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# 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



## THE POWER OF REPAIR

*We publish the second part of Fr. Serafino Tognetti's homily on the theme of 'reparation'. Easter time is the time in which the strength of the Spirit of the Risen Christ makes all things new. As a Mother, Mary accompanies this process of renewal also in the Church, interceding for all her children, especially for the consecrated ones. Like Pierina we are called to say our "Fiat!", every day, in front of every situation and with simplicity of heart: in this way will be accomplished the mystery of 'reparation' of the Ecclesial Body whose fruits are much greater and more effective than that that we can humanly understand today.*

**Mgr Marco Alba**  
Rector of the Shrine

How can we collaborate with Our Lady? To understand what you are asking here in Montichiari let us simply look at how Pierina Gilli lived, who lived in these districts. Pierina had a particular existence: she lived a series of moral and spiritual sufferings, she was, physically treated as she had pains everywhere, misunderstandings of all kinds and species. But what is the greatness of this figure? The great-

ness of this figure is that she accepted everything, without batting an eye. That is abandonment to God's will which is rare to see. We are always a little tired in welcoming God's will.

Repairing doesn't necessarily mean suffering. It also means accepting what life offers us, what life presents to us in the day, and willingly doing all that the Lord asks of us: "Does it come from You, Lord? Are You the one who wants it? Fiat! I'm doing it! Is it 10 degrees below zero today? Fiat, all right Lord... Will it be 20 degrees below zero tomorrow? Fiat Lord, we are happy. Today we are rewarded, tomorrow we will be slandered, and it is the same! I accept Lord what life offers me today; this is reparation, with this we help Our Lady to repair sins, starting with reparation for the sins of the priests and the religious. I will not tell you about the situation of the clergy and religious life, but if the Holy Virgin comes and asks, it means that She, who is higher up, sees better than us. So we believe Her; we are now in a situation of great pain and great need.

But a generous soul is enough, it is not that a hundred thousand people

are needed, you are enough, I counted you at the beginning of the Mass, more or less, yes, you are enough! There were twelve apostles, but in this situation we need to be generous, we need to say "yes" to God, because if we are mediocre or if we say: "No... maybe... it depends on what You ask me... I think about it for a moment... I will ask the spiritual father..."

No, leave the spiritual father alone! When Our Lady asks: "Do you want this?" we must say yes, and saying yes is an immediate entry into God's plan, into Mary's Immaculate Heart. Our Lady is happy when there is someone who completely entrusts himself or herself to Her mission.

Well, I have nothing else to add, but ask you this question, the final question. We have come here today to the Holy Mass; I have received and accepted the invitation to work for the canonical recognition of the apparitions of Montichiari, making my contribution to a special commission that the Bishop has created in your Diocese.

But before studying I have to live. It

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## The power of repair

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is useless to make great speeches if I do not first live what Our Lady herself says. Well, then I ask myself, but I also ask you: you have come here today, some even come from afar, to ask for many Graces from the Lord, through Our Lady. Our Lady cannot wait to give you these graces, She is not stingy, She does not keep her hand closed, She wants to give graces. In fact, in Rue du Bac in Paris She showed us her hands full of graces! But we are not just asking, today we have also come here to give something. And then I ask you, in the way Our Lady asked the children: Do you want to accept the suffering that God will send you? Will you accept them for the reparation of sins and the conversion of sinners?

Our Lady is here and listens to your answers! And so we say: "Lord, from this poor and even a little cold place, as poor as Pierina Gilli, as poor as the three little shepherds were, as poor as Bernadette Soubirous was, from this place so poor, we too, like so many children, have come here today to say: "We are here, we are down-at-the-heels, we are poor, we have no weight, they do not know us, but this does not matter to God, let us live this Fiat like the one You lived, we do not want to hold back anymore, we accept all the suffering that God wants to send us, from today to death"!

Then Her generosity is great, She knows our strengths, but if we enter into this divine plan, if we enter into

this relationship, if we enter into Mary's Immaculate Heart. She will give us all the Graces we need without even asking Her. She will give them to us and then we will experience the trials and sufferings that God wants to send us, I emphasize, willingly!

I will live the sufferings that God wants to send me - Lord help me, I must be the first to do it - willingly, for love of You, of the Virgin, in reparation for my sins, as You have asked. And then this place will become the beginning of a renewal: You said it, from this place a renewal for the whole Church starts again!"

