

FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES



The Magazine
of Saint Rita of Cascia

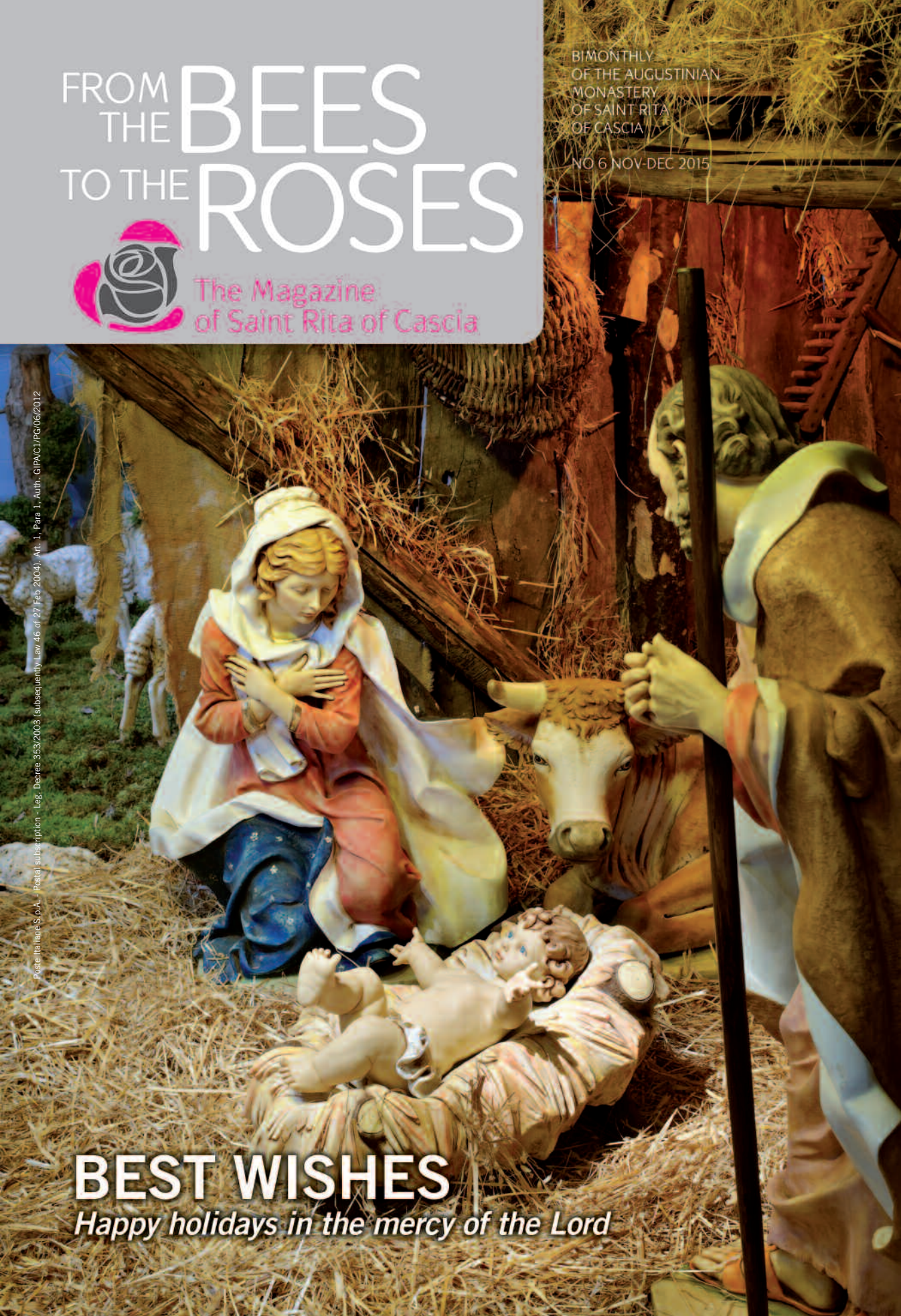
BIMONTHLY
OF THE AUGUSTINIAN
MONASTERY
OF SAINT RITA
OF CASCIA

NO 6 NOV-DEC 2015

Poste Italiane S.p.A. - Postal subscription - Leg. Decreto 353/2003 (subsequently Law 46 of 27 Feb 2004) - Art. 1, Para 1, Auth. GIPACI/PG/06/2012

BEST WISHES

Happy holidays in the mercy of the Lord



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FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES

Bimonthly of the Monastery
of Saint Rita of Cascia
No 6 November-December 2015



Auth. Court of Spoleto No. 9 of 26.06.1954. ROC Registry No. 2460
Italian edition: Year XCII English edition: Year LIV
French edition: Year LIII Spanish edition: Year XLIII
German edition: Year XLIII Portuguese edition: Year II.

Cover: Christmas crib in the Basilica of Saint Rita, Cascia. Photo by Giovanni Galardini.

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Thanks to

Sr. M. Natalina Todeschini, Sr. Maria Rosa Bernardinis, Msgr. Ambrogio Spreafico, Corpus Christi Monastery in Cento

Photos

Giovanni Galardini, Lamberto Manni, Massimo Chiappini, Roger Bergonzoli, Fondazione

Graphic Design and Layout

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FOR GERMANY

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

Printed in the month of October 2015 by Litografotodi srl on behalf of Tau Editrice srl, Via Umbria 148, 06059 Todi (PG).



MISTO
Carta da fonti gestite
in maniera responsabile
FSC® C111553

The From the Bees to the Roses magazine is printed on environmentally-friendly FSC-certified paper

Merciful saint

Once again, we have come to live the period in which we are united in the family more than ever, to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord, setting out on the path towards the beginning of the New Year.

