

# THE VOICE OF ROSA MYSTICA

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

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of the **Associazione Rosa Mystica - Fontanelle**  
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## MOTHER OF GOD, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

“We know that in Fontanelle Rosa Mystica is also venerated as the Mother of the Church. It is a very important aspect that characterizes this Marian place in a positive way. The title of «Mother of the Church», although present for some time in the ecclesial reflection, in reality has just recently acquired its precise definition and position.”

In fact, it was Pope Paul VI who introduced it officially in the closing speech of the Second Vatican Council. It is said, that it was also urged by the events that were unfolding right here in Montichiari and Fontanelle, i.e. in the diocese in which he was born and was formed as a priest, the diocese about which he had to be kept informed. In whatever way things may have evolved, this veneration which was already present here since decades, from that moment on has been officially extended to the entire Church. Precisely for this reason it is therefore

important that we understand well its meaning and to grasp the inner significance of its value. In order to understand it better, let us set out from a recent event with which we started just a few days ago in this new year. We know that from 1967, also by order of Pope Paul VI, on every New Year's Day we celebrate the feast of Mary. It is the most important feast, the one that honors Mary as the «Theotokos» i.e. as the Mother of God. When we are still immersed in the atmosphere of Christmas, are still hearing the echoes of the joyful songs for that Child, so important

to the history of humanity and to each one of us, at that moment the Church invites us to go back to reflect on the one who allowed all this; namely on Mary, on that young girl who opened her heart and her womb to God's plans without any reservation and thus allowed its fulfillment. And it is exactly for this reason that she received the honor to become the «Mother of God». A title – and a reality – that reveal an interesting plan in its inmost. In fact, Mary is the Mother of God because, as we know, Jesus possessed two na-

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## MOTHER OF GOD, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

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tures in His person, the divine and the human one. Because of this, certainly not as a goddess, but just as a woman, she earns this title. In turn, however, it is precisely this human nature which ensures also the human nature of Jesus, who, consequently, is also really one of us, indeed the Emmanuel, that is, «God with us». Therefore, going back to remember Mary as the Mother of God means to return to the starting point. But we do not stop there; instead we continue throughout the liturgical year recalling everything that has followed this event. Mary «pondering everything in her heart», raising that little extraordinary Son; Mary urging Him at Cana to reveal Himself; Mary, who then followed Him discreetly during His public life, until the tragic, but salvific event of His death on the cross. Yes, right there at the foot of the wooden cross where in the meantime, apart from being the Mother, she had also become the first and best disciple of the Son to whom she gave birth, there she received the mission of Mother of the Church, that is, Mother of every member of the People of God. It is true that the official investiture took place in the Upper Room at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles who were gathered around Mary, but in reality the Church was already born precisely in the darkness of the cross, where the role of the physical Mother of Jesus finished, and for her – and for us – her role of spiritual Mother started. This is the role that continues in the present, the role which we remember with faith and love, here at Fontanelle, having recourse to her motherly patronage. She is the Mother of the Church and is therefore, to all intents and purposes, our Mother.

Rosanna Brichetti Messori

## The good smell of Calicanthus

“During the Christmas holidays in Fontanelle we have experienced many moments of spiritual joy and we felt welcome and surrounded by the Love of the Lord and the Blessed Virgin. The novena of Christmas was celebrated and perceived with particular solemnity; the preparation of the altar and beautiful crib, the numerous confessions, the solemn celebrations have been uplifting and of great consolation to everybody. Many confessions have kept the priests busy in the new comfortable confessionals before and during the holidays.”

