

Brescia, November 21, 2019

Dear All,

The places and structures in our Diocese in the Fontanelle area, in the territory of the parish of Santa Maria Immacolata in Borgosotto di Montichiari (BS), have for many years now become an important spiritual reference point and a place of pilgrimage for thousands of faithful from Italy and from abroad.

This impressive phenomenon of prayer and veneration towards the holy Mother of the Lord – here invoked as Rosa Mystica and Mother of the Church – is linked in a way that is not secondary to the spiritual experience of Pierina Gilli (1911-1991), an experience that is the subject of a renewed phase of study and discernment by the ecclesiastical authority, both at the diocesan level and in the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The purpose of this in-depth investigation is to better understand whether and how this kind of spiritual experience can promote and increase the current Christian life, the sense of belonging to the Church and the participation in their mission of evangelization, under the protection and inspiration of the Holy Mother of the Lord.

Since 2001, my esteemed predecessors, in strict agreement with the indications of the competent organs of the Apostolic See, constantly reaffirmed the importance of welcoming and recognizing the exercise of public worship in the Fontanelle area, moderating it through the promulgation of special diocesan directives.

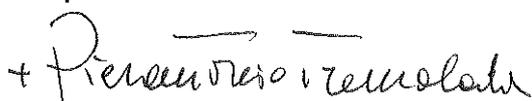
It is a joy for me to inform you that at my explicit request, the Apostolic See itself, through the Congregation for Worship, has allowed the Diocesan Shrine *Rosa Mystica - Mother of the Church* to be instituted at this location and I willingly intend to establish it with a special decree, starting from 7 December 2019. On that occasion – the eve of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception – I will personally visit these places to solemnly celebrate the Eucharist, thus inaugurating the spiritual path of the diocesan sanctuary.

With such a solemn proclamation, the missionary potential of these sacred places is, in fact, also recognized on the canonical level, in order to consolidate, strengthen and increase the numerous spiritual fruits germinated here over time. To this end, I would like the pastoral care of pilgrims to be intensified and to be well understood, to remain constant and that the celebrations of the Sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist will be even more active and fruitful. I also intend to provide soon for the appointment of the Rector of the Sanctuary and for the definition of the statutes concerning the life and activity of the sanctuary itself.

Grateful to the Lord for this gift that enriches our diocesan church, we entrust our journey to the Holy Mother of God and invoke from her the grace of an ever more intensely faith, lively hope and an active charity.

I affectionately invoke the Lord's blessing upon all.

† Pierantonio Tremolada

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Pierantonio Tremolada". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

N.B. Every first Saturday of the month, starting from Saturday, January 4, 2020 at 10:30 Holy Mass will be celebrated, preceded by the rosary at 10:00 according to the desire expressed by the Virgin Mary to the children of Fatima.