

# FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES



The Magazine  
of Saint Rita of Cascia

BIMONTHLY  
OF THE AUGUSTINIAN  
MONASTERY  
OF SAINT RITA  
OF CASCIA

NO 4 JUL-AUG 2015

## FOOD FOR LIFE

FOOD NOURISHES THE BODY  
AND RELATIONS

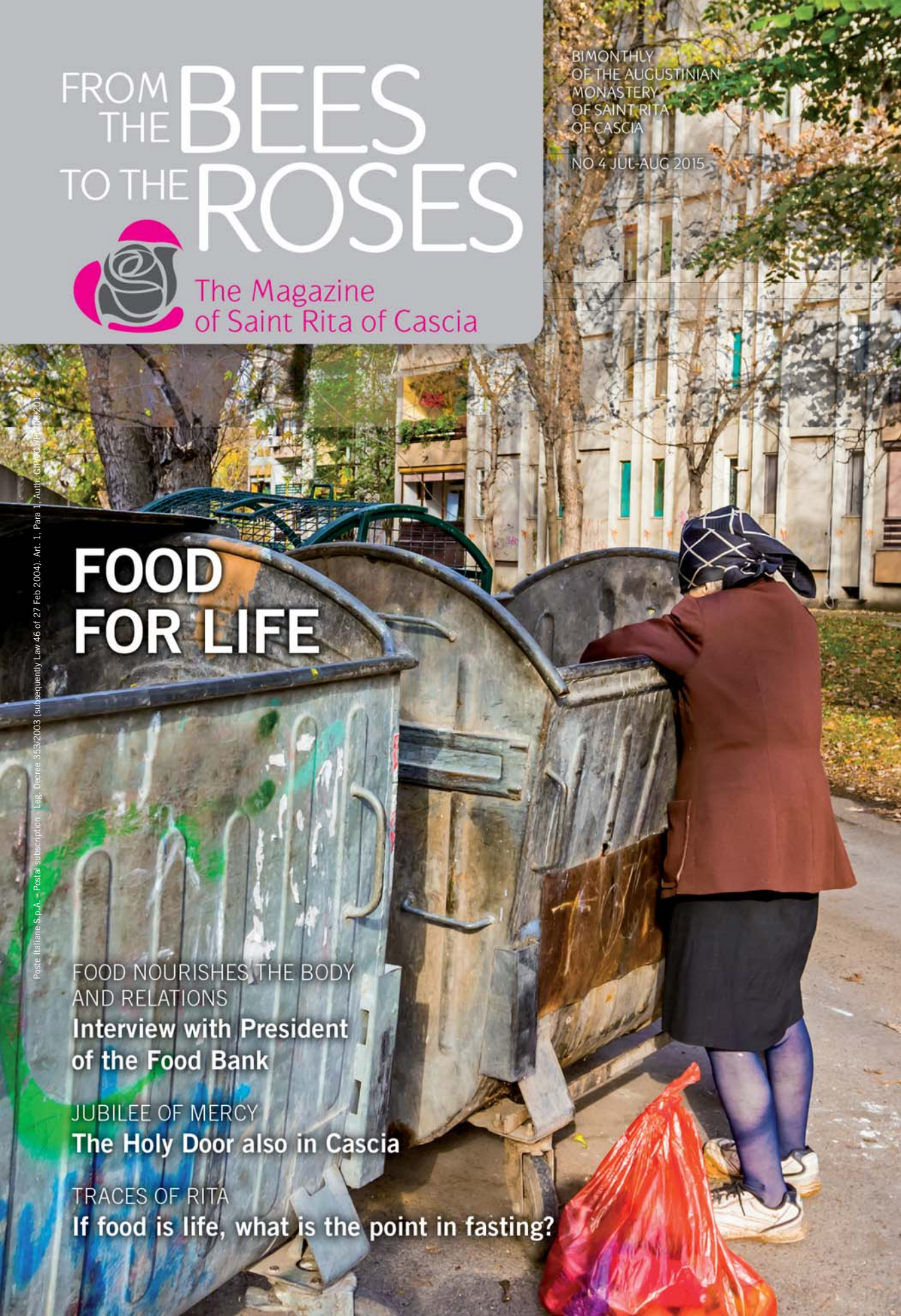
**Interview with President  
of the Food Bank**

JUBILEE OF MERCY

**The Holy Door also in Cascia**

TRACES OF RITA

**If food is life, what is the point in fasting?**





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## FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES

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## The culture of waste

The “culture of waste ... is harmful to excluded human beings just as quickly as things are reduced to rubbish“. With these words (*Laudato si* Encyclical, 22), the Holy Father makes us reflect on an aspect that I find important: there is a relationship between our habit of wasting food and our tendency to pretend not to see the needy who pass by. The two attitudes are the result of the same “disease”: the culture of waste, in fact. That is, we are unaccustomed to placing attention on the things and people that instead have value. Put simply, we remain indifferent, and this carelessness has become everyday normality for us. “In some places, rural and urban alike, the privatisation of certain spaces has restricted people’s access to places of particular beauty. In others, ‘ecological’ neighbourhoods have been created which are closed to outsiders in order to ensure an artificial tranquillity. Frequently, we find beautiful and carefully manicured green spaces in so-called ‘safer’ areas of cities, but not in the more hidden areas where the disposable of society live” (Pope Francis, *Laudato si*, 45).

Andrea Segrè, professor of International and Comparative Agricultural Policy and director of the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of Bologna, reminds us that “according to FAO, it will be necessary to increase agricultural production by at least 60% in the coming years to feed a population which will grow to 9 billion by 2050, and the same body estimates that currently more than one-third of the food that is produced, processed, transported and distributed in the world is lost or wasted (there is a difference): more than 1.3 billion tons of foodstuff that are still consumable and which could feed about 2 billion people for a whole year. Therefore it is useless to increase food production for a growing population, if it is then wasted: it makes more sense then to start to eliminate this waste and then increase production”.

It is therefore necessary to reverse the trend, to escape the subculture of waste and go back to giving value to the relationship between living organisms and the environment, and thus placing attention back on everyone, especially those living on the margins of this society, in order to initiate, stimulate, ask for a fair redistribution of resources that in fact exist but which are actually available to the few. It is important that when we shop we pay a little more attention, being careful to buy only what we actually need, without forgetting to read the labels to check expiry dates. That alone would help to reduce waste. We must recover the capacity to surprise ourselves, become indignant and horrified in the face of inequality and misery, the result of an unbalanced system of powers. “The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen”.

