

90
YEARS

FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES ⁴

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FEATURING SAINT RITA 2013
Photo story of the feast

ON THE RIGHT TRACK
A love fulfilled

DIALOGUE WITH THE MONASTERY
**Pope Francis
and Saint Rita**

BESIDE SAINT RITA

Moments from the feast dedicated to the Saint

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Pope Francis and Saint Rita

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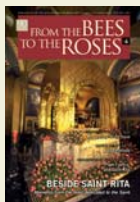
Thank you all!

Sr. M. Giacomina Stuani,
Editor-in-Chief

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FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES

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OF SAINT RITA OF CASCIA,
NO. 4 JULY - AUGUST 2013



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On the cover: Case containing the body of St. Rita in the Basilica of Cascia dedicated to the Saint. Decorations by Franco Verdecchi.

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The love for this Saint

Dear friends, welcome back to the pages of “From the Bees to the Roses” which this issue dedicates to the Feast of Saint Rita, celebrated together from 20 to 22 May. This will be a way to relive the good times we spent together, but also a way to share the joy and love for our beloved Heavenly Patroness with all those who could not attend the festivities here with us in Cascia.

The photo story that we have tried to trace talks about the devotion that binds all of us to Saint Rita. Each in their own way, through symbols of faith or by a heartfelt, silent expression of a face, attentive and absorbed in prayer or reflection. A devotion that groups, unites and makes it possible to find many people around the Saint.

I think, for example, of local artist Franco Troiani, who, with his “Studio A'87” association and thanks to so many other artists and young people, created a small but nevertheless valuable exhibition consisting of three ex-votos: the “Blue Monochrome” work of art by Yves Klein, a devotee and many time pilgrim here at the Sanctuary of Cascia; the painting by Dino Buzzati, a table depicting Saint Rita (granted by the Municipality of Limana, province of Belluno) and the artist's last completed work before his death, in the context of the more complex literary and figurative work entitled “The Val Morel Miracles”; and, finally “Ad usum et commodum peregrinorum” realised by Troiani

himself, with the objective of recording the collection of ex-votos for the San Carlo of Spoleto. This work is made up of 28 letters, with which the phrase *Ad usum et commodum peregrinorum* (For the use and benefit of strangers, ed.) is transcribed and painted above the main entrance of the monumental complex of San Carlo of Spoleto (former Hospital of the Holy Cross, XIII century). The phrase is taken from documents dating back to 1270, when the structure was used as a hospital and accommodation for pilgrims and travellers. Studio A'87, which involves numerous artists and cultural workers in its projects, has reconstructed an itinerary that links two great exponents of 20th century culture and art: Yves Klein and Dino Buzzati, united by bonds of friendship and both, in



The ex-votos to Saint Rita: (from left) Table of Saint Rita by Dino Buzzati, Blue Monochrome by Yves Klein, Ad usum et commodum peregrinorum by Franco Troiani

different ways, linked to Saint Rita. The Municipality of Cascia and the Monastery of the Augustinian Nuns of Cascia wanted to follow up on what Studio A'87 considered a miracle: reunite, through art and Saint Rita, these two great artists of the twentieth century. From Tuesday 21 May until 11 July 2013, the ex-votos to Saint Rita realised by Dino Buzzati, and Yves Klein, along with the ex-voto of Franco Troiani are displayed in Cascia (Perugia), in the Basilica of Saint Rita next to the body of the patron saint of impossible causes. An extraordinary human and spiritual adventure that has enriched the love that many feel for this Saint.



21 May. In the Hall of Peace, television host Amadeus presents the five women who, the following day, received the Saint Rita International Recognition Award (pictured below).

FEATURING FEAST OF SAINT RITA 2013

Basilica of Saint Rita, 22 May. In the picture, the women honoured with the Saint Rita International Recognition Award, with the Rector, Father Mario De Santis, and the mayor of Cascia, Gino Emili.



SAINT RITA INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARD 2013

Zenobia Elmi

(Marsciano, Perugia).
Zenobia Elmi, known
as Zelinda by every-
one, was born in

1953 in the Umbrian countryside, on the outskirts of Marsciano. Her physical diversity, due to dwarfism, led her to face emargination and rejection. Towards the end of the 1970s, she came into contact with a prayer group, Renewal in the Spirit, where she met the first people outside of her family who treated her normally. It was in that moment that Zelinda knew the true meaning of faith, which would help to overcome the toughest tests of life, such as the loss of her brother, who also affected by dwarfism, and of her parents, and the difficulties of living a situation of dependency on her own. Like Saint Rita, Zelinda entrusted her life to Jesus, she found the strength to forgive the people who had hurt her and she made the Cross her strong point. Today, she is head of the Centre of Volunteers of Suffering, takes her testimony to children in schools and parishes and, last year, she published an autobiographical book, "A little big life" (publisher: Church of San Severo at Porta Sole, The Voice), to share her experience and give everyone – especially those who are forced every day, like her, to face great difficulties – a message of joy and love for life.

