

THE VOICE OF ROSA MYSTICA

MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

FONTANELLE DI MONTICHIARI - (Brescia)

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2018 - YEAR 28 - N. 6
Monthly bulletin of the Foundation Rosa Mystica - Fontanelle Montichiari (Bs) - Italy



Paulus VI

*Lord, I believe:
I want to believe in You*

- O Lord, may
my faith be full
- O Lord, may
my faith be free
- O Lord, may
my faith be certain
- O Lord, may
my faith be strong
- O Lord, may
my faith be happy
- O Lord, may
my faith be active

Amen.



MARY, GATE OF HEAVEN

“In a few days we will celebrate in Fontanelle the great Solemnity of all the Saints and we will be invited by the liturgy to contemplate the Celestial City, as well as the transfigured faces of the Saints, living witnesses of a new life in Christ, resplendent with beauty, trusting in their friendship and the common bond that inseparably unites the universal Church and the Church along the way in the constant trials of history.”

I think it is important to cultivate the attentive and humble gaze of faith, not to let some providential coincidences escape us: if on the one side the historical path of the Church is experiencing difficult times – perhaps unthinkable until a few years ago – which force us to question and ask ourselves with greater intensity the reasons for our faith and our hope, on the other hand it is undeniable that in this very moment our universal and diocesan Church does not stop challenging us, by reminding us of the luminous example of the Saints and the baptismal vocation

of each one of us to lead a holy life; it is an urgent appeal to our free responsibility.

The sequence with which these challenges have alternated was almost urgent: last spring Pope Francis published the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exultate*, precisely on the theme of the call to holiness in the contemporary world; it is precisely in this current context, often confused, that we have been invited to put our roots back into what is essential in the life of Grace, in the transfiguring action of the Spirit who patiently acts within the most hidden folds

of everyday life, “in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile...”

This summer, to mark the beginning of his pastoral journey, our Bishop Pierantonio published a programmatic pastoral letter of his apostolic ministry in our Diocese, entitled: “*The beauty of living*”, on the sanctity of the faces and the faces of holiness: this subtitle wishes to help us to

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Mary, Gate of Heaven

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understand what precisely is the face of each one of us, enlightened by the gaze of Christ, the first area of witness that can always challenge and fascinate the heart of those who seek Truth and Love, even before any apostolic or charitable activity: *“I would like to speak in my letter about holiness, but not as a theme to be treated (...) but as the horizon in which to place ourselves (...), the perspective in which to walk together as a Church, as the aim towards which we go...”*

On Sunday, October 14, in St. Peter’s Square, seven new saints were canonized, among them Paul VI, the Pope from Brescia, who so much loved and defended the Church in historical moments of great, perhaps epochal changes. In his homily of canonization, Pope Francis wanted to remind us of the following: *“The*



holy Pope Paul VI wrote: “It is indeed in the midst of their distress that our fellow men need to know joy, to hear its song.” Today Jesus

invites us to return to the source of joy, which is the encounter with him, the courageous choice to risk everything to follow him, the satisfaction of leaving something behind in order to embrace his way. The saints have travelled this path. Even in the midst of tiredness and misunderstanding, Paul VI bore witness in a passionate way to the beauty and the joy of following Christ totally.”

This is the great path to which we are all called, in today’s journey of history, companions of the people we meet: this is why we feel more and more the need to entrust ourselves at this time to the Queen of the World, the Gate of Heaven, Rosa Mystica and Mother of the Church. Her maternal tenderness awakens in us the desire for Heaven, the communion of the Saints, and the passion to announce to the world a joyful and hopeful faith.

Mgr. Marco Alba
Episcopal delegate

FAITH: A JOURNEY OF CONTINUOUS GROWTH

Since I met Rosa Mystica - Mother of the Church, more than twenty years ago, I have always reflected on that trionym: *“Prayer, sacrifice, penance”*, which is at the center of the whole message and is in short expressed, by those three roses that Mary bears on her chest: the red, the white and the golden-yellow. I thought that I had caught at least the essential. And perhaps it was true, but the fact is that, pondering again about it a short while ago, almost suddenly, I realized that those three simple words contain a depth that until then had escaped me and, full of joy, I wish to communicate it to you. Thus, in the next bulletins, I will return to speak first of prayer, then of sacrifice and, finally, of penance and of what Maria wants to say and to ask us, while indicating us this way. First, let me talk a little bit about deepening the spiritual things that I have, perhaps for the first time, so clearly grasped and that I understood as a very important aspect of the whole faith.

I would like to start with John when, in his Gospel, referring to the words full of love that Jesus told the apostles during His last supper with them: *“I have much more to tell you, but now it would be too much for you to bear. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you to the whole truth, because he will not speak for himself, but will say all that he has heard and will announce to you the things to come”*. (Jn 16: 12-13). These are verses of the Gospel in which the people of God, i.e. all believers, are always interpreted as a large group under the leadership of the Church, on their way to an ever-deepening knowledge of the truth, which is gradually increasing in history, to the end of time, namely the Apocalypse. Well, as I said, this awareness of myself being a living part of this people on the way to a more profound truth, recently has become more acute and almost suddenly I realized that I myself, on an individual level, in the course of my life, was called to relive this entire journey that the Church has done



The blessed buns distributed on October 13 and 14.

