

FROM THE BEEES TO THE ROSES



The Magazine
of Saint Rita of Cascia

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OF THE AUGUSTINIAN
MONASTERY
OF SAINT RITA
OF CASCIA

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FEATURE: FEAST OF SAINT RITA 2015

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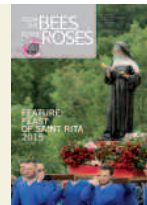
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My life with Rita

I knew Rita as a child, when my maternal grandmother, Rosa, took me with her on a pilgrimage to Cascia. I do not remember how old I was, but I clearly recall the feelings ... the vision of that urn, of that slender body and, above all, of that strange foot. Feelings like awe, curiosity, delight and fear, that I still remember perfectly. Growing up brought me face to face with critical phases. There were periods of estrangement from God and times when I felt his love as a good and patient father. In all of this, Rita represented a distant and strangely vivid memory. In one of those confused, almost dark moments, I was involved in parish activities. In this context, a special friendship was born with a guy whom I actually already knew (my home town is a provincial town where everybody knows everybody else), and a life story was born. Together, we finished studies, university, specialisation courses and internships ... The years passed ... but work did not come. Setting aside his dreams of glory, Ubaldo (who is now my husband) worked as a labourer in a sugar factory, cared for the elderly, and adapted to many situations just to be able to work. Then, from a particularly dark moment, an unconsciously courageous decision was born: we would get married within a year and so we began the preparations. Time passed without anything new happening and panic grew, so much so that the idea began to take root of cancelling everything. For me, the day of our wedding promise was suffered but on that day what I consider the great gift of Rita arrived. The previous night, Ubaldo had dreamed of a nun with a beautiful face but unknown to him. In the dream, he asked who she was and she said, "Don't you recognise me? I am Saint Rita". On waking up, Ubaldo rushed to recount the dream to his mother, which he justified with all the anxiety of the moment, but both of them remained puzzled because Saint Rita was unknown to them. Returning home, after the ceremony in the municipality, Ubaldo stopped to pick up the mail. Among others, there was the magazine of S. Maria delle Grazie folded in two and inside there was a letter informing Ubaldo that he had been hired by a pharmaceutical company as from 22 May. That's how our wedding started: with Rita – I call her so because for me she is my teacher of life, my friend, a comforting presence. When my first baby Luciano was born prematurely with an emergency caesarean section, of all the available incubators he was placed by chance in the one with an image of Rita attached above it. Everywhere we go, we always find things that remind us of her. Today, Ubaldo is again without a steady job, even though he took a second degree over the years. The future sometimes scares me, but I immediately find courage. God gave me a beautiful family, three great joys and, despite all the difficulties, we are certain that she will not abandon us. So, I repeat, without getting tired, "through the intercession of Saint Rita, Jesus, please take care of us".

(Maria Altamura, Bari)

I thought a lot about what to write to share your love, our love, for our dear saint and which we breathe even more on the days of the feast dedicated to her. Then our editorial staff received this simple, authentic testimony that is worth more than any thousand words that I could write.
(Sister M. Giacomina Stuari)

FROM THE BEES
TO THE ROSES



For you, the best
of the Feast



moments of Saint Rita





Woman, wife, mother, widow, nun and stigmatic, Rita of Cascia is "one of us". That's why, despite the rain, thousands of people came together from all over the world this year on the avenue of the Sanctuary, to celebrate her.





On 22 May, the procession of devotees arrives in front of the Basilica of Cascia, preceded by the Historical Procession. The two processions represent strong devotion to the saint of the impossible, in Rita's days just as today.





The women of Rita 2015: (from left) Claudia Francardi, Franca Pergher, TG5 journalist Simona Branchetti who presented the women to the community on 20 May, Lucia Fiorucci and Mother Agnese Grasso representing the Sisters of the Holy Family of Spoleto.

The women of Rita - the women honoured on 21 May with the Saint Rita International Recognition Award – were chosen for their distinction in Rita's universal values of forgiveness, dialogue and service to others.



On 21 May, Cascia revived the tradition of the evening in which many flocked to the monastery to accompany Rita on her return to the Father. Thousands of small flames created a unique spectacle.



A moment during the Solemn Pontifical Mass of 22 May, celebrated by Card. Gualtiero Bassetti.





