

SUMMARY

- 3 Editorial Indispensable
- 4 Inclusion
 Disability in the world of work is an added value
- 10 Traces of Rita
 The courage of Saint Rita's love
- 12 Primary Pious Union A life of devotion
- 14 Stories from the Sanctuary
 Born in the love of Saint Rita
- 16 Around the world
 Sonia, ambassador of Saint Rita in
 Guantanamo
- 18 Mother Fasce
 The great miracle of canonisation
- 20 The Archivist
 Rita visited by the white bees
- 22 At the heart of the Church
 Pope Francis and the circular economy
- 24 Dialogue with the Monastery
 50 years of Sister Gabriella in the Love
 of God
- 26 Cascia Events
 Appointments

SUPPORT FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES

o continue spreading the hope of Rita's message, help us to support "From the Bees to the Roses", the voice of Saint Rita worldwide. Even just a small donation through:

• Bank:

IBAN IT14T0311139240000000001781 BIC/SWIFT: BLOPIT22

• Post Office:

postal a/c 5058 - payable to the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia specifying "Subscription".
Thank you for what are able to do!

FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES

Bimonthly of the Augustinian Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia No. 1 January-February 2020



On the cover: Patrizio Loconte at the Sanctuary of Saint Rita in Cascia. Photo by Giovanni Galardini.

Fditorial .

Sr. M. Giacomina Stuani

Editorial Director

Pasquale Grossi

Editorial Committee
Monica Guarriello (editor-in-chief)

Fr. Bernardino Pinciaroli, Alessia Nicoletti, Fr. Giuseppe Caruso, Roger Bergonzoli

Saint Rita Monastery, viale Santa Rita 13 - 06043 Cascia (PG)

tel. + 39 0743 76221 - fax + 39 0743 76786

Headquarters

Via Francesco Massi 12/D - 00152 Rome tel. + 39 06 39674099 - fax + 39 06 39637399 www.santaritadacascia.org/dalleapiallerose redazione@santaritadacascia.org

With thanks to

Sr. Maria Rosa Bernardinis, Sr. M. Natalina Todeschini, Marta Ferraro, Alessandra Paoloni, Rita Gentili, Mauro Papalini, Msgr. Giovanni Scanavino osa,Augustinian General Postulation, Rita Comino, Fr. Rocco Ronzani, Maurizia Di Curzio

Giovanni Galardini, Massimo Chiappini, Stefano Dal Pozzolo, Foto Stock.adobe.com: © karelnoppe

Graphic design and layout

Bruno Apostoli graphic designer - www.brunoapostoli.it



monastero@santaritadacascia.org www.santaritadacascia.org

If you wish to make an offer to the Monastery of Saint Rita in Cascia to ask for a subscription, prayers, Masses, for the charitable works of the monastery, for graces received and for devotion, you can do so through:

bank: IBAN IT14T0311139240000000001781 BIC/SWIFT: BLOPIT22

post office: a/c 5058 — payable to Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia to make a postal transfer: IBAN IT85R0760103000000000005058

credit card: www.santaritadacascia.org/donazioni

FOR SWITZERLAND

Post office: a/c 69-8517-0
payable to: Augustinian Monastery of Saint Rita
06043 Cascia PG - Italy

IBAN CH8309000000690085170

FOR GERMANY

Post office: a/c 14421706 Payable to: Superior of the Monastery of Saint Rita 06043 Cascia PG - Italy IBAN DE11600100700014421706

Finished printing in January 2020 by Industria Grafica Umbra s.r.l. Via Umbria 148, 06059 Todi (PG).



The From the Bees to the Roses magazine is printed on paper certified with the FSC mark

Indispensable

e are all useful and nobody is indispensable. How many times have we heard this phrase to say that we are all replaceable? That we are "interchangeable"?

Well, I don't believe it at all.

In my path of contemplative life, I have understood one important thing: God entrusts each of us - and no one else - with a task, and this means that, for the Lord, each of us is unique and unrepeatable; I can do nothing but accept this task. If I don't accept it, I don't agree, that space which was for me is not occupied by anyone. This concept made me ask: and what role do I have? What if the Lord asks me for something more?

So, these reflections led me to believe that none of us is the same as the other, that each of us has his or her own added value.

Starting with the next page of this number - January-February 2020 - that opens the year, you will read a feature dedicated to the theme of the inclusion of people with disabilities in the world of work. Inclusion, yes. Because people who have a disability, be it physical or mental, find work with extreme difficulty, due to the fact that their disability is often seen as an obstacle to work. So, with the message "I am not my disability", we want to make a small contribution in sharing with you, dear friends of Saint Rita reading us, two important questions: the first is that there are many people who, despite having a disability, can make their contribution in the world of work, indeed, sometimes their disability ensures characteristics that make these people more capable than others to do certain activities (Don Andrea Bonsignori del Cottolengo, explains it in a short interview on page 8 which I invite you to read), transforming disability into a real strength. The second, more general question concerns the fact that we so-called "able-bodied" people tend to identify the person with his or her disability, we tend to identify them as "different". But a person is made up of many things and disability is just one of them. Each of us is likely to have a disability because, literally speaking, it means that



we are not able in everything; certainly, I am not able at many things.

But this is precisely the point. We are the mysterious fruit of the Love of God. which makes us unique and special in our diversity. Then, mankind has many traits in common. But this does not mean "being the same". Being the same means having the same possibilities to express ourselves as people. But you can express yourself in many ways. There is no one better than the other. I hope I have stimulated you on this theme, which affects us all as a human community that welcomes others. May this year be a year full of grace and added values for everyone, where each of you makes a difference because each of you is indispensable.

Disability in the world of work is an added value

Stories of those who have chosen to focus on the difference

by Alessia Nicoletti



isability is not a diversity, but a condition of life," writes journalist Silvia Galimberti in her degree thesis dedicated to language on disability. "Each individual is different from the other without losing their value because of this, without this implying an inferiority". I take her words as example, because the word is the first element that allows us to perform what is a normal action, that is, being inclusive towards people with disabilities. Our atten-

tion must be, first of all, on the person: a human being who has their character and abilities, their frailties and strengths, their passions and dreams: we might say, their baggage of life, which is the one and only factor on the basis of which they have the right to be considered. Disability is not a disease, but one of the many conditions of life and how unfavourable it is for the person is too often determined by are external factors such as relationships and social context. We can all make a difference by

taking the first step towards inclusion. Saint Rita - who in her life always stretched out her hand to everyone, indiscriminately, and above all acted to be of help and to change things - knew this well. An action of spirituality, faith and prayer, but also of concrete facts. An action that today, after six centuries, still leaves its testimony, through every devotee who imitates and follows her virtues and has made their own one of the greatest and most current teachings of the saint of the impossible: appreci-

In her life Saint Rita always stretched out her hand to everyone

ate our life and the life of others as a precious gift, accepting one's cross and the difficulties with the eye capable of always seeing the light, of always finding the value of good, the value of oneself.