For the values of St. Rita expressed in her life, Zenobia Elmi received the Saint Rita International Recognition Award on 21 May.



"Even though the problems that people have may remain the same, the suffering experienced by Jesus takes on a universal value and gives peace to the heart".

SAINT RITA INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARD 2013

Sister Elsa Caterina Galfrè

(Caraglio, Cuneo).
Catherine Galfré was
born in Caraglio, Cu-
neo, in 1934. On 13

June 1955 she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cuneo, taking the name of Sister Elsa. "You'll never make anything of a career, you'll never go on a mission," an elderly missionary told her one day, "but go out on the street and look around, with eyes and heart open; that's where you'll find a brother who is waiting and suffering, that's your mission". These words only confirmed what Sister Elsa had already learned as a child from her mother, "charity, welcoming and gift". So, in 1989, she began a volunteer service at the prison of Cuneo, where she found her role as a missionary. Since then she has given herself with passion and love to those most in need, and discovered a sense of spiritual motherhood, offering herself as a mother to those who need one: prisoners, agents, operators, everyone calls her mum, recognising in her the "heart of the prison".



"The prison is my family: large, varied, with dramas and sufferings, but also with solidarity, fraternity, love".

For having dedicated her life to her neighbour, like the saint of Cascia, becoming a missionary in her town, Sister Elsa received the Saint Rita International Recognition Award on 21 May.

**Five women,
five roads
that lead to Rita**

SAINT RITA
INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION AWARD
2013

Teresina Natalino

(Lamezia Terme,
Catanzaro).

On 5 December 2010,
on trunk road 18, in

the locality of Sant'Eufemia, Lamezia Terme (Catanzaro), a young 22-year-old man under the influence of drugs ran into and killed eight cyclists who were returning from their usual Sunday ride. One of the victims was the husband of Teresina Natalino, Fortunato Bernardi, owner of the "Atlas" gym, to which the group of amateur cyclists was linked. Throughout their lives, the two spouses, teachers of physical education in middle school, dedicated themselves to teaching first their own children and then all pupils principles such as legality, justice and non-violence. After this tragic incident, Teresina, guided by faith, has been transmitting a message of love and forgiveness. Like Saint Rita, Teresina immediately forgives those who have hurt her and her family, and again, like the saint of Cascia did with her children, exhorts her students neither to seek revenge nor sow hatred.

For having chosen to deal with the drama of her life according to the principles of St. Rita, Teresina Natalino received the parchment of the Saint Rita International Recognition Award, collected on her behalf by her daughter Chiara (pictured).



"The motto of my mum is: he who loves, forgives; he who hates does not love life and destroys it".

SAINT RITA
INTERNATIONAL
RECOGNITION AWARD
2013

Alexandra Jianu

(Brezoi, Romania).

Alexandra was born in
1945 in Brezoi,
province of Ramnicu-

Valcea, to Greek-Catholic parents. The socio-religious situation of Romania is difficult; the Communist regime does not allow open expression of one's own faith and, in 1948, the central government confiscates church property and places of worship, thus preventing Christians faithful to the Church of Rome from confessing and bearing witness to their faith.

At the age of twenty, Alexandra marries, but in 1979 her family is hit by a great tragedy: her husband John dies suddenly from a heart attack. Despair, dejection, despondence do not overwhelm her and she finds the strength and courage to react and move on in the faith. When, in 2001, the Greek-Catholic community in Romania reconstitutes itself,

Alexandra is at the forefront in supporting and promoting the new church of Valcea, dedicated to Saint Rita.

For having been able to maintain her strong tie with the faith, despite the great difficulties in Communist Romania, Alexandra Jianu received the Saint Rita International Recognition Award on 21 May.



"Over our city of Ramnicu-Valcea has descended the heavenly blessing of having this church patronised by the saint of Cascia".

THE WORD

by
Fr. Vittorino Grossi osa

And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed". (Luke 1: 46-48)

SAINT RITA INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARD 2013

Lina Trappetti

(Spoleto, Perugia).

Born in Spoleto on 11 May 1938 to a simple and numerous family,

Lina Trappetti is deeply religious. She grew up as a humble and meek girl, learning silent and steady hard work from her parents. In 1958, she married Nazarene Garbuglia and entered a patriarchal household where several generations lived together. She immediately got down to running the family, working in the maize fields and dedicating herself to her three children and two grandchildren. With work and sacrifice, Lina has never stopped doing her best for others, for her family for which she nurtures unconditional love, and also for her parish, serving with passion and gratuitousness. In silence and with humility, she projects the values of Saint Rita of Cascia in her daily life, committing herself every day so that serenity always reigns.