# Food nourishes the body and relations

Andrea Giussani, president of the non-profit Banco Alimentare (Food Bank) Foundation, is interviewed by Rita Gentile

**S**ince 1989, the non-profit Banco Alimentare (Food Bank) Foundation has been fighting food waste. Through a network of local organisations in 21 regions, the food recovered is then redistributed to some 9,000 charitable organisations that assist the needy throughout Italy. Rita Gentile talked by telephone with its president, Andrea Giussani, who



better explained the sense of the Food Bank's mission and, in particular, how important it is to convert food waste into new value that nourishes not only the body but also the soul.

**In terms of food, what does absolute poverty mean?** Since we live in a Western society, in terms of food, absolute poverty means that the person or family members do not have the certainty of having at least one meal a day that has adequate protein value. Thus, even if something is found to eat, it does not constitute a meal with sufficient proteins. In fact, it creates food poverty with consequences for life that are unacceptable.

**Faced with the 4 million people in our country who are living in absolute poverty (ISTAT data for 2014, ed.), Italians throw away 8 billion euros in food waste. What can each of us do?** A study carried out by the Polytechnic University of Milan found 6

million tons of unused surplus. Of these, the greatest part is waste, while a part cannot be recovered. There are two sides of the coin: one is domestic consumption, because about 45% of the waste occurs in the family. What does this mean? Offering greater education and attention to how people shop, how they preserve foods, how they organise their pantries and refrigerators. Then, 55% of the waste is attributable to the food chain, that is farmers, producers, distributors and catering. On this side, which is where the Food Bank operates, it is a question of channelling all food sur-



Every year on the last Saturday in November, the Food Bank organises National Food Collection Day in supermarkets throughout Italy



pluses, for example packaging which is not perfect but with edible contents, that are close to expiry date but can be used safely. All this industrial and distribution part offers a very productive opportunity, because new value can be given to tons of foods that would be thrown away. Instead, if retrieved and distributed, they can be used for human feeding of those most in need.

**So, is it better to give new value to the food as the Food Bank does, or to reduce waste so as to have available resources that would otherwise be destined for disposal?** It would be better to do both. Not engage in over-production and transport foodstuffs properly, thus decrease what is no longer sellable. But I am convinced, and our experience confirms this, that in our society, which is used to having so many references for each product, products that are always fresh and beautiful to look at, surplus - what is no longer sellable but is still edible - is chronic and structural. So, once it has occurred, let us use the resources in order

not to throw them away, to retrieve the surplus and direct it towards anyone who does not care about the colour of an apple but wants to eat an apple.

**One aspect that has perhaps been little analysed is the value that food has from the social point of view. Your foundation provides not only food, but also the possibility of sharing.** For us, this is extremely important and has educational aspects, such as educating children from an early age to re-

### TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE

Worldwide, there are 805 million people who suffer from hunger - about 11% of the world population, of which the vast majority live in poor or developing countries (*FAO, The State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2014*).

**36 million people** die each year through **lack** of food.

**29 million people** die each year through **too much** food.

**144 million children** are **underweight**.

**155 million children** are obese or **overweight**.

In short, the rich die because they eat too much and the poor die because they have no food.

Every year, one-third of global food production is wasted - a total of about 1.3 million tons, an amount that would be sufficient to feed all those who are hungry. The food on our planet exists and there would be enough to feed everyone. It is just that it does not reach everyone. What would it take to implement a global plan for equitable distribution?



"Religious men and women should be capable of waking up the world". These words of Pope Francis inspired the book by Alessandra Buzzetti and Cristiana Caricato. A series of portraits of men and women who have chosen the religious life and each day offer concrete testimony of the spirit of the Gospel, incarnating, even before he formulated the phrase, the Pope's exhortation to "wake up the world".

Svegliate il mondo! Testimoni della  
profezia del Vangelo  
(Wake up the world! Testimonies of  
the prophecy of the Gospel)  
Alessandra Buzzetti, Cristiana Caricato  
Ed. Paoline, 15 €



spect food, not to throw it away and not to leave food on the plate.

We run courses in schools on this, while in the canteen we recover what is eventually left over. Not only that: we are convinced that food is an element of social relations, friendship and company and thus an instrument for improving relations among people. We attach great importance to the delivery of food in charitable structures; not only because of their numbers, but because we believe that feeding people allows them to recover self-dignity and a possibility for social re-launching. Finally, I note that only when you have

friendship, you drink and eat together ...

**The 19<sup>th</sup> Food Collection Day will be held on November 28. What is it about? What can be donated?** There will be some 130,000 volunteers in front of about 11,500 supermarkets asking consumers to do an extra bit of shopping for a needy family. Everything that is collected is distributed in the following months through charitable institutions to those in need. In terms of products, we will be giving indications during the collection, leaving it up to people to decide in complete freedom. Generally speaking, we ask for those products which are most difficult

to recover and they will go to supplement our normal flows of collection and distribution. Last year, I remember, we asked above all for baby foods, oil and all kinds of canned fish, meat and vegetables, which are easier to store and distribute. The contribution of each person is simple: you can decide to be a volunteer but also go shopping and look out for the people with the yellow bib that indicate this opportunity for giving and making friends. ■

*For information  
on the Food Bank:  
Tel. +39 0289658450  
info@bancoalimentare.it  
www.bancoalimentare.it*

## SYNOD OF BISHOPS: VOCATION AND MISSION OF THE FAMILY

Vocation and mission are the key words that will guide the reflections of the bishops on the family as part of the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, scheduled for October 4-25 this year. If the 3rd Extraordinary General Assembly in autumn 2014 saw the Church reflect on 'pastoral challenges to the family in the context of evangelisation', the 14th General Assembly will focus on the 'vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world'. "Nor can we forget", reads the *instrumentum laboris* presented on June 23, "that the celebration of the next Synod takes place in the light of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy proclaimed by Pope Francis, which will begin on December 8, 2015".

**“B**e merciful  
just as your  
Father is  
merciful”.

*This is the appeal that Pope Francis has addressed to everyone in announcing the holding of the extraordinary Jubilee, the Holy Year of Mercy, which will begin on December 8, 2015, feast of the Immaculate Conception, to close on November 20, 2016, Solemnity of Christ the King. A truly extraordinary Jubilee, thanks to the fact that the Holy Father has granted the possibility of opening the Holy Door also in Sanctuaries, so also in Cascia, where many pilgrims come to feed on food for the soul.*

**The meaning of the Jubilee lies in general pardon, in indulgence open to all, and in the possibility of renewing the relationship with God and neighbour. Thus, the Holy Year becomes an opportunity for deepening faith and living Christian witness with renewed commitment. In practice, what does that mean?**

By convening the extraordinary Jubilee, Pope Francis wanted to remind everyone that the Christian God, the God revealed by Jesus, is above all a “Father rich in mercy”. The great desire of God is that all men be saved and reconciled with others and with creation. The Jubilee is a special occasion for recalling this fundamental truth of our faith: God is love, is mercy, and mercy is the way that unites God and

# Jubilee of Mercy. Opening of the Holy Door in Cascia

Interview with Father Rocco Ronzani,  
Sacristan of the Basilica of Saint Rita of Cascia

men. It is a good opportunity for becoming and being increasingly more *merciful like the Father*, according to the words of the Gospel of Luke that the Pope has chosen as the motto of Jubilee Year. It is a grace we receive and a programme of life as challenging as it is full of joy and peace.