Let us leave behind all prejudice and instead carry forward an inclusive culture, which sees diversity as an added value. This is exactly the thinking of **Greta Thunberg**, the young Swedish activist who considers her Asperger syndrome even a superpower, the factor that led her to focus on the problem of global warming and to be to-

day the courageous guide of many towards safeguarding the planet. The world of work also shows us how important it is to focus on the person and if it is true that there are institutions that look only at profit, it is also true that there are many virtuous examples, which bodes well. The first is represented by **TIM**, the Italian telecommunications company, which sees diversity as energy, so much so that it has confirmed itself as the first Italian company and the first telco in the world in the global ranking of the 25 most diversified and inclusive organisations. The TIM team is made up of 50 thousand people and its strategy is based on inclusion, equal opportunities and the enhancement of diversity.

Inclusion is real normality for the Spanish group Inditex (formed by 8 fashion brands including Zara for example) which has been implementing the "for&from" programme for 18 years to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in the world of work, having hired over 200. In 2019, the programme arrived in Italy with the opening in Como of the first "for & from" shop managed by Cometa, where 10 people with disabilities work, young people at their first work experience and for whom this small big step has changed their lives.

In fact, work is fundamental for the realisation of each person. This is so for the



The staff of the Locanda del Terzo Settore Centimetro Zero, in Spinetoli in the Marche region, whom we thank for the kind permission to use this photo.

youngsters who have shown their value every day for 4 years in Spinetoli, in the Marche region, working in the Locanda del Terzo Settore Centimetro Zero inn, where they are a real resource, human first and then economic. Over and above being a restaurant, the locanda is in fact a social model, based on disability, self-production and creative recovery. Here, together with the professional staff, 15 young people with disabilities, aged between 20 and 40, look after the vegetable garden, create furnishings by giving new life to old furniture, and deal with the kitchen, service at the table and, of course, customer care. "Centimetro Zero is much more than eating at zero kilometres: it is cancelling any distance" is the motto of the locanda, which has a new idea for the future in the pipeline, namely to create a training school to open the doors of work even more to people with disabilities.

There is also the flavour of inclusion in the ice cream created by the "Fondente, the ice cream that melts the heart" project, managed in the Treviso area by the Oltre il Labirinto non-profit foundation, in partnership with the Cooperativa Sociale Alternativa-Ambiente and dedicated to young autistic people experiencing social difficulties. A high-quality artisan ice cream, in the processing phases of which a group of 15 young autistic people are involved, followed by a team of professionals. In addition, the youngsters also work in the workshops for the production of biscuits, fresh pasta and

in the **Hugbike** chain, a special tandem that can be ridden from the rear seat by embracing those who sit in front. Mario Paganessi's invention, born from the desire to ride a bicycle with his autistic son, can be used by anyone. The Hugbikes produced were sold in Italy and abroad: one was donated to Pope Francis.

An example is also the action of Livorno's Italian Down People's Association which has created the Parco del Mulino, a social cooperative that makes people free. At the cooperative, in fact, young people with Down syndrome take care of the bar, manage a camper area, a small bed and breakfast, a pizzeria and the special Cà Moro restaurant, a 26-metre fishing boat. Moored at the port of Livorno, this gave rise to the Cacciuccoso project, a sandwich that is the perfect ambassador of the cooperative's values.

The "Valgo anch'io" [I'm valid too] project, a training course for waiters intended for people with disabilities and organised by the Community of Sant'Egidio, has been confirming that diversity is an opportunity for growth for everyone. The 2019 edition involved 14 disabled people, with the aim of recruitment in the city of Rome. But the extra step is a new project in the pipeline: a social portal, a tool for networking and communication for different professional profiles, with the aim of creating concrete opportunities, because disability is an absolute resource to be valued in the world of work.

IN A WORD

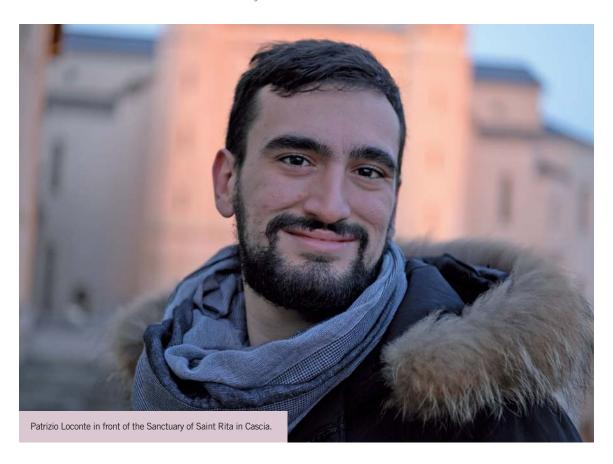
Edited by Fr. Vittorino Grossi OSA A master who was leaving his house to travel called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each one according to their ability: then he left. The one who had received five talents went immediately to put them to use ... The one had received one went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Upon returning home, after a long absence, the master asks his three servants for an account of the talents he entrusted to them ... The one who had received only one talent said: Master, I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground; see, you have what is yours! *Matthew 25, 14-25*

In the servant who does not make his talent bear fruit (the life received as a gift), there is the icon of a person with a disability who, having become so out of fear, surrenders to his condition. The Gospel does not justify it, because the life received as a gift asks to bear fruit in various ways according to possibilities. Each of us has their own handicap, small or large, from physical to moral and, if it becomes our master, it paralyses us. The master of life, on the other hand, asks for fruits of life to offer to those who help us, perhaps a small thank you that manifests itself in the kind word, in the look with a smile, in the alluded caress.

Patrizio Loconte: "Why not me?"

Story of a young man and his disability, between questions, battles and altruism

by Alessia Nicoletti



an I help others if I also need help?". It is not easy to say yes, because when you have a pain, you often ask yourself "why me?". This is the question Patrizio has always asked himself, looking for the answer and finding something he didn't expect. Patrizio is from Cascia, he is young - only 27 years old - but his life is already full of lessons he

has learned the hard way. Born prematurely and with an emergency Caesarean section, he is not breathing and is not responding to stimuli, but then he seems to react and after two weeks he is at home with his parents, who fill him with love.