The harsh weather did not discourage the pilgrims and devotees. On the contrary, together, tightly standing around the Child, born in the shed, with emotion we sang the hymn, which St. Alfonso poured out of his great heart: «*Tu scendi dalle Stelle*»(You have descended from the Stars), and the very well-known and dear words «... *e vieni in una grotta al freddo e al gelo...*» (and you have come in a cave in the cold and the frost) have never been so true and beautiful. The warmth of so many hearts prepared by the Mother to welcome Baby Jesus made us forget the cold and the pouring rain. Welcomed by the Child in the glory of the big wreath of pine branches with berries and red roses, which also decorated the altar and the feet of Rosa Mystica, we all felt enveloped by the Love of God, as members of one big family. The various celebrations were all very solemn thanks to an impeccable liturgical service of big and little altar boys, to the music of our three organists, to the choirs and to all the enthusiastically singing faithful. The incense reminded us of the beauty of prayers rising to the sky, perfumed by the fragrance of flowers: flowers in profusion, as a humble daily honor of so many people who left them with a candle at the feet of the Virgin Mary and in front of the Crib. On the first day of the year, dedicated to the Divine Maternity of Mary, several priests served at the altar. In addition to our Sinhalese seminarian, Shashika, there was a seminarian from Argentina and another one from Vietnam, a priest from Thailand, Fr. Pietro, the tireless confessor, and Fr. Carlo from Ivory Coast. So to say, there was the whole world on the altar and for the whole world we have asked the Virgin Mary for the gift of Peace. The first Friday of the month and the year, we prayed together the traditional daily offering of the Apostleship of Prayer. The first Saturday the delegate of the Bishop, Mgr. Marco Alba, presided at the Solemn Mass, concelebrated by Fr. Pedro Barrajon, former rector of the Pontifical Regina Apostolorum in Rome with confrere Fr. Adrian, who both returned from a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, as well as Fr. Maurizio Gagliardini del Clero di Novara, a longtime friend of Fontanelle. Among the many faithful was Dr. Richard Caniato, journalist and speaker at the great International Conference of Mystical Rose of Panama, last October. The Feast of the Epiphany with the blessing of the children and the kiss of a large crowd of devotees to the Child Jesus, was the most beautiful conclusion of the Christmas feast; simple and solemn at the same time, simple and sweet-smelling as good as the scent of Calicanthus which with its small flowers bloomed on its slender branches, inebriating the chapel with its intense perfume. To this perfume, the tidings of spring, we want to join our best wishes for this New Year: that it may be happy like the flight of a cheerful sparrow, good and fragrant like the little calicanthus.

Don Giancarlo



## Vánoce 2013

Radostné Vánoce přeje  
komunita Naší Paní nad Vltavou.

La comunità  
di Naší Paní nad Vltavou,  
augura buon Natale.

La communauté  
de Naší Paní nad Vltavou  
souhaite un joyeux Noël.

The community  
of Naší Paní nad Vltavou  
wishes you a blessed Christmas



## We have received



■ *From Benin:* Hail Mary! With this letter I and all the kids in our Foyer (House of Charity) St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe would like to express our gratitude to the entire Association of the Rosa Mystica in Fontanelle, for the great help that they have given us this year. We could build a hut and the terrace of the kitchen; with your money we bought a sack of rice, 50 liters of oil, 50 kilograms of meat and 25 kilograms of fish. We all thank you very much and assure you that we always pray for you. Every day, during the mass we present your intentions to the Lord, mentioning your name. We take the opportunity to wish you a holy Christmas and a happy new year. May the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Son Jesus grant to the Association an ever greater development and approval of the final and official appearances of Mary Rosa Mystica. Dear friends, it is true, I dare not to ask for more because you have already done a lot for all of us. May the Lord bless and protect your family and all your beloved ones. Please remember us in this so difficult period for us (for our Institute). Dear Mamma, we really need help not only to finish the jobs that we still have to do, but also for many first necessities. Only then, we can realize our aims. Also, if you have Gregorian Masses, it will be of great help for us.

Your Fr. Agostino Maria. I would like to assure you that the € 500 which you have sent, have been well received by us; there were no problems with our current account.