Rita's example of a life
of dialogue and
forgiveness is more
relevant than ever and
close to the people.



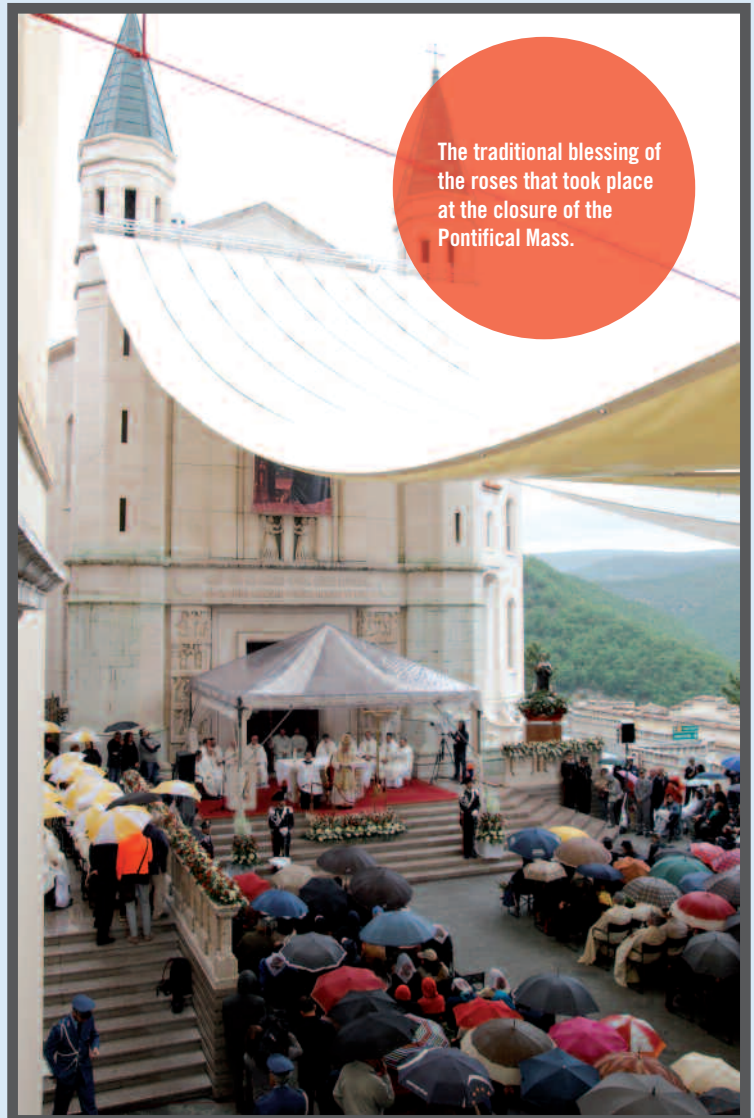


PRAYER

My God, with St. Augustine I say to you: allow me to know myself. I will then know how to live in humility, without resentment or exaltations. I believe that all the good that is in me, and that you deign to operate through me, is your gift and so I say "thank you".

Saint Rita, pray that I may be like you in the spirit of humility, to be able to come with you to the glory of God's children.

O Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like yours.



The traditional blessing of the roses that took place at the closure of the Pontifical Mass.

The three attitudes that drive life

Message from Father Alejandro Moral Antón, Prior General of the Order of St. Augustine, taken from the homily pronounced for the Solemn Mass of the Augustinian Family that took place in the Basilica of Cascia on 21 May, as part of the Feast of Saint Rita 2015.

Three fundamental attitudes are the motor of life. First, we must have absolute confidence in the Spirit. Like the fire burning in a volcano, Rita felt the presence of God drawing her. The motor of life of every believer is nothing more than the Spirit and under his stimulus we can renew ourselves.

God. At the time of the persecution of the early Christian disciples, the temptation to run away and leave this “new way” was great. But the words of Jesus, then as now, are the assurance that He will always be with his people. With his disciples, with us, in the same way as a vine and a shoot remain united. Shoots can-

that remains united to the vine: by choosing the contemplative life, she had the privilege to live always close to her Lord. We, too, can stay with Jesus, in the knowledge that without him, it is impossible to bear fruit. Without Him, we cannot live even difficulties and pain.