**The initial rite of the Jubilee is the opening of the Holy Door, a door which is only opened during Holy Year, while it remains walled up in other years. There is a Holy Door in each of the four major basilicas of Rome (St. Peter's, St. John Lateran, St. Paul outside the Walls and Santa Maria Maggiore). However, this time the doors of the sanctuaries, including the one in Cascia, will be opened. Why this choice? And which will be the Holy Door of the Sanctuary of Saint Rita?**

The pilgrimage of the Holy Year – metaphor of human life, of man the pilgrim – is aimed towards a goal. We are always pilgrims towards a goal. The *Door of mercy* is the image of our goal, the real one, the door that one day will introduce us to the house of God: this door, Jesus teaches us, is He himself, and we go through it every time we love Him and our neighbour. The Holy Door in Cascia will be opened solemnly in the Basilica of Saint Rita on December 20, 2015, at 11.00. It is the side door leading into the church at the urn of the saint.

***God's desire  
is that  
all men might  
be saved***



The Sanctuary of Saint Rita of Cascia.

## *In Cascia, the Jubilee will be in the spirit of welcome*

Saint Rita, who in every season of her earthly existence was a woman of reconciliation and forgiveness, has always been a model of mercy and for this reason making a pilgrimage to Cascia during the Jubilee Year, to venerate her and listen to her message is even more significant.

**Father Rocco, how can the Holy Year be understood as the moment of “general pardon” if, in order to receive it, you have to physically pass through a door? I refer, for**

**example, to those who are sick, who could not do it ... What is the added value of the Holy Year?** The Lord always forgives our sin; the Door of his heart is always open and is open for all. Also for the sick who can go through one of thousands of *Doors of mercy* open through the will of the Pope in every diocese in the world, in the most important and frequented churches and sanctuaries. As has happened in all recent jubilees, for those who are physically unable to pass

through one of the nearest Holy Doors, specific procedures will be adopted to ensure that they will be able to obtain the *Jubilee indulgence*. And this is where we come to the added value! The general pardon of the Holy Year, in fact, is a special path of conversion which, after the forgiveness of sins through Sacramental Confession, allows us to be granted the *Jubilee indulgence*, thus obtaining *total remission* of the punishment due for sins committed for the living and deceased loved ones.

To live the Jubilee indulgence requires the following measures: first of all an attitude of effective detachment



## ON DECEMBER 20 IN CASCIA, OPENING OF THE HOLY DOOR

We are waiting for you on Sunday, December 20 at 11.00 in Cascia for the opening of the Holy Door of the Sanctuary of Saint Rita. To live the year of mercy together with the saint of forgiveness and reconciliation.



of God, celebration of the sacraments and the *works of mercy* that have always characterised the Sanctuary: first of all, support for the work of the Beehive of Saint Rita, the house that welcomes girls and young people who are accompanied on their journey of human and Christian education by the Augustinian sisters of Cascia (see pages 10 and 11 of this issue, ed.). The evangelist Luke and his great parables of mercy, along with the life of Rita which has embodied pages of gospel, will guide our catechesis. The beating heart of the sanctuary will continue to be the wonderful *Penitentiary* where celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation makes Cascia, in the words of Pope Francis, a large *field hospital* of mercy and forgiveness.

from all sin in order to start a new life; the celebration of the sacrament of Penance for the forgiveness of sins; participation in the Eucharist; prayer according to the intentions of the Pope; an act of charity and penance that expresses the conversion of the heart wrought by the sacraments.

**What will happen in the city of Saint Rita, the saint of forgiveness and dialogue, of charity and impossible cases, during the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy? Have events been scheduled for pilgrims?** In Cascia, the Jubilee of mercy will be in the spirit of welcome and forgiveness, through listening to the Word

***Pope Francis  
has invited  
everyone to  
thrown open  
the doors of  
the heart to  
Christ***

The Catholic Church started this tradition in 1300 with Boniface VIII, who had expected a Jubilee every century. From 1475 – in order to allow each generation to experience at least one Holy Year – the ordinary Jubilee was scheduled at intervals of 25 years. A special Jubilee, however, is organised on the occasion of a particularly important event. Why has Francis convened the Holy Year now? And why the theme of mercy? The Jubilee has always been an occasion for dispensing as widely as possible the forgiveness and mercy of God. In times like ours, in which the sense of gratuitousness and forgiveness is often lost, with the tragic consequences that are obvious to everyone, Pope Francis wanted to recall that Mercy is at the heart of the faith of Christians called on to be witnesses of God's love in the world and invited everyone to throw open the doors of the heart to Christ, *Door of the mercy* of the Father, of God who comforts, forgives and gives hope to every man. Saint Rita herself, one of the great testimonies of mercy in life, went on pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee of 1450, seven years before moving on to better life by passing through the door of true and eternal life. With her intercessions and example, Rita will also accompany us on the pilgrimage of this life, to the Door of the house of the Father. (mg)



FONDAZIONE  
SANTA RITA  
DA CASCIA onlus  
Fiore di carità

# 77 years for the Beehive

Violanda Lleshaj, director of the Beehive of Saint Rita  
is interviewed by Roger Bergonzoli

**T**his year, specifically on September 24, the Beehive of Saint Rita will blow out its 77<sup>th</sup> candle. Many years of work in favour of children, in which the Beehive has been able to adapt its offer of assistance to the needs of the time... Exactly. Social and generational changes have brought with them a stratification of discomforts. The Beehive has therefore

evolved, moving on from being an orphanage to a house of welcome, ready to meet the different needs of girls and young women (the Little Bees, ed.) from, for example, poor families, single parent families or immigrant families. Here, we offer a place suitable for the growth of minors, where they have meaningful experiences of integration, sharing, multiculturalism and especially love.

