
THE VOICE OF ROSA MYSTICA

MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

FONTANELLE DI MONTICHIARI - (Brescia)

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Quarterly bulletin of the Rosa Mystica Foundation – Fontanelle Montichiari



CONSECRATION TO THE VIRGIN MARY

Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday 25 March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, in a great gesture of prayer lived in communion with the universal Church, in particular with the Shrine of Fatima, and inviting all Marian shrines to join his intentions. It is a very ancient form of prayer rooted in the Church, dating back to at least the eighth century, which certainly found a well-known historical descent in the apparition of July 13, 1917 in Fatima: on this occasion the Madonna, who as well known, had explicitly asked for the consecration of Russia to Her Immaculate Heart.

It is a very serious and at the same time simple, immediate devotional gesture, and it manifests a desire that was never interrupted in the hearts of the faithful and in the ecclesial conscience of the Christian people; the children of God, reborn in Baptism, never give up wanting to belong completely to Mary and to give

themselves to Her. They perceive in the consecration the most adequate response to adhere to Her maternal mediation and, entrusting themselves completely to Her, experience in the trials of life a certain way of consolation and sanctification. "Consecrating oneself to Our Lady", Father Gabriele Amorth emphasized, "means welcoming Her as a true Mother, following the example of John, because he was the first to take her motherhood for us seriously".

We consecrate ourselves to Mary in order to be totally owned by Her, to achieve a profound interior conformity with Her. We offer ourselves to Mary to become little by little the property of the Spirit who fashioned the humanity of the Son and Her own maternal Heart. Those who give themselves to Mary in this way, begin to experience in life the sweetness and delicate attentions that She has for Her beloved children, they begin to feel the charm of the great virtues that reign in Her Heart: faith, strength,

availability to the voice of God, prudence, meekness, boundless love for God and for mankind. Consecrating ourselves to Mary can never obscure our full dedication to Jesus, to His Heart, but arranges it ever better, facilitates it, strengthens it: if God has liked to grant us His graces through Mary, constituting Her as the universal Mediatrix of salvation, to welcome the Son through His own Mother it is the simplest way to welcome and re-discover the faith.

God offers us Mary's mediation because he knows how much She can respond to the deepest needs of our heart, thirsting for maternal affection and the sweetness of Her Immaculate heart.

In the tradition of the Church, this gesture is not experienced only on a personal, intimate level, but has often taken on, in the course of history, also a public, solemn character, in the desire to consecrate through Her a peo-

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Consecration to the Virgin Mary

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ple, a nation, the whole of humanity. Even in this case, just as happened on last March 25, such an act does not take on magical tones, as if formal automatisms acted, but it produces its fruits of grace through our personal conversion and our repentance, as always our Rosa Mystica reminds us of the (prayer, sacrifice, penance): St. Maximilian Kolbe himself, founder of the Militia of the Immaculate, incessantly

santly asked that the whole world be consecrated to Her Heart, in the certainty that our path is not directed only to us ourselves, but also to the conversion and sanctification of all through the Immaculate Conception.

With these dispositions of mind we live with intensity the days of the Holy week and the Easter season, entrusting to the Heart of Mary the cry of peace that rises in the peoples

tormented by war, the construction of paths of pacification between nations, and our journey of conversion, in the certitude that our peace can only be found in the liberation from evil and sin that the risen Christ has earned for us.

Mgr Marco Alba
Rector of the Shrine

Sunday in Albis (Sunday after Easter), in Montichiari, at the suggestion of the Madonna, has been the feast of Divine Mercy already since 1966

The Feast of Easter is the pivot of all faith, all hope and the Christian good news. Jesus dies for us, but He rises again overcoming the death of sin and breaking the wall of physical death which is the maximum expression of evil and his annihilating force. The whole liturgical year, from the moment that it commemorates the Incarnation, is synchronized with Easter, is built on it and starts from it as if for a new turn of the clock, giving a rhythm to the days, the time of work and rest in contemplation in the expectation of the journey of Christ among us. Already on the first Sunday after Easter, it adds new colours for a deepening and greater awareness of the Easter event.

The emphasis is here placed on the Divine Mercy which has just found its maximum expression in the sacrifice of the Cross. Holy Pope John Paul II placed this accent in listening to a desire that Jesus himself manifested to the Polish mystic Faustina Kowalska: «I want the first Sunday after Easter to be the Feast of My Mercy. My daughter, speak to the whole world of My immeasurable Mercy! The soul who confessed and has received the Communion on that day

will obtain full remission of sins and punishments. I desire this Feast to be solemnly celebrated throughout the whole Church». Pope Woytjla instituted the Feast of the Divine Mercy on the required day starting from the Holy Year of 2000. On that day he also sanctified Sister Faustina and called Our Lady the «Mother of Mercy».