Ninety-two years have passed since I began the journey with you through the pages of *From the Roses to the Bees, the Magazine of Saint Rita of Cascia*. Thank you for all the love that you have never failed to show us. We sincerely hope to be able to reciprocate in the best possible way.

The 93rd edition of our bimonthly magazine will be an opportunity to share very special moments that are on the way, from the extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, which will start on 8 December 2015, feast of the Immaculate Conception. Then, on 20 December, the Holy Door at the Sanctuary of Saint Rita, here in Cascia, will be opened to pilgrims.

Yes, because Rita is a merciful saint who, in her experience of life in search of dialogue, can indicate to all of us the way that leads to Love of the Lord and, therefore, to our neighbour.

It is Pope Francis who suggests that we take inspiration from Saint Rita: "I invite everyone in the coming Jubilee of Mercy, to reinterpret her extraordinary human and spiritual experience as a sign of the power of God's mercy" (*General Audience of 30 September 2015*).

With simplicity. With gentleness. With opening up and listening. May our beloved saint be an inspiration in everyday life.

Best wishes
for a holy Christmas and a New Year
full of serenity from all of us



The Nuns and Fathers
of the Augustinian Family of Cascia,
the Little Bees and Wildflowers
of the Beehive of Saint Rita,
the non-profit Saint Rita Foundation,
and the Editorial Staff of From the Bees to the Roses.

"Like Rita, we must not give up our vocation"

Daria Bignardi is interviewed by of Sr. M. Giacomina Stuani

Saint Rita of Cascia is everywhere, even where we would not imagine finding her. For example, in a small book written by Daria Bignardi, well-known writer and television host who has linked her image to the TV show "Le invasioni barbariche" (The Barbarian Invasions), broadcast by the La7 television channel. After reading the delicate story of Mila, the protagonist of the latest book by the author entitled "Santa degli impossibili" (Saint of the Impossible), our editorial director, Sr. M. Giacomina Stuani, decided

to interview her to find out one of the many roads that lead to meeting the most loved saint in the world ...

In an interview, you said that it took five years to finish writing your latest book. That's an unusually long time for such a short novel compared with the time it normally takes. This was because its drafting suffered a setback in some way. One day, however, you came across ... Rita of Cascia, or rather a prayer addressed to the saint, that helped you find the "solution to the



One day, out of the blue, Daria Bignardi came across ... Rita of Cascia, or rather a prayer addressed to the saint, that helped her find the "solution to the problem" to be able to finish her latest book, "Saint of the Impossible".



Dino Buzzati, Panel of Saint Rita.

problem". Can you tell us about this episode? I was in Monza, visiting some friends and I went with them, for the first time, to the beautiful Cathedral. The first thing I saw was a prayer in a frame, I got closer and I read it: it struck me a lot and I made a copy. In the evening, at home, I reread it: "O mighty Saint Rita, Advocate of hopeless cases, Benefactress of the last hour, Refuge and Escape from pain, talk, pray, intercede for me with the Sacred Heart of Jesus ... ". I found it extremely powerful and evocative and I went to read the story of Saint Rita, which I did not

The first thing I saw was a prayer in a frame

I went to read the story of Saint Rita and I found it moving

know, and I found it moving, intense and mysteriously close to that of Mila, the protagonist of the story that I had abandoned. Close by contrast: Rita was as determined to follow her vocation as Mila was suffering because she had lost her way - a vocation that was not religious, but existential and civil.

In fact, "Saint of the Impossible" is not a novel about devotion to Rita or religious faith, contrary to what the title might suggest. But there is something that unites Mila, the protagonist, with Rita of Cascia, which has to do with the "female power", as she put it ... As I said, Mila is a woman, a wife and a mother, like Rita, who has lost the thread of her destiny, and thus her vocation. As a girl she was happy, but had lost everything: parents, faith and above all herself, the things that made her really feel herself, like helping underdogs, the last in line, people in need. The meeting with Rita made her understand that we must not give up our vocation, our destiny, not even for the family.

"I thought the world was divided into those who got herpes and all the others". These are the words of the novel's protagonist. On the threshold of 40, Mila did not imagine being part of the "group of those who have herpes" just as she did not think of putting aside her dreams, or rather her vocation. Her body is telling her what she does not want to hear or is afraid of hearing? Yes, it all starts from the body. Herpes is a sign, a stigma on her face. And then the incident that makes her end up in the hospital

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.

TAKE
AND READ

"I thought the world was divided into those who got herpes and all the others," Mila – the protagonist of the latest novel by Daria Bignardi – says to herself. Wife and mother on the threshold of 40, Mila wakes up one morning and in front of the bathroom mirror finds herself with a herpes on her lip, a sign from her own body that something in her life is not going as it should. In the slow agitation that, little by little, takes shape inside and around her, Mila comes into contact with Saint Rita and her example of life lived with the goal of never failing in one's own vocation. The text runs lightly and crisply, while penetrating the innermost depths of the reader.

**Santa degli impossibili
(Saint of the Impossible)**
Daria Bignardi
Mondadori, 12 €



The body always knows everything, even if sometimes we do not listen to it

where she meets Anna, the woman who talks to her about Saint Rita, but also that part of an irrepressible impulse that seems almost dictated more by the body than the mind. The body always knows everything, even if sometimes we do not listen to it.