Can I help others if I also need help

But his story has not yet begun. At the age of three, when he starts wanting to discover the world, something is wrong. "I seemed blocked, nailed to the ground and when I tried, I fell," is how he recounts that crucial moment in which his ordeal begins. After various specialists and therapies, Patrizio, at the age of six, gets his diagnosis: periventricular leukomalacia with damage to the white matter. It means damage to the cells of balance, which compromises his motor impulse. Thus, begins a path of rehabilitation, physiotherapy and psychotherapy. As a child, Patrizio already faces many battles: pain in the legs, being able to walk only for short stretches, school, society. But the biggest war is with himself. He sees himself unsuitable, he is ashamed and doesn't speak about it. "I never went on a school trip: my burden was also cumbersome for the others and although the teachers protected me, the focus was placed only on this part of me". Patrizio makes his first trip when he is 18, invited

by Unitalsi to Lourdes. "I felt energy in accompanying the sick. In front of the grotto I asked my eternal question: 'why me?' and I hear 'why not you?': one lady behind had said it talking to another person. I know it wasn't for me, but it shook me. The second chance of my life came at that moment, thanks to the Madonna and Saint Rita, who have always guided me". Patrizio understands that he too can be useful and that he has found his dimension by giving himself to others. In this way he faces his fears and launches himself into the world. He gets his driving licence, becomes a volunteers, finds work as an assistant in a structure for people with disabilities in Cascia and enrols at university in L'Aquila, studying education sciences and social service; he graduates in 2016 and also takes a second degree as an early childhood educator in July 2019. However, the difficulties do not disappear, on the contrary: from the lack of a reserved parking place in front of his faculty that forces him to walk a long dis-

AT COTTOLENGO SCHOOL, INCLUSION IS NORMAL

Inclusion begins in the family and then passes through school, the first social environment we experience. An inclusive school and training are essential. The virtuous story we tell you about is that of Don Andrea Bonsignori, head of the Cottolengo school in Turin, who does not do anything special, but only what he considers a duty. "I don't like the word 'inclusion'," he explains, "because it presupposes that there is a reality that doesn't exist. For us it is simply normal, because all children are pupils, each with their own characteristics. Inclusion is not charity, it is not a Christian favour or gesture, but a fundamental right, which we try to guarantee and respect. That's why our motto is: the school that doesn't make a difference". In a totally digitised school, Don Andrea's inclusive teaching is aware of everyone's diversity and makes it a strength, an added value. "These youngsters," he stresses, "open their doors to us. Disability is a great stimulus for the school, because it forces us to change the system, seek new paths, focus on different languages. Disability is an educational and human challenge". True integration does not stop at school desks and, in fact, Cottolengo never leaves its youngsters. "We established the GiUCO sports association with the idea of doing sport without barriers. Then we went further, with the Chicco Cotto social enterprise. Thanks to the collaboration with Lavazza, we manage snacks, coffee and drinks distributors and train the youngsters, giving them the opportunity to work". The next step is the "after us", to assist those who are alone after the death of their parents, through a benefit on the pay packet, a small treasure, yes, but not a handout, because, in the words of Don Andrea: "I earned it!". (AN)

HOSPITALITY FOR OVER 65s WITH A DISABILITY

More than a social cooperative, "Casa Santa Chiara" in Bologna is a family in all respects. And it has been for 50 years through various activities. Founded by Aldina Balboni, the cooperative was one of the first in Italy to deal with disabilities not as welfarism but as active participation. This model is initially implemented in family groups, real homes where 60 young people with disabilities live today, cultivating social relationships between themselves and educators and being involved in daily running. But a real family is also concerned about the future and this is where day centres come in, places in which the young people are offered work, crafts, agriculture and livestock activities, to enhance their skills and put them to use. In the artisan workshops, for example, wine, honey, favours and icons are produced. The goal is to create a concrete path of integration into society, improving the quality of life and strengthening independence. However, the attention of "Casa Santa Chiara" is really total and in 2013 the Housing Community of Prunaro was created in the municipality of Budrio. The will of Mrs. Balboni meets the willingness of Don Edelweiss Montanari, then parish priest of Prunaro, who welcomes the cooperative in the parish house. The intention is to offer continuity in activities also for people with disabilities who are over 65 years of age, who would otherwise end up in a rest home or similar facilities. The community house guarantees assistance to those who need it, but at the same time offers workshops and work activities for those who still want to feel active, truly overcoming every barrier, even that of age. (AN)

Patrizio understands that he too can be useful

tance, falling several times and arriving exhausted in class, to bullying, when he receives a video that has filmed him as he climbs stairs. Telling a teacher about the episode, Patrizio meets a psychologist who still follows him. With this path, combined with the faith and the example of Saint Rita, who embraces her cross, not passively but making an effort, Patrizio reaches his true rebirth. "I accepted everything about myself. It sounds easy,

but it's a long and winding road. I was beginning to say, luckily it happened to me, because my life was such also thanks to my legs. I had to find my purpose, because I too can make it". The pain in Patrizio's walk is stable and the experience of past tests always accompanies him, but he has overcome and forgiven with serenity. In his walk, Patrizio now sees his future, a future aimed at the good of others and finally also of himself.

CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS TWINNING

Also this year, as part of the Ritian celebrations, the Twinning of Peace and Faith will take place with a town in the world where not only is there devotion to Saint Rita but where people want to bring the message of peace left to us over the centuries by the Saint of Impossible Cases. For the 62nd edition, Cascia will be twinned with Maalula, a town with a Christian majority in Syria, where Aramaic, the language of Jesus, is still spoken. The delegation from Cascia, led by the Archbishop of Spoleto-Norcia, Msgr. Renato Boccardo, the Rector of the Basilica of Saint Rita, Fr. Bernardino Pinciaroli, and the mayor of Cascia, Mario De Carolis, will be in Syria from 22 to 27 April 2020.

The courage of Saint Rita's love

by Mauro Papalini, Augustinian historian

n the past, if there was any disabled person in a family it was considered a great misfortune: they could not work, therefore they were burdensome, and for this reason they were marginalised or sent to beg.

The disabled also include the sick such as lepers or plague victims. The latter were locked up in special leper hospitals or lived in isolated areas to 'not contaminate' others; people lived in terror of them.

Many saints faced the problem of how to relate to these marginalised people. When they managed to overcome terror or fear, then true conversion began; we recall the episode of St. Francis who, having dismounted his horse, embraced and kissed a leper in whom he saw Jesus Christ. Saint Rita also followed a similar path: tradition has it that she collaborated in the care of plague victims in the leper hospital of Roccaporena, especially in her widowhood; this is very likely. The ardour of Rita's charity overcame every barrier.

But she also overcame the fear of the wicked: when her husband was killed, she forgave the murderers, performing a heroic act not only as a Christian. Her choice of silence



and forgiveness was also a slap in the face of society of her time, full of violence at all levels, where those who did not avenge the killing of a relative were dishonoured. Rita was not afraid of creating scandal: the scandal of love addressed to all her neighbours.

Today, fortunately, the mentality has changed, but there is still a long way to go for disabled people to be people like everyone else and have every chance to assert their qualities in work and in society. Rita and Francis give us a little of their courage to overcome moral architectural barriers, which are more difficult than physical ones.

