

THE VOICE OF ROSA MYSTICA

MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

FONTANELLE DI MONTICHIARI - (Brescia)

JULY-AUGUST 2019 - YEAR 29 - N. 4

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

July 13, 1947

Diary of Pierina

“I wish the 13th of each month to be a Marian day, with special preparatory prayers during 12 days”.

“This day must be a reparation for the offenses committed against Our Lord by consecrated souls”.

“This day must be sanctified with special prayers such as the Holy Mass, the Holy Communion, the Rosary, the Hour of Adoration”.

“I wish that every July 13th of each year to be celebrated by every religious Institute”.



THE MARIAN WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARIES AND THE APPARITIONS

“As many of our readers will already know, since last May, Pope Francis has officially granted the possibility of organizing pilgrimages in ‘public’ form in one of the most important Marian shrines in the world, visited for almost 40 years by millions of pilgrims, in the known Bosnian town of Medjugorje.”

This important papal authorization means that from now on pilgrimages can be freely organized and guided both by the dioceses and by the parishes, without the necessity to organize them in a ‘private’ form, or under the guidance and by the initiative of an individual faithful, as done until now.

Subject to the right proportions and obvious differences, I believe that this turning point, certainly of great importance to *Medjugorje*,

can emphasize the delicate historical phase of Fontanelle di Montichiari; in fact, it helps us to better understand the task of discernment of the ecclesiastical authority of facing the phenomenon of alleged Marian apparitions, and the consequent necessity to wisely regulate the often rapid and vast rise and spreading of the Marian cult in the places concerned with such exceptional phenomena.

As Pope Francis reiterated, in its pastoral concern, the ecclesiastical

authority can only favor and promote places of Marian worship, especially in view of the ever increasing number of the faithful who go there on pilgrimage and the abundant fruits of grace and conversion that flourish in these contexts; in this sense, a more organized organization of the cult and under the direct responsibility of the pastors and the Bishop of the local church can only guarantee a better efficacy and accessi-

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The Marian worship in the sanctuaries and the apparitions

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bility of the means of grace and sacrament therein present, for the good of the souls and therefore the good of the universal Church itself.

The exercise of this pastoral responsibility in the constant verification of the fruits according to the evangelical style, becomes perhaps even more necessary in the phase in which, in *Medjugorje* as well as in Fontanelle, the phenomenon of alleged Marian apparitions has not yet been definitively judged by the Church, but is under close scrutiny by the Holy See. It seems clear that the recognition and authorization of the Marian cult in a 'public' form while marking a decidedly important step on the path of ecclesial discernment, should not be interpreted as an automatic recognition also of the authenticity of the Marian apparitions or as an implicit doctrinal turn in this direction; however the ecclesiastical authority, while it continues the phase of study and deepening the authenticity of the facts, recognizes the goodness of the fruits that arise from these religious experiences and the great diffusion of the popular devotion, assuming direct responsibilities to protect the spiritual wellness of all

pilgrims and to safeguard a good pastoral care of the places of worship.

This is also the commitment that the bishops of Brescia have assumed ever more explicitly and directly, since 2001, in the management of the Marian cult at Fon-

tanelle di Montichiari, in constant dialogue with the Holy See: this path is greatly fruitful, despite the fatigue of some phases, both for the benefit of the pilgrims, and in terms of the current phase of discernment and investigation – recently or dating back to the time of the facts – about the overall phenomenon of the alleged apparitions. Aware that the cult of Rosa Mystica is spreading more and more in so many dioceses of the world, as we are constantly being informed by bishops, priests, religious and faithful, we considered it very important to highlight the path that has been underway for some time in the Diocese of Brescia, in the simple desire to offer some criteria of action and pastoral discernment that can be of help for an ever more genuine and effective diffusion of the cult of Mary, always ready to listen to the Holy Spirit and with faithfulness to the teachings of the Church, our Mother.

Mgr. Marco Alba
Episcopal Delegate

Mother of Jesus, our Mother, Mother of the Church

“On June 11 the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church was celebrated throughout the Church. Perhaps not everyone knows that this feast has a history behind it, an interesting story that also directly involves Montichiari and Fontanelle and therefore each of us as a devotee of Rosa Mystica. Therefore, I would like to tell you about it.”

Let us start with the most recent events, namely, the fact that this celebration was officially celebrated only from last year, i.e. from 2018, when Pope Francis issued a decree dated 11 February – the anniversary of the first appearance of Lourdes – and with this established the date for this feast, specifying its reasons. While the date was therefore established on the Monday following Pentecost, it was specified that: “This celebration will help us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet and to the offering Mother of the Redeemer and

Mother of the Redeemed”. That is, the incarnation of the Word in Jesus, His death on the cross and His resurrection, but also the important role of sharing with the Son and supporting His mission, which the Virgin Mary unceasingly is realizing. A maternal role, at the foot of the cross, that from the moment her dying Son entrusted her His human brothers, she instantly began to put into practice, precisely from this Cenacle where together with the apostles she was waiting for the manifestation of the Spirit. She, the Mother of this Church, born in the concealment of Calvary, found her official status at Pentecost.

