrims who came to pray at Fontanelle, as well as for all the devotees of Maria Rosa Mystica all over the world, who in so many ways made us feel their affinity, in communion of prayer. On the Sunday of the Di-



vine Mercy (Sunday after Easter), April 3, 2016, we solemnly celebrated a heart-felt anniversary at Fontanelle, commemorating the beginning of the devotion to Rosa Mystica in Fontanelle, the Sunday after Easter of 1966, when for the first time Pierina Gilli was inspired to raise in that remote location between fields her prayer to Maria Rosa Mystica, asking her to make it for many a place of peace, consolation, physical and spiritual healing.

This year in particular, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of this fact (1966-2016) and therefore we celebrated the presence of Mary in Fontanelle with particular solemnity and devotion, welcoming pilgrims and offering them the comfort of sacramental confession and participation in the Eucharist. Two masses were celebrated, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, cheered up by the parish choir of Chiari, concluded with the traditional short procession to the chapel dedicated to Rosa Mystica, containing a large statue dedicated to her.

We celebrated on two successive Sundays, first on Easter and a week later on April 17, the first day of the anniversary on which these events took place in Fontanelle (the Sunday after Easter 1966 fell, in fact, precisely on April 17), and this was an opportunity to celebrate with renewed solemnity the afternoon Mass at 16:00. The mild and sunny day had further encouraged a huge number of the faithful, all eagerly thanking Maria Rosa Mystica for the many gifts they had received and imploring graces and blessings.

At the end of the Mass, we went in solemn procession to the chapel dedicated to Rosa Mystica and here we have unveiled and blessed a commemorative plaque located outside of the chapel on the right side; it is intended to commemorate the occasion of the celebration of the 50th anniversary with these simple words: *«50 Years have passed since the day that in this blessed place the first prayer flourished to Maria Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church. With a heart full of gratitude the faithful and pil-*

*grims renewed the offer of roses of sacrifice, prayer and penance, invoking the Holy Virgin for the grace of fidelity to the promises of the Holy Baptism».*

Many pilgrims assisted at this ceremony in an atmosphere of great recollection and emotion; Councillor Patrizia Mulé, representing the Mayor of Montichiari, addressed to all attendees heartfelt and sincere words, assuring personal and institutional proximity to the importance of Marian devotion that in these places has been held for fifty years. Also on this solemn occasion we entrusted our journey to Maria Rosa Mystica.

In this place so many roads start, personally, collectively and ecclesiastically, according to the stages and times that do not depend on our will; we renew our entrustment to Mary, here also venerated as the Mother of the Church, pleading her to safeguard her people and to always uphold them on their path of conversion and purification, for the salvation of the world.

*Episcopal delegate*  
**Mgr. Marco Alba**

## A First Mass under the gaze of Maria Rosa Mystica

On Saturday, April 9, in the Cathedral of Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka, by the imposition of hands and prayers by Archbishop Ranjith, Deacon Don Sashika Manoj was ordained priest. On arrival the night before on the island in the beautiful Indian Ocean, I was looking forward with eagerness to the day of ordination. Accompanied by Don Mattia, a young priest from Albenga, also a friend of Don Sashika, we were greeted with exquisite courtesy during our short but intense stay. Even the scorching heat did not stop us to enjoy every moment of this trip. On Saturday morning in the Cathedral, jam full of priests and faithful, the solemn celebration of the ordination was marked by moments of intense emotion; to me the most beautiful moment was when the parents of the newly ordained priests went on the altar and begged their children, by now forever donated to the Lord, to give them the first fruits of their blessing. Then on their knees, they kissed their hands.

Sunday was the first Mass in his home parish dedicated to our little Saint Maria Gtti. It was a wonderful feast with a bunch of little orphans, dancing little girls and boys doing some acrobatic jumps to welcome the young priest. This first Mass was even

more moving than the Ordination; not only all the people of the village were there with us, but also the whole great family of devotees and friends of Rosa Mystica and practically whole Fontanelle was there at the altar. At the end of the Mass, while everyone went to kiss his hands, Don Sashika distributed to everyone



The newly ordained priest with his parents.

a picture of our dear Lady, thus connecting forever his priesthood to Rosa Mystica. I easily could write a hundred of pages to describe those blessed days... Somehow, I beg a few lines more to report a touching episode, which took place after the mass. At the arrival in the house of Shashika's parents, his father and mother, I and Don Mattia assisted to a Marian sacrifice. The new priest lit a candle in the form of a rose at the foot of the statue that was donated by the Foundation in memory of his precious and generous service in Fontanelle. Everybody knelt down while he offered himself, his loved ones, and every one to Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church. In that moment I understood what the devotion to Rosa Mystica in Sri Lanka and the world really means and I shed tears of emotion.

