
THE VOICE OF ROSA MYSTICA

MOTHER OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH
FONTANELLE DI MONTICHIARI - (Brescia)

MARCH 2023 - YEAR 33 - N. 1

Quarterly bulletin of the Rosa Mystica Foundation - Fontanelle Montichiari



THE REPARATION OF SINS

To better enjoy the time of Lent and Easter, we want to offer all our readers some ideas taken from an enlightening homily that Fr. Serafino Tognetti, of the Community of the Children of God, gave at the Shrine on December 2, 2022. He tackled the theme of reparation of sins in a very clear way, starting precisely from the spiritual experience of Pierina Gilli, provoking each of us to a personal response. We will publish it in two distinct parts, in the hope that it will be an opportunity for many for spiritual growth and conversion, each starting from their own vocation and area of life.

Mgr Marco Alba
Rector of the Sanctuary

We must see not so much the things of this world, but things as God sees them. How God sees them is the most important thing, how we see them is the least important thing. How does God see things, how does He judge the things of this world? It helps us to understand this when He sends the Holy Virgin to all the places where she passes. Especially since the beginning of the last century Our Lady, who never took an initiative on Her own, but speaks in the name of God, repeat-

edly telling us that She is sent by God to open the eyes of His children, i.e., our eyes, so that we can see the situation in which we are living and behave according to the indications She gives. What are these indications? How does the Virgin Mary guide us? The constant 'refrain' of the Holy Virgin, especially in the last century, is something that is almost never talked about, strange isn't it? **It is the reparation of sins.** Sins are committed and the Virgin Mary comes to ask the people, the Christians, to carry out a work in the Church, a work of restoration. Now you understand the concept of repair right away: something that has been patched up, broken, dropped, needs to be fixed, put back, and readjusted! Reparation of sins is what Our Lady also asked at Fatima as the first question to the three little shepherds: "Do you want to offer the sufferings that God wants to send you for the reparation of sins and the conversion of poor sinners?"

Well, what is the pressing request that Maria continually asked Pierina Gilli on this earth? "Do you want to offer all suffering for the reparation of sins?" But here She goes more specific-

ally, asking that sins in general be repaired, but above all those of priests and religious; evidently the sins of priests and religious have a more serious impact, and this is the case. From those who have much, much will be required; those who are high take care not to fall, says St. Paul, because if you fall from the top of the ladder, it is worse. Our Lady in a very heartfelt way, with swords at the beginning then with roses, asks the people of God, that is, us, if we want to make reparations. You are now Pierina Gilli! Do you want to help Our Lady to make reparation for the sins committed within the Church, precisely those of the mentioned categories of people? Look, if the Holy Church of God is purified starting precisely from those who have been called, chosen, wanted by God to be His ministers, His spokesmen, the chosen instruments of evangelization, of sacraments, of religious life, then, only in this way there will be a renewal of the Holy Church of God, which She has taken over; the purification of religious life has an immediate impact, an immediate result on the people of God. Obviously, the

CONTINUING TO PAGE 2

The reparation of sins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

devil cannot stand the sanctification of priests and religious life, and thus there is this constant battle between God and the devil, towards the Lord Jesus and the Virgin in this regard.

Asking insistently for this reparation for sins, well, what should we do? What is the work we must do? First of all by realizing that this is the most necessary and most important work in the Holy Church of God. We are too used to hear messages all about the life of sociality, to put all things in this world on the right place. But the constant appeal to the social action of the Church makes us lose sight of the ultimate goal of the Holy Church of God, which is the sanctification of souls. "Salus animarum", the salvation of souls remains the real problem of the life of humanity, as Mother Teresa of Calcutta said. One day an English journalist interviewed her: "Mother, what are the great problems of the

Church? Or rather of the world, excuse me". He expected her to say "the armaments, the hunger, or the war ...", you know, those big problems, so the journalist could write a nice article. Mother Teresa thought about it for a while and said: "There are two great problems in the world: you and me". The journalist was dumbfounded: "What? I am the big problem of the world?" Certainly! Because, if she had said "the big problem are the armaments, he could write a nice article about it and the world would go on as before! But no, she said to him: "There are two problems, you and I!", that is, what do you and I do in this world? How do we live our adhesion to God? What will be our eternal destiny? If I am a saint, I sanctify myself, if you are holy and you sanctify yourself, one plus one, plus one, plus one... Thus the world becomes better, i.e., it becomes Christian, it becomes the life of

God.