PRAYER

Prayer of the Paratrooper

Eternal immense God, who created spaces and measured their mysterious depths, look benign on us, Paratroopers of Italy who, in the fulfilment of duty, leaping from our machines, launch ourselves into the vastness of the skies. / Send Archangel St. Michael to be our keeper, guide and protect the daring flight, like fog in the sun, before us our enemies are dissipated. / Candid like the silk of the parachute is always our faith and indomitable our courage. / Our young life is yours. / O Lord! If it is written that we fall, so be it! But from every drop of our blood, vigorous children and brothers leap, proud of our past, always worthy of our inevitable future. / Lord, bless our country, families, our mothers, brides, sisters and girlfriends. Lord, our loved ones! / For them, at sunrise and sunset, always our life! / And for us, O Lord, Your glorifying smile! / And so be it.

TESTIMONIES OF GRACE

Your testimonies presented by Maurizia Di Curzio, assistant to the listening service for the Monastery of Saint Rita



Is it not a great gift to have someone you can confide in, to free your heart and put everything in His hands? We learn to never stop asking; we must not tire; never, every moment of our day, even for the small things. Thus, we will begin to "see the grace of God" and not feel alone. Through his celestial creatures he always sends us "love messages". It is we, who with the frenetic tick of the days, are unable to read them. I leave you with this message of love - enjoy the read!

"I would like to recount a testimony about the birth of my sister Rita. My mother, married for four years but unable to have children, decided to stand before the urn of Saint Rita at the Sanctuary of Cascia to ask for a grace. Her wish was to be able to become pregnant and, in case a girl was born, she would call her Rita. Shortly after returning to Rome, my mother discovered she was pregnant. On December 4, 1969, my sister finally came into the world. To keep the promise made months earlier, mum baptised my sister with the name of Rita. She noted with great surprise that, at the time of her birth, in the centre of the forehead, near the hairline, there was a red protuberance (angioma), exactly where Saint Rita had received the thorn. This episode deeply surprised my mother and this intensity made her realise that she had received the requested grace. The angioma was removed, but the scar still remains on my sister's face and, every time I look at her, I think of how great Saint Rita is. The love and devotion I feel towards the saint are such that, every day, in my prayers, I seem to have her beside me. I invite everyone to prayer, convinced that faith is the ABC of each of us; without it we would lose the way that leads to the infinite love of God". (*Mara, Magenta MI - Italy*)

EY LIVE IN CHRIST

To you, Lord, we humbly recommend these our dead because, as in their mortal life they have always been loved by You of immense love, so now, freed from all evil, may they enter by Your grace into eternal rest. Amen.

Aldo Papalini (Perugia - Italy)
Angela Gnagni (Rome - Italy)
Antonio Giuliano (Rutigliano BA - Italy)
Clara Cinti and Salvatore Sudano (Aosta - Italy)
Claudio (Mendrisio TI - Switzerland)
Concetta De Leonardis (Turin - Italy)
Edoardo Feli (Quartu Sant'Elena CA - Italy)
Elda Tacconi (Palazzolo di Sona VR - Italy)
Elena Sbabo (Cologna Veneta VR - Italy)

Flora Spidalieri (Guardialfiera CB - Italy)

Filomena Tripodi (Adelaide SA - Australia) Franca Gaudenzi (Capua CE - Italy)

Giacinto (Cerignola FG - Italy)

Giuseppina Rullo (Sydney NSW - Australia)

Maria Cipollini (Orvieto Scalo TR - Italy)

Nicola Di Bari (Trani BT - Italy)

Palmira Andreella (Ronco all'Adige VR - Italy)

Sr. Petronilla Barichello, Augustinian Hermitage of Lecceto (Siena - Italy)

ceto (Siena - Italy)

Piero Ferrari (Locarno TI- Switzerland)

Rita Accorinti (Rome - Italy)

Rita Bertolazza (Gargnano BS - Italy)

Rita Giambonini (Villa Luganese di Lugano TI - Switzerland)

Salvatore Carollo (Manalapan, NJ - USA)

Ugo Di Pasquale (Cascia PG - Italy)

Vittorio Cerutti (Montecatini Terme PT - Italy)



by Marta Ferraro

he story of Giusy Curallambra's life is closely linked with the Cascian religious reality.

Her experience with Saint Rita begins even before her birth, when her mother was seeking a pregnancy, but her desire for motherhood seemed one of those impossible issues that only Saint Rita can resolve. After many prayers and invocations, in fact, fifty years ago Giusy was born. Recounting how she came to the story of the saint of Cascia, she says: "I am fifty years old and I have been devout for fifty years. I am part of that group of children who were late in arriving. My mum always transmitted a great sense of gratitude and devotion to me, so once I became an adult, I wanted to create a deeper relationship with my patron saint".

Once grown up, in fact, Giusy began to frequent Umbria during the holidays and then more and more often Cascia. Thanks to "From the Bees to the Roses", Giusy came into contact with the reality of the Primary Pious Union which she joined, first as an individual and then, when the

A life of devotion

Giusy and her special bond with Saint Rita and the Primary Pious Union



PPU in Abbiategrasso was set up, she joined the Milanese group. However, living in Caravaggio, in the province of Bergamo, she is unable to frequent community activities regularly.

This, however, does not prevent her from being among the most active people in the Saint Rita prayer group. Many times, with her charisma and open and jovial character, Giusy has



been able to involve the people who live next to her and other PPU associates in concretely helping the Cascia group and transmitting the story of Saint Rita. For example, in the difficult moment of the earthquake, for her birthday on December 9, Giusy involved relatives and friends by asking not for the usual gifts but offers to send to the monastery. It was one of her most beautiful birthdays because the participation of people dear to her was very high. This was an opportunity not only to do good but to carry the story of Saint Rita into her reali-

PPU Charity

As usual, the proceeds from the offers collected during the national meeting of the Primary Pious Union, which is held in Cascia every year, are destined alternately, one year to Cascia and one year to a PPU initiative.

This year, the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia will benefit and has decided to use the offerings collected to restore the Twelve Tables of the Ancient Choir, an ambitious project which the Augustinian nuns care about greatly for restoring the monastery to its ancient beauty.

ty with concrete gestures.

Giusy is also among those volunteers who set up the stall of the roses of Saint Rita every first Sunday of May, the proceeds of which are destined for the monastery's Beehive. "My stall is always a success," she says. "Last year, despite it being a very cold Sunday, in a few hours I ran out of all the plants they had sent me, and I would probably have needed another hundred roses to satisfy everyone. Not that they didn't know Saint Rita in Caravaggio, on the contrary. But since I told them about my particular relationship with Cascia and Saint Rita. I am now almost a point of reference for all those who know me when it comes to

Saint Rita", and then continues: "When some friend goes on vacation, for example, if entering a church they come across an image or a statue of Saint Rita, they are now sure to take a photo and send it to me".