"In everyday life, I try to carry forward the values of Saint Rita: I nurture unconditional love for the family and I commit myself so that peace and serenity reign forever".

For the values of St. Rita represented in everyday life, Lina Trappetti received the Saint Rita International Recognition Award on 21 May.



In front of the Basilica of Saint Rita, 21 May. The volleyball player Riad Ribeiro (pictured above) – witness of grace received in person, through the intercession of St. Rita – hands over the torch to the parish of Ramnicu-Valcea, twinned with Cascia in 2013. The lighting of the votive tripod seals the bond between peoples in the name of Rita.



Christ at the centre

Father Robert Prevost, Prior General of the Order of St. Augustine (OSA)

Extract from the Homily delivered during the Holy Mass of the Augustinian Family on 21 May in the Basilica of Saint Rita.

Very little is known of the life of Rita of Cascia. There is a very important oral tradition and, in fact, many reports about the life of the Saint have come to us from various sources. But there is one very important source that helps us to know about a life as beautiful as Saint Rita's. This is represented by the paintings on the solemn case in which the body of the Saint is laid. What I would like to emphasise, from that first iconographic source of the life of the Saint, is this: at the centre of the case is Christ. Christ, standing, but still in the grave, at the time of his Passover – between death and Resurrection, after his Passion, and at the time of entering into his Glory. Jesus Christ was for Saint Rita, and is for us, the centre of life. We need to have Christ at the centre of our entire lives. Saturday (18 May 2013), in St. Peter's Square in Rome, Pope Francis received an enormous crowd of people,

gathered on the occasion of the Year of Faith, on the eve of Pentecost. At one point, the Pope said: "I have to scold you a little". As he went round the square in the

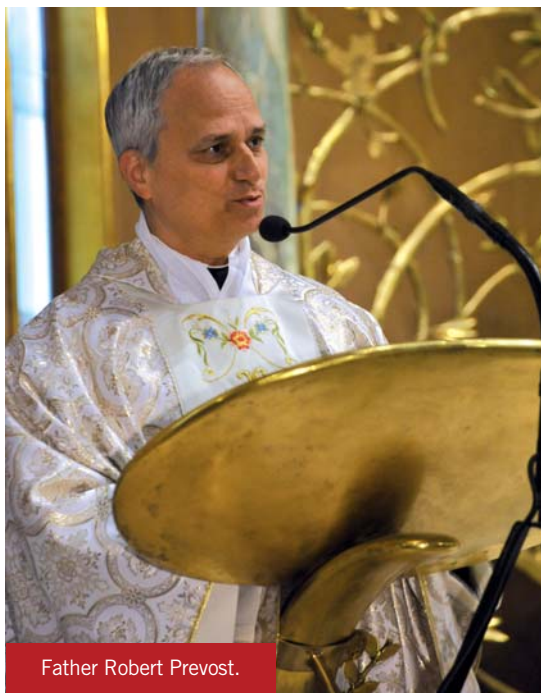


Basilica of Saint Rita, 21 May. Holy Mass of the Augustinian Family.

popemobile, greeting and blessing the people, many shouted “Francis! Francis!”. You should not be shouting “Francis” but “Jesus Christ”. Christ is the centre of our lives. If we come to Cascia to pray to Saint Rita, that is fine, but Saint Rita wants to get us closer to Christ, the only centre of our lives, the source of graces and blessings.

If Christ is the central point, the core of our lives, everything else becomes easier and life is transformed into a beautiful experience of peace, even in suffering or pain. This is really important: Christ, who suffered, tells us: “I will be with you always until the end of time”. Saint Rita, patroness and advocate of the most desperate causes, accompanies us with her intercession, and encourages us to seek Christ, always. This is how she became great, in her simplicity, because she had faith, without limits and without conditions, in Christ.

Each year, the Saint Rita International Recognition Award (see pp. 4-7, ed.) is presented to women who have gone through some experience of love, forgiveness, charitable service, who in some way reflect the example of the life of our Saint Rita. Living charity and love, giving forgiveness, are expressions of the importance, even today, of people who can change the life of another person, or family, or society.



Father Robert Prevost.

PRAYER

You who are over us,
 You who are one of us,
 You who are - also in us,
 may all see you - also in me,
 may I prepare the way for you,
 may I be grateful for all that then befalls me.
 May I at the same time not forget the needs of others,
 Keep me in your love
 as you would that all should remain in mine.
 May everything in my being be directed to your glory and
 may I never despair.
 For I am under your hand,
 and in you is all power and goodness.
 Give me a pure heart - that I may see you,
 a humble heart - that I may hear you,
 a loving heart - that I may serve you,
 a believing heart - that I may remain in you.

