

THE VOICE OF ROSA MISTICA

MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

FONTANELLE DI MONTICHIARI - (Brescia)

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Let us welcome Jesus in imitation of Mary

*From the apostolic Exhortation Sacramentum Caritatis
of Santo Padre Benedetto XVI*

The Eucharist and the Virgin Mary

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*Mary of Nazareth,
icon of the nascent
Church, is the model
for each of us, called to
receive the gift that
Jesus makes of himself
in the Eucharist*

”

In Mary most holy, we also see perfectly fulfilled the «sacramental» way that God comes down to meet his creatures and involves them in his saving work. From the Annunciation to Pentecost, Mary of Nazareth appears as someone whose freedom is completely open to God's will. Her immaculate conception is revealed precisely in her unconditional docility to God's word. Obedient faith in response to God's work shapes her life at every moment. A virgin attentive to God's word, she lives in com-

plete harmony with His will; she treasures in her heart the words that come to her from God and, piecing them together like a mosaic, she learns to understand them more deeply (cf. Lk 2:19, 51); Mary is the great Believer who places herself confidently in God's hands, abandoning herself to His will.

This mystery deepens as she becomes completely involved in the redemptive mission of Jesus. In the words of the Second Vatican Council, «the blessed

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The Eucharist and the Virgin Mary

FROM PAGE 1

Virgin advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son until she stood at the Cross, in keeping with the divine plan» (cf. Jn 19:25), suffering deeply with her only-begotten Son, associating herself with His sacrifice in her mother's heart, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of the victim who was born of her.

Finally, she was given by the same Christ Jesus, dying on the Cross, as a mother to His disciple, with these words: «Woman, behold your Son».

From the Annunciation to the Cross, Mary is the one who received the Word, made flesh within her and then silenced in death. It is she, lastly, who took into her arms the lifeless body of the one who truly loved His own «to the end» (Jn 13:1).

Consequently, every time we approach the Body and Blood of Christ in the eucharistic liturgy, we also turn to her who, by her complete fidelity, received Christ's sacrifice for the whole Church. The Synod Fathers rightly declared that «Mary inaugurates the Church's participation in the sacrifice of the Redeemer». She is the Immaculate, who receives God's gift unconditionally and is thus associated with His work of salvation.

Mary of Nazareth, icon of the nascent Church, is the model for each of us, called to receive the gift that Jesus makes of Himself in the Eucharist.

Saint Maria Crocifissa di Rosa prepares the encounter with Rosa Mistica

“In the entire episode relating to Rosa Mistica and the seer Pierina Gilli there is one really interesting fact, but which is not known by everyone. It is the initial role of the Blessed Crocifissa, founder of the Ancelle della Carità di Brescia (represented in Fontanella by her statue). As in fact it is known and highlighted hereafter by the historian Professor Mimmo Petullà, it was exactly this religious to appear for the first time to Pierina Gilli, preparing her for the successive encounters with Mary.

The Marian apparitions received by Pierina Gilli cover the period from November 24, 1946 until March 24, 1983. The extraordinary events, enclosed in a dense chronological span, are quoted in detailed reports, written by herself. An interesting affirmation regarding these diaries was made by Mgr. Enrico Rodolfo Galbiati – a biblicist of international fame – who, besides having thoroughly examined all the writings of the seer, had the opportunity of knowing and appreciating the events by observation on the spot: «The authenticity is beyond doubt, the spelling remains always the same, the grammatical and syntax errors are repeated from the beginning to the end».

The apparitions begin in Brescia in the convent of the Suore Ancelle della Carità, in which Pierina Gilli – on August 14, 1944 – has entered at the age of thirty-three as a postulant, realizing her vocation which she guarded in her heart for a long time. It is a ministry which brings her to offer her services as a nurse at the hospital for children. In this regard some affirmations are collected by Don Luigi Bonomini (one of the confessors of Pierina Gilli) and merged into a first report about the events, under the following title: *Report on the occurrences of seemingly extraordinary character which takes place in Brescia and Montichiari from August 1944 to November 1947. Drawn from the statements of the protagonist, Pierina Gilli, born in Montichiari, on August 3, 1911*». In addition, every page reporting the testimonies of the woman – a.o. carefully submitted in chronological order – has been duly signed by the same Don Bonomini: «For a long time I heard inside me the voice of the Lord inviting me to follow Him closely. AUGUST 14, 1944. I entered into the Order of the Ancelle della Carità in Brescia. After about 15 days I was sent to the Ospedale dei Bambini to give there assistance as a nurse. With enthusiasm I fulfilled my tasks in that place until the end of November».

But her tireless charity suddenly was interrupted by an illness - in this case a serious form of meningitis – which struck her down on December 1, after only several months of service. From the beginning her condition was visibly serious, to the extent that it became indispensable to transport her to the infirmary of Ronco where she fell into a state of unconsciousness, a reason for which the Last Sacraments were even administered to her.