Spiritually united in prayer with all groups around the world, we participate in the joy of the sisters of the **Community of the Little Missionary Sisters of Mary Rosa Mystica in Brazil** in occasion of the perpetual profession of five sisters and trappist nuns of the **Monastery of the Trappist Klášter nad Vltavou in the Czech Republic**.

## The tender devotion to the Virgin of a seminarian

During the Christmas feasts a young seminarian, Manoj Shashika from Sri Lanka, a student at the International College in Rome «Sedes Sapientiae», has lent his assistance to the moderator of the Devotion of Fontanelle, Fr. Giancarlo. He considered this service as very pleasant and useful since Fontanelle is a place of daily pilgrimages of the Sinhalese faithful, who have a special devotion to the Virgin Rosa Mystica. Shashika, devotee of the Virgin Mary since childhood, led the prayer and the singing of his fellow devotees, who were surprised and delighted to find a seminarian from their homeland in this place. We are sure that our dear readers will find pleasure in reading the prayer of that young seminarian, who commits himself to Rosa Mystica:

“O Mother of Mercy, Rosa Mystica, when we come to You, we recognize ourselves as sinners, eager to find comfort and forgiveness in You, who are our refuge. We humbly implore Your maternal tenderness during our journey in this world. We do not ask great miracles, but humbly beseech You to stay beside us today and always, because You are our support in the journey of our life. O Blessed Virgin Mary Rosa Mystica, help us to live our faith, hope and love in our families, especially in difficult and dark times, when we feel abandoned by all; let us always remember the great love of Jesus, Your Son, for each of us and bring your children to the fullness of this Love. Amen

**Shashika Manoj, seminarian**

## We have received

■ *From Lebanon* - On December 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the H. Mass, invoking peace in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon and Syria, and in particular for the Maaloula sisters. That they may be able to return safe and sound in their convent as soon as possible!



8 dicembre: in Siria con P. Zaher Mehanna.

I am back from Fontanelle with so much strength and joy to serve the Lord through the intercession of Mary Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church. Thank you for your hospitality during my last trip in Fontanelle. I hope to come back on the first Sunday after Easter, either alone or with my parishioners. God bless the works of your hands and grant you peace, serenity, prosperity, and good health for the new year 2014. Many best wishes!

**An African priest who came to Fontanelle**

### SCHEDULE OF PRAYERS

#### TIME TABLE FOR JANUARY 2014

##### Daily:

- 15:00 Confessions
- 16:00 Holy Rosary, Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mediation, Benediction

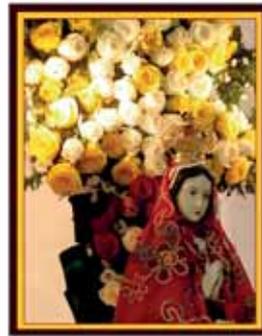
##### Feast days:

- 15:00 Confessions
- 15:00 Exposition of the Most Holy Sacrament, Adoration
- 15:30 Rosary and Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 16:00 Holy High Mass

##### On every 13th of the month:

- 15:00 personal and collective adoration
- 15:30 Meditated H. Rosary
- 16:00 Holy Mass

IV Reunión Nacional de los Peregrinos de María Rosa Mística, México.



8 y 9 de Febrero en Querétaro.

**February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> in Querétaro**

**IV Reunión Nacional de los Peregrinos de María Rosa Mística, México.**

■ *From Mexico* - With pleasure we already see the fruits of the World Congress of Panama. In fact, at the end of the Congress, the various groups were invited to work under one single manager for each state, under the guidance of local priests or bishops. To this purpose the representatives of the various groups will meet each other in a congress in their own country. We received news and an invitation to participate in the groups of Mexico and Argentina, which both are to be held in February.

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■ *From Argentina* - From the 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> a meeting of the group of Argentina will be held in Ciudad de Río Segundo, Provincia de Córdoba, with the participation of representatives from other countries:

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The peace, grace, mercy, love and joy of the Lord be with us all, in our families, in the Church and in the whole world.

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