Prayer written by Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the United Nations from 1953 until his death in 1961. A person who gave his life for building peace in the world. And he did so in an almost hidden way because he was a person of faith who found all his strength in the love of God.



Following Rita

Cardinal Leonardo Sandri,
Prefect of the Congregation for the
Oriental Churches

*Extract from the Homily delivered
during the Solemn Pontifical Mass
on 22 May in the Basilica
of Saint Rita.*

For we her devotees, the vicissitudes of the life of the Saint (are) a profound revelation of all that was of that *branch grafted onto the vine-Christ*, which, remaining in Him, bore and continues to bear much fruit. Going back with the mind and the heart to a well-known episode of the biography of the Saint, that of the dead stick which, thanks to her dedication, sprouted



Card. Leonardo Sandri.

22 May. The historical parade closes the procession that arrives in front of the Basilica of Saint Rita for the start of the Solemn Pontifical Mass. The parade commemorates the life of Saint Rita and the people of her time.



again miraculously, we can say that what she did was a prophetic sign that showed the action of God with man. So, then, when we pass next to the “vine of Saint Rita,” let us ask ourselves if we, in obedience to the will and commandments of the Lord, as the Gospel has told us, let God’s work be done in us and in the world.



Card. Sandri and, immediately behind, Mons. Renato Boccardo, Archbishop of Spoleto-Norcia.

A second section for our reflection is offered to us by the love that Rita brought to peace and reconciliation: this is a virtue that she learned from her parents, engaged in healing divisions between the families of the place, and was able to preserve even at the tragic moment of the killing of her husband, and sustained her in the ecclesiastical disputes of the time, such as that concerning the symbol that best expresses the human and divine nature of Jesus Christ, our only Saviour. But even today, from heaven, Rita stoops to look upon us, the town, Umbria, our Italy, the whole world. Too many divisions are still in the hearts of men, maybe even of us here who are so numerous! How many wounds to the dignity of man, even of children and the weak, subjected to violence in the body and the mind, how much unbearable division between who is rich and who is poor, but above all, how much shameful silence in the face of these injustices.

One last grace we ask of the Lord in this Eucharistic celebration. Looking at the face of the Saint, we see a sign on her forehead that has made visible her participation in the sufferings of the Passion of Christ. Being with Christ, in fact, she became like Christ, who suffered, died, in order to rise, however, on the third day.

TESTIMONY OF TAMARA SESTO FIORENTINO (FI), ITALY

Saint Rita came into my life by chance. (A lady in our parish) had to undergo a risky diagnostic examination in hospital. She was really scared and asked for prayers. That day was 22 May. So we said a rosary in the family for her, recommending her to Saint Rita and we also asked her to stop smoking. Well, needless to say that the Saint of the Impossible listened to us without hesitation. While the lady was given a sedative, a doctor opened the door and said: "This lady does not need this exam". Furthermore, from that day, she has stopped smoking without any problems. This is a small testimony that comes from the heart.

GRACE RECEIVED



22 May. At the end of the Pontifical Mass, Card. Sandri performed the traditional rite of the blessing of the roses.

Our sweet Sister, Saint Rita, you are known as the saint of impossible causes: in the Year of Faith, we ask for your intercession to be healed first and foremost of the doubt, that the Tempter often inspires in us, that holiness is impossible for each of us. As you were capable, confiding in the friendship of Saints Augustine, John the Baptist and Nicholas of Tolentino, of facing in the faith many humanly impossible situations and coming out victorious, may we too, sustained by your prayers, walk with you in light of the Risen One.