In the context of this extreme and delicate contingency which at the end could be irretrievably leading to death – «The doctors and sisters were unanimously of the opinion that there was no hope for me of any recovery». – the founder of the Ancelle della Carità,

FROM MEXICO - Dear brothers, Today, more than ever, we have to become aware that our work is demanded in support of God's plan. Very often we think: «What do I have to do». and next we think that we have no time, that we are nothing to do something and even less for the things of God. But that is not the case: Moses was called, David as well and so was each of the disciples of Jesus and some of them doubted and discussed, but they were willing to be guided by the grace of God. Our mission is prayer and we should not fall in activism, nor abandon the real appeal that God makes to us, but continue in humility and in silence, without putting ourselves forward, but filled with the grace of God. United in one heart, we all pray as requested by Maria Rosa Mistica, as inspired by St. Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa, as experienced by our sister Pierina: that is what we have to accept and to observe. Do not be afraid to diffuse this communication of our brothers in Italy: diffuse it and pray to God that His Divine will be manifested and accomplished. God bless you.

Gabriel

FROM AFRICA:

A group of novices praying at the feet of Rosa Mistica in Africa



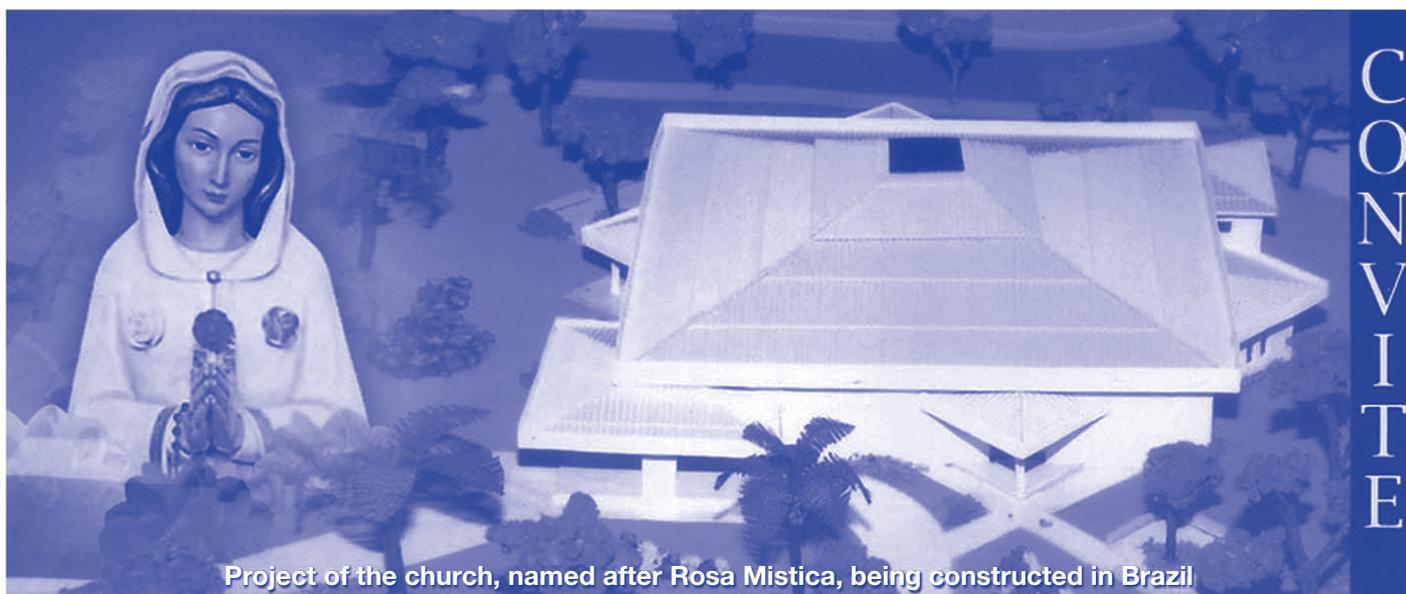
i.e. St. Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa (Pius XII proclaimed her in 1954 as a saint) appeared to Pierina Gilli. Her mortal remains are guarded in Brescia, in the mother house): exactly on the day of her feast, i.e. December 17, 1944. This extraordinary figure assumes – in the context of the Montichiari apparitions – an undisputed and fundamental importance. Her intercessional interventions are offered to Pierina Gilli as a kind of pathway, aimed to prepare spiritually the woman to welcome the apparitions, which successively will reveal the Virgin, Rosa Mistica, as the protagonist. It is somehow important to add that we are not facing an absolute novelty. In fact, at Fatima, already before the apparitions of the Virgin – precisely in the spring of 1915 – the presence of the angel is necessary in the sign of a veritable preparative function for the three little shepherds.