## MOTHER FASCE

### THAT DAY OF MERCY

It was September 24, 1938, when someone knocked at the door of the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia. Outside was a woman who had faced a long walk, slightly over 40 kilometres from the village of Trisungo, in the province of Ascoli Piceno. With her, there was a little girl. The woman managed to speak with the abbess, Mother Maria Teresa Fasce, who listened to her story of hunger and pain. Widowed, she did not have the means to look after her daughter and, with shattered heart, between the choice of seeing her child die of starvation or entrust her to the care of someone else who could help her, she had decided to seek the help of the nuns of the saint of impossible cases and ask them take her small child. This is how it came about, by violating one of the rules imposed by closure, that Mother Fasce, or simply "Mother", as everyone called her, decided to welcome the first "Little Bee", Edda Petrucci, taking the first step of the "Beehive of Saint Rita" project which saw the monastery welcome 14 young Little Bees in just its first year of life. That day was the Feast of the Virgin of Mercy.

**What are the peculiarities of the Beehive project that distinguishes it from other similar reception facilities?** Of course, what distinguishes this project from others offering similar services, is the spirit of welcome. We do it with open arms, not only towards the minors who are “entrusted” to us, but also towards their families. In this process, once what permits a favourable situation for the child has been assured, we try to work with the family so that our service will not be lost once the child returns to her original context. Sometimes with good results, sometimes with many difficulties, but always with commitment and attention towards all.

**Looking at the past and present, thousands of girls have received substantial support and new opportunities to build a future thanks to this work of charity of the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia. What relationship does the Beehive maintain with former Little Bees?** The Beehive has a big heart: it carries all former Little Bees with it. We try to follow them also from afar - in the choice of and support in university projects, in employment choices and opportunities, in their reintegration into their families or towards new destinations. For many of them, the Beehive remains a safe haven, and many relationships continue even at kilometres of distance.

**Pointing a glance towards the future, on the other hand, what do you see for this project? I mean, what will be the objectives and the new challenges?** The Beehive is a project completely in the making, with great potential for both the Little Bees and the local area. We want the structure to be a centre of excellence for the welcome and growth of children who need our intervention. We are thinking of a series of initiatives that will take the Beehive in this direction, starting with the updating and continuous training of the staff of educators up to renewal of methods, in order to be able to offer educational proposals that will bring the Little Bees new opportunities and educational offers that can break down the barriers of isolation in which the majority of them live. The biggest challenge that awaits us in the short term is to open ourselves up

also to children living with physical disabilities; the area does not have adequate facilities for adolescents who have finished compulsory schooling and want to continue studying but are obstructed by many difficulties. We want to be able to give hope also to the girls who live this discomfort. We will begin making our house a little more accessible by breaking down architectural barriers due to the age of the building.

**The non-profit Saint Rita of Cascia Foundation was established in 2012 also to support the Beehive and allow the project to continue. Concretely, what have been the added values of the Foundation with respect to the Beehive?** To better address new educational challenges you need to have the Foundation. Besides representing an opening to other (local area, foundations, various bodies), it is a stimulus for doing more and doing good: a continuous flow of ideas, exchanges and opportunities. Thanks to the non-profit Saint Rita of Cascia Foundation, we can give shape to the various projects, while continuing to maintaining high attention towards our guests. With the Monastery on the one hand and the Foundation on the other, our family is complete. ■

## SUPPORT THE BEEHIVE PROJECT WITH US

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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# APPOINTMENTS

## **Philadelphia, from September 22 to 27 - World Meeting of Families**

An event in which families are the protagonists and which will also see the participation of the Holy Father: this is the 8th World Meeting of Families to be held in Philadelphia from September 22 to 27 on the theme: "Love is our Mission. The Family fully alive". [www.worldmeeting2015.org](http://www.worldmeeting2015.org)

## **St. Peter's Square (Rome), September 30 - Blessing of the Lebanese statue of Saint Rita**

We will be waiting for you from 9.30 in St. Peter's Square for the general audience of the Pope, including the blessing of the statue of Saint Rita donated by Lebanon to the Municipality of Cascia, on the occasion of the Twinning 2015 which united in devotion to Rita the city of Dbayeh and the hill of hope. To participate in the pilgrimage: Information Office of the Sanctuary of Saint Rita, Tel. +39 074375091, [infobasilica@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:infobasilica@santaritadacascia.org)

## **Cascia (PG), from October 5 to 8 - International Assembly of Augustinian Nuns**

The Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia will host Augustinian nuns of contemplative life from all over the world for the II International Assembly of Augustinian nuns. Objective: To encourage the sharing of experiences, for a journey that is ever closer to those in need.

## **Cascia (PG), from October 9 to 12 - Triduum and Feast of the Blessed Mother Fasce**

Appointment at the Sanctuary of Saint Rita to celebrate the Solemnity of the Blessed Mother Maria Teresa Fasce (Torrighia, 1881 - Cascia, 1947), which falls on October 12. The preaching of the Triduum, which prepares us for the celebration, will be held in the Lower Basilica, which houses the body of the Blessed Fasce, from October 9 to 11 October: 17.00 - recitation of the Rosary; 18.00 - Holy Mass. On Monday 12 at 18.00, the Solemn Celebration will be held. Abbess of the Monastery of Saint Rita for 27 years, "the Mother" as everyone still calls her, has marked the history of Cascia and devotion to Saint Rita, supporting its

spread worldwide through the realisation of our magazine, "From the Bees to the Roses", and the construction of the Basilica. Mother Fasce mother is also the woman who gave substance to Ritian charity by founding the "Beehive of Saint Rita" project (see pages 10-11 of this issue).

## **Cascia (PG), October 18**

### **Positioning of the Lebanese statue of Saint Rita**

From 10.00, in the presence of Cardinal Béchara Boutros Raï, Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites, the effigy of Rita donated by Lebanon to Cascia will be officially positioned at the start of the hill of hope. Info-line: Information Office of the Sanctuary of Saint Rita, Tel. +39 074375091, [infobasilica@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:infobasilica@santaritadacascia.org)

## **Florence, from October 9, 2015 to January 9, 2016 - Exposition of the ex-voto to Saint Rita by Yves Klein**

Among the cultural events organised for the 5th National Ecclesiastical Congress, we announce the "Si fece carne. L'arte contemporanea e il sacro" (*He Became Flesh. Contemporary Art and the Sacred*) exhibition at



the Basilica of San Lorenzo. Opening the exhibition will be one of the ex-votos to Saint Rita by Yves Klein: plexiglas box (1961) with pigments of pink, blue and gold, donated by the French artist in person to the Augustinian nuns of Cascia, custodians of Ritian charisma.

For real-time updates on the events recommended by the Sanctuary of Saint Rita of Cascia, go to our website [www.santaritadacascia.org/agenda](http://www.santaritadacascia.org/agenda)



**D**ear friends of Saint Rita, let us reflect together on the theme proposed by the World Mission Sunday which will reach its 89th edition on October 18 dedicated to "On the side of the poor". This is the constant appeal addressed to us by Pope Francis who, in this sense, has also convoked the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy (pages 7-9 of this issue, ed.), as a response to the cry of the last. Mercy, in fact, does not just concern the individual or Christians, but rather represents for everyone a chance to return to feeding the social ties which are food for life.