The third attitude, which we find also in the great testimony of the saint's life, is love. This is the commandment: that you love one another. Saint Augustine says: “How can we love if first we are not loved ourselves?”.

All three attitudes are guided by faith. For Rita, and for our Church, the Spirit is the soul of the consecrated life that gives water to the earth after drought and looks on loneliness to send his light to illuminate our way ... the Spirit leads to hope that the Kingdom will remain with us until the return of the Risen. Consecrated life emerges as a gift of God to the Church itself, through the Spirit. A precious and necessary gift to keep well in mind for today and for the future of people.



Father Alejandro Moral Antón.

A second attitude, which is a must in the life of Christians, concerns fear, or rather the lack of it. The real believer is not afraid, because our support is always

not bear fruit without union with Jesus.

Saint Rita can help give us these fruits, following her example. The saint of Cascia has always acted as a shoot



Dear friends of Saint Rita, welcome back to the pages featuring the consecrated life. In this issue, we would like to give space to the subject of missionary activity. We are doing so this by involving two Augustinian observers to whom we are very close: from Peru, the new bishop Mons. Robert Francis Prevost, who receives the good wishes of the whole Augustinian Family of Cascia and the Editorial Board; and Mother Maria Elena Occhialini, who tells of the work carried out in the Philippines. As always, enjoy the read.

Father Vittorino Grossi
Executive Director of "From the Bees to the Roses"

Free, universal and audacious

by Mons. Robert Francis Prevost,
Apostolic Administrator sede vacante of Chiclayo (Peru).

Out of love, God sends the Son, who gives his life for us, and calls us to be his disciples. Missionary activity was born in the Church as a way to express our response to God who loved us first. And for it to be so, it must be free, universal and audacious. Missionaries are envoys, but let's be clear: by virtue of our baptism, *all* of us are *envoys*. Envoys to proclaim the Good News, the Gospel to all nations, with the joy and enthusiasm that arise from the encounter with Jesus Christ. Chapter 10 of the Gospel of St. Matthew presents the indications of Jesus for fulfilling the mission. *Freely you have received, give freely (Mt 10,8)*. The gratuitousness of God's love, his grace donated, is a fundamental principle. With the gift of the Spirit, the mission becomes universal: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28, 19)*. The Church is present today in the most faraway places, thanks to the generosity of consecrated religious missionaries and also lay people. Jesus encourages his disciples to speak without fear, because it is necessary to proclaim the Kingdom of God with audacity, with courage, with perseverance. *And do not fear those who*

kill the body but have not been able to kill the soul; rather fear he who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father wishing it (Mt 10, 28-29).

Today, Christians in many countries live under persecution. Martyrdom is a reality even in our days. But, even in these circumstances, the Lord calls on us to be courageous in giving witness to our faith. I remember the '90s, when many missionaries in Peru had to live under the oppression of terrorism, by being signs of hope for all the people. Among the many victims of the "Sendero Luminoso" (Shining Path) terrorist group, there were also three priests: the Polish Franciscans Michele Tomaszek and Sbgneo Strzalkowski, and the Italian diocesan Alessandro Dordi, killed in 1991. They died in defence of the faith, giving their lives for others. They will be beatified in December, in Chimbote (the dioceses where they worked). Today, through the Church, Christ still calls on men and women willing to respond generously to the vocation to be missionaries. Freely, God has given us. Freely, we respond with joy! Declare that the Kingdom of God is at hand! *(Mt 10,7)*.

“Knowing the suffering of our brothers gives meaning to life”

Sister M. Elena Occhialini, Delegate Superior of the "Mother of Good Counsel" Monastery in Bulacan (Philippines), is interviewed by Monica Guarriello

Sister Maria Elena Occhialini, 56-years-old from the Italian region of Marche, has spent 32 years of her life in a monastery. In 1997, she arrived as a missionary in the Philippines and, after one year, took part at the blessing of the “Mother of Good

Counsel” Monastery in the municipality of Bulacan, north of the capital Manila, where hundreds of children, old people, women and men live in extreme poverty. Today, Sister Maria Elena is at the head of the small Augustinian community of the monastery of contemplative life that

saw the birth of, and along with six other sisters and a novice, carries on the work of support for the many families who are in distress.