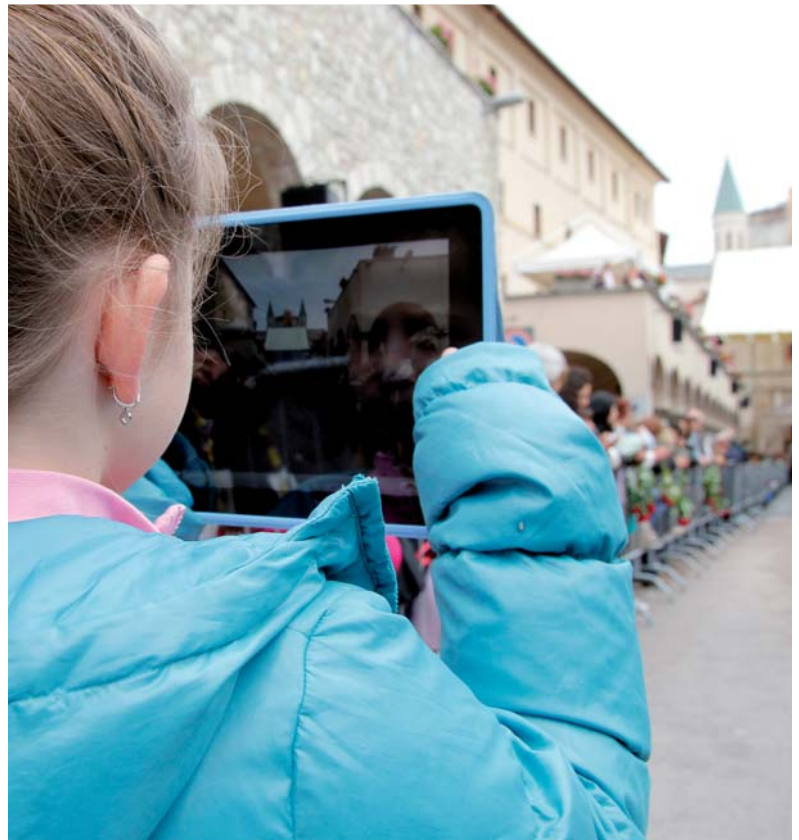


My mum had dreamed of Saint Rita, who told her, "Your daughter does not need to be operated because she will heal".



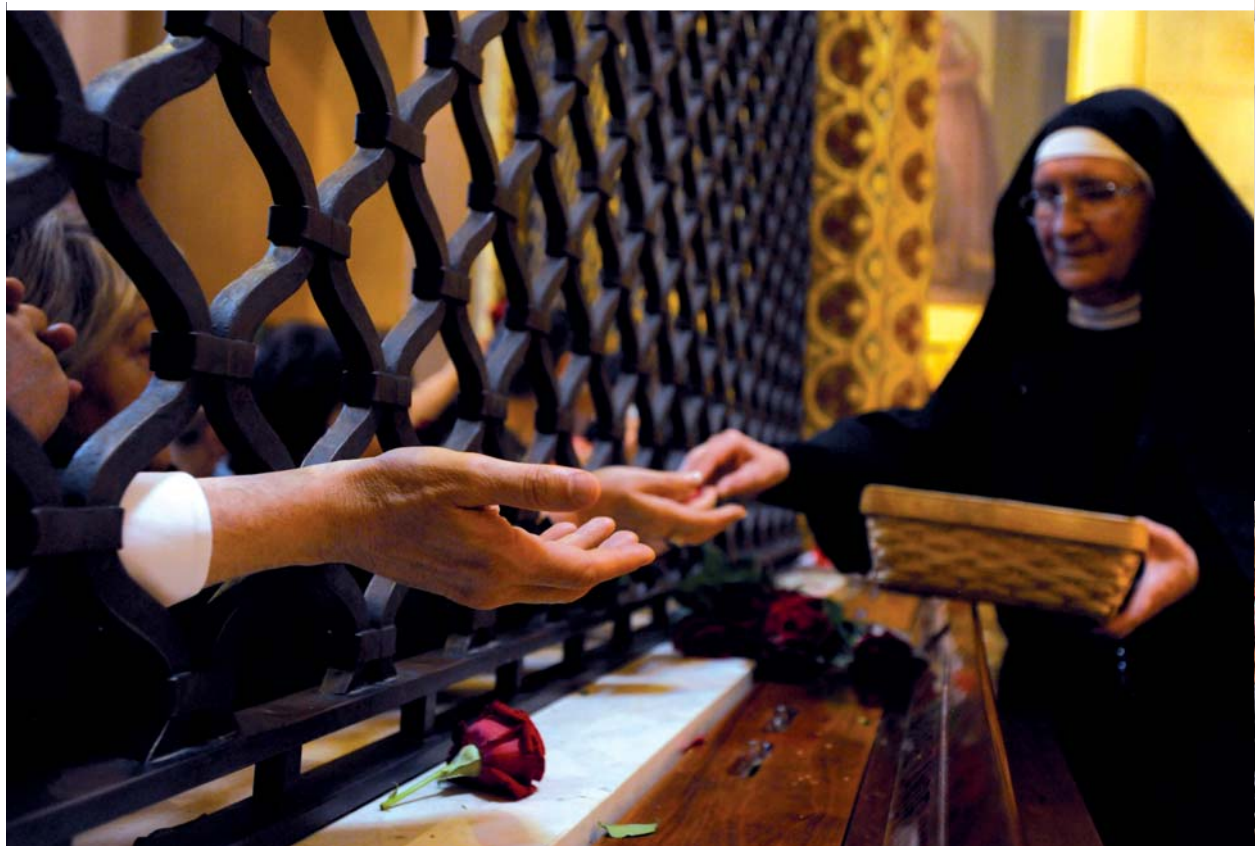


*One morning
I went in to the
case of Saint Rita
and I asked her;
not to heal,
but to be close
to me.
Today, I am calm.*