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

# On the side of the poor, with an apron

by Don Michele Autuoro, Director,  
National Office for Missionary Cooperation among Churches

**T**he theme of this year's World Mission Sunday ("On the side of the poor", ed.) is focused on those who live on the peripheries of the world, both geographically and existentially, in line with the teaching of Pope Francis. Over 50 years since the opening of the Second Vatican Council, it is now more necessary than ever to remember a fundamental value dimension for evangelisation. Today, in fact, it seems that the poor have lost positions in the order of global interests. This is a phenomenon that we find also in Italy, considering that 10% of families currently hold 50% of the national wealth. This way of interpreting the work of evangelisation has reminded us of one of the great aspirations of the Council Fathers and Pope John XXIII himself on the mission to perform in poverty, which means without political support or patronage, in the style of the essentiality of life. An aspiration that even became an extra-Council document in the famous wording of the "Pact of the Catacombs". What is it about? On November 16, 1965, just days before the close of Vatican II, some forty Council Fathers celebrated a mass in the catacombs of Domitilla in Rome, demanding loyalty to the Spirit of Jesus. After this celebration, they signed a document that they had written: the "Pact of the Catacombs" in fact. The signatories pledged to live in poverty, to give up all the symbols or privileges of power and put the poor at the centre of their pastoral ministry. The text had a strong influence on the theology of liberation which was to take shape in the following years. One of the proponents and signatories of the pact was the famous Don Helder Pessoa Camara, the late archbishop of Olinda and Recife in Brazil. Meditating that text, which is the Magna Charta of a vibrant Christianity, there comes to mind another great 20th century bishop, Don Tonino Bello, when he said that the church has to make the power of signs its own and not adopt the signs of power. And the new signs of Pope Francis reveal, without doubt, that we are faced with a new course that is challenging and, at the same time, marked by hope, which our church needs to metabolise over time. This calls above all for implementing convivial practices, according to the dream of Don Tonino and Pope Francis: a "Church of the apron" and no longer a community that is a sign of power. Meanwhile, the cry continues to rise from the poor who survive in the slums of Africa, Asia, Latin America and even in old Europe. So, as the famous saying of Mexican poet Salvador Diaz Mirón reminds us: "Know this, kings and vassals, eminences and beggars: no one shall have right to excess, until just one lacks the necessary".

## FEATURE: THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE



Also in Peru, women and children are a priority for the Daughters of the Cross, present in Chuquibambilla and Lima with care homes and support, catechesis and pastoral services.

# With the heart *planted* in His

Sister Agnes Didu,  
Superior General Institute of the Daughters of the Cross,  
is interviewed by Monica Guarriello

**D**espite her dream as a young nun to become a missionary in Peru, her mission so far has taken place in Italy. In this way, Sister Agnese Didu discovered very quickly that “existential peripheries” also exist here. Superior General of the Daughters of the Cross since 2012, Sister Agnes, originally from the province of Cagliari, became an Augustinian nun at the dawn of her 25 years, choosing to “plant” her heart in that of Christ and of everyone in need...

In his message for the 89<sup>th</sup> World Mission Sunday (which will be celebrated on October 18, 2015), Pope Francis insisted on a concept: the mission is part of the “grammar of faith”, noting that “those who follow Christ can only become a missionary”. Does this mean that when I think of a missionary I have to include also my parish priest? Certainly! Being a missionary is to transmit the experience of Jesus, not a Jesus known in books, but a living Jesus, risen and present in our lives, the one we ex-

perience every day as a source of love and joy in everything we live and work. And this can be done anywhere. In our Religious Family, both aspects are present: who stays here in Italy and those who go to distant lands (in Peru, ed.), but in both situations the proclamation of Jesus is fundamental in the sharing of life with the poorest, the most vulnerable and the most disadvantaged.

“Mission is *passion for Jesus Christ* and at the same time is *passion for people*”. For 175 years, you Daughters of the Cross have embodied the meaning of “doing mission” to which the Holy Father refers with these words. What does it mean to be “passionate about people”? It means bearing in the heart the same passion of Jesus for humanity, looking at people with his eyes full of love, compassion, tenderness, and taking responsibility



## FEATURE: THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

for them as He did. But if one is not with Jesus, with the heart *planted* in His, nothing that we do has sense: our actions, no matter how “good”, are emptied of meaning; services are performed, but life is not transmitted. Only He is the source of our loving. He is the “live fire” and burning passion that pushes towards the “existential peripheries”, even when it is difficult. With this motivation, in Italy and in Peru we try to embrace children and young people in situations of marginalization, building a family with them, taking care of the overall growth of the person. Often these young lives come to us with stories of violence, neglect, abuse and disrespect. Only patient love and caring can heal the wounds of *lack of love* ... Slowly we see the flourishing of life, hope, confidence in oneself and in others, and eventually trust in the love of God; this

takes a long time and much attention, respect and passion. In our family homes, “healing” is possible through the daily sharing of life; in other areas, such as school, support activities in the afternoon, or life in the parish, you have to follow other ways, trying, where possible, to involve also the family. Whether in Italy or Peru, families are currently at the centre of our mission in various ways: through listening, training, or material or educational psychological support. Even more, we are characterised by assistance to women of different age groups, especially young women, single mothers, the woman who has been exploited, prostituted and victim of trafficking. There is no lack of individuals in prison, or communities in particular places and contexts: we have been present in the Locride area of Calabria since the ‘80s, liv-

ing our mission with the aim of helping generations grow that are not mafia. In the huge periphery of Lima, then, we live among the people in the barracks, to bear witness to and proclaim the love of Jesus.

**As you have reminded us, you deals in particular with children and women, according to the vision of the founder of your Congregation, Don Giovanni Battista Quilici. Why this choice?** Jesus identified with the little ones. Children and young people, past and present, are the people who are most vulnerable and most easily the victims of violence, exclusion, lack of education, and the injuries last forever. They are the future of humanity: a child and a young person who is loved, respected, cared for, fed, educated, will be a happy adult, capable of spreading love, civilisation and positivity; this will have a



Sister Agnes Didu (centre, in front of Mons. Giovanni Scanavino), together with her fellow sisters.

## FEATURE: THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE



The Daughters of the Cross have been present in the Locride area of Calabria since the '80s, living among the people and taking care of the growth of young people

positive effect on the whole society. Similarly for the woman: despite her having no value in the early 1800s, like in the days of Jesus, she was considered by Don Quilici as the pivot of social well-being.