Mother, who and how many are the poor families under your care every day? Ours is a community of



The nuns of the Community of Bulacan produce craft works to support the mission.

FEATURE: THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE



Sister M. Elena Occhialini, in the front row next to a Spanish Augustinian friar, along with some nuns from the Community.

contemplative life dedicated to seeking God through prayer and study, eager like our Holy Father Augustine to share the fruits of this search with our brothers and sisters. Our prayer of praise, adoration, request for forgiveness and intercession wants to bring all men and women before the altar of God with all their needs. Clearly, just as Jesus came to save all men, but performed a special ministry for those he met, so we, even though raising a universal prayer, cannot neglect those who live alongside us, through our prayer and also concrete help. The monastery is located in a rural but quite populated area. Around one hundred people of all ages attend our church regularly: children, adolescents, youth, adults and old people. But the number of house-

holds is growing in leaps and bounds because boys and girls get together when they are still very young.

From bread for the spirit to bread for the body, what are the most urgent needs that you face? What do people who come to you ask for? The first need, at least in terms of immediate satisfaction, is always material: there is the single mother for whom we have to provide food daily; there are children who cannot pay for the transport to go to school and we try to help through the offers we receive from abroad; there are those who ask for help to pay school fees and we intervene with the offers for the poor that we receive; others come to us when they get sick and do not have the money to pay for medicines or

hospitalisation. When we receive packages with clothing or other consumer goods we share them with our neighbours most in need. But the deepest need is for human and Christian training. We are cloistered nuns, so we try to answer in a way that is fitting for our vocation. The first way is friendship with people, which allows us to listen to their problems and give advice. From these relations, the desire was born to do something for the children and we invited them to recite the rosary with us during the month of May, then one of us gave them a little bit of catechism. In the final days, with the help of two Augustinian sisters of apostolic life, we organised a "camp" to educate them also in living with each other in the name of Jesus. In this regard, being able to

FEATURE: THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE



Among the poor inhabitants of the Philippines, there are many families who turn to the missionaries to support their children.

build a simple environment for them out of the cloister where they can meet to socialise remains a dream. The monastery is the only “cultural offer” in our neighbourhood. Maybe, sooner or later, the generosity of someone or of many will allow us to realise this dream. Coming into contact with children, we realised that the source of their problems is the parents who also need to be trained. Every year, during Advent and Lent, we organise a day of retreat for them with the help of priest friends. Last year, with the help of a couple specialised in this field, we held a prayer seminar in our House of Prayer, to help them understand how their personal problems may affect the education of their children. In 2008, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of our monastery, we started the “Mother of Good Counsel Pious Union” for the women concerned, a group of people who commit themselves to pray for one another and participate in our monthly training sessions at the monastery. These are in some way forms of “extraordinary” and more

emergency support, but I am convinced that our “strength” is the testimony of our life, the opportunity that we offer all to participate in our prayer, the Sunday Mass that we share with our neighbours. Everything else is a way of saying that only Jesus is the answer and the meaning of life, which becomes different with Him, even if poverty does not change.

In view of the year of consecrated life proclaimed by Pope Francis, how do you live your vocation as Augustinian missionaries of the contemplative life? How do you reconcile the cloister with missionary activity? Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus was proclaimed Patron of Missions; biographer Posidius says of the Holy Father Augustine that “what the Lord told him in prayer, he shared with those present and those absent through writings”. Being contemplative means being in love with Jesus and we cannot avoid feeling his passion, because all can know Him and believe in Him. Pope Francis reminds us constantly not to seek a “com-

fortable life”, but to go out of ourselves towards Jesus and our brothers. I believe our life can be subject to two temptations: that of being schematically rigid and hiding the search of our convenience behind the laws of the cloister, considering it an easy way out of getting involved with problems; or feeling inferior, because we cannot leave, because we cannot see the result of our apostolate, because we cannot do many things like others to solve the problems that surround us. Instead, being aware of the problems and sufferings of our brothers is helping us to live and give meaning to daily events: there is no suffering or sacrifice that is wasted because, by the communion of the Mystical Body of Christ, we can say with St. Paul: “I accomplish in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ for His Body which is the Church”. A trivial example: we have been more than a month without electricity. This was the result of the abuse of a rich neighbour with respect to a poor neighbourhood. Being involved in this “injustice” helped us understand what it means to share the situation of the poorest and taught us to offer it for them, though they certainly not thinking of this dimension right now. Being missionaries means proclaiming that Christ is the “centre of the universe and of history” and is present here and now. Our whole life, which is totally dedicated to Him, wants to proclaim this fact and testify to the joy that it procures: I believe that is what constitutes the greatest missionary gesture.