The personality of Mila is recounted by three people, through three points of view: herself, her husband Paolo (who has the same name as Saint Rita's husband) and her eldest daughter, Maddi. This choice highlights two themes: the relationship between man and woman in the marriage relationship and the mother-daughter relationship. Do these represent the prison in which Mila feels locked up? Yes. Although Mila loves her children very much, and deep down also her husband, and they love her, the fact of not having been realised as a person and having neglected her passion for the last in line make her a person who is incomplete and in suffering, unable to enjoy the joys of a family that she has chosen and wanted to build.

The cover shows one of the panels by Dino Buzzati from "The Miracles of Val Morel". As you know, this is a collection of short stories that describe imaginary miracles attributed to Saint Rita. What is Mila's "miracle"? It could be that of getting back on path and finding her way, but we do not know, we can only guess, and perhaps hope.

Daria, can we say that, both in the real life case (I refer to what we said in the first question) and in the situation faced

Without the figure of Saint Rita this short story would never have been born

by the protagonist of the novel, Saint Rita made the difference? Without the figure of Saint Rita, this story would never have been born as it is now, but would have remained truncated and incomplete. The figure of Rita, her will of love, strong enough to have reached us even after five hundred years, certainly made a difference. I have been to Cascia, to thank her for that.

Happy Jubilee Year

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

On 8 December, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis will make a gift of the Jubilee of Mercy to the entire world, with the opening of the Holy Door. Why this event? The answer comes from the Pope himself, in the *Misericordiae Vultus* Bull of Indiction: Because this is a time for the church to “rediscover the meaning of the mission entrusted to her by the Lord on the day of Easter” ... [and] ... be a sign and an instrument of the Father’s mercy ... It is the favourable time to heal wounds ... a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God”. Our century is suffering from lack of reconciliation, understanding, solidarity, leading humanity, Christian or otherwise, to shake hands, as children of one Father. Today, the theme of the mercy of God and man is more urgent and relevant than ever. Cardinal Walter Kasper has noted that John XXIII and John Paul II had already made this fundamental theme the topic of their Petrine Magisterium. The

‘good’ Pope “was the first to talk about it in his personal diary, making the mercy of God the greatest gift and most precious love of the Father” (W. Kasper, *Misericordia*, Ed. Queriniana). John XXIII was echoed by John Paul II, who was to go deeper into the theme of mercy,



“experienced personally like few others, as someone who grew up close to Auschwitz. He felt deeply within himself the message of mercy and sculpted in large letters in his encyclical *Dives in misericordia* (1980)” (W. Kasper, *ibid.*). Gathering up

this strong divine input from his predecessors, Pope Francis has done well to convoke the extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, in the hope that the whole world can experience and savour its human and spiritual content. Our Sanctuary, illuminated by the example of a Rita who made forgiveness, peace, brotherhood and solidarity the “flagships” of her troubled life, is ready to welcome this Jubilee Year with pastoral “professionalism”, having as a gift from our Archbishop, Msgr. Renato Boccardo, the “Holy Door”, which will be opened on Sunday 20 December, with Mass at 11:00. For the occasion, the Sanctuary is organising opportunities for training, prayer meetings and Masses throughout Jubilee Year – more information can be found on the www.santaritadacascia.org website. There will be meetings with the background of the history of Salvation, but also the wonderful experience of the life of Saint Rita, who is a teacher of mercy and role model for everyone. On behalf of the Augustinian Family of Cascia, to all those who read us and visit our Sanctuary, I extend fraternal greetings of a good Jubilee Year. ■

Christmas, God's mercy

by Sister M. Giacomina Stuari

Christmas crib made with the fruit of the lunaria (a plant known as "the Pope's money") by the Little Bees of the Beehive of Saint Rita, in the handicrafts laboratory.

“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, “rich in mercy” (*Eph 2:4*), after having revealed his name to Moses as “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness” (*Ex 34:6*), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. In the “fullness of time” (*Gal 4:4*), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary, to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. *Jn 14:9*). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and his entire person reveals the mercy of God” (Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee of Mercy *Misericordiae Vultus*, 1). In these words of Pope Francis, we can understand how Christmas, the birth of Jesus, is the greatest mercy of

God, the great tenderness of the Father who, in the small child of Bethlehem, gives us his Son. Eucharistic Prayer IV also explains it very well: “Even when he disobeyed you and lost your friendship you did not abandon him to the power of death, but helped all men to seek and find you ... Father, you so loved the world that in the full-

He sent his Son to reveal his love to us

ness of time you sent your only Son to be our Saviour. He was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary”.

Christmas is the transparent, caring, loving mercy of God who wants all to be saved. It is goodness that the Creator pours with his tenderness of Father, with the love that comes from his mother’s womb, on us creatures in all the peripheries of humanity. The Child of Bethlehem shows

The Child of Bethlehem was born in humility

no partiality, indeed even He was born in humility, in temporariness; he is small and in need of everything and reveals the zealous and delicate compassion and benevolence of the Father. This free grace of God, at this stage so pure, should make us shiver in wonder and emotion. The mercy of the Father is really unbounded to the point of being surprising, which we can see, touch and embrace in the child of Bethlehem. He, who was rich, became poor to make us rich with his poverty (cf. 2 Cor 8:9). He, who was strong, made himself weak because in our weakness his grace shines. He, Almighty, is revealed in the fragility of a child so that his love may never fail (cf. 1 Cor 13:8). "Any event that happens would never find an adequate answer if Christ were not there: He marked the last victory of God over human reality;

He, who was strong, made himself weak

whatever happens, it is 'mercy' which interprets everything that is human. Mercy: God accomplishes victory over evil within history as positivity, it is this which gives reason to what happens" (Don Luigi Giussani). When we pause before the grotto of the Child of Bethlehem this Christmas, "we bow our knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man; So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth, and length, and height, and depth, and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God" (cf. Eph 3:14-19).