Offering training and cultural opportunities to a woman, allowing her to gain her own autonomy of thought and economic independence through decent work, offering her instruments for realising her own identity and living with dignity have all been very vivid objectives since the foundation of our Family. Even today, the woman is not respected, she is commodified and exploited, even in her image, for the purposes of the market or seduction. The mission of educating the woman, uncovering the true values that build and nurture life, is an investment in the future, in the hope of seeing a new humanity grow.

**Speaking about your community life, I was struck by a thought that**

**you wrote on your site: “With our fellow sisters we live relationships of affection, friendship, communion of what we are and we have with our resources and fragility experiencing the joy of forgiveness and mutual acceptance. For this reason, together we can open our hearts to the brothers that life places on our path”. So if I am aware of my fragility, my limitations, can I reach the hearts of others?** Like you said when mentioning the site, we are limited people, like everyone else, but we try to welcome and love each other like the Lord welcomes us, sharing what we are, live and have. This mutual love enables us to accept also the fragility of others and to carry the burden together, so that life is reborn and can grow, taking care of one's own wounds. The community thus becomes like a *womb of life*. Even when a sister is alone in meeting someone, within the community we share her experience

and together we bear the burden in prayer and responsibility. The opening of our heart towards fellow sisters and our neighbour is a vital attitude that is learned and built in our everyday experience of going out of ourselves to make room for the other, it is the Easter experience of dying in oneself to rise again to new life... We approach each other with deep respect, “with humility and mercy”, with meekness, so that the person does not feel judged, but waited for, heard, understood and valued, even though he or she may have indulged in wrong behaviour. When a person does not feel judged but accepted, he or she is disarmed, trusts and opens up the heart: at that point it is possible to embark on a journey of rebirth and healing. It is necessary to break free from the expectations of results and wanting to see people as we imagine them, because each person has his or her own time and own original path.



It is our  
task to let  
them grow  
serenely.

estrogenti

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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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# My first 50

Father Mario De Santis,  
Rector of the Basilica of Saint Rita of Cascia,  
is interviewed by Monica Guarriello

*For seven years, he has been rector of the most important sanctuary to Rita in the world. And seven is also the number of Augustinians who make up the community where he lives, in the Convent of Saint Augustine and Saint Rita, located right at the beginning of the avenue leading to the "home" of the saint, where more than a million pilgrims arrive every year. On 25 June 2015, 75-year-old Father Mario celebrated his first 50 years of priesthood and the editorial staff of "From the Bees to the Roses" was also present...*

**D**ear Father Mario, on June 25 you also celebrated your first 50 years of priesthood with the editorial staff of "From the Bees to the Roses" and it was very emotional listening to your reflections during the Eucharistic celebration which was held in the Basilica



Fr. Mario De Santis, during the liturgical celebration of June 25 in honour of his 50th anniversary of priesthood.

of Saint Rita. Among others, you stressed how Rita had "pursued" it throughout all of her life! Can you tell us what you meant? What is your relationship with the saint? My 50th anniversary of priesthood was a great moment of joy in thanking the Lord, first, in also thanking my family of origin and the one that welcomed me as a child, the large Augustinian family. Yes, it's true, Saint Rita has had a great religious and pastoral, purely Augustinian influence in my life. Of the five communities where Obedience has called me to carry out my mission of Priesthood, four have been illuminated by the message of Saint Rita, and

The Rector of the Basilica of Saint Rita in Cascia is joined by all his loved ones to celebrate the event together.



she finally called me into her House in Cascia.

A Design? I don't know... What is certain is that its entry into my life was simple, familiar, joyful and fraternal.

**In 1957, eight years before ordination to the priesthood, you entered the Order of St. Augustine at the Convent of San Gimignano, nestling in the Tuscan countryside. Why did you choose to become an Augustinian? What led you to this decision?** I owe my decision to become an Augustinian especially to my two fellow brothers Father Alfredo Orsini, now in Heaven, and Father Antonio Lombardi, still strongly "in the breach". My choice of Augustine comes down to them; I was captivated not only by their charm, very different among the two, but also by their beautiful Augustinian attire ... tunic, belt and hood, which immediately excited and fascinated me.

**The anniversary of your 50 years of priesthood takes place precisely in the year dedicated to the consecrated life. Father Mario, what does this mean for you?** It's true, my 50<sup>th</sup> year of priesthood has coincided with the Year of Consecrated Life, and for me this may mean that religious consecration and the priesthood have been, are and will always be the greatest gift that the Good Lord has I wanted to give me in, first the spirit of Augustine, then in the spirit of the priesthood, calling me to be a bridge, a means, for my fellow brothers, between heaven and earth, together in community life.

**Community life seems to play a very important role ...** Exactly, I think that it has been a precious added value on my path. When I return Home, there is always a fellow brother who welcomes you and comforts you. In addition to the great responsibility you have, being Rector of a Sanctuary as important as that of Cascia offers you a wonderful opportunity to be close to so many people around the world, desirous of peace, of love, of brotherhood and of a good word; people who want to be welcomed by proximity and tenderness, as Pope Francis often reminds us.

# SMILING AT LIFE

Send photos of your children to [monaster@sainttrinitadecascia.org](mailto:monaster@sainttrinitadecascia.org) with the consent of both parents for publication. Photos with incomplete or illegible consent will not be considered.



1. Chiara Lepre (Italy)
2. Chiara Sanna (Borgomanero NO - Italy)
3. Domenico Malerba
4. Ettore Galimberti Di Fenza (Didcot – United Kingdom)
5. Giovanni Mungo (Boretto RE - Italy)
6. Giulia Gaole (Roverè Veronese VR - Italy)
7. Giulio Sumaio (Lonigo VI - Italy)
8. Margherita Vittoria Caradonna (Pescia PT- Italy)
9. Mariam Zardoni (Milan- Italy)
10. Matteo Sulis (Cabras OR- Italy)
11. Mattia Lio (Langenfeld - Germany)
12. Pietro Paolo Maresca (Meta NA - Italy)



# If food is life, what is the point in fasting?

by Father Giuseppe Caruso OSA

**S**tories are told of the rigorous fasting of Rita, like many other saints, as if there was a close connection between being holy and depriving oneself of food; there probably is a link, but it should be understood without stopping at superficial considerations.

For every living being, food is a necessity that is intimately connected with the preservation of life: in fact, the person who does not eat dies.