Along with the devotees from all over the world, the nuns of the Monastery of Saint Rita celebrated the saint whose charisma they safeguard.

Saint Rita, mother of the Lebanese people

by Alessia Nicoletti

« In Lebanon, Saint Rita is revered more than the Madonna, according to Cardinal Béchara Boutros Raï, Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites. The cardinal was speaking on 13 March when he received the visiting delegation led by Father Mario De Santis, Rector of the Basilica and Mayor Gino Emili,

family in which a woman does not bear the name of Rita and there is no street corner where you cannot admire a statue or an altar dedicated to her. These are small and lonely places, symbols of diffusion of devotion to Rita, where the faithful stop to pray, in intimacy, embraced by faith between heaven and earth. There are also shrines erected in the name of Rita in

teachings. Right inside the church, which is still under construction but is firmly established in the hearts of many worshipers, the lighting of the torch was celebrated before its return to Cascia, on the occasion of the solemn celebrations. Director Father Chawi Raffoul, who headed the sizeable Lebanese delegation, described worship of Rita in Lebanon as very ancient and spontaneous, deeply linked to prayer, an act of the everyday life of everyone. The school which was founded over fifty years ago at the behest of the Fathers General of the Maronite-Mariamite Order, is the fulcrum of the town and a point of reference for the population. "We live Saint Rita every day," said Father Raffoul, "and we teach our numerous students her life, as a model, in difficulties and forgiveness". Families, the sick and needy, mainly women of all ages who identify with the extraordinary figure of daughter, wife and mother that Saint Rita was. There are many believers who, through their own experience, have been able to witness the love of Rita, whose miraculous hand has brought healings from serious diseases also in Lebanon, sowing the flourishing seeds of that city of love and peace that she always desired for humanity.



The Lebanese delegation gathered on the evening of 21 May at the Basilica square, together with rector Father Mario De Santis and the Mayor of Cascia, Gino Emili. The moment is the solemn ignition of the votive tripod. The Torch of Peace, which travelled from Dbayeh to Cascia, was lit to testify to the union of the two peoples in the name of Rita.

who were in Lebanon to seal the twinning in the name of Rita with the lighting of the Torch of Peace. The evocative phrase sums up the importance and depth of devotion to the Saint of the Impossible who, even in the land of cedars, plays the role of mother of the people who is omnipresent in the life of the community. There is no

almost every town, where the faithful and the authorities gather on 22 May to celebrate, even for as long as a week. There are important places of worship for the community, such as the Ecole Sainte Rita church in the town of Dbayeh, which have been created to follow her example of mother and disseminate her valuable



FROM LEBANON, A GIFT FOR CASCIA

Dbayeh, in Lebanon, is the town chosen for his year's twinning of faith and peace and, out of devotion to Saint Rita, the land of cedars will donate an imposing statue, created by Nayef Alwan in Ayto, to the Municipality of Saint Rita of Cascia.

Before being placed at the entrance to **Cascia**, on **18 October**, in the presence of the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, Cardinal Béchara Boutros Raï, the statue will be in **St. Peter's Square** in **Rome** on **30 September** to receive the blessing of Pope Francis.

We are waiting for you on the **pilgrimage of 30 September** to Rome!

To participate, simply contact the Information Office of the Sanctuary of Saint Rita

Tel. +39 **074375091**

infobasilica@santaritadacascia.org

THEY 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. Carry them to your Paradise, where there is no more grief, nor pain, nor tears, but peace and joy with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Adelina Sbalzo (Monte Giberto FM - Italy)
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Pietro Stella (Troia FG - Italy)

Rita La Marra (Foggia - Italy)





A moment from the
Solemn Pontifical Mass,
celebrated by Cardinal
Gualtiero Bassetti.