Our Lady knows all this, therefore she comes to say to the people of God: "The great problem that the world is experiencing today is solvable!". This reality that is now falling apart can be repaired, just like Jesus said to St. Francis of Assisi, do you remember? Reparation was not initiated in this century: what did Jesus say already in 1200 in San Damiano to Francis of Assisi? "Go, Francis, and repair my Church! ". He said precisely these words, so already in 1200 the world had to be repaired. Would you too do it, yes or no? In this sanctuary, we come to ask a lot of grace from the Virgin Mary, but do we also want to collaborate with Her? Because She had asked Pierina and the holy children of Fatima to collaborate: "I have come so that you could give me a hand!"

P. Serafino Tognetti

AN UNEXPECTED VISIT

Pierina Gilli reported in her diaries that her experiences of extraordinary nature began on December 17, 1944: hospitalized for meningitis and without hope of healing she was rescued, medicated and healed by the Blessed Maria Crocifissa di Rosa. It is an intervention of supernatural nature which, together with other subsequent events and circumstances, suggests similarities between the human and spiritual story of Pierina Gilli and those of mystics already studied by the Church.

It is impossible to imagine what our life in Heaven will be like. But it would be simplistic to think that it is filled with persons in a heavenly nativity scene, immobile statues for eternity in the contemplation of the Trinity. It is to be believed that, if in the Father's House each one finds his fulfilment; one will live in happiness in God in the fullness of his intellect, of his taste, in a full involvement of his humanity, also of his own physicality, and with tasks to be carried out for the benefit of all.

In fact, the traces known to us today of that admirable reality that is the communion of saints, show us that these, who deserve the eternal prize, do not at all feel isolated in the unfolding of salvation history and, accordingly, behave as fully integrated members in the mystical one Body of Christ to actively participate in the redemption of the world. How? They listen to the prayers of those who call on them and stay by their side according to God's plan.

The stories of numerous mystics, who have enjoyed the apparitions of Our Lady, perhaps also of the Lord Jesus, are, in fact, often accompanied by manifestations of saints and blessed. Among the possible examples, that of Gemma Galgani is here particularly indicated. During her life, the mystica from Lucca was prepared for the encounter with the Madonna and then for that with Jesus by Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows, a holy priest who died still young in the 19th century. Gabriel was one of the Passionists, a religious order to which Gemma aspired to live well her nuptial vocation with Jesus, but to which she could never officially adhere because of the serious health problems by which she was constantly afflicted; afterwards she discovered how to depend on it by supernatural reasons. The Lord explained one day to the young woman who was a full member of the Congregation of the Passionists - whose habit she was clothed with after her death -, but that the imped-

iments to her transfer to the convent were wanted by Himself, so that she could thus remain totally to His disposition for the salvation of souls. Gemma was educated in holiness directly by the Lord and by the heavenly Mother in a way that made her, through the stigmata, also in the visibility of the flesh, an "alter Christus", a soul who, in order to repair the offenses of sinners, accepted to be crucified with Jesus.

Returning to Gemma Galgani for now it is enough to bear in mind that she, as well as Estelle Faguette, the seer of Pellevosin (1876), is a figure of reference when one approaches the story of the human and spiritual story of Pierina Gilli. Gemma's and Estelle's experiences shed light on the method by which God chooses, calls and forms certain people to mysticism for a particular service to the Church and to the whole world: one can wonder if the facts of Montichiari can be part of the same pedagogy.

In the described context it should

be considered that Pierina would have wanted to become a sister of the Sisters Handmaids of Charity, but that both due to her precarious health situation and the constant state of discernment to which she was subjected after the alleged apparitions, she was unable to realize her dream; and that the revelations she witnessed began with the apparitions of Sister Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa, the saint who founded the Handmaids of Charity in the 19th century. It was Di Rosa who one day explained to Pierina that although she was in all respects before God "Jesus' bride"... the Lord wanted her only for Himself, "free to carry out her mission in a better way" and, at the same time, in the uncertainty of tomorrow, obliged to "always live with outstretched hand": that is, as a beggar of divine love and Providence.