*In our country
there are many
devotees of Saint
Rita. Today, there
are also kids who
know her.*





*Every year we
bring people who
are friends and
devotees to the
Sanctuary of
Saint Rita*



We ask the Saint to intercede for us





*With Saint Rita,
I have the peace
of mind that allows
me to say that living
a drama is a
fortune. It is a
different way to be
close to God.*





*To all friends
I try to convey
this grace that
has given me
the serenity
of living even
in difficulties.*



THEY LIVE IN CHRIST

To thee, Lord, we humbly recommend these our dead, because as in their mortal life they were always loved by You with immense love, so now, freed from all evil, they may enter by Your grace into eternal rest. Carry them to your Paradise, where there is no longer mourning, nor pain, nor tears, but peace and joy with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Antonia Perelli (Ruscio di Monteleone di Spoleto, PG - Italy)
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Open doors at the Beehive

by Giulia Di Lauro

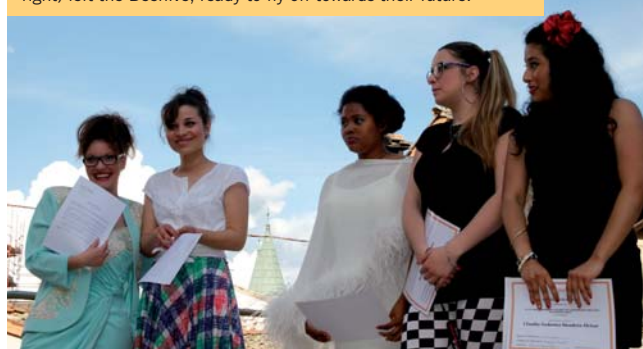
On 6 June, the doors of the Beehive of Saint Rita opened to welcome many supporters, some from far away, eager to live a day of celebration together.

The Beehive of Saint Rita is a work of charity, set up in 1938 by the will of the Blessed Mother Teresa Fasce to accommodate young people from families with serious economic and social difficulties. Each year, within its solid walls, about 25 girls, affectionately called Little Bees by the nuns, have the opportunity to grow up serenely and happily, receiving education, nutrition and health care, but above all much love, which gives them the strength to build a better fu-

ture. It is only the commitment and dedication of the many supporters that make this possible, and it was to them that the "Open doors at the Beehive" party was dedicated, with dances and songs performed by the Little Bees and the Wildflowers.

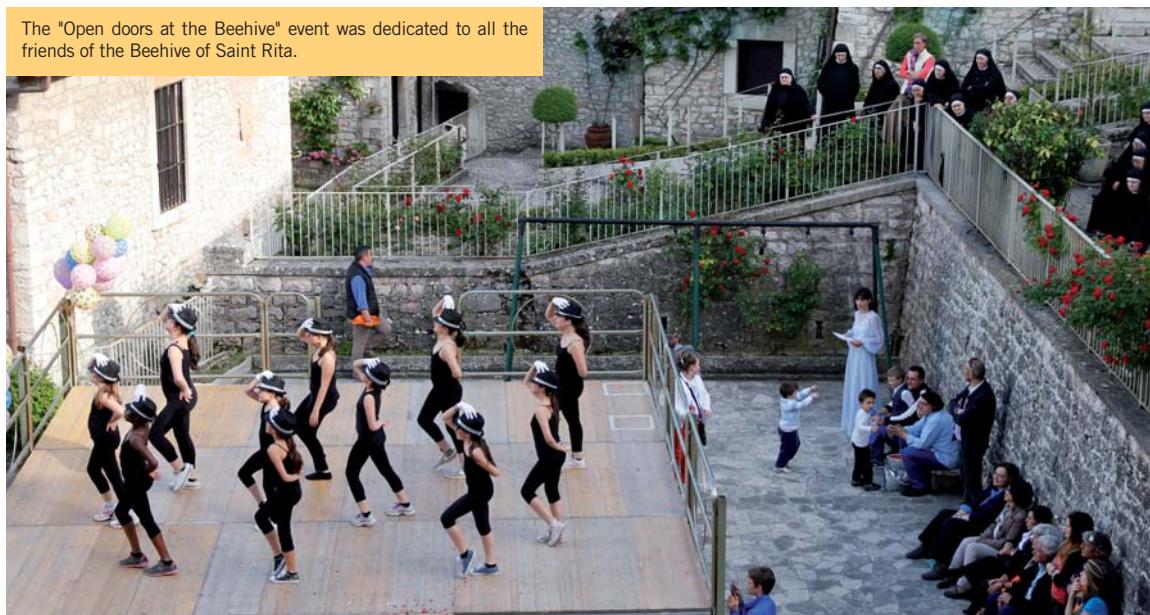
An opportunity not only to get to know the Little Bees and the Wildflowers, the children entrusted to the nuns and teachers by parents during working hours, but also to see for themselves this project in which they have never stopped believing.