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, / you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, / and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. / Show us your face and we will be saved. / Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; / the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; / made Peter weep after his betrayal, / and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. / Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: / "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, / of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: / let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. / You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness / in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: / let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, / so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, / and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, / proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, / and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, / you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. / Amen.

(Prayer of Pope Francis
for the Jubilee of Mercy.
Source: www.im.va)

In memory of Sister M. Maddalena

curated by the Sisters of the Monastery of Saint Rita

Sister Mary Magdalene rose to heaven on 22 September 2015 at the age of 101. She entered the Monastery when she was 26, and never went back out. This decision may appear to have been harsh but Sister Mary Magdalene had decided that there should be only Jesus Christ and Community at the centre of her heart and her entire life.

“ *In your will is my joy; I will never forget your word ... I shall run the way of Your commandments, For You will enlarge my heart. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. May I live and praise you ...* “. The words of Psalm 118 seem to us to describe well the entire existence of

Sr. M. Maddalena Pucella, the "doyenne" of the Monastery with her 101 years, the last Sister of the Community to have lived as a nun with Blessed Mother Teresa Fasce. Two

75 years without ever leaving



Sr. M. Maddalena (front row, centre), during the celebrations of 30 August 2014, for her 100th anniversary.

Last Sister to have lived as a nun with Blessed Fasce

other sisters, Sr. Teresa and Sr. Pierina, now also well on in their lives, were Little Bees at the time of the Mother.

Baptised Maria, she rose to heaven on 22 September. She entered the Monastery at the age of 26, in May 1940, and never went back out to her family of birth. At the beginning, because of the “laws” of enclosure, then through her own choice. This decision may appear to have been harsh ... 75 years without ever leaving. But it was not if we think that Sr. Maddalena, the name she took as a nun, had put Jesus Christ and the Community, much loved by her, at the centre of her heart and her entire life. It was in them, who loved her family, for which she was for decades a point of reference with her life of prayer life, of offering to the Lord, of humble and constant service.

To understand her tenacity and her desire to serve the community, just the following episode is enough: at the age of 93 she was admitted to hospital and operated on a broken femur. During rehabilitation in the Monastery, every time she saw the physiotherapist, she said: ‘Get me back on my feet soon because I have to help the community’.

For everyone, she was “the sacristan”, a nickname given to her because of the position she held for many years. She performed this task until she could (92 years-old !!!) to the best of her ability with a sense of aesthetics, love, precision, elegance and beauty - always thinking of serving and praising the Lord in everything she did.

Now our Sister Maddalena – who, in the last eight years of her service and in the various illnesses that she always over-

She always put Jesus at the centre

THEY LIVE IN CHRIST

To you, Lord, we humbly recommend these our dead so that, as in their mortal life they were always loved by you with immense love, now, freed from all evil, they may enter by Your grace into eternal rest. Take them into your Paradise, where there is more grief, no pain, no tears, but peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

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came, seemed steel-like, almost indestructible, as mentioned by a relative at her funeral – enjoys the happiness of the good, the peace that knows no sunset, the blessedness of the righteous, and we thank the Lord for having given her such richness of years. ■

Made for love, made for your Christmas.

For a Christmas with Saint Rita, offer and treat yourself to one of the solidarity products from "Fatto per amore" ("Made for love") line. In this way, you choose to support the charitable works that the nuns of the Monastery of Saint Rita are carrying out for the most vulnerable. You can find these and other products in the full version of the catalogue at

www.santaritadacascia.org/natale



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Feast tree
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Dear friends of Saint Rita, with this issue, dedicated to prayer, we have reached the final appointment with this special insert which has gathered us together on the occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life. Whether you are lay or consecrated, we hope to have given you some food for thought that is useful for living the everyday facing towards God and, therefore, towards our brothers and sisters who are beside us. Let us remain united in thought, in mutual prayer and in Augustinian friendship.

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

Prayer, to open ourselves to God and to others

by Mons. Ambrogio Spreafico,
Bishop of the Diocese of Frosinone-Veroli-Ferentino

All of us always need to learn to pray, even if we have been doing it for years. Prayer is born of need and grafts onto the lives of women and men who understand its meaning and value. And the need is not only personal need, but the need of the world. In fact, prayer opens up to God, and therefore opens up to others. It is the psalms, in particular, which reveal the value and the meaning of prayer. In fact, in the psalter (the book of psalms, *ed.*) we meet the different sides of the human condition before God. For this, the language of the psalms is very varied and universal. It reflects the different ways in which men and women deal with life situations. There we find joy, pain, anger, the suffering of the sick, the tragedy of war, the protest of the righteous and the snares of the wicked, the testimony of God's work in creation and in history ... All circumstances, from the most tragic to the most joyful, can become an occasion for turning to God and praying to him. The title of the psalter in the Hebrew Bible – "praise" (tehillim) – is singular. This title helps us understand an important aspect of the Psalter as prayer. The language of the Psalms is very different, but all are "praise" to God. In praise, we celebrate the qualities of someone, beyond what has been received. We celebrate greatness, mercy and the goodness of God as beautiful realities. In praise, man turns to God in the various stages of life, including those that are dramatic, recognising him as the liberator. In praise, the freedom of the man of faith is expressed, rejoicing in what belongs to God and therefore celebrating mercy, goodness, love and beauty. Praise is implicit recognition of a salvation already obtained. It is the beginning and the end of each prayer. For this reason, the psalter closes with the psalms of praise. Praise expresses the maximum human opening to another human and the maximum freedom from one selves. Praying with the psalms is therefore freedom from oneself, because everything becomes praise to God in the different circumstances of life: in sickness and in health, in wealth and in poverty, in sorrow and in joy. In this sense, the book of psalms is something unique. Every time we open it and recite or sing psalms, we sing God's salvation, praise his love, and his mercy manifested in all aspects of the human condition, even the most dramatic. Prayer has therefore its strength and effectiveness, both personally and in the world around us. It is a valuable service to the world, to peace, a mysterious protector of the poor, a lifeline for humanity.