When the Abbiategrasso PPU began to circulate the pilgrim statue of Saint Rita, Giusy was the first to host it at her home and, remembering those days, she says: "The recitation of the Holy Rosary was an appointment not to be missed for the whole neighbourhood. It was exciting to see the entrance hall of the block of flats full of people".

Giusy has been part of the PPU for four years now and says about this experience: "I feel part of a big family. Belonging to this prayer group has given me the opportunity to get to know and meet people who are also geographically very distant from me, but with whom I am always in contact and with whom I feel understood, because we share the same values".

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

The new Saint Rita of Cascia website has a section dedicated entirely to the PPU (santaritadacascia.org/piaunione). Send us the photos of your group by email to redazione@santaritadacascia.org. We will publish them on the website to make known every group that makes up the great family of the Primary Pious Union.

Born in the love of Saint Rita

Little Rita and her miracle of life

y name is Rita, I am four years old and I have a rare disease, so rare that I am the only one in the world to have it. Since I am too young, my mum has lent me her voice to tell you my story and that of my family, which are closely linked with that of Saint Rita, our great and beloved friend.

When I was born on May 24, 2015, I was the great joy of the whole family and especially of my little sister Chanel Rita.

My parents met in Cascia during a pilgrimage to visit the places of Saint Rita and although they lived in two small villages in Calabria, one next to the other, they met on the bus bound for Umbria. They fell in love immediately and in no time my sister was born.

Then I came and with my microvariation in chromosome number 13 I revolutionised the life of all of them, although enriching it.

When I was only a few months old, mum realised that I wasn't doing the same things that kids my age did. The doctor told her I was lazy. Instead, it turned out that I have a small, very small variation in chromosome 13 that should have left me paralysed in bed, like a vegetable. But me? I walk. Of course, I started long after my little friends and only now have I started talking. Yes, it's true it's late, much later than average, but according to science I should never have spoken in my life and just think that I couldn't even have been able to sit.

For doctors I am an inexplicable case,



for mum and dad they are a sign of Saint Rita, who always assists us, encourages us and protects us. For mum and dad nothing is strange. It's all about faith.

Where I arrive, with my short life, already full of many sacrifices and battles, the story of Saint Rita also arrives. Everyone, through my experience, learns the story of my friend Saint Rita: doctors, nurses, nursery schoolteachers, the mothers of my little friends. From our numerous pilgrimages to Cascia, mum has brought some stickers of Saint Rita as a gift for my teachers, and one of them attached it to our classroom window. When they ask me where Saint Rita is, I take them by the hand and take them to the window. Doesn't it seem quite an event for a girl who should have been bedridden?

When mum was waiting for me, she had a strange dream ... She dreamed of a statue of Saint Rita immersed in a multitude of people, who said to her in Calabrian dialect: "This time I'll help you, but not next time". We don't know what the next time will be, however, we are already experiencing it.

I divide myself between physiotherapy and pranks, I play and fight with Chanel Rita and to everyone's amazement my malformation is always there. Mum and dad are aware of this, but in spite of everything they are confident that everything will be fine, because in spite of everything I always make some small progress. Only recently have I said 'mum' and 'dad', and to their joy and mine I also say 'Saint Rita'.

Saint Rita is our best friend and her thoughts support us in all difficult circumstances: my analyses, a change in therapy, she is always there and we never fail to thank her by going to the Basilica where her body is exposed to thank her and to recharge.

Once, for example, I had to go with my mother to Sicily to do some in-depth analy-

PHOTO SOUVENIR



Michele's group from Rutigliano (Bari) comes on pilgrimage every year to pray in front of the urn of Saint Rita.

sis, while dad was to leave to go to Cascia to pick up the first-class relic of Saint Rita that our parish would keep available for a week for veneration of the faithful. Well, dad left, while mum and I could not take the ferry to Sicily because there was so much rain. In short, when Saint Rita arrived in Calabria, with the parish priest's consent, her first stop was my home. Saint Rita came to greet me at home. What a privilege, don't you think?

For this reason, on May 22 I was in Cascia with my whole family and with my presence I wanted to thank her for everything she does for us.

Mum is aware that I may never fully heal; in fact, there has been no remission of the microvariation in chromosome 13, but I learn to do more and more things. However, faith in the Lord and in Saint Rita give her the strength to go on and hope and when she is really tired, she goes to Cascia, alone with dad or also with me and my sister, and our battle seems lighter.

Because faith is stronger than any theory on the human body.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PILGRIMAGE

If you have also visited the Sanctuary of Saint Rita of Cascia on pilgrimage and wish to tell Marta Ferraro your story, write to us at **redazione@santaritadacascia.org** and we will contact you to share your experience with the readers of "From the Bees to the Roses".

Sonia, ambassador of Saint Rita in Guantanamo

by Rita Gentili

veryone invokes Jesus while you invoke Saint Rita. Who is this Saint Rita?". This was the question Sonia's mum always asked her daughter. "I don't know either," replied Sonia, "but I always pronounce her name". The story of Sonia Ruiz Abad, an 87-year-old woman from

saint was. "I invoked her but didn't know her," says Sonia. Until a lady from her city, having learned of this little girl so devoted to the saint of Cascia, called her into her home, showing her a holy card with a supplication to Saint Rita and telling her about the life of the saint. For many years Sonia lived her faith in total anonymity and solitude. Over time, however, more and more people become aware of Sonia's willingness to listen to the difficulties of others and entrust their prayers to the saint. Thus, in



Since childhood, in fact, the woman has always entrusted her prayers to Saint Rita, even though she had no idea who the saint was

Guantanamo, Cuba, whose faith in Saint Rita is as immense as it is inexplicable, at least according to Sonia's memories, is curious. Since childhood, in fact, the woman has always entrusted her prayers to Saint Rita, even though she had no idea who the

RITA IS ALSO HERE



Country: Cuba City: Guantanamo

Worth knowing: Mostly known as an American military base and prison camp, Guantanamo is one of the major Cuban centres for sugar refining and the processing of coffee, cocoa and tobacco. Its aboriginal name means "land between rivers". This gives rise to the song Guantanamera (Guantanamo girl), symbol of the city and of all Cuba.