Card. Gualtiero Bassetti, deep in prayer before the urn that holds the body of Saint Rita, in the homonymous Basilica.





The Transit of Saint Rita was celebrated on 21 May in a ceremony commemorating the saint's passage from death on earth to life in heaven, when her suffering was transformed into peace and her name became part of history.



“**T**he saint of Cascia helps us to understand, not to trivialise, not to wither and, above all, to live to the full the vocation to which we have been called”. These were the words of Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti, Archbishop of Perugia-Città della Pieve and president of the Umbrian Episcopal Conference in his Homily during the Solemn Pontifical Mass officiated at the Basilica of Cascia on 22 May 2015, during the celebrations of St Rita.

Be it family or consecrated life, the vocation of each of us, said the cardinal, must and can be lived in the knowledge that “the Lord guides us and sustains us always with his love and his mercy, as he did with Rita, who - as St. John Paul II said - is at the same ‘strong woman’ and ‘wise virgin’, about which the Holy Scripture speaks”. And the rain showers that fell on the square of the Basilica of Cascia right at the end of the celebration, at 12.32, seemed like a blessing from above. “The human story of Rita,” recalled Card. Bassetti, “shows us a strong and courageous woman: not - as the world would think - in the intrigues and bloody feuds in which even her family was involved, but in a fight that required a much greater dose of strength and courage: ‘not return evil for evil to anyone, not take the law into one’s own hands, but live in peace with everyone, loving even enemies’, because it will be

Card. Bassetti: Rita helps us to live our vocation

Message from Cardinal Gualtiero Bassetti, Archbishop of Perugia and Città della Pieve, taken from the homily pronounced for the Solemn Pontifical Mass which took place on the square of the Basilica of Cascia on 22 May 2015, the day of the Feast of Saint Rita.



Card. Gualtiero Bassetti (centre).

the Lord Jesus who does justice. At a time in which women lived in very harsh conditions, were poorly treated and generally had no important social roles, the figure of Rita stands out as a strong woman who manages to impose peace through forgiveness and love, with the tenacity and perseverance that only women have. She knew how to forgive because she had so often pondered the passion of Christ and the forgiveness He gave to his crucifiers; she tried to convince her children to do the same, but in failing she offered their

lives to God so that they would not be stained with blood. The Lord heeded this ultimate sacrifice from a mother’s heart and they died without having avenged their father in a bloody manner”. In short, the example of Rita of Cascia can also guide us “in our so troubled times, offering us an opportunity to meditate, also in view of the Synod, on the reality of many of our families, affected and sometimes overwhelmed by fierce feuds and violence, which are perhaps worse than those of the days of Rita”.

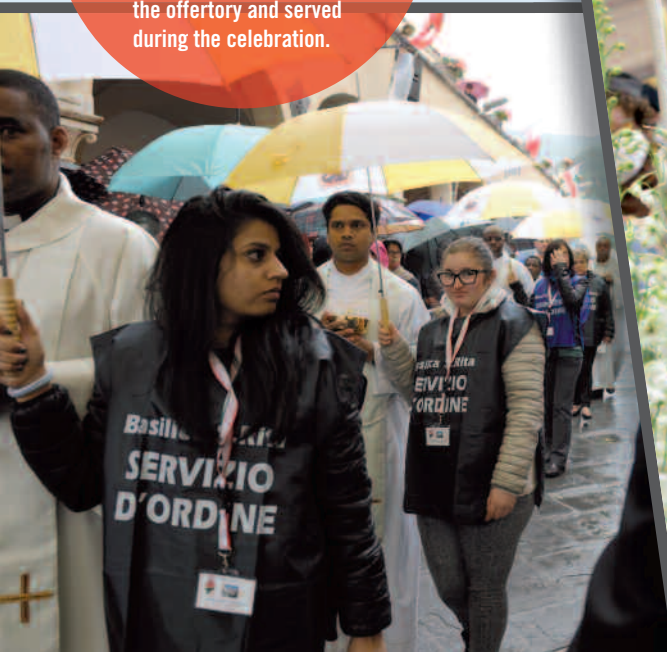


The Little Bees celebrate their saint



From the first light of dawn, the Little Bees worked on preparing the Basilica square, participated in the historical procession, took pictures, read during the Pontifical Mass, took part in the offertory and served during the celebration.