We can see here a close correspondence with what Jesus said to Gemma. Like her, Pierina Gilli too, starting in 1948, received several external signs of the Passion: impressive wounds according to Lucia Mazzotti - the person who was placed beside her to help her and who became the first believer in Montichiari's apparition and in the good faith of the seer -, of whom traces remain, in the Episcopal Curia of Brescia among her personal effects, like various bandages and cloths soaked in blood used for medication purposes. As for her, the revelations go hand in hand with a highly unstable clinical picture and very difficult diagnoses by doctors on the actual causes of the evident evils afflicting the patient.

The first extraordinary manifestation received by Pierina tells of the thoughtful attention that God has for His creatures, even if the sufferings, the Cross, precisely, are not then suppressed, since they are part of earthly life and assume for the Christians a mysterious but ineluctable sense for the cooperation to which he is called for personal and universal salvation.

On August 14, Pierina Gilli was received as a postulant among the Handmaids of Charity in the house in Brescia

and having already worked very well as a nurse in previous years, she was assigned to the Children's Hospital. She joyfully embarked on this new adventure and generously devoted herself to her duties until, on December 1st, she is struck by a terrible back pain, accompanied by a severe migraine. After a few days without improvement, she was transferred to the nuns' infirmary located in Ronco. Here a consultation of several specialists diagnosed her with meningitis. On the 5th Pierina entered a state of unconsciousness which continued in the following days. "During that period", she later wrote in her diaries, "the holy sacraments were administered to me because according to the attending doctors there was no hope of recovery for me".

Life regained some colour for Pierina "on the morning of December 17, my first memory after twelve days", when she received a visit at her bedside. Let us relive that meeting through her writings: "I heard the door of my little room being opened and opening my eyes I saw how a nun dressed in black entered and I thought that she was the Reverend Mother of the House of Ronco, since I didn't know anyone from that Community. The Sister approached me and asked me: "How are you Pierina?" "My head hurts a lot," I replied.

At that moment, the Visitor took out an ointment and explained: "This jar was given to me by a Lady [it was the first time in the Journals of Pierina that the Virgin Mary presented herself as a living person and participant in human cases of Pierina] to anoint you. "The headache will last a while longer, you will have a naked cross to bear, but then you will recover." The nun asked Pierina to lie on her side and with great delicacy she began to anoint not only Pierina's head, but also her back, where it hurt a lot. "Thank you," said Pierina finally, greatly reassured. In a reply the nun smiled too and then said goodbye.

A few minutes later, the Nursing Sister came into the room and was tending to Pierina. She wore the white dress,

not the black one like the one who came before her. The newcomer was surprised to find Pierina awake, asked her how she felt and wondered that the patient now willingly accepted the coffee and sat alone on the bed to receive it. Before that, the nursing sister also gave Pierina the Holy Communion. She was on the point of saying goodbye, because she wanted to warn the sisters of Pierina's unexpected improvement, but the latter, who was regaining her strength every minute, held her back: she begged her to call the Superior to thank her in better way for taking care of her so well. "Which Superior?" replied the other, because no one but her had access to the dying woman. And now it was the nurse who wanted to stay more: she wanted to know from Pierina what had happened, even in detail, so that she could report it...

That evening in the refectory everybody was only talking about it. They came to the conclusion that none of sisters in Ronco had treated Pierina. Pierina concluded in her Diary: "Then the Sisters understood that it could have only been the Blessed Sister Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa, their foundress, who was celebrating precisely that day. I also remain convinced that she was the blessed Foundress, because I did not find in any Sister the same facial features of her who had anointed me and had spoken these words to me and had so kindly smiled. From that day, my health improved so much that after a fortnight, I was able to resume regular service after a fortnight".

For the chronicle, when Di Rosa "appeared" to Pierina, for the Church she had already been blessed and her liturgical feast, in Brescia, is celebrated on December 17. It is only from the canonization, which took place in 1954, that his memory is fixed in the Calendar on the 15th day.