The time that moves the world

Sister Maria Cristina Marani, Treasurer of the Corpus Domini Monastery in Cento (Ferrara), is interviewed by Monica Guarriello

In the 21st century, does it still make sense to use our time to pray? In Cento, near Ferrara, seven nuns live for a mission: to worship Jesus. What value does a similar vocation have today? We spoke with one of them – Sister Maria Cristina, 47 years old from Marche, who has lived in the Corpus Domini Monastery for 21 years – to understand the meaning of prayer and Eucharistic adoration in particular. And we discovered that being “heart to heart” with Jesus is today, more than ever, the time that fills the lives of many of us with meaning...

Sister Maria Cristina, your vocation is focused on Eucharistic adoration. What is that and what is it for? Prayer is, of course, the fundamental *occupation* of each contemplative Community. For our community, prayer wears the colours of Eucharistic Adoration which, today, is definitely the main “activity”. However, we always remain open to hospitality. Through mail, telephone, e-mail and the concierge of the monastery, there are so many people who come to us with requests for support in everyday life. Guided by prayer, we seek to discern the Lord’s Voice to learn to see the needs and try

to respond as far as we can. In this way, for example, we gladly granted the use of space for Confessions – which, due to the earthquake in May 2012, had to be stopped in parish circles. Eucharistic Adoration is time spent in front of Jesus really alive and present in the Holy Eucharist, solemnly exposed in the monstrance because, as Pope Francis says, *God is to be worshipped!* It is time to learn to be with Jesus and to stop and dialogue with Him. It is time to give him the place that He deserves, that is, number one. To show him our gratitude for the immense Love that he pours over us daily and recommend to all situations in which we see the need for His intervention. Materially, it seems to “serve” little or nothing but, in reality, it is the time that we dedicate to God that moves the world, that puts us back on our feet in times of darkness, difficulty and discomfort, allowing us to have the enthusiasm, strength and hope each morning to face the day.

Who are the people who adhere to this practice? Do you have moments of contact with them? Located in the city centre, but comfortable and silent, the Monastery church is open all day and, therefore, there are really many people who frequent it, starting with the Mass celebrated at seven in the morning. For many, this is convenient for getting to work on time. It has always been like, but especially after the earthquake of 2012, because from

Sr. M. Cristina (first standing, left) together with the Community.



FEATURE: THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE



Corner of the cloister of Corpus Domini Monastery.

On the www.adorazionecento.it site, I read that for adoring the Eucharist we must be willing to “make silence within and around ourselves, to allow God to communicate with our heart and our heart to communicate with God”. But then, I wonder, why is it important to do it together, in church? What is the value added? A phrase of Madeleine Delbrel comes to mind: “*True solitude is not the absence of men, it is the presence of God. There is no solitude without silence.*” Si-

that moment – and for a long time – ours was the only church that remained accessible to the faithful in the historic centre (although the situation has now improved slightly). Many of the faithful – of different ages and living conditions – have accepted the invitation to stand before Jesus in the Eucharist for an hour a week and in different periods of the year (Advent, Lent, June) and have also established a night-time experience of the Adoration (two nights a week). What are they looking for from us? Essentially, communion. They ask for our presence, they ask us to feel supported in their everyday struggles and difficulties, to share joys and hopes. The most daily “contact” between us and worshipers is that of communion in prayer and in trying to offer a welcoming, warm and alive place; in encouraging silence; in taking care of the chapel decor, from flowers to lighting ... Then, every first Monday of the month, we have an hour of guided adoration for all those registered, and there are celebrations of important anniversaries, which end with a convivial stopover.

In a world where we live in the absence of any reference point, what is the point of praying? Precisely today, in which individuals and communities suffer from the lack of unity and cohesion, in which everyone



is always in a hurry and nervous, with never enough time, it is important to stop in prayer because it “*gives time back to God, it steps away from the obsession of a life that is always lacking time, it rediscovers the peace of necessary things, and discovers the joy of unexpected gifts*” (Pope Francis, Audience of 26 August 2015). Prayer has this role: to offer always, again, the right points of reference. That does not mean having everything clear or established, but to know to Who and where to resort in the case of need, on Who to rely. Approaching prayer makes us discover that life with Jesus or without Jesus is not the same thing. Put Jesus at the centre of our days with prayer is to ensure that time is not anonymous, but the history of salvation, of time that is saved and that saves.

lence: sometimes it is being quiet, always it is listening”. Participating in Eucharistic Adoration in church does not necessarily mean being surrounded by other people. Of course, the church is open and anyone can enter, but it is not uncommon to be physically *one to one* with Jesus. In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus says to pray in the privacy of one’s own room (cf. Matt 6:5). But this is to make it clear that our prayers should not be ostentatious. There is nothing more beautiful than to pray with our brothers. Moreover, true prayer is always universal. In our church, except for the moments of liturgical prayer and recitation of the Rosary, adoration takes place in silence and *heart to heart* is not hindered but encouraged by the presence of brothers.



Photo by Fabrizio Cerqua. Cascia, Sanctuary of Saint Rita.