Returning on the apparitions of St. Crocifissa Di Rosa, it is interesting to report the testimony which Pierina Gilli notes down in her diary: *Around six o'clock in the morning I heard somebody opening the door: I saw a Sister dressed in black entering the small room. Not knowing any sister of that house, I thought she was the Rev. Mother Superior. The Sister moved nearer to my bed and said: «How are you Pierina?» I answered: «I have a terrible headache». The Sister continued: «I have here a small jar which a Lady gave me containing an ointment to rub with». I saw in fact that she was holding a small jar. It must be noted that the following words, still uttered by the founder, are not overtaken by the usual miraculous character. In fact, the healing, although explicitly announced, is set in the perspective of a long convalescence: She continued: «The pain you are feeling in your head will continue for some time. You have to carry a nude cross: then you will recover». Having said this, she made a sign that I should to turn on my side and she herself applied the ointment on the painful parts, namely the back and the head. I thanked her and she smiled at me and went out.*

At any rate, the recuperation of her health – manifested by a sudden, optimal and self-sufficient recovery of her global conditions – was so noticeable after the apparition, as to arouse the astonishment of one of the sisters

– a nurse – who entered the room shortly afterwards: *After a while I saw another sister, dressed in white, coming in. Afterwards I learnt that she was a nurse. Looking at me with big eyes, the nursing sister came closer, requiring me about my state of health. I answered: «I feel better». She proposed me to receive the Holy Communion; I gladly accepted it. After the Holy Communion she offered me a cup of coffee and was amazed to hear me talking without difficulty and to see me sitting on the bed without any help. Before I could neither talk nor move myself. Quite soon it was possible to ascertain that none of the sisters who were present, could have brought the beneficial ointment to Pierina: therefore, it only must have been the Saint Founder. To this conclusion came mainly the Mother Superior – through a precise evaluation of the occurrence – as well as the seer herself, who took notice of the features and the behaviour of the figure that had appeared to her, as well as of her remarkable mildness and expressive traits: Before she left I asked the sister to call the Rev. Mother Superior because I wanted to thank her for the care she provided with such amiability. The Ref. Mother Superior came and wanted to know with precision about the time and the way in which I got this improvement. As a matter of fact it turned out that neither the Rev. Mother nor other sisters have been with me that morning. The sisters thought it was the blessed Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa, their Founder, whose feast day was being celebrated on that same day. I too am convinced that it must have been really the Saint Founder, because in spite of all my concern, in none of the sisters I could recognize the physiognomy of the one who had rubbed the painful parts of my body and who had talked and smiled so sweetly at me.*

Since then until some successive weeks, Pierina had been able to return to her benevolent and ordinary activities as a postulant. In spite of that, other unbearable sufferings arose – which obviously provoked a further aggravation of the overall picture – they hospitalized her again for approximately two months. Taking the ceaseless tribulations into consideration the doctors came to the conclusion that the physical conditions of the woman were insufficient for a religious life.



Project of the church, named after Rosa Mistica, being constructed in Brazil

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First International Forum «Rosa Mistica» postponed until next year

The idea to promote the **FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM «ROSA MISTICA»**, is fundamentally inspired by the consciousness of being in front of a Marian devotion, of which the diffusion – originated in Montichiari and Fontanelle – by now is spread over every part of the world. The International Encounter of Missionaries of Rosa Mistica recently held in Bogotá, Columbia, is the most meaningful example of it: even thirteen countries, representing the Latin-American churches, have met each other to breathe life into an interesting and fruitful exchange of spiritual and cultural experiences. The time is therefore ripe to start a serious in-depth examination – of distinctive scientific nature – aiming to reconstruct, on the one hand, the devotional dimension, and on the other hand, to gather the theological specificity of the innumerable apparitions. It is a question of examining well a period which needs to be contextualized in its widest historical horizon of reference, in which a complex of situations is moving, with as protagonist the figure of Pierina Gilli. All are convinced, on the one hand, that to try to understand – in obviously a responsible and involving way – the most profound reasons of certain extraordinary phenomena, could contribute to bring more light, in order to be able to offer to the collectivity more objective data – historical and theological – and which, at the same time, can be more serenely supported.

It was our intention to realize this Forum in Montichiari in October 2012, but due to various logistic reasons, we are forced to postpone this encounter. As always we welcome with fraternal joy and in communion of prayer every pilgrim who coming to Monti-

chiari at the feet of Rosa Mistica. **Instead, we have to advise those intending to participate in the Forum to postpone their visit to Montichiari until next year.** We will advise you well in advance, as soon as this encounter will be made available.

SCHEDULE OF PRAYERS

SCHEDULE DURING WINTER FROM OCTOBER 1 UNTIL MARCH 31

Sunday and holidays: Vespers 15:00; H. Mass 16:00

Every Day: H. Rosary: 10:00 – 14:30 – 15:30
- Vespers and catechesis 16:00

Saturday and Sunday: confessor present from 15:00

The 13th of every month MARIAN DAY
– uninterrupted recitation of the Rosary from 14:30

The Sunday after the 13th:
Procession at 15.30 in honour of Rosa Mistica; on return H. Mass at 16:00

Every afternoon at 16:00 there will be a priest for confession or talks.
The groups in arrival are requested to inform here at Fontanelle
phone +39 030 964111

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

**The editorial staff and the Associazione
Rosa Mistica-Fontanelle**

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