The celebrations on October 13 and 14 brought together a multitude of pilgrims, either here in Fontanelle or in the seats of many faithful scattered all over the world. In Lebanon, for example, the various prayer groups that have adopted the name Rosa Mystica, gather on solemn occasions to celebrate together under the leadership of the initiators. A dear friend writes us:

“Saturday, October 13, at the Cathedral of St. George Zahle, we celebrated a very special Marian day: the Communion of Reconciliation and the memory of the apparition in Fatima, so close in content of the Marian message. We began our prayer with a complete Rosary, followed by a memorable Mass with Fathers Antonio Badr, Elie Ghazal and Joseph Chalhoub. We thank everyone for their collaboration in prayer, speech and welcome to stress the importance of the anniversary.”

During these months, many pilgrims came to Fontanelle, sometimes as family groups and others accompanied by priests and bishops stayed for a long time in prayer. A cardinal came for the third consecutive year on pilgrimage to pay tribute to Maria Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church, with about fifty new priests. In September, Sinhalese residing in Italy for work celebrated the celebration each year in honor of Rosa Mystica, co-patron of their country.

We are looking forward to you for the solemn feast of Mary Immaculate on December 8.

from the beginning – and even before her by the people of Israel – within my heart.

What do I mean by these words? That I myself have to relive in some way the Old Covenant, the exile in Egypt, the return to the Promised Land through the desert, the gift of the Decalogue, and then the encounter with Jesus, His proclamation of the Kingdom, His passion, death, resurrection, the descent of the Holy Spirit. Yes, that Spirit that little by little will guide me, but also each of you, each human being, to discover and to live an ever fuller truth. This means that, through the events of my life, I too am called to develop an ever-increasing awareness of what it means to believe, through a series of steps that should make me grow. That is, starting from a childlike faith, small, easy to betrayal – remember that golden calf that symbolizes all those idols that we so often adore in the place of God? – it is a faith that increasingly demands a lot, and reciprocates instead the love of God in just a minimal way or even almost nothing. These are inevitable steps, year after year full of experiences and disappointments, yet with

the joy of life, to achieve a faith that is maturing, to love in a better way God and our neighbor, as ourselves.

Yet, this can only happen if, despite everything, that is, despite our limitations and our sins, we know how to remain in some way open to grace, that is for the love of God who elaborates, molds, refines, improves and heals us always a little more to the bottom of our heart. A heart that in the course of time becomes more sensitive, welcomes and better understands the word of God and perceives more easily those small illuminations that the Spirit gives us from time to time, to make us grow. I think it happened also for the message of Maria Rosa Mystica. Maybe with the years, even my heart, in spite of everything, by divine gift, was made more sensitive to divine love, my faith deepened and in conclusion, I understood something more than those three words: “prayer, sacrifice, penance”, which, as we shall see, summarize the Christian mystery in a fantastic manner. We will talk later about it.

Rosanna Brichetti Messori

SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2018

Daily:

15:00 Confessions.
16:00 H. Rosary.

Each friday:

15:00 Confessions.
15:30 H. Rosary or Stations of the Cross.
16:00 H. Mass.

Saturday

15:00 Confessions.
15:30 H. Rosary.
16:00 H. Mass, prefestive.

Sundays and feast days

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

Thursday, November 1: *Feast of all Saints*

15:00 Confessions - Eucharistic Adoration
15:30 Rosary.
16:00 Solemn Mass, prayer for all our passed away benefactors.

Friday, November 2: *All Souls' day.*

Tuesday, November 13 - *Marian Day*

15:00 Confessions - Eucharistic Adoration.
15:30 Rosary
16:00 Holy Mass

Wednesday, November 21:

Memory of the Presentation of the B.V. Mary

15:00: Confessions
15:30: H. Rosary
16:00: Holy Mass

Sunday, November 25 - *Solemnity of Christ the King*

Sunday, December 2 - *Beginning of Advent Time*

Saturday, December 8: *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception*

09:00 joint prayer.
10:00-12:00 Confessions.
10:30 Procession.
11:00 High Mass – followed by the Hour of Grace.
Afternoon:
15:00 Confessions – Eucharistic Adoration.
15:30 H. Rosary.
16:00 High Mass.

Saturday, December 15:

In memory of St. Crocifissa Di Rosa

Tuesday 25 December:

Solemnity of the HOLY CHRISTMAS

15:00 Confessions.
15:30 S. Rosario.
16:00 High Mass.

Wednesday, December 26:

Feast of St. Stephen martyr

15:00 Confessions.
15:30 S. Rosario.
16:00 High Mass.

Tuesday, January 1, 2019

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of the Lord

15:00 Confessions.
15:30 S. Rosario.
16:00 High Mass.

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The Equatorial Guinea group visiting Fontanelle.

The postage costs for the delivery of the bulletin "The Voice of Rosa Mystica" are increasing; we beg the help of the kind readers to preserve the relationship with the faithful. Those who can receive it by e-mail please send us your e-mail. Those who want to continue to receive the paper newsletter by post, please contribute with a minimum offer to the costs. The Foundation will continue to send it to those who wish to receive it, but have no means to contribute.

THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE WITH DONATIONS AND OFFERS, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING BANKING COORDINATES:

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The lack of space does not permit us to publish many other beautiful testimonials co-operating in the recognition of the case; they are kept in the archive. We all feel united in prayer in the maternal heart of Maria Rosa Mystica.

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