Mercy:
opening our
hearts to the
hope of
being loved
Pope Francis



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JANUARY

1	F	Holy Mother of God
2	S	Sts. Basil and Gregory
3	S	1st Sunday after Christmas - St. Fulgentius, OSA
4	M	Bl. Christine of the Holy Cross, OSA
5	T	St. Edward
6	W	Epiphany of Our Lord
7	T	St. Lucian
8	F	Bl. Ugolino of Gualdo Cattaneo, OSA
9	S	St. Julian
10	S	Baptism of Our Lord
11	M	St. Honoratus
12	T	St. Aelfred of Rievaulx
13	W	Bl. Veronica of Binasco, OSA
14	T	St. Nino
15	F	St. Mauro, ab.
16	S	Comm. Deceased Relatives, OSA
17	S	2nd Ordinary Time - St. Anthony ab.
18	M	Bl. Christina of Aquila, OSA
19	T	St. Mario
20	W	Sts. Fabian and Sebastian
21	T	St. Agnes
22	F	St. Vincent
23	S	Bl. Giuseppa Maria of Benigamin, OSA
24	S	3rd Ordinary Time - St. Francis de Sales
25	M	Conversion of Paul the Apostle
26	T	Sts. Titus and Timothy
27	W	St. Angela Merici
28	T	St. Thomas Aquinas
29	F	Bl. Anthony of Amandola, OSA
30	S	St. David Galvan
31	S	4th Ordinary Time - St. John Bosco

FEBRUARY

1	M	St. Verdiana
2	T	Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
3	W	Bl. Stephen Bellesini, OSA - St. Blaise
4	T	Bl. Angelo of Furci, OSA
5	F	St. Agatha of Sicily
6	S	Sts. Paolo Miki and Comp.
7	S	5th Ordinary Time - Bl. Anselmo Polanco, OSA
8	M	Sts. Jerome and Bakhita
9	T	St. Apollonia
10	W	Ash Wednesday
11	T	1st Thursday of St. Rita - Our Lady of Lourdes
12	F	Sts. Martyrs of Abitinae
13	S	Bl. Christine of Spoleto, OSA
14	S	1st Sunday of Lent - Sts. Cyril and Methodius
15	M	Bl. Julia of Certaldo, OSA
16	T	Bl. SIMON FIDATI OF CASCIA, OSA
17	W	St. Donato m.
18	T	2nd Thursday of St. Rita - St. John Francis Regis
19	F	St. Conrad of Piacenza
20	S	St. Leo
21	S	2nd Sunday of Lent - St. Peter Damian
22	M	Chair of St. Peter
23	T	St. Polycarp
24	W	St. Ethelbert, king
25	T	3rd Thursday of St. Rita - St. Adelmus
26	F	St. Alexander
27	S	St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows
28	S	3rd Sunday of Lent - St. Romanus
29	M	St. Hilarius, pope

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Photo by Lamberto Manni.
Basilica of Saint Rita, Crucifix by G. Manzù.

Jesus Christ
is the face of
the Father's
mercy.
Pope Francis



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MARCH

1	T	St. Albinus	
2	W	St. Angela of the Cross	
3	T	4th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Teresa Eustochio Verzeri	
4	F	St. Casimir, king	
5	S	St. Lucius I	
6	S	4th Sunday of Lent - St. Colette	
7	M	Sts. Perpetua and Felicity	
8	T	St. John of God	
9	W	St. Frances of Rome	
10	T	5th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Simplicius	
11	F	St. Constantine	
12	S	Bl. Jerome of Recanati, OSA	
13	S	5th Sunday of Lent - Sts. Patricia and Modesta	
14	M	St. Matilde, queen	
15	T	St. Zaccaria	
16	W	St. Agapitus	
17	T	6th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Patrick	
18	F	St. Cyril	
19	S	St. Joseph	
20	S	Palm Sunday	
21	M	St. Birillus	
22	T	7th Thursday of St. Rita - Bl. Ugolino Zefirini, OSA	
23	W	St. Turibius of Mogrovejo	
24	T	Maundy Thursday	
25	F	Good Friday	
26	S	Holy Saturday	
27	S	Easter Sunday	
28	M	Easter Monday	
29	T	St. Ludolph	
30	W	St. Leonardo Murialdo	
31	T	8th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Guy	

APRIL

1	F	St. Melitone of Sardis	
2	S	St. Francis of Paola	
3	S	2nd Sunday of Easter - St. Richard, bish.	
4	M	Annunciation of the Lord	
5	T	Bl. Mariano, OSA	
6	W	St. Celestine	
7	T	9th Thursday of St. Rita - St. John Baptist de La Salle	
8	F	St. Walter	
9	S	St. Liborius	
10	S	3rd Sunday of Easter - S. Pompeius	
11	M	St. Stanislaus	
12	T	Sts. Julius I and Giuseppe Moscati	
13	W	St. Itta	
14	T	10th Thursday of St. Rita - S. Lambert	
15	F	St. Maximus	
16	S	St. Bernadette Soubirous	
17	S	4th Sunday of Easter - St. Robert of Molesme	
18	M	Bl. Andrew of Montreale, OSA	
19	T	St. Emma	
20	W	Bl. Simon of Todi	
21	T	11th Thursday of St. Rita - S. Anselmo	
22	F	St. Leonides	
23	S	St. Anselm	
24	S	5th Sunday of Easter - Conversion of St. Augustine	
25	M	St. Mark. ev.	
26	T	Our Lady of Good Counsel	
27	W	St. Zita of Lucca	
28	T	12th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Gianna Beretta Molla	
29	F	St. Catherine of Siena	
30	S	Sts. Pius V and Giuseppe B. Cottolengo	

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Basilica of Saint Rita, urn containing the saint's body

Photo by Lamberto Manni.