Giving food thus becomes a symbolic expression of giving life, as it expressed in a tangible way in the gesture of the mother nursing the baby, a true image of love that becomes a gift, the gift of what is necessary for life. But the close parallelism between food and life continues, it recurs well be-

## THEY LIVE IN CHRIST

*Lord, humbly we recommend our deceased to you, that they may participate in the eternal Joy of Heaven. Amen*

Albina Castelli (Como - Italy)  
 Antonia Benni (Civitavecchia RM - Italy)  
 Antonio Lupoli (Foggia - Italy)  
 Candida De Renzi (Verbicaro CS - Italy)  
 Caterina Lonero (Cagliari - Italy)  
 Claudio Deangeli (Brandizzo TO - Italy)  
 Diana Saviane (Puos d'Alpago BL - Italy)  
 Dina Melchiorri (Sant'Anatolia di Narco PG - Italy)  
 Elda Bianchi (Gallarate VA - Italy)  
 Enza Sessa (Salerno - Italy)  
 Isabella De Angelis Ricciotti (Trevi PG - Italy)  
 Iside Campora (Legnano MI - Italy)  
 Leonardo Giordano (Bitritto BA - Italy)  
 Matilde Brizi (Trevi PG - Italy)  
 Oberdan Bertoli (Morbegno SO - Italy)  
 Nazzareno D'Atanasio (Spoleto - Italy)  
 Rita Pascoli (Florence - Italy)

Rita Tessitore (Chieti - Italy)  
 Sira Cavalieri and Serafino Angeloni (Ancona - Italy)  
 Vincenzina Federico Petrone (Brindisi - Italy)



Sanctuary of Cascia, "Church of the Blessed Rita" Stigmatisation (Tito Troia, 1889).

***Giving food becomes  
an expression  
of giving life***

yond early childhood: just think of the proverbial sayings in which the bread becomes a symbol of life and of how necessary it is to preserve it, or when, almost without realising it, we assign great value to the fact of sitting at the same table, on hol-



# GRACE RECEIVED

## TESTIMONY OF MADDALENA SANINO, ITALY

It was November 13 and I had realised that something was wrong with my husband from the day before. He was silent, absent and every time I asked him what the problem was, if by chance he was not feeling well, he looked at me and smiled without answering. After consulting the family doctor, I decided to accompany him to the Emergency Room at the hospital in Cuneo. He did not resist and gladly accepted my decision. After the first tests, the CAT scan showed up the presence of a brain haemorrhage at the front left side and so Michele was admitted to the Santa Croce Hospital, where he remained under observation for twelve days. Thankfully to God, Michele's condition did not worsen during those days and, slowly, the situation began to improve. Immediately, I and my family turned to Saint Rita, praying devoutly to the Saint to whose protection my husband had been entrusted (like his brothers) at birth by his mother Maddalena. Our whole family has always been devoted to Saint Rita and our first thought was, in fact, to ask for her help as we had already done on other occasions. This time again, Saint Rita heard our prayers and Michele was discharged from the hospital without serious consequences and, at the moment, we can say that he is doing well. For this, I want to publicly thank Saint Rita who has never denied us her favours and her graces. This event has strengthened my faith and my devotion to our Rita. I hope to return soon, for the third time, to Cascia to pray before the dear Saint and thank her personally for this grace and for her constant protection of my family.

idays or even just on ordinary days, as an expression of deep sharing: those who eat the same bread somehow share the same life. If this is how things are, what is the point in the ascetic fasting which we mentioned at the beginning?

Certainly it does not come from a negative view of the food but should be thought of as a precious gift of the Creator; rather, fasting makes us experience our limit: by ourselves, we cannot appease the hunger that is in us; we continually need food, communion, gestures of affection; we constantly need God, the very source of life. ■

## PRAYER

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendour of true love, to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth, grant that our families too may be places of communion and prayer, authentic schools of the Gospel and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may families never again experience violence, rejection and division: may all who have been hurt or scandalised find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth, may the approaching Synod of Bishops make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family, and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, graciously hear our prayer.  
Amen.

Pope Francis,  
*Prayer to the Holy Family for the Synod*



# A journey lasting a century

edited by Natalino Monopoli

Giuseppe Favata,  
Saint Rita Pious Union of Campofranco (Caltanissetta)

Campofranco is a community in the Diocese of Caltanissetta, in the heart of Sicily. It currently has about 2,500 inhabitants. It was founded in 1573 by Baron Giovanni Del Campo and has a long Christian tradition with the presence of five sacred buildings, one of which, in a particular way, is dedicated to the worship and devotion of Saint Rita. Devotion to the Saint of Cascia is very young, but widespread and felt by all the people of Campofranco, where it has now reached its first centenary.

It was in 1911 that a priest from the nearby city of Mussomeli, Don Pio Sorce, began to build a large hall in the town for

use as a kindergarten and church. Given his strong devotion, he wished to dedicate the church to Saint Rita, canonised by Pope Leo XIII eleven years earlier. When in 1923, for health reasons, Don Sorce was forced to return to his town of origin, fervour towards the Saint remained among the people.

In the years immediately after the Second World War, Don Falletta Nazarene, an-

***Don Sorce wished to  
dedicate the church to  
Saint Rita***



The PPU group from Campofranco.

## *In 1946, the workers themselves bought the wooden statue of Saint Rita*

other zealous local priest who was also chaplain of the nearby “Montecatini” potash factory, helped by the workers of the same factory, worked to enlarge the church and make it more beautiful and welcoming.

It was this latter priest who increased and strengthened devotion to Saint Rita, promoting recreational and spiritual initiatives among the faithful, especially among young people. In 1946, the workers themselves bought the current beautiful wooden statue of Saint Rita by sculptor Giuseppe Runghaldier from the school of sacred art in Ortisei. Here, it remains in the church for a few days during which various moments of prayer are celebrated. In 1961, to further nurture devotion to Saint Rita and friendship with emigrants, Don Nazarene founded a monthly religious and social magazine called *“La Voce di Campofranco”* (The Voice of Campofranco), the aim of which was to define *“a little flame intended to nurture devotion to Saint Rita and affection for the town”*. Today, the magazine still reaches the houses of many Campofranco natives and many of those forced to emigrate.