Riccardo Caniato

The Church of Brescia has opened, in agreement with the Holy See, a new phase of investigation into the events of Montichiari involving the figure of Pierina Gilli. With the establishment, on December 7, 2019, of the Diocesan Sanctuary of Maria Rosa Mystica Mother of the Church in Fontanelle di Montichiari, the Church of Brescia recognized in Pierina Gilli the authenticity of life characterized by a lively and deep spirituality which has been kept constant over the years and rich in nuances, certainly of an extraordinary nature which nevertheless materialized in an ordinary experience of hiding, prayer and service to others.

Since studies are still ongoing on the nature of the revelations reported by Pierina Gilli, we wish to clarify that with the words «apparitions», «seer», «message», «miracles»... we do not intend to prevent the final judgment of the authority of the Church, but only faithfully report the human testimony offered by Pierina Gilli with her life and in her writings.

In the month of February for a week we had guests, three sisters of the new Association of consecrated life "Daughters of Maria Rosa Mystica", recently founded in Peru. The mission of these nuns is to take care of the needs of the local people and above all to visit



The Sisters of Peru with the Bishop of Brescia, H.E. Archbishop Pierantonio Tremolada, and the Bishop of the diocese of LURIN - Lima PERU; H.E. Archbishop Carlos Garcia CAMADER

and help, bringing not only material aid, but also to spread, make known the Word of God and the maternal call of Maria Rosa Mystica, Mother of the Church. Other communities have already sprung up around the world with this specific Marian appeal: to pray for the Church. In Brazil for more than ten years, Mother Hildegarda, founder of the "Little Missionaries of Maria Rosa Mystica, has been working with great zeal. Vocations are numerous and they have already opened houses in other Latin American countries.

A souvenir also of the young Indian Priest, Don Mathew, who began great works of charity by opening schools named after Maria Rosa Mystica in his country. May all friends and collaborators receive a fraternal hug from the volunteers of Rosa Mystica di Fontanelle.



School with Don Mathew in front of the statue of Rosa Mystica

Please remember the anniversary of the first visit of the Madonna to Fontanelle on Sunday in Albis which this year falls on April 16th. For information on the times of the celebrations, visit the website www.rosamisticafontanelle.it

TIME SCHEDULE 2023

Daily

15:10 Divine Mercy chaplet and St. Rosary
16:00 Holy Mass

Feast days:

10:00 St. Rosary
10:30 Holy Mass
15:00 Eucharistic Adoration and St. Rosary
16:00 Holy Mass

Summer time begins on 26 March, thus afternoon prayers are delayed by 1 hour

Daily

16:10 Divine Mercy chaplet and St. Rosary
17:00 Holy Mass

Feast days:

10:00 St. Rosary
10:30 Holy Mass
16:00 Eucharistic Adoration and St. Rosary
17:00 Holy Mass

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

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

Header: FONDAZIONE ROSA MISTICA - FONTANELLE

"Civically Recognized Ecclesiastical Body -

Registered with the Register of Legal Persons at No. 550 of 15/04/2016"

COOPERATIVE CREDIT BANK OF GARDA
Branch of Montichiari - Via Trieste, 62
IBAN: IT 24 R 08676 54780 00000007722
BIC/SWIFT: ICRAITRRISO (last character: "zero")

POSTE ITALIANE - Filiale di Montichiari - Via Trieste, 69
IBAN C/C POSTE: IT 93 O 07601 11200 000029691276
BIC/SWIFT C/C POSTE: BPPIITRRXXX

Quarterly bulletin
of the **Foundation Rosa Mystica - Fontanelle**
Postbox 134 - 25018 MONTICHIARI (Brescia) - ITALY

For satellite navigation system: **Via Madonnina**

For communications please contact:

Loc. Fontanelle - Via Madonnina - Tel. +39 030 964 111

E-mail: info@rosamisticafontanelle.it

Please view web page: www.rosamisticafontanelle.it

Non profit tariff of the foundation:

Poste Italiane S.p.A. - Sped. in abb. Post. - D.L. 353/2003
conv. L. 27/02/2004 n. 46) art. 1, comma 2 / DCB Brescia

Expedition en abonnement postal
Taxe perçue - Tassa riscossa - Filiale di Brescia

Responsible director: Riccardo Caniato
Edited by the Foundation Rosa Mystica - Fontanelle
Tribunal authorization of Brescia nr. 61/90 of Nov. 11, 1990
Translation by: Sylvia Hetarihon
Typography: Tipopennati srl - Montichiari (Bs)