On 22 May, even the young Little Bees of the Beehive of Saint Rita worked for the great patron of impossible cases.





Open Doors at the Beehive, for being a family

by Monica Guarriello,
Saint Rita Foundation non-profit association

Next to the drinks table, a young woman who had left Rome the previous morning, is telling an educator from the Beehive of Saint Rita how she came to know about this project. Many years earlier, out of devotion to the saint, the mother had begun to support the charitable work of the nuns of Cascia and had become fond of those little girls, up to the point of considering them her daughters. The young woman was saying that she had grown up with the feeling of having sisters that she absolutely had to know. A man who had come from Milan is watching the show prepared by the Little Bees and the Wildflowers. His eyes light up when he looks at me and says: "This place is a foretaste of heaven". Just after the buffet, a little girl is distributing many colourful bracelets, prepared before the trip to Cascia with care and attention. She wanted to give a gift to the Little Bees and the Wildflowers. It is a gift that comes from the heart and speaks words about her. A woman who is more than 80-years-old took the bus all on her own for a three-hour trip. She has



Some of the Beehive's supporters in front of the manual skills stand-laboratory set up for the event on 6 June.



Some 350 supporters of the Beehive house gathered in Cascia from all over Italy.

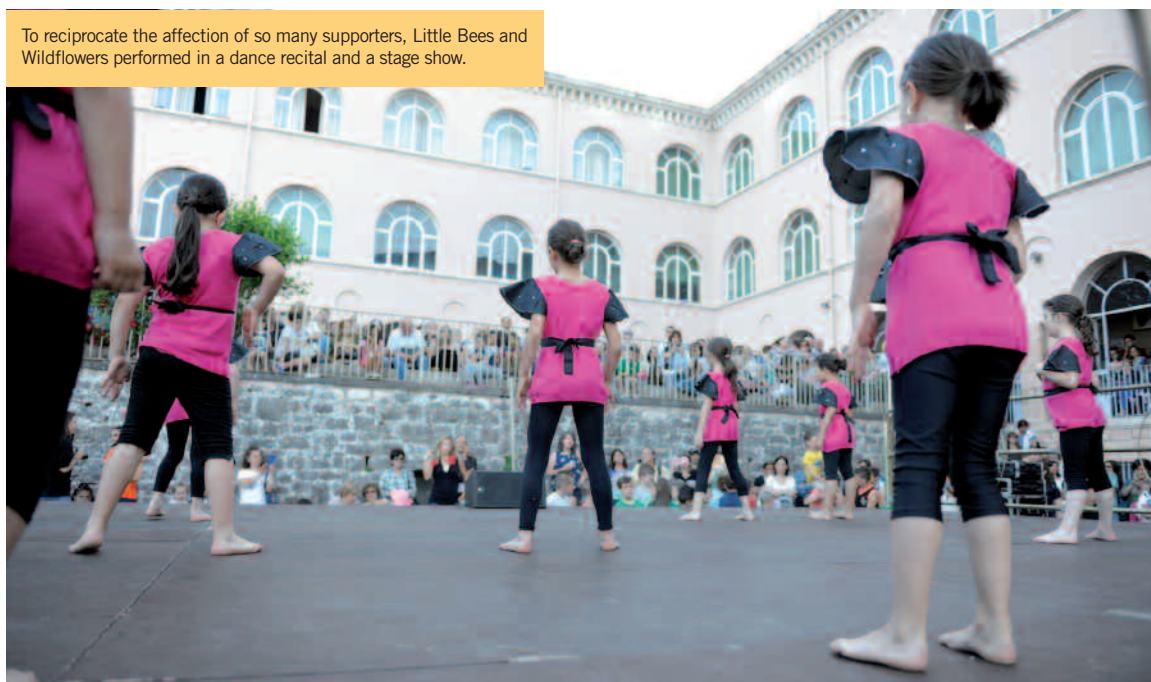
always supported the Beehive house and wanted to be here today, as part of the family. Another couple has made a seven-hour drive, the lady is tired and another seven hours awaits them on the drive back to their home town ... but being here was too important. It's Sunday, 7 June 2015. We have all been here from the day before – donors, nuns, volunteers, operators from the Monastery of Saint Rita, the Beehive and the Saint Rita of Cascia Foundation non-profit organisation – for the two-day “Doors Open at the Beehive”, the solidarity event that opens the doors to all friends of the welcome house for young girls and boys with difficult family situations, the Little Bees and the Wildflowers, namely the girls and boys taking part in the daytime after-school project designed for working parents from the region who need to entrust their chil-