In Campofranco, as in all places of devotion to the Saint, the 15 years that Rita bore the stigma of the thorn on her forehead are commemorated. Drawing from the Word of God and the Eucharist and through comparison with the life of the Saint, the community has been able to draw shining examples for spiritual growth. Rita’s feast day, May 22, is preceded by a triduum involving several categories of people such as mothers, children, young people and religious people, showing Saint Rita as a model for every status of life. On the eve of the feast, a late evening torchlight procession

winds through the streets of the neighbourhood, where people prepare for the great day of the feast with songs and prayers in the silence of the evening. From the morning of May 22, many of the faithful come on pilgrimage to participate in various Masses and the blessing of the roses. At the end of the Mass and Supplication, around noon, the “roses of bread” are blessed and distributed in the church square. Another more eagerly awaited and suggestive event takes place in the afternoon when after the characteristic *“shower of roses”*, the decorated statue is carried in procession through some of the town’s streets and, after a few kilometres on foot, reaches Villaggio Faina. After the celebration of Mass, the statue is carried to the factories that have grown up near Villaggio for the annual visit and blessing from the parish priest. The event commemorates the arrival of the statue in 1946, offered by the workers of Montecatini. Initially, only one factory, which has now been closed for years, was visited but given the opening of others, the tradition has been continued. The Saint remains in Villaggio until the following Sunday when, after Holy Mass and the fireworks, it returns to the town with the same solemnity and participation, accompanied by hundreds of cars announcing the festive return with their lively horns. In front of the church square, the cars are then blessed, bring the religious celebrations to an end. Each year, following the example of Saint Rita, the whole community feels itself committed to a real journey of faith. Currently the PPU in Campofranco has 80 members, including many young people and families. ■

### JOIN THE PPU

Whether you are an individual or member of a group, join the PPU! In this way you will take part in our meetings, getting to know people like you devoted to the beloved St. Rita. For information, you can contact the Secretary General Alessandra Paoloni: [piaunione@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:piaunione@santaritadacascia.org)



# Eucharist, the bread of love

by Sister M. Giacomina Stuani OSA

**B**efore the Eucharist, we close our eyes, letting ourselves be led into the inner source of the heart, there where Jesus makes the living water flow, where only He is the new wine of the feast, the Word of eternal life that reaches us and renews us, the medicine that heals and restores our hearts.

The Eucharist is God's attention to his creature. In that bread and that wine that we discover the beautiful, the true, the good of the Body and Blood of Christ. There we learn to think with the mind of Christ, to breathe and to seek no more ourselves but God, his real presence, his growing love.

Let us listen to our spiritual Father St. Augustine: "O sacrament of piety, sign of

*unity, bond of charity! Anyone who wants to live has both where to live and whence to live. Let him draw near, let him believe; let him be embodied, that he may be made to live"* (Commentary to Gospel V of John 26, 1). Each of us is called upon to set out and immerse ourselves in this "mystery of faith" in order to die and rise again with Christ. In every Eucharist, we relive this mystery of Love that is the great gift that God gives us and which we hope will leave a deep imprint in our lives.

***The Eucharist is God's  
attention to his creature***



## Communion with his Body makes us all one body

The Eucharist is the gaze of Christ who never judges but loves, who touches our hearts and makes them burn with passion for Him. It is the friendship of Christ, the real one, the one that should make us stammer at the amazement, wonder, joy of this gift. It is the thanksgiving-memorial of Christ who gave a living, life-giving and effective sign of his sacrifice. For this, we are invited to offer ourselves to God in filial obedience. Saint Paul writes: *"Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks without recognising the body of the Lord, eats and drinks his own condemnation"*. It is the Communion in which we find the foundation, the source and the bond of union between us and with Christ; food of our souls and precious pledge of his love and towards us. It is all Jesus, alive and immortal, inseparably Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, who gives us spiritual consolation and helps us to operate according to His wishes and feelings. It is attraction, it is recall, it is intimacy with God, it is the breath of our lives ...

It reminds us that Jesus came so that we might have life and we have it in abundance. Communion with his Body makes us all one body, one song of praise, one church in unity. The only firm certainty of our hope is that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Let us kneel before the living Bread descended from Heaven, only He has words of eternal life and so let us pray to God the Father: O Father, who on the Sunday of Easter calls us to share the living bread descended from heaven, help us to break also our earthly bread in the charity of Christ so that all hunger of body and spirit may be satisfied. ■

## It's beautiful with You...!

"It's beautiful with you" are words that we can imagine spoken by God about you or by you about God or, at the same time by God and you, by one about the other! "It's beautiful with you" expresses a relationship, a journey that *touches* our gaze and turns it into a vision of faith, able to recognise the beauty of the Lord". Come and spend a few days in the company of Jesus, with other friends in search, with we Augustinian Nuns and Fathers ... And it will be ... surprise ... gratitude ... adoration ... journey ... beauty ... relationship .... joy ... We are waiting for you!



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# My dreams are not fulfilled, how to continue in hope?

Dear Abbess, “who is thirsty come to me,” says Jesus. Yes, I thirst for God, His love, His infinite mercy, I feel I want a foretaste of Heaven, to smell the odour of holiness. But sometimes I do not understand what He desires from me and how to do His holy will. In this period of my life, I feel unproductive and have little faith in the future. Many things did not go according to my plans and this saddens me, because it makes me feel a nullity and inconclusive. Mother, I ask myself: why do I make programmes and then life upsets my plans and my expectations? This way I



end up no longer hoping so as not to suffer, and I no longer dream because in any case those dreams – which are the dreams of every girl who would like to have a family and children, a job, what every young person is looking for – are not fulfilled. But I am unable to achieve any of this, I am alone, abandoned, unmotivated. I don't understand why I can't enjoy the love of a family of my own, and deep down I ask myself: does God have a plan for me, do I also have a mission to carry out, otherwise what will I say one day to God, that I am a failure? And if I'm unable to achieve anything, why should I continue to hope? (Angela)

Dearest Angela,

“Who is thirsty come to me,” says Jesus. “Yes, I thirst for God, His love, His infinite mercy ...” It is the Lord who puts this thirst in

our heart because He is already present in us with His love and so great is the joy of this experience that we want to quench our thirst at this source, not for brief moments, not with small sips, but as much as our desire and our capacity are able. “Make yourself a capacity and I will make myself torrent” were the words spoken by Jesus to Catherine of Siena, meaning that she had to empty herself of her own selfishness and human logic to let herself be overwhelmed by divine love. If we could really understand how great are his love and mercy, we would be the happiest people in the world. Only God can quench man's thirst for happiness. And we, poor mortal creatures, cannot understand this truth and we seek happiness where we can never find it. And so we find ourselves disappointed and unfulfilled. The certainty of this divine love helps us to open ourselves to God's plan without opposing obstacles, to let him do in our lives and not follow our own project which, as humans, is always limited.

Try to leave free rein in your life, to dream, yes, but what is pleasing to God and then you will see not only the flourishing of your life but one that is full of the good fruit of good works that delight the heart of God and the hearts of brothers. Have a safe journey along the road to Paradise and you will smell the “odour of sanctity” that you so desire.



## THE ABBESS RESPONDS

If you want to share your hopes or fears or your doubts or happiness with us write to [monastero@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:monastero@santaritadacascia.org), specifying your consent for publication of the letter. Mother M. Natalina will reply to everyone, either through the Magazine or in private.



# *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](mailto:monastero@santaritadacascia.org) and you will receive information on how to help the children in difficulty that need you.



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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