Significantly, the Polish Pope passed to Heaven on the evening of Saturday, April 2, 2005, after Easter, when the Church had already entered the Feast of the Divine Mercy. For that April 3, 2005 he had previously prepared a text which was read at the Regina Caeli after the requiem Mass. The extreme teaching of John Paul II is dedicated to the Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter: «The joyful Easter Hallelujah resounds today too. Today's page of John's Gospel emphasizes that the Risen One, on the evening of that day, appeared to the Apostles and «showed them His hands and side» (Jn 20:20), that is, the signs of the painful Passion impressed indelibly on His body even after the Resurrection. Those glorious wounds, which eight days later He made the incredulous Thomas touch, reveal the mercy of God, who «so

loved the world that He gave His only Son» (Jn 3:16). This mystery of love is at the center of today's liturgy of Sunday in Albis, dedicated to the cult of the Divine Mercy. To humanity, which at times seems lost and dominated by the power of evil, selfishness and fear, the risen Lord offers His love as a gift, which forgives, reconciles and reopens the soul to hope. It is love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much needs the world to understand and to welcome the Divine Mercy!».

The «second Sunday of Easter» or «Sunday of the octave of Easter», according to the indication codified by the Second Vatican Council, was traditionally referred to as «Sunday in Albis». This implies the Latin phrase «in albis vestibus» referring to the ancient tradition whereby the newly baptized who had received the sacrament on Easter night had to wear white robes until the following Sunday. The characteristic of God's Mercy is specifically washing away the sins of those who ask for forgiveness: the whiteness of the clothing of the baptized person recalls the fact that, for the merits of Christ, all filth of sin has been cancelled.

In the events of Montichiari there is an extraordinary coincidence between the revelations of Sister Faustina, the magisterium on the Divine Mercy of St. John Paul II and the symbolism of «Domenica in albis vestibus». From the Diaries of Pierina Gilli we learn that Sunday in Albis in God's plan must give breath and echo to the merciful action of God who extinguishes all filth due to the bad actions of men.

I state that the Church of Brescia, in agreement with the Holy See, after careful studies, considers the mystical experience of Gilli to be true, although it has yet to be assessed whether it developed in the manner of the apparitions or whether it is to be traced back to another type of phenomena of extraordinary nature. In any case, in her writings Pierina says she sees the Madonna and in some cases the relationship between them became physical – for example, the Virgin took the woman's hands in Hers to communicate a gift –, which is why I use here the term 'apparitions'; this is in accordance with the precepts of her Diaries without wishing to prevent the discernment of the authority.

On February 27, 1966, the Virgin prepared Gilli for a second cycle of apparitions, after Her first visit to the Cathedral of Montichiari in 1947: «On Sunday in Albis my Divine Son sends Me once again to the earth in Mon-

tichiari to bring abundant graces to the humanity». This time the Virgin presented Herself in Fontanelle at the karst springs (outflow of groundwater) on the outskirts of the Brescia town, and asked Pierina to prepare for the appointment by making three penitential pilgrimages from the cathedral to the indicated fields during the preceding days. The Madonna announced that the source of Fontanelle after Her visit will become miraculous; She wished the fountain to be called the «Source of Mercy and Grace» and asked that »from that Sunday onwards always more sick people would be brought to it«. Pierina herself, as the first one, set a good example by handing the sick «the glass of miraculous water» and by «washing their wounds». On that same day the Virgin wanted Gilli to make public the Message and the Secret that had been entrusted to her for the Pope – currently well-known – and in which we read among other things: «The Message I entrust to you is connected with Fatima... and His Holiness will know the authenticity of my word. Christianity in past centuries never had days like those in which they will soon take place. My Son Jesus sends me to earth to bring grace and mercy to humanity, because the world with the multitude of its impure sins has attracted divine justice upon it, with wars, persecutions, hunger». Our Lady is therefore sent to earth to offer grace and mercy. And the day chosen to communicate this grace and mercy of God was Sunday in Albis.