The nuns of Saint Rita participated with joy at the dance recital of the Little Bees.

dren to the nuns. Laden with their baggage of enthusiasm, love and trust, three hundred and fifty people, including young and old, children, families or groups of friends, have come to Cascia from all over Italy to get to know and learn more about the Beehive project, ask their questions and understand how their money is used, often after having made many sacrifices. In return for their affection, the Little Bees and the Wildflowers put on a stage show and dance recital, interspersed with some testimonials, such as the one by former Little Bee Roberta Carmignani, who talked about the added value of the Beehive

To reciprocate the affection of so many supporters, Little Bees and Wildflowers performed in a dance recital and a stage show.



in her life, first as a young fourteen-year-old and then as a woman and mother of three, who today has been able to complete her studies and develop her sense of family thanks to the five years spent in the home of the Beehive. Local volunteers who had shown great professionalism throughout the school year were extremely generous in giving their time and services to organisation of the event. The following also contributed to the success of the event: for the buffet, Hotel delle Rose (which also made its staff available), Hotel Monte Meraviglia, Hotel Cursula, Grand Hotel Elite and the “La Brace” restaurant; for the dance recital, the “La Libellula” Association and teacher Asta Andrijevsykyte; for the audio system, “Opera 26” of Spoleto; and for stage permission, mayor Gino Emili and the Municipality of Cascia. In addition, thanks go to engineer Tito Castellucci, electrician Francesco Di Crescenzo, photographer Giovanni Galardini, video maker Leonardo Angelini and, finally, laboratory volunteers Rita Maria Righetti, Luisa Di Curzio, Ivana Demofonti, Marcella Deangelis, Giocondo Pecorari and the two very young volunteers Flavia and Ginevra, engaged in animation and providing make-up for little ones.

Celebrating its fourth year, “Doors Open at the Beehive” has again shown itself to be the ideal venue, not just for the introducing the Beehive to outsiders, but above all for “bringing it to life by being family”, for being together, all at the same level, through a unique annual experience, thanks to which it is possible to come into contact with the values of solidarity and hospitality. ■

GOODNESS AWARD

On 6 June, during “Open Doors at the Beehive”, the director of the facility, Violanda Lleshaj, handed over the Goodness Award 2015 to Little Bee Narcisa (pictured). In memory of Sister M. Tarcisia Chiatti, Augustinian daughter of Saint Rita, who rose to heaven on 4 September 2006, brother and sisters Mario, Flora and Ivonne set up an annual award to be given to a Little Bee or Wildflower who has shown sensitivity and commitment to others. Another emotional moment was the handing over of “Little Bee” and “Wildflower” certificates

for young people who have completed the path of growth in the Beehive: Little Bees Mirela, Albina, Valentina and Stefania, and Wildflowers Cristian, Adelina, Massimo and Chiara. We will always be by your side, in thought and prayer. Best wishes!
(The Augustinian Nuns of Saint Rita)



SMILING AT LIFE

Send photos of your children to monastero@sanritadecascia.org, with the consent of both parents for publication. Photos with incomplete or illegible consent will not be considered.

1



2



3



4



5



6



1. Celeste Porcu (Bari Sardo OG - Italy)
2. Cesare and Denise Parutto (Fanna PN - Italy)
3. Jessica and Luca Tassone (Revesby - Australia)
4. Joseph Ferrigno (Brooklyn NY - USA)
5. Manuel Sperti (Parabita LE - Italy)
6. Olivia and Giorgio Bogdany (Melbourne - Australia)

Lets give
a nest to
those that
have none.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE HIVE OF ST. RITA WITH A DONATION

It is here that every day the nuns and educators lovingly take care of our young Bees. Girls between the ages of 6 and 18 who have a left difficult past behind them and for whom, thanks also to your help, we can ensure the warmth of a home and a better future.

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