Mercy will
always be
greater than
any sin.
Pope Francis

2016



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MAY

1	S	6th Sunday of Easter - St. Joseph the Worker
2	M	St. Athanasius
3	T	Sts. Philip and James
4	W	St. Cyriacus
5	T	13th Thursday of St. Rita - Bl. Spanish Martyrs, OSA
6	F	St. Lucius
7	S	St. Rosa Venerini
8	S	Ascension Day - Our Lady of Grace, OSA
9	M	St. Pachomius
10	T	St. John of Avila
11	W	Bl. Gregory Celli, OSA
12	T	14th Thursday of St. Rita - Bl. William Tirry, OSA
13	F	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, OSA
14	S	St. Matthew, ap.
15	S	Pentecost
16	M	Sts. Alipius and Possidius, OSA
17	T	S. Paschal Baylon
18	W	Bl. William of Toulouse, OSA
19	T	15th Thursday of St. Rita - Bl. Clement of O. and Augustine of T., OSA
20	F	St. Bernardino of Siena
21	S	Sts. Christopher Magallanes and Co.
22	S	Trinity Sunday - ST. RITA OF CASCIA, OSA
23	M	St. Desiderius
24	T	Mary Help of Christians
25	W	St. Bede
26	T	St. Philip Neri
27	F	St. Augustine of Canterbury
28	S	St. Paolo Hanh
29	S	Corpus Christi
30	M	St. Joan of Arc
31	T	Visitation

JUNE

1	W	St. Justin
2	T	Sts. Marcellinus and Peter
3	F	Sacred Heart
4	S	Immaculate Heart of Mary
5	S	10th Ordinary Time - St. Boniface
6	M	St. Norbert
7	T	St. Antonio M. Gianelli
8	W	St. Medardus
9	T	St. Ephrem
10	F	Bl. Edward Poppe
11	S	St. Barnabas ap.
12	S	11th Ordinary Time - St. John of Sahagun
13	M	S. Anthony of Padua
14	T	St. Elisha, pr.
15	W	St. Vitus
16	T	S. Aurelianus
17	F	St. Ranieri of Pisa
18	S	St. Gregory
19	S	12th Ordinary Time - S. Giuliana Falconieri
20	M	Bl. Philip of Placenza, OSA
21	T	St. Aloysius Gonzaga
22	W	St. Thomas More
23	T	St. Lanfranc
24	F	Nativity of St. John the Baptist
25	S	Bl. Peter James of Pesaro, OSA
26	S	13th Ordinary Time - St. Vigilius
27	M	St. Cyril of Alexandria
28	T	St. Irenaeus
29	W	Sts. Peter and Paul
30	T	First Martyrs of the Roman Church

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Photo by Massimo Chiappini. Basilica of Saint Rita, fresco 'The Glory of the Augustinian Saints' by L. Montanarini.

No one can
place limits
on the love of
God who is
ever ready to
forgive.

Pope Francis



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JULY

1	F	St. Esther, queen
2	S	Bl. John and Peter Bechetti, OSA
3	S	14th Ordinary Time - St. Thomas, ap.
4	M	St. Elizabeth of Portugal
5	T	St. Anthony Maria Zaccaria
6	W	St. Maria Goretti
7	T	St. Edda
8	F	Sts. Aquila and Priscilla
9	S	St. Veronica Giuliani
10	S	15th Ordinary Time - Sts. Secunda and Rufina
11	M	St. Benedict, ab.
12	T	St. John Gualbert
13	W	St. Clelia Barbieri
14	T	St. Camillus de Lellis
15	F	St. Bonaventure
16	S	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
17	S	16th Ordinary Time - Bl. Magdalene Albrici, OSA
18	M	St. Arnulf of Metz
19	T	St. Arsenius the Great
20	W	St. Apollinaris
21	T	St. Lawrence of Brindisi
22	F	St. Mary Magdalene
23	S	St. Bridget of Sweden
24	S	17th Ordinary Time - Bl. Anthony Della Torre, OSA
25	M	St. James, ap.
26	T	Sts. Joachim and Anna
27	W	Bl. Lucia Bufalari, OSA
28	T	Sts. Nazarius and Celsus
29	F	St. Martha of Bethany
30	S	St. Peter Chrysologus
31	S	18th Ordinary Time - St. Ignatius of Loyola

AUGUST

1	M	St. Alphonsus M. Liguori
2	T	Bl. John of Rieti, OSA
3	W	St. Aspren
4	T	St. John M. Vianney
5	F	Dedication of St. Mary Major Basilica
6	S	Transfiguration of Our Lord
7	S	19th Ordinary Time - Sts. Sixtus II and co.
8	M	St. Dominic of Guzman
9	T	St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
10	W	St. Lawrence
11	T	St. Clare of Assisi
12	F	St. Jean Frances of Chantal
13	S	Sts. Pontianus and Hippolytus
14	S	20th Ordinary Time - St. Maximilian Kolbe
15	M	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
16	T	S. Roch
17	W	St. Clare of Montefalco, OSA
18	T	St. Helen emp.
19	F	St. Ezekiel Moreno, OSA
20	S	St. Bernard of Clairvaux
21	S	21st Ordinary Time - St. Pius X
22	M	Queenship of Mary
23	T	St. Rose of Lima
24	W	St. Bartholomew, ap.
25	T	St. Ludwig
26	F	Sts. Liberatus, Boniface and Comp., OSA
27	S	St. Monica mother of St. Augustine
28	S	22nd Ordinary Time - ST. AUGUSTINE V. DR.
29	M	Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist
30	T	St. Margaret Ward
31	W	St. Raymond Nonnatus