In fact, to have established the feast of Mary, Mother of the Church, and to have fixed the date is the point of arrival of a journey initiated since the first Christian centuries. Already the Fathers, that is, the many giants of sanctity and doctrine that the Lord imparted to his Church in the first centuries, to find its own form and stability, have always recognized Mary’s motherhood over the whole Church. Among them, St. Augustine called her: “Mother of the members (of Christ) ... Because she worked with her charity at the birth of the faithful in the Church, who are the members of that Head “. At the end of the Second Vatican Council, which had taken up all this tradition, but had not reached an official definition, Paul VI, on November 21, 1964, had officially proclaimed “Mary Most Holy Mother of the Church,” to the glory of the Virgin and to our consolation” hoping that with this title, placed from that moment onwards in particular evidence, “the Christian people would pay even more honor to her and invoke her”. This happened more and more, until the establishment of the feast, of which we spoke. However, it is precisely in this operation of growth, in this growing awareness of the role

of Mary, not only in the living Jesus, but also in the Church that was born from her, that Montichiari and Fontanelle are inserted with considerable importance. To the point that it seems quite likely that Paul VI himself, who was certainly aware of what was happening in his original diocese, probably has drawn inspiration and strength from it for this official proclamation.

We know that the Marian apparitions that would have taken place here in 1947 and furthermore in 1966, are still under study. However, their contents, perfectly adherent to the Christian faith, have already found life in the devotion of the faithful and in the recognized cult. Right here, since 1947, Mary presented herself as “Rosa Mystica”, “Mother of Jesus and of all of you”, ultimately choosing the cathedral of Montichiari, in the very center of this church, for her most important messages. At that time, she did not present any particular explanations, but she used symbols that later on revealed their very important signification. This happened on 22 July 1973, when she said very important things: “In ‘Rosa Mystica’ the Fiat of the Redemption and the Fiat of my collaboration are symbolized. I am the Immaculate Conception, the Mother of Lord Jesus, the Mother of grace. The Mother of the Mystical Body: the Church! This is why my divine Son invited me to come to Montichiari in 1947 and then I came, putting my feet in the center of the Cathedral in the midst of so many children... and this to show that I am the Mother of the Mystical Body, the Church”. Adding, that she, precisely as Mother of this Church, had been sent to warn us that “dark times, full of atheism and weakening of love towards the Lord” were coming. Today these are visible to everybody.

Rosanna Brichetti Messori

We have received

■ **A parish priest of Brescia** - The human heart opens up to faith through a strong Marian experience; Mary also brings men and her Son together. In our parish communities it is not easy to transmit the faith, to live the prayer and the liturgy together with young people and young parents, but often when praying the holy Rosary or if there are Marian events, such as the procession of the “Pilgrim Virgin”, you see them reappear; probably these new generations are not so refractory to the faith, but through Mary they could approach the Word of God. Moreover, we all have before our eyes the challenges that the Church is facing: new forms of “spirituality without God”, secularization, idolatry of money.

In this regard, Pope Francis writes in the *Evangelii Gaudium* (number 74) “...What is called for is an evangelization capable of shedding light on these new ways of relating to God, to others and to the world around us, and inspiring essential values.



It must reach the places where new narratives and paradigms are being formed, bringing the word of Jesus to the inmost soul of our cities”.

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Today it is really necessary to find new ways, to look for new models to evangelize the people of our time, thus it is important to pray to the Holy Spirit, so that He may inspire and guide His Church. As a parish priest, I can affirm that the love for the Virgin Mary does not fade even in these moments of religious disaffection; She attracts to herself the hearts of many people: I am therefore convinced that it is necessary to find new ways to announce the Gospel, and the path full of grace such as Mary's dedication is so valuable that we must seek those means with the help of our Mother.

The Holy Rosary and the Marian places are a source of recharge and spiritual growth for many Christians. Many passages in the diaries of Pierina Gilli have given me insights, one in particular, that

of November 15, 1966 in which Pierina asks the Virgin the reason for so many punishments in Italy. Probably she was referring to the numerous floods that occurred in that period, including the most famous: that of the Arno. The Virgin inspired these words to Pierina: "Do not accept it as a punishment, the danger of punishment is the atheism that is trying to upset humanity. My maternal love will prevent it".

I am convinced of this truth; certainly, the present Marian devotion is a barrier to the widespread relativism.

The dedication of our communities to the Heart of Mary and the recollection of the great values of prayer, penance and sacrifice for the salvation of the world are certainly not part of the past. In my community, the statue of Rosa Mystica accompanied us in prayer for families and religious vocations throughout the month of May. Maria Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church, pray for us!

MONTHLY TIMETABLE OF JULY AND AUGUST 2019

SUMMER TIME: Holy Mass Celebration: Friday, Saturday and Sunday

From monday to thursday

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

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.

Sunday and feast days

16:00-18.00 Confessions. 16:00 Adoration

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

Saturday, july 13

Marian Day of Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church

16:00 Confessions – Eucharistic Adoration.

16:30 H. Rosary.

17:00 High Mass.

Sunday, july 14

Feast of Maria Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church

10-12 Confessions.

10:00 Eucharistic Adoration.

10:30 H. Rosary.

11:00 High Mass.

16-18 Confessions.

16:00 Eucharistic Adoration.

16:30 H. Rosary.

17:00 High Mass.

Friday, July 26 – Memory of Sts. Joachim and Anna, parents of the Virgin Mary

Tuesday, august 13

Marian Day of Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church

16:00 Confessions - Eucharistic Adoration.

16:30 H. Rosary.

17:00 High Mass.

Thursday, august 15

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

16-18 Confessions.

16:00 Eucharistic Adoration.

16:30 H. Rosary.

17:00 High Mass.

Thursday, august 22

Feast of the Holy Virgin, Queen of Heaven

Information: +39 030 964111 - info@rosamisticafontanelle.it

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.

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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.

Foundation Maria Rosa Mystica - Fontanelle

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