1998, the prayer group named after Saint Rita was established. At that point, Sonia made her humble wooden house available as a meeting place, becoming in fact an ambassador of the Ritian message in Guan-

Thus, in 1998, the prayer group named after Saint Rita was established

wards the miracle worker. Delia Lamoglia says that Sonia is everything for her: mother, friend, sister, counsellor. The only one to know her most intimate secrets, present in her good and bad moments and those of the whole family. Gredel Sueiro tells us instead of when she went to Sonia to ask her to speak with Saint Rita for entrusting her 12-year-old daughter with vision problems that prevent her from studying to the saint. Sonia welcomed her and prayed with her and the girl also managed to finish university. Over the years, Gredel has returned to



tanamo. Every 22nd of the month, the group celebrates the Novena and for some years, in the new home of Sonia, built by one of her granddaughters, May 22 is also celebrated with a mass, recitation of the rosary and the story of testimonies of grace received through Rita's intercession. It is the other founders and members of the group who tell us about Sonia. Miriam Iribar describes her as "the light that illuminated the group's journey". Martha Vargas reveals that Sonia addresses Saint Rita with the expression "my baby", so much is the trust and affection that the woman has to-

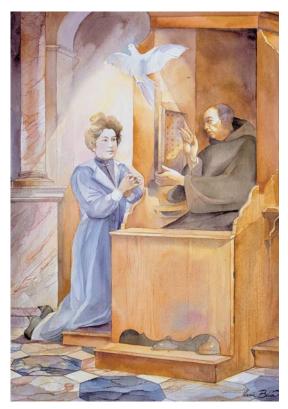
entrust herself to Saint Rita and Our Lady of Charity, so that they intercede to give her daughter the gift of a motherhood that did not arrive. Today Gredel is the grandmother of two children, and the first is called Rita Maria. Miriam Mercedes and Mercedes Miriam Vargas, the twin sisters of Guantanamo who have been living and working in Austria for years, and who are responsible for giving us the testimonies of Sonia and the group, tell us that Sonia's life is summed up in a continuous walk from the kitchen to the door of the house, which Sonia still opens to anyone in need of comfort.

The great miracle of canonisation

by Msgr. Giovanni Scanavino, OSA

he most beautiful fruit of the canonisation of Saint Rita, in May 1900, was the birth of a new vocation for the Monastery of Saint Mary Magdalene, the same monastery as that of Rita. The request came from Genoa, from the Parish of Our Lady of Consolation, with a letter signed by an Augustinian Father, a certain Father Ferriello, who declared himself the Spiritual Father of a young parishioner, Maria Teresa Fasce of Torriglia. This young 25-year-old had followed the whole canonisation process with great interest and had literally fallen in love with the figure of Rita of Cascia: she really wanted to go to her ancient monastery to get to know her and imitate her more closely! This new vocation, so made to measure, is the greatest and most original miracle asked by Rita of Jesus Crucified.

There are all the signs of a divine enterprise. The monastic community of Cascia at that time had lost all reference to Rita's true mysticism, but the young Maria Teresa does not know this and hopes to find the right nest in Cascia to relive Rita's holy experience. She arrives in Cascia on June 20, 1906 and begins an entirely uphill journey. She lives the Novitiate and the first Profession in a climate of profound exaltation, but in the meantime signs of an authentic crisis around her are beginning to be felt. On the eve of Solemn Profession, she raises the white flag: it is a question of deciding for life, but she has to seriously check which side to be on. Who is right? She who continues to dream of the sanctity of Rita or the sisters who have begun to stagnate, remaining what they were, in other words poor women? Maria Teresa has the courage to ask for time for reflection. She returns to the solitude of Tor-



riglia. The first permission of a few months becomes one year: total prayer, a true verification of the heart, with that authentic paradise that is carried in the heart, like the Madonna. At the end of 1911, she returns to Cascia, passing through the Augustinian General Curia of Rome, where she officially confirms to Father General the will to consecrate herself definitively in the monastery of Cascia and asked for help to bring the monastery back to that level of holiness that Rita had left there. Rita's monastery will be her monastery. In 1912 she makes the Solemn Profession, the definitive consecration. She first become Master of Novices (1914). Then Vicar (1917) and Abbess (1920) until death.

Mother Fasce with her confessor, work by Bonaduce (XX century)

A bequest, a gift of love Remembering who is most vulnerable

in your will can change someone's life for ever

Allocating even a small bequest to the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia means leaving a sign of your generosity in time. Thanks to bequests, we can support the Beehive of Saint Rita, a hope for all Little Bees, the children who will inherit your love.

Write to us at monastero@santaritadacascia.org and you will receive information on how to help the children in difficulty that need you.



Archivist Caterina Cornino accompanies us in reading the pages of the canonisation process of Saint Rita in 1626, offering us a documentary testimony on the saint accompanied by the comment of the Augustinian Father Rocco Ronzani.

Rita visited by the white bees

The episode of the bees that visit little Rita was set by iconographic tradition, in the life published by Br. A. Cavallucci da Foligno (1610) and in the testimonies of the canonisation process of 1626.

"[In the first days of life, Rita,] while lying ... as is customary in the cradle, was visited over and over again by some white bees who entered and left her mouth. Certainly we can believe for this action and for such a great prodigy," asserts the hagiographer, "that our Lord God wanted to show that the girl in life had to be pierced as by a pungent loving thorn and sweet of the cross of Jesus Christ our Lord, a clear sign of a deposit of wanting to crown her up there in the Paradise with a crown of gems and precious pearls of her infinite glory" (*Life of B. Rita of Cassia of the Order of St. Augustine*, Siena 1610, p. 4).

In Saint Rita's canonisation process, the witness Sister Anastasia of Avendita states: "when I entered the monastery here of Blessed Rita I found the ancient canvas where various things of the blessed are depicted which is this which I show to your lordship, Commissioner, may it be noted in the process to honour God and the blessed with the heart, however that your lordship will give it back to us"; Sister Anastasia showed and described the canvas saying: "In the beginning when Blessed Rita was in the cradle and five bees came out of her mouth ... with the presence of the father and mother who see her and who are near the cradle" (Spoleto, AD, E-20, *Processus 1626*, f. 114v). (CC)

he sting of the small bees refers to the future stigmatisation that unites Saint Rita with the Passion of Christ; the bees and their honey also recall the sweetness of the lips of this little girl who would become, in the bloody disputes of her time, a sweet and strong woman, an instrument of peace and reconciliation.

The presence of bees is often found in the childhood of the great personalities of history and saints, such as Plato and Saint Ambrose. In the life of the holy bishop of Milan, it is said that one day Ambrose was in a cradle and "slept with his mouth open, suddenly a swarm of bees came and filled his whole face, to the point that the bees entered and left

the mouth ... Terrified by the event, the father said: "If this child lives, he will become something great". In fact, even then the Lord operated in the infancy of his servant, so that what is written could be realised: Gracious words are as a honeycomb (Prov 16:24) (Vita Ambrosii 3).

It is not possible to dwell on the very rich symbolism

of the small and industrious insect; it is certain, however, that the bee episode was a way to praise the virtues of the saint and also to recall Urban VIII Barberini (1623-1644), the pope of the canonisation, who has three beautiful bees in his

most eloquent manifestation of the bond between the Barberini family, the monastery and the beloved land of Cascia.