On 6 June, the Little Bee Natascia Paradisi and Wildflower Natalia Cipilega (from the left) received the Goodness Award 2013. In addition, Little Bees Claudia, Sandra and Dayanna (from the right) left the Beehive, ready to fly off towards their future.



Many participated voluntarily in making this great party happen: the La Libellula (Dragonfly) dance school, with lively choreography by teacher Auction Andrijevsykyte

The "Open doors at the Beehive" event was dedicated to all the friends of the Beehive of Saint Rita.



and performed by the girls; the teachers of the handicrafts laboratory, Maria Rita Righetti e Luisa Di Curzio; and the ladies of the FUPS group who prepared the clothes for the parade and hairstyles. In addition, the restaurateurs of Cascia – Hotel delle Rose, Hotel Monte Meraviglia, Hotel Cursula, the La Brace restaurant, Di Curzio Incoming and the Zi' Adele restaurant – offered a rich and delicious buffet at the end of the evening.

A particularly emotional moment came with the presentation of the "Goodness Award", set up in memory of Sister Maria Tarcisia, by brother and sisters Mario, Flora and Ivonne. Now in its seventh edition, this year's award went to Little Bee Natascia Paradisi and Wildflower Natalia Cipiliega, who distinguished themselves during the year for their serious and responsible approach to their studies, for their contribution to the serenity and friendship of the group, and for

SAINT RITA FOUNDATION. HERE ARE THE NEW ACCOUNTS

From now on, if you make a donation to the Beehive of Saint Rita or other works of charity supported by the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia, you can do so by making your offers out to the accounts of the non-profit Saint Rita of Cascia Foundation:

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Post Office

1010759072

to make a postal transfer

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As regards the offers that you want to make to request Holy Mass, prayers or devotional mementoes (such as, for example, rosaries and holy cards), these will continue to be made out to the Monastery, while those that you decide to make in favour of works of charity will be made out to the non-profit Saint Rita of Cascia Foundation.

Thank you for every action you take.

SUPPORT THE BEEHIVE PROJECT WITH US

12€

buy a textbook for a girl in need.

20€

provide one hour of educational support to youngsters taking after-hour schooling.

50€

is the cost of one week's meals for girls in difficulty.

100€

provide professional medical care to a youngster in need.

200€

allow us to buy a complete kit of teaching materials for a girl.

The Beehive is a structure that lives solely through the donations of people who make their devotion concrete, through aid to the weakest.

A donation, however small, is enough to support the Little Bees and Wildflowers, through:

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BIC/SWIFT: UNCRITM1J35

Post Office Account No. 1010759072

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Fondazione Santa Rita da Cascia onlus

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Credit Card

at www.santaritadacascia.org/donazioni
indicating "Alveare" as the reason.

having accepted a journey of faith in the values of life, love and Christian solidarity.

The great family of the Beehive of Saint Rita met among smiles, music and dancing to demonstrate the important results that can be achieved through being united.

It is our
task to let
them grow
serenely.

estudio

SUPPORT THE INITIATIVES OF SAINT RITA'S BEEHIVE WITH A DONATION

Here, every day, the nuns and educators lovingly take care of our Little Bees. They are girls from 6-18 years of age with a difficult past behind them for whom, thanks also to your help, we ensure the warmth of a home and the education needed to build a better future.

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A love fulfilled

I met her beside Saint Rita, praying so intensely. Her name is Anna Gava. With her were her two daughters with their respective husbands. I took the liberty of asking them where they were from and was immediately asked if I had some time to spare because she had to tell me her love story which had something “miraculous” about it. I took her aside and this is how it started.

St. Rita of Cascia has marked my life with love. We are during the Second World War. Gino Dam, then my boyfriend, finding himself on the Yugoslav front, wrote me a letter saying that the situation was extremely difficult and that he would not come back alive. So he asked me to stop thinking about him. That was how I started praying to Saint Rita to protect him and help him return alive.

At the end of a long siege, Gino and other companions obtained a leave of absence permit and, incredibly, on arrival in Pula for boarding, Gino's permit was missing. So, on the advice of the captain, he was forced to return to the barracks in search of his document.