**Fr. Serafino Tognetti**

## The first two "apparitions" of the Virgin Mary:

*the request for prayer, sacrifice and penance and the first explanation of the symbolism of the three roses*

Throughout the world, the image of Maria Rosa Mystica refers to the clarity of the Virgin dressed in white, wrapped in a welcoming cloak of the same colour, held together, at heart level, by the three roses, symbol of this particular devotion. It is in these guises that the Queen of Heaven, on 8 December 1947, made her glorious entrance as Mother of the Church in the center of the Basilica of Montichiari, at the top of the holy stairway that connects Heaven to Earth. Thus Pierina Gilli said that she saw Her throughout the continuation of her existence, giving carefully

an account of it in her pages of her Diaries which she stopped writing on 24 March 1983. And in this way she had described her for the first time on 13 July, still in 1947, surrounded in «a niche full of roses», very white, red and yellow according to the typology explained to the "seer" by Maria herself as well as by Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa. But this circumstance, in which the Virgin instituted the feast of 13 July and the 13th of the month, coincided only with her third "apparition" to the little nurse of Montichiari. The Virgin had, in fact, already "appeared" to her on No-

vember 24, 1946 and on June 1, 1947, but in a completely different way.

Pierina was in Montichiari from April 1946 where she served in the hospital together with the Sisters of the Handmaids of Charity. In the Diaries she reported that she was perfectly healthy for the first three months, but that she was then seized by serious ailments that prostrated her body. She suffered from kidney stones and was operated in Brescia, where they extracted 450 pebbles... A long convalescence followed, but when Pierina seemed to have decidedly embarked on the road to recovery, towards the middle of November, very severe abdominal pains with insistent vomiting and high fever" took it over. "Intestinal obstruction" was the diagnosis of the specialists; and in the perspective of a new, urgent surgical operation, the "visionary" reported that late in the evening of November, 23, she was ill to the point of thinking that she was now close to the end, in any case, that she did not have the strength to overcome a new operation.

But it was not her time. Indeed, that night an event occurred that changed the fate of the young woman: "At around three o'clock I heard someone approaching. I opened my eyes to see who the person was and, to my great surprise, I saw a nun whom I recog-



FONTANELLE, Sunday, April 16, 2023

nized". Pierina reported that "it was the same one I had seen the year before at Ronco": the foundress of the Handmaids, Saint Maria Crocifissa Di Rosa ("blessed" at the time), who, as we wrote in the last issue, on December 17, 1944 had already brought a visit to Pierina's bedside to cure her, sprinkling her with an ointment specially prepared for her by the Virgin. Also in this case, Sister Maria Crocifissa was concerned about Pierina's state, inviting her to recite the rosary with the superior and five other Handmaids with the promise of healing. This took place on time, despite the "negligence" of the reverend mother superior who, at that late hour, did not want to go to the sick woman to pray as requested by the Saint, nor did she bother to appoint the sisters for this purpose... Nevertheless, Pierina's own confident recitation of the rosary was effective to eliminate the occlusion.

Although it is significant to record how once again Pierina is healed by divine intervention, proving that her sufferings (and those of everyone) are connected to the mystery of the Cross and, in this specific case, to the mystical and extraordinary experiences reserved for her, the most important fact of what happened in Pierina's room at the dawn of the morning of that November 24, consists in the first "visit", completely unexpected, of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We read in her Diaries: "Then with her left hand, the Blessed Maria Crocifissa di Rosa beckoned me to look into a corner of the room and then I saw at that moment a beautiful Lady dressed in purple but with a white veil that covered her head, which went down to Her feet; She held Her arms outstretched and thus three swords could be seen, planted into Her breast at the level of the heart".

It was therefore Our Lady of Sorrows, who "appeared" for the first time to Pierina, with Her heart pierced in the fulfilment of Simeon's prophecy. It was Di Rosa who introduced Her and explained the meaning of that sacred representation: "The Blessed Maria Crocifissa then told me that that Lady was the Virgin Mary, who asked me for prayers, sacrifices and sufferings to repair the sins of three categories of souls consecrated to God".

While the Blessed Di Rosa was thus speaking, the beautiful Lady approached Pierina a little bit, «and I could see two big tears fall from her

eyes and I heard her sweet voice saying: "Prayer, sacrifice and penance"». After the delivery of this mandate - which constituted, in fact, the motto, the guideline of the existence of the "seer" of Montichiari - "those sweet and gentle figures instantly disappeared".

Even in Her second "apparition" the Virgin presented Herself as Our Lady of Sorrows. In the months following the first meeting, Pierina tried to resume her activity as a nurse, but she had a new, almost inexplicable health crisis, which culminated on March 12 when, having fallen into a coma, she was given the extreme unction, but was saved in the night through an intervention by the Blessed Maria Crocifissa. But, a little later, during the month of May, the "seer" had to face continuous manifestations and terrible disturbances from the devil, which is why the superior of the Handmaids of Montichiari and other nuns gave her support, offering assistance and closeness 24 hours a day. This proved experiences during the most dramatic moments through the vision of hell in which Pierina was shown the damned souls of consecrated persons belonging to the three categories listed above.

We could return to these extraordinary experiences, but it is useful to know that, on the night of March 12, "appearing" to her, the Blessed Maria Crocifissa asked Pierina if she was willing to postpone her entry into Heaven, to remain on earth a little longer by offering herself for the salvation of consecrated souls, especially those who belong to the Handmaids of Charity. The offer included mortifications, such as the willingness to sleep on the floor. Pierina, who already in 1936, with the permission of her confessor at the time, had taken a "vow of perpetual chastity" proposing herself as a "victim for the sanctification of priests", replied: "Yes, with whole my heart". After which, to the bewilderment of those present, she awoke from her coma.