Don Giancarlo



## Mary, our hope

I am not exaggerating at all if I assert that the afternoon of April 17, the day on which we celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fontanelle, was one of the best moments in my lifetime. Yes, those were really happy hours during which I have experienced, as in few other occasions in the course of my life, what true Marian devotion means, i.e. to render praises to the Mother par excellence, abandoned to her in total confidence, to come at the same time in fullness to her Son and through Him, to the Holy Trinity who created all things and governs everything with constant and providential love. During a long worship in front of Jesus in the Sacrament of the Altar and then re-experiencing during the Mass His sacrifice on the Cross and His Resurrection, as never before, it appeared to me how unjust certain criticisms are towards the Catholic Church, stating that too much importance is being given to the Marian cult.

Well, I assure you that in those moments, but also later, when still thinking about it, I had exactly the opposite feeling. It is namely the devotion to Mary, that network of shrines dedicated to her, spread all over the planet, which maintains in these very difficult times the faith of many people in her Son. The in-

terlacing of those invisible but real threads will, despite everything, permit this troubled world to gather around the essence in an unprecedented way. For our Europe, in particular, it means to be able to hold out without getting lost under the heavy pressure to which it is subjected, without denying totally that core of evangelical values around which it is built. I say this because it is precisely due to the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> jubilee of the worship to Rosa Mystica, started for the first time here at Fontanelle in 1966, that I could sense a palpable faith which was almost touchable, an atmosphere full of real sacredness that we all could breathe in. And among all those pilgrims rushing in from everywhere, filling every possible angle in Fontanelle, a large variety of people represents very well what is happening today in Italy. People from every corner of

the world were present, Africans, Asians, South Americans... men and women, young and old, children and adults, healthy and sick.

In short, a whole world in its diversity, more and more numerous and variegated, yet united around the essence, i.e. the faith that there exists a supernatural reality, the hope that it actually cares about our lives, the love and mutual respect that derives from all of this; only love and respect renders a real human life possible. The glue that holds everything together is a woman who two thousand years ago said "yes". A decisive "yes" that merges, in a mysterious but real way, earth and heaven, the human and the divine in Jesus who is man and God and therefore is, and forever will be, the Emmanuel, i.e. "God with us."

**Rosanna Brichetti Messori**



*All over the world believers are united in prayer in communion with Maria Rosa Mystica. Many have sent us messages to us to share their vicinity. We publish some of them and cordially thank and embrace all the group leaders and individuals which messages we cannot publish due to the limitation of space.*

- I join in thanksgiving for next April 17 and wish you all a Holy Easter. **Mgr. Giulio**
- With heartfelt affection we join in with your prayers to Maria Rosa Mystica. **Fr. Augusto and Comunità Adveniat.**
- Dearest Friends of Rosa Mystica, on April 17 we will be together in prayer and in memory of Maria Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church and priests. As a sign of our friendship, I herewith send you a photo taken a few days ago at the Chrism Mass with the bishop and the priests of Mbalmayo. It is a way to tell you that we are close to you in prayer and in service. **Franco Paladini Missionary in Cameroon.**
- I thank Maria Rosa Mystica for her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appearance as well as for my 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood. I will also come to Fontanelle for a thanksgiving. See you soon! **Fr. Vincenzo, Missionary in Brazil.**
- I thank you for all the news coming from Fontanelle. I would have liked to be with you for the celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but due to the parochial activities, for the moment this will not be possible. I will come as soon as I find some free time. God bless you for the intercession of Maria Rosa Mystica. **Don Eugenio, native of the Ivory Coast.**
- Dear friends, I join you in prayer to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary: although far away, I still am close to you with affection. **Sr. Piera, Missionary in Ivory Coast.**

## Timetable for May 2016

### Every day:

16:00 Confessions  
 16:30 H. Rosary

### Every Tuesday and Friday:

16:00 Confessions  
 16:30 H. Rosary  
 17:00 H. Mass

### Saturday:

16:00 Confessions  
 16:30 H. Rosary  
 17:00 H. Mass, pre-festive

### Sundays and feast days:

16:00-18:00 Confessions  
 16:00 Adoration  
 16:30 H. Rosary  
 17:00 Solemn Mass

### May 6 and 7: first Friday and Saturday of the month:

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

### Friday 13: Marian Day

16:00-18:00 Confessions  
 16:00 Adoration  
 16:30 H. Rosary  
 17:00 H. Mass

### From May 2 to 31:

Every weekday: 20.30 - H. Rosary, jointly  
 Every Saturday: 20.30 H. Rosary, jointly with meditation

Information: +39 030 964111

E-mail: [info@rosamisticafontanelle.it](mailto:info@rosamisticafontanelle.it)

*United in prayer  
 all your priests bless you!*

**Foundation Rosa Mystica-Fontanelle**

Monthly bulletin

of the **Foundation Rosa Mystica - Fontanelle**  
**Postbox 134 - 25018 MONTICHIARI** (Brescia) - ITALY

For satellite navigation system: **Via Madonnina**

For communications please contact:

**Loc. Fontanelle - Via Madonnina**  
**Tel. +39 030 964 111**

E-mail: [info@rosamisticafontanelle.it](mailto:info@rosamisticafontanelle.it)

Please view web page: [www.rosamisticafontanelle.it](http://www.rosamisticafontanelle.it)

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Responsible director: Angelo Mor  
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