In fact, Maria Rosa Mystica showed up at Fontanelle on April 17, the day on which that year fell on Sunday in Albis. She said: «My Divine Son Jesus is all love; He has sent Me to transform this spring into a miraculous one... I wish and repeat that the sick and all my children have to come here ...». Slowly descending the disconnect-

ed steps from the muddy ground that led to the source, She invited Pierina to kiss them on three different places «as a sign of penance and purification». She indicated a point where a Crucifix had to be placed and explained: «Before taking or drinking the water, the sick and all my children should ask my Divine Son for forgiveness with a beautiful kiss of Love». Then close to the source, She told the visionary to take mud with her hands: «This is to teach that the sins in the soul of the children become mud, but are purified by the water of Grace». At last, Our Lady touched the water of the Fountain in two places – and She Herself said so – to turn it «miraculous», ensuring her incessant intercession.

The request for forgiveness obtains the mercy of the Lord. These are the sign and the gift on which to reflect on the Sunday after Easter at the Fontanelle. Our Lady herself has established the Feast of Divine Mercy here in advance of the papal disposition. On April 20, 1976, the Tuesday after Easter, with an eye on Sunday in Albis, Maria Rosa Mystica said to Pierina, «Come children! Here I have opened the Fountain of forgiveness and love!». In the following years She compared Fontanelle to a «second Lourdes» (May 19, 1970), where spiritual and physical healing is the fruit of reconciliation between the creature and the Creator, and reiterated that She, the Mother of the Church, will always be present at Fontanelle, especially on Sundays in Albis, «to give the children the graces of my Son Jesus» (Diary, April 20, 1976).

For this is precisely the task entrusted to Her by God, as Jesus Himself explained to Pierina on February 27, 1952: «I am Jesus the Nazarene, Son of the Triune God! I chose Montichiari, a favorite soil to manifest My Mother Mary as the Mother of all souls! The Mediatrix of Graces and of My Mercy».

Riccardo Caniato



TIMETABLE APRIL - MAY - JUNE 2022

WEEKLY HOURS (from Monday to Friday)

16:00 Confessions
16.30 Prayer of the Rosary
17:00 Holy Mass

FEAST DAYS (Sunday and solemnity)

10:00 Prayer of the Rosary
Confessions
10:30 Eucharistic Celebration
15:00 / 17:00 Confessions
15:30 Rosary
16:00 Exposition and Eucharistic Adoration
17:00 Holy Mass

First Saturday of the month

Celebration in memory of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
10:00 Prayer of the Rosary
Confessions
10:30 Eucharistic Celebration, blessing of sacramentals and prayer for spiritual healing

13 of the month – MARIAN DAY

16:00 Confessions and Adoration
17:00 Eucharistic celebration

III Sunday of the month

Day for the sanctification of the Clergy and prayer for priestly and religious vocations

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday, April 14
15:00 / 17:00 Confessions
17:00 Prayer of the Rosary

Friday, April 15

15:00 / 17:00 Confessions
15:00 Stations of the Cross in memory of the Lord's death

Saturday, April 16

15:00 / 17:00 Confessions
17:00 Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

THE PASQUAL VIGIL IS NOT CELEBRATED IN THE SANCTUARY

Sunday, April 17

Solemnity of the Holy Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ
10:00 / 12:00 and 15:00 / 17:00 Confessions
10:30 Holy Mass
16:30 Prayer of the Chaplet of THE Divine Mercy in front of the Crucifix
17:00 Holy Mass

Sunday, April 24

Solemnity of Divine Mercy
The faithful who visit the Sanctuary are granted the plenary Indulgence, according to the usual ecclesial provisions
10:00 / 12:00 and 15:00 / 17:00 Confessions
10:30 Marian procession
11:00 Holy Mass
15:00 / 17:00 Confessions
15:30 Prayer of the Rosary
16:00 Exposition and Eucharistic Adoration
17:00 Holy Mass

MAY

Friday, May 13 and every SATURDAY of the month, at 21:00 torchlight procession and prayer of the Rosary

Tuesday, May 31 - closing of the Marian month

Feast of the Visitation of the Virgin Mary

16:00 Confessions and Adoration

17:00 Eucharistic celebration

21:00 Procession with torchlight and prayer of the Rosary

JUNE

Sunday, June 5 – Solemnity of Pentecost

Monday, June 6 – Solemnity of the patron saint of the B.V. Mary, Mother of the Church

See timetable for feast days

20:00 prayer of the Rosary

20:30 Solemn Eucharistic Celebration

Sunday, June 19 - Solemnity of Corpus Domini

Saturday, June 25 - Solemnity in the Shrine of the Immaculate

Heart of Mary

See timetable for feast days

21:00 Prayer of the Rosary and Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

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A fraternal cordial greeting to all the devotees of Rosa Mystica in the World. Let us always hear from each other, all united in prayer in the maternal heart of Maria Rosa Mystica.

Rosa Mystica Fontanelle Foundation

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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