The most important document on the life of Rita, the great sarcophagus in which the body was kept, et miracoli [Short Tale of Virtues and Miracles] published in 1628, Blessed Rita is presented as a spring flower, or rather "almost prince of the host of candid lily flowers, laden with dewy pearls" (a reference perhaps to the name of Ri-



Cascia, Monastery of Saint Rita, ancient choir, anonymous painter, oil on canvas (XVII century)

coat of arms. Urban, in life Maffeo Barberini, was also bishop of the diocese of Spoleto and a great admirer of the Saint of Cascia. The celebration of the beatification of Rita of Cascia, during a solemn mass of thanksgiving to Saint Augustine in Campo Marzio in Rome, on July 16, 1628, in the presence of Cardinal Antonio Barberini and the whole Roman Curia, was the

does not mention a word or an allusion to the bees which, in fact, would only come only much later — over one hundred and seventy years later — in iconography and biographical documentation. Bees, in fact, appear for the first time in Cavallucci's biography of 1610 and are a prophecy of the pricking of the thorn received in adulthood. In Breve Racconto delle virtù

ta/Margherita), visited by the bees who, "with avid bite, seek to feed on those sweet dews" (*Breve Rac*conto, Perugia 1628).

Bees are certainly a symbol of a constant biographical trait of the Umbrian saint, that of a woman carrying peace and reconciliation through her *gracious words*, which were and still are today like sweet *honeycomb*. (RR)

Pope Francis and the circular economy

For a new culture of bread

by Father Vittorino Grossi OSA, editor-in-chief of From the Bees to the Roses



Thanks to Filippo Di Pace for kind permission to use the photo

n economics, today's society is moved by a model of financial capitalism marked by the maximisation of profit, which produces a waste economy which, in turn, polluting, falls on the weaker sections of humanity. However, this financial drift, aimed at increasing productivity and earnings, feeds both institutional investors and fractures and social inequalities. Hence the need and responsibility to rethink, also in a Christian way,

the involvement of the laity in proposing new forms of spirituality in the business world. In modern times, from the encyclical 'Rerum novarum' of Leo XIII, the social doctrine of the Church has become increasingly present in the pronunciations of supreme Pontiffs. Think of those most recent from Pope Benedict XVI on the relationship between ethics and economics, and from Pope Francis on the circular economy and the economy of waste.

Today, in relation to the economic issue, the theme for Christians is not how to give principles, but to ask themselves how to bring the Christian tradition of 'reaching out' into daily life. In the information technology era, in fact, it is no longer enough to produce only consumer goods, because the same data as the real world are put into a system, that is, into a communication network. And who is not inside the network does not exist: inside the network there is the media or simultaneous man without a body, who lives and works simultaneously in different places. In this context, production, if born independent of ideologies, disregards many human groups, creating that parallel non-integrated society from which we all suffer. The instrument available to the Christian in today's society, on the other hand, always remains the Word of God, like bread that nourishes, going beyond the understanding of economics in administering possession between 'mine and yours'.

Encourage the implementation of a circular economy, moving away from this throwaway culture

At the beginning, Christians organised themselves, as the apostle Paul reports, writing to the Corinthians: "On the first day of the week (that is, every Sunday) let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come" (1 Cor 16: 1-2).

In May 2019, Pope Francis made two targeted pronunciations (The letter to the bishops of Latin America and the speech to the young people gathered in Assisi) to "encourage the implementation of a circular economy, moving away

from this throwaway culture, all the more in the sphere of mining activities", where only the polluting effects of waste return to society from the precious minerals extracted, while the benefits of uncontrolled consumerism go only to a few. The Pontiff literally says: "We have not yet managed to adopt a circular model of production capable of preserving resources for present and future generations, while limiting as much as possible the use of non-renewable resources, moderating their consumption, maximising their efficient use, reusing and recycling them ... in consonance with the Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns promoted by the 12th Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations".

To young people gathered in Assisi on May 18, 2019, on the occasion of the two days of study entitled 'Nulla di proprio. Dalla casa del sé alla casa del noi' [Nothing one's own. From the house of self to the house of usl. the Pope reaffirmed attention on the circular economy, in contrast to the consumerist model that excludes by exploiting, creating waste. In order to educate young people to this mentality, an interactive team game was also invented, with the use of the Circular Market app 'Circular economy just a click away', helping to give rise to a new social culture and, therefore, a new economy, using technology without making it become technocracy. In other words, Pope Francis promises an economy of sharing with the person at the centre, which is at the service of their needy fragility, overcoming the charity level of almsgiving.

SMILE NOTE THE CONSENT OF BOTH PARENTS for publication. Photos with incomplete or illegible consent will not be considered.













- 1. Annarita Migliori (Matera - Italy)
- 2. Camilla Vecchiato (Cantù CO Italy)
- 3. Elisa Licastro (Australia)
- 4. Margherita Molinaroli (Colognola ai Colli VF - Italy)
- 5. Maria Francesca Fico (Afragola NA - Italy)
- 6. Mattia Gaole (Roverè Veronese VR Italy)

50 years of Sister Gabriella in the Love of God

by Sister Giacomina Stuani OSA, Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia

praise You, O
Lord, for the
greatness of Your
Love".

This is the phrase that Sr. M. Gabriella wrote on the back of the souvenir of her 50th anniversary of religious profession. On the front, the little picture had this phrase: "The fortress of Christ made me invincible". At the heart of the fidelity of the nunbride is the fidelity of the Bridegroom. With him, in him and for him, Sr. M. Gabriella lived every year of her journey, feeling loved

and welcomed by the Lord and in turn giving love and hospitality to her neighbour. It is the gratuitousness and fidelity of the Love of God, who gives himself totally to his creature, which makes him capable of total self-giving in love.

The whole life of the Christian is a thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for the gift of the life of faith. For a consecrated woman, aware that she has received something more, that is, the call to the contemplative vocation, gratitude and praise are

amplified in the heart, together with joy, love, amazement, wonder, tenderness and emotion. And to the awareness that the gift received is free because it does not look at merits or curriculum vitae. The richness of the vocation to the contemplative life comes from baptismal consecration and is all aimed at perseverance of its fulfilment.