This is the context in which the new visit of the Virgin took place. The time was the same: three o'clock in the morning on the first day of June 1947. Like the previous time, Pierina was awakened by a slight noise, when she opened her eyes, she saw the now well-known nun in the room. In agreement with her spiritual director, the mother superior was waking over Pierina together with the sister who was

on duty, to take care of her.

She did not have time to kneel when the Virgin already appeared to her in purple and with swords stuck into her heart, as in November. Also in this case it was the Blessed Maria Crocifissa who gave the reason for that presence: "The penance you performed was requested by Our Lady to repair the offenses Our Lord receives from consecrated souls who live in mortal sin. The victim offering, which you made for our institute, was brought by Our Lady to Jesus to console Him. The offer was accepted because Jesus does not deny anything to His Most Holy Mother. Your great sufferings of darkness together with the vision of hell were intended to make you know the gravity of mortal sin in souls consecrated to Jesus and chosen by His love for Him. The sufferings of these days have been able to snatch some of our nuns from the power of the devil [...]. You will continue to sleep on the floor in the nights from Thursday to Friday, until the spiritual exercises of the second group".

In giving evidence of the effectiveness of Pierina's prayer, sacrifice, penance (and of anyone who wants to imitate her) in favour of sinners, the Blessed Maria Crocifissa introduced here the symbolism of the three roses which definitively replaced the symbolism of the swords in the "apparition" of July, 13, when the three blades fell off from the Virgin's chest to make room for the rose garden and the sparkling whiteness of her clothes: "You will tell the Mother General of the Handmaids", ordered the foundress, "that in our Institute the Virgin has to be honoured by forming among the religious many living roses".

In each community, she explained, three nuns must be nominated "offering themselves as mystical roses": 1) as a white rose, "spirit of prayer to repair the offenses given to the Lord by religious who betray their vocation"; 2) as a red rose, spirit of sacrifice to repair the offenses of religious who live in mortal sin; 3) as a golden yellow rose, "spirit of total immolation to repair the offenses that Judas priests give the Lord", and spirit of offering for the sanctification of priests. "These three roses", concluded the Blessed Maria Crocifissa «will cause the three swords to fall from the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary».

**Riccardo Caniato**

The Church of Brescia has opened, in agreement with the Holy See, a new phase of investigations into the events in Montichiari involving the figure of Pierina Gilli. With the establishment, on December 7, 2019, of the Diocesan Shrine of Maria Rosa Mystica Mother of the Church at Fontanelle di Montichiari, the Church of Brescia recognized in Pierina Gilli the authenticity of life characterized by a lively and profound spirituality which has been maintained constant over the years and rich in shades, certainly of an extraordinary order which materialized, however, in an ordinary life of hiding, in prayer and in 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.

### **The month of May traditionally dedicated to the Madonna has begun**

Praying the rosary is a necessity that we strongly feel in this period to find peace in our hearts so often oppressed by anxieties and worries. With prayer we place our burden of suffering at Mary's feet, seeking in Her help and comfort to proceed with hope.

Every Saturday, in addition to the usual prayers, in this month of May, in the evening, at 20.30 there will be a procession with torchlight and recitation of the Holy Rosary.

In Pierina's diary from the very first pages in 1947 we find this invitation from the Virgin. "I wish that the 13th of each month be a Marian day to which special prayers of preparation are preceded for 12 days. This day must be reparation for the offenses committed against Our Lord. "This day is to be sanctified with special prayers, such as Mass, Holy Communion, the Rosary, the Hour of Adoration"

On Saturday 13 May, our **Bishop, Mgr. Pierantonio Tremolada**, will be present; he will preside over the celebration of the Holy Mass. We invite all to adhere to this Marian invitation to prayer.



### **TIME SCHEDULE 2023**

**Daily hours:** 16:00 confessions,  
16:00 Chaplet of the Divine Mercy  
16:30 H. Rosary  
17:00 Holy Mass

**Feast days:** 10:00 H. Rosary  
10:30 Holy Mass  
16:00 Confessions,  
16:00 Chaplet of the Divine Mercy  
16:30 H. Rosary  
17:00 Holy Mass

For more detailed timetables, visit the website:  
[www.rosamisticafontanelle.it](http://www.rosamisticafontanelle.it)

**We recall some important dates in which plenary indulgence can be obtained under the usual conditions: sacramental confession, Eucharistic Communion and prayer according to the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff**

**MAY, 28 - PENTECOST**

**MAY 29 - FEAST of MARY MOTHER of the CHURCH**

**JUNE 11 - CORPUS DOMINI**

**JUNE 16 - SACRED HEART of JESUS**

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

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