In the following days, the permit was found inside a reg-

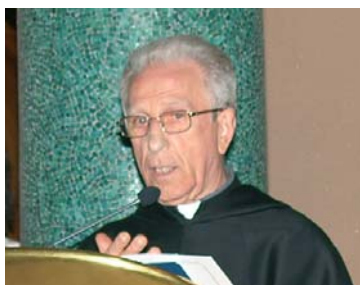


ister. What seemed to be just a mishap actually saved Gino's life because, on return from their leave, the other companions were captured and taken to the concentration camp. Gino finally took his leave of absence and, a few days later the armistice was signed, so he no longer had to go back and was safe.

I've always wondered if what happened was due to chance or to the intercession of Saint Rita. I have always believed in the second hy-

pothesis. During my long life, I've always invoked her. I married Gino, who sadly passed away in 2000, and am the mother of four daughters, grandmother of seven grandchildren and great-grandmother of four. Seventy years after the promise made, I have come to the Sanctuary of Saint Rita to thank her.

*Father Mario De Santis OSA,
Rector of the Basilica
of Saint Rita*



WRITE TO FATHER MARIO

Every pilgrim who comes to the Sanctuary of Saint Rita of Cascia undertakes a journey on the right track of Rita's values. Send testimony of your pilgrimage to Fr. Mario De Santis at padrerettore@santaritadacascia.org, giving us your consent to publish so that we can reflect together on the values that Rita transmits to us.

Pope Francis and Saint Rita

by Sr. M. Giacomina Stuani OSA



“Today is [the feast of] Saint Rita, Patron Saint of impossible causes – but this seems impossible: let us ask of her this grace, this grace that all, all, all people would do good and that we would encounter one another in this work, which is a work of creation, like the creation of the Father. A work of the family, because we are all children of God, all of us, all of us! And God loves us, all of us! May Saint Rita grant us this grace, which seems almost impossible. Amen.”

This direct reference by Pope Francis to Saint Rita in the homily of the daily Mass celebrated in Saint Marta on 22 May took us a little by surprise. But then, on reflection, we almost expected it and hoped that he would remember. He even asked her for a

“grace that seems almost impossible” that everyone, that is, each one of us, do good.

This reference to “good” is inserted in the second reading of the Mass of St. Rita: *“Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”* (Rom 12: 17, 21).

Even the Pope addressed Saint Rita as the patron saint of impossible causes, one of the Saint's best known appellatives. The example of dialogue and peace that the life of Saint Rita gives us is within our reach because, as the Holy Father says, “the root of this possibility of doing good – that we all have – is in creation”. Pope Francis asks us to remember that we carry imprinted within us the image and likeness of the Father who is called Love, and who put right in our hearts this Gift of Love: the Holy Spirit. Here, then, the commandment that is asked

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of us: do good. And along with this we may add, search, with the Heart of Christ, the True, the Beautiful, the Good, as Saint Rita did.

Jesus, the living word, always encourages us to broaden the horizon and Rita, who throughout her life assiduously meditated on the mystery of the passion and death of Christ, teaches us this path: *"In your goodness, O Father, you have given us in Saint Rita a singular example of love to you, and in you and for you, to all mankind. Her life force was love and by this she was always guided in the various states of her life, assiduously meditating on the Passion of Your Son. Becoming an example of sacrifice and charity, she experienced fully the sublime need for love that leads men to true joy and the light of the resurrection by the way of the cross"* (Preface, Votive Mass of St. Rita). Commenting on the passage of the Gospel passage of that day (Mk 9: 38-40), the Pope explains that "the disciples were a little intolerant", closed in the belief that "all those who do not have the truth cannot do good". Rita earned the appellation of "saint of impossible causes" because in her time she tried to break the chain of hatred, revenge, intolerance, staking her life for good, solidarity, communion, sharing. Having received mercy from the Lord, she herself, with much humility, wanted to be contagious with tolerance and mercy for the people of Cascia, and today it continues to be so for each of us. ■

Plan with God, live in the present.

Come visit us to discover yourself.

Dearest friend, we are living the Year of Faith. Do you want to make a sharp acceleration in your journey as a Christian woman? With God, plan the vocational dimension of your life, giving it a horizon of meaning and significance.

If you ask yourself, "Can I be happy?", faith in Jesus will answer that you can as long as thirst is alive in you and you have the burning desire to discover what God wants to accomplish in you. He can revive your heart and give you the courage to try new paths and roads for making you confident again each day.

We are waiting for you to live a few days with Friend Jesus, with we nuns, with other girls thirsty like you, in prayer, in friendship, in silence, in joy.

FEMALE VOCATIONAL ORIENTATION COURSE

19 - 24 August 2013

Monastery of Saint Rita, Cascia (Perugia)

For information:

Tel. 0743-76221

e-mail: monastero@santaritadacascia.org



Lets give
a nest to
those that
have none.

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