If life is a gift of grace, our personal vocation is even more so, which is none other than the 'dream' of God the Creator over each of we his

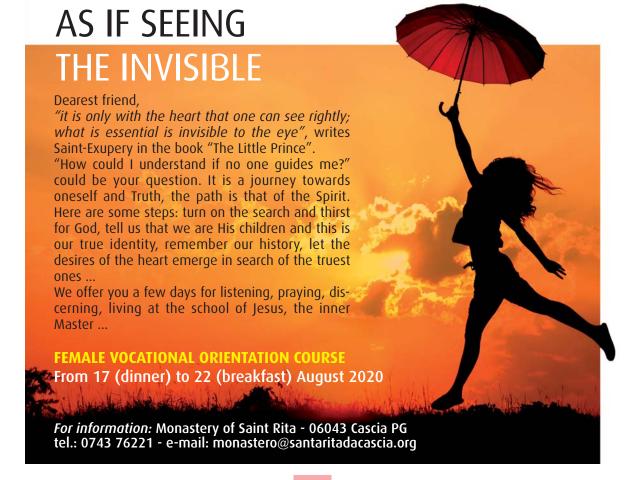




creatures. Like all of us, Sr. M. Gabriella was attracted to the "Beauty so ancient and so new" which is Christ Jesus. She chose to live her

With him, in him and for him, Sr. M. Gabriella lived every year of her journey

status as spouse alongside the "most beautiful of the children of man" in the monastery. The desire and invitation of God found correspondence in the desire of her heart as a young woman and thus began that 'special adventure' inside the monastery, the journey in docile listening to the wishes of the Bridegroom. In the Jubilee Mass celebrated on November 24 last year, Solemnity of Christ the King of the universe, we Sisters also thanked, with Sr. M. Gabriella, the Giver of all good. To him we raise prayer with the words of Card. Martini: "Father of mercy, thank you for the tenderness with which you accompanied me, supported, forgave, guarded, comforted me", just as in her heart Sr. M. Gabriella repeated: "To you, Lord, my praise and my gratitude for your strong and faithful love in my life". Deo gratias.



APPOINTMENTS

For updates in real time: www.santaritadacascia.org

Cascia (PG), from February 6 to May 14

Fifteen Thursdays of Saint Rita. Every Thursday, starting on February 6, we meet in the Basilica of the Sanctuary of Saint Rita to celebrate the Fifteen Thursdays that precede May 22, the Feast of Saint Rita. The celebrations envisage morning Masses at 07:30, 10:30 and 12:00. In the afternoon, solemn celebration at 17:00 (from February to March) and at 18:00 (from April to May), with passage to the urn to pray in front of the saint's body and direct streaming on the YouTube channel of Augustinian Saint Rita of Cascia: www.youtube.com/monasterosantarita

Cascia (PG), from February 13 to 16 Triduum and Feast of Blessed Simon of Cascia. Every day from February 13 to 15, at 16:30, we await you in the Basilica of Saint Rita for the Triduum of preparation for the Solemnity of Blessed Si-

mone of Cascia, which we celebrate on Sunday February 16, again at 16:30.

Cascia (PG), March 28 and 29

PPU General Meeting. The next General Meeting of the Saint Rita Primary Pious Union in Cascia will be dedicated to the theme "Everything is possible for God" and is open to all: to members and also to those who are interested in learning more about the PPU. Info and programme on www.santaritadacascia.org/piaunione

Cascia (PG), May 17

Procession of the Banner. The traditional procession that carries the banner of Saint Rita through the streets of Cascia leaves from the Sanctuary of Saint Rita at 21:00 on Sunday May 17. Started by the municipality in 1731, the procession is a thanksgiving to the saint that inhabitants turned to in order to obtain protection from earthquakes and plague.



UMBRIA OF SAINT RITA

Filetto di Cinturello Lardellato [Larded Pork Girdle Fillet] with Vallocchia Chestnuts and Pomegranate

Ingredients for 4 people

4 suckling pig girdle fillets (130 g each) 4 slices of peppered pork jowl (3-4 mm each) 12 PDO chestnuts ½ small pomegranate 1 glass dry white wine 50 ml extra virgin olive oil salt, pepper and flour as required 4 sprigs of rosemary 1 knob of butter

Incise each chestnut and then cook them in a static oven at 220°C for about 20/25 minutes. Once cooked, peel and chop them. In the meantime, shell the pomegranate and keep the seeds. Cover the suckling pig fillets laterally with the slices of peppered pork jowl and then lightly flour each fillet. Prepare a pan, with a high edge, which contains all 4 fillets; place it on medium heat after adding extra virgin olive oil. As soon as the oil starts to heat, arrange the fillets in the pan and cook for about 4-5 minutes on each side; halfway through cooking, add salt and pepper and then the dry white wine and allow to evaporate. In another pan add the previously cooked and chopped chestnuts and a knob of butter so that you can create a sauce with a creamy enough consistency. Remove the fillets from the pan and arrange them on a plate accompanied by the chestnut sauce. Garnish with pomegranate seeds and rosemary sprigs.

FEAST OF SAINT RITA 2020

CASCIA, SANCTUARY OF SAINT RITA FROM MAY 20 TO 22



WEDNESDAY MAY 20

Hall of Peace

21:00 - Presentation of the Saint Rita International Recognition Award 2020, conferred on the "women of Rita": women whose life is close in concrete experience to that of the saint of Cascia.

THURSDAY MAY 21

Basilica of Saint Rita

16:30 - Eucharistic celebration of the Augustinians, presided over by Father Alejandro Moral Antón, Prior General of the Augustinian Order.

17:30 - Handing over of the Saint Rita International Recognition Award 2020. Father Moral gives the parchment symbol of the prestigious recognition to the chosen women of Rita.

18:00 - Solemn Celebration of the Transit of Saint Rita.

Piazza Garibaldi

20:30 - Torchlight procession of Saint Rita

Reception of the banners of the Municipalities of Valnerina, of the civil, religious and military authorities and of the Delegation of Maalula (Syria) twinned city with Cascia, with procession to the Sanctuary.

Churchyard of the Basilica of Saint Rita

22:00 - Lighting of the votive Tripod with the Torch of Peace, symbol of the Twinning of Faith and

Peace in the name of Saint Rita between Cascia and Maalula (Syria). Followed by entrance into the Basilica and tribute of faith to the saint.

FRIDAY MAY 22, Solemnity of Saint Rita of Cascia

Hall of Peace

05:00 - Morning Holy Mass with ringing of festive bells. Masses will also be celebrated at: 06:00, 07:00, 08:00 (Concelebration presided over by Father Alejandro Moral) and 09:00.

Churchyard of the Basilica of Saint Rita

10:30 - Arrival of the Historical Parade in fifteenth-century costumes and the Procession bearing the statue of Saint Rita. Leaving at 08:30 from Roccaporena, Rita's hometown, the two parades meet up at the feet of Cascia (09:30).

11:00 - Supplication to Saint Rita seguita dal Solenne Pontificale followed by the Solemn Pontifical. Closure with the traditional ritual of the Blessing of the Roses (12:30).

Basilica of Saint Rita

18:00 - Eucharistic Concelebration for the Benefactors of the Sanctuar, presided over by the Rector of the Basilica of Saint Rita, Fr. Bernardino Pinciaroli, and animated by the choir of the Augustinian nuns.



THE BEEHIVE OF SAINT RITA IS A FAMILY WHERE HOPES ALSO FEED ON LOVE. Founded by Blessed Mother Fasce in 1938, the Beehive of Saint Rita has become home, school and assistance for many young girls. A real family that includes all our supporters who, with their help, continue to give a future to thousands of young people in difficulty. Stay close to us, your love is the most solid foundation on which to build new hopes. alveare@santaritadacascia.org • www.santaritadacascia.org/alveare

PROTECT THE BEEHIVE