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Photo by Giovanni Galardini.
Monastery of Saint Rita, cloister

It was we who
first received
mercy.
Pope Francis



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SEPTEMBER

1	T	St. Giles
2	F	St. Elpidius
3	S	St. Gregory the Great
4	S	23rd Ordinary Time - Mary Mother of Consolation
5	M	Bl. Mother Teresa of Calcutta
6	T	Bl. Angelo of Foligno, OSA
7	W	St. John of Lodi
8	T	Birth of the Virgin Mary
9	F	St. Peter Claver
10	S	St. Nicholas of Tolentino, OSA
11	S	24th Ordinary Time - Sts. Protus and Hyacinth
12	M	Holy Name of Mary
13	T	St. John Chrysostom
14	W	Triumph of the Cross
15	T	Our Lady of Sorrows
16	F	Sts. Cornelius and Ciprian
17	S	St. Robert Bellarmine
18	S	25th Ordinary Time - St. Joseph of Cupertino
19	M	Sts. Alphonsus of Orozco, OSA and Januarius
20	T	Sts. Korean Martyrs
21	W	St. Matthew, ap. ev.
22	T	St. Ignatius of Santhia
23	F	Sts. Pio of Pietrelcina and Tecla
24	S	Our Lady of Mercy
25	S	26th Ordinary Time - St. Nicholas of Flüe
26	M	Bl. Paul VI and Sts. Cosmas and Damian
27	T	St. Vincent de Paul
28	W	Bl. Japanese Martyrs, OSA
29	T	Sts. Archangels
30	F	St. Jerome

OCTOBER

1	S	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus
2	S	27th Ordinary Time - Sts. Guardian Angels
3	M	Bl. Angelo of Sansepolcro, OSA
4	T	St. Francis of Assisi
5	W	Bl. Sante of Cori, OSA
6	T	St. Bruno
7	F	Our Lady of the Rosary
8	S	St. Pelagia
9	S	28th Ordinary Time - Bl. Anthony P. and Leccetani, OSA
10	M	St. Thomas of Villanova, OSA
11	T	Bl. Elia, OSA and St. John XXIII
12	W	BL. M. TERESA FASCE OF CASCIA, OSA
13	T	Comm. of Deceased Benefactors, OSA
14	F	Bl. Gonsalvo of Lagos, OSA
15	S	St. Teresa of Jesus
16	S	29th Ordinary Time - St. Margaret M. Alacoque
17	M	St. Ignatius of Antioch
18	T	St. Luke, ev.
19	W	St. Laura
20	T	St. Magdalene of Nagasaki, OSA
21	F	St. Ursula
22	S	St. John Paul II
23	S	30th Ordinary Time - St. William and Bl. John Bono, OSA
24	M	St. Anthony M. Claret
25	T	St. John Stone, OSA
26	W	St. Evaristus, p.
27	T	St. Alfred king
28	F	Sts. Juda and Simon, ap.
29	S	Bl. Peter of Gubbio, OSA
30	S	31st Ordinary Time - St. Germano
31	M	Bl. James of Cerqueto, OSA



Photo by Roger Bergonzoli.

Throw away
feelings of
revenge and
rancour to
live happily.
Pope Francis



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NOVEMBER

1	T	All Saints
2	W	All Souls
3	T	Sts. Martin of Porres and Sylvia
4	F	St. Charles Borromeo
5	S	Sts. Zacariah and Elizabeth
6	F	32nd Ordinary Time - Comm. Of All the Faithful Departed, OSA
7	M	Bl. Grace of Kotar, OSA
8	T	St. Adeodatus I
9	W	Dedication of Lateran Basilica
10	T	St. Leo I the Great
11	F	St. Martin of Tours
12	S	St. Josaphat
13	S	33rd Ordinary Time - All Holy Families, OSA
14	M	St. Jocundus
15	T	St. Albertus Magnus
16	W	St. Gertrude
17	T	St. Elizabeth of Hungary
18	F	St. Odo
19	S	St. Faustus
20	S	Christ the King
21	M	Presentation of the B. V. Mary
22	T	S. Cecilia
23	W	St. Clement I
24	T	Sts. Andrew Dung Lac and Comp.
25	F	St. Catherine of Alexandria
26	S	St. Corrado
27	S	1st Sunday of Advent - S. Virgilius
28	M	St. James of the Marches
29	T	Bl. Frederick of Regensburg, OSA
30	W	St. Andrew ap.

DECEMBER

1	T	St. Eligius
2	F	St. Bibiana
3	S	St. Francis Xavier
4	S	2nd Sunday of Advent - St. Barbara
5	M	St. Sabas
6	T	St. Nicholas of Bari
7	W	St. Ambrose
8	T	Immaculate Conception of the B. V. Mary
9	F	St. Syrus
10	S	Our Lady of Loreto
11	S	3rd Sunday of Advent - St. Damasus I
12	M	Our Lady of Guadalupe
13	T	St. Lucy
14	W	St. John of the Cross
15	T	St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli
16	F	Bl. Cherubim of Avigliana, OSA
17	S	St. Lazarus of Bethany
18	S	4th Sunday of Advent - St. Gatianus of Tours
19	M	St. Berardus
20	T	St. Liberatus
21	W	St. Peter Canisius
22	T	St. Frances Cabrini
23	F	St. Ivo of Chartres
24	S	St. Adele
25	S	Nativity of the Lord
26	M	St. Stephen, m.
27	T	St. John, ev.
28	W	Holy Innocents' Day, martyrs
29	T	St. Thomas Becket
30	F	Holy Family
31	S	St. Sylvester I

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task to let
them grow
serenely.

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