

# 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 2018



## JESUS IS APPROACHING

*Season's Greetings*

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## FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES

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# Jesus is approaching

While we live this period of waiting for Holy Christmas, it would be important to rediscover silence, as an ideal moment for grasping the musicality of the language with which the Lord speaks to us. A language, said Pope Francis, so similar to that of a father and a mother: reassuring, full of love and tenderness. How does the Lord speak to us? Perhaps, the Holy Father said, it may seem strange to hear a great God say: "I am the Lord your God, who holds you to the right, like the father the child. And I tell you: do not be afraid! I come to your aid". It is just like the father who runs to the side of his child when, at night, he has a bad dream and tells him: "Don't be afraid, I'm here! ... In the same way Jesus speaks to us. He comes close to us. When we look at a father or a mother who speaks to their little child," Francesco explained, "we see that they become little and speak with a voice of a child and with the manners of children". Someone looking in from the outside might think that this is ridiculous. But "the love of a father and a mother needs to be close ... to lower themselves to the world of the child". And even if the father and mother spoke to them normally, the child would still understand, "but they want to take up the manner of speaking of the child. They come close. They become children. And so it is with the Lord".

"I have always been struck," confided the

Pope, "by the Lord's meeting with Elijah". He was on the mount and when he saw him pass, "the Lord was not in the hail, in the rain, in the storm, in the wind ... The Lord was in the still soft breeze "(cf. 1 Kings 19: 11-13).

"In the original text," Francis specified, "a most beautiful word is used which cannot be precisely translated: he was in a sonorous thread of silence. A sonorous thread of silence: this is how the Lord draws near, with that sound of silence that belongs to love". And to every man he says: "You are small and a weak sinner; 'but I will make of you a threshing sledge, new, sharp, and having teeth. You shall thresh the mountains and crush them, and you shall make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them". Thus, "he makes himself small to make me strong. He goes to death ... that I may live".

"This," the Pope said, "is the music of the Lord's language. As we prepare for Christmas, we should listen to it. It will do us great, great good". Normally Christmas is a loud feast. It will do us good to be silent a little, in order to listen to these words of love, of great closeness, these words of tenderness". And he concluded: "We need to be silent during this season so that, as the preface says, we might vigilantly keep watch".

*(Extract from morning meditation in the Chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, "When silence is music", of December 12, 2013)*

*May the Holy Holidays  
bring us joy and serenity!*

Greetings from the Augustinian families of Cascia,  
the Beehive of Saint Rita, the Saint Rita of Cascia  
Non-Profit Foundation, and the editorial staff of  
From the Bees to the Roses.

# New hospital facility in Cascia inaugurated

A delegation of benefactors was also present at the ribbon cutting ceremony

by Alessia Nicoletti

“Finally, the new beginning for the rehabilitation of Cascia has arrived. Many are those waiting for its reopening with hands folded”. The enormous value that characterised the inauguration of the new hospital facility for rehabilitation and assisted health residence (RSA) in Cascia could be summed up in these few words, accompanied by the bright eyes of emotion and new hope of Annita Rondoni, national councillor of the Italian Multiple Sclerosis Association and head of the AISM Foligno-

Spoletto-Valnerina Operational Group. She was also among the many patients who wanted to be present at the ribbon cutting ceremony on September 22.

The event, opened by a round table on the theme “Rehabilitation as a vocation: experience and perspectives of rehabilitation in Cascia”, saw the presence of numerous institutions: Catuscia Marini, President of the Umbria Region, Luca Barberini, Councillor for Health, Social Cohesion and Welfare of the Umbria Region and Mario De Carolis, mayor of the Municipality of



The ribbon cutting ceremony with (from left): Maria Cristina Ferradini for Vodafone Italia Foundation, Councillor for Health of the Umbria Region Luca Barberini, mayor of Cascia Mario De Carolis, Sister Maria Rosa Bernardinis, Mother Prioress of the Monastery of Saint Rita, Catuscia Marini, President of the Umbria Region, the director of USL Umbria 2, Imolo Fiaschini, and Maria Chiara Roti, vice president of the Francesca Rava Foundation - NPFI Italia Onlus.



The inauguration on September 22 ended with an engaging spectacle on the churchyard, which gave life to suggestive plays of light projected on the facade of the Basilica of Saint Rita (see also photo on page 6).

Cascia. Also present as project partners were for the Francesca Rava Foundation - NPH Italia Onlus, vice-president Maria Chiara Roti and Elisabetta Strada, coordinator of the Central Italy Earthquake Reconstruction Project; for Vodafone Italia Foundation, managing director Maria Cristina Ferradini.

The great significance of the occasion for the communities of the whole Valnerina was also underlined by the Mother Prioress of the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia, Sister Maria Rosa Bernardinis, who partici-



From left: Patrizia, Nicola, Stella Maria, Maurizia (referent of the Monastery of Saint Rita who followed the group), Aldo, Patrizia and spouses Antonio and Teodora, Andrea (not present however in the photo): these were the benefactors, invited following a draw by the nuns, to represent all benefactors who contributed to the project.

pated in the ribbon cutting ceremony accompanied by Vicaress Sister Maria Natalina Todeschini. All the emotion due to the happiness of seeing the long-desired goal of re-opening the new structure and gratitude towards those who allowed the project to become a reality was visible on the face of the Mother Superior.

In addition to the nuns, centre stage on this memorable day for Cascia was also taken by those who made reconversion of the building owned by the Monastery of Saint Rita possible. From the very long list of benefactors, the nuns drew seven names invited to participate that corresponded to



Many people contributed to the success of the "A Hospital for the Valnerina" project. Among these, in particular, Lanfranco Castellucci (first on the left), director of works, and Emilio Stracchi, project supervisor on behalf of the Monastery of Saint Rita (first on the right). In the photo, together with the representatives of the Francesca Rava Foundation - NPH Italia Onlus.





two chosen criteria: that they should come from different parts of Italy and that they should be represented not only large but also small donors. Patrizia Casello, 58, arrived for the special occasion from as far as Reggio Emilia: “I am a nurse and for some years also a patient and I know what it means to find medical and human excellence in these specialised structures. Along with my long-standing devotion to Saint Rita, this was the reason that led me to support the nuns' project”. Among the benefactors who heeded the appeal of the Augustinians, there were also those who came from a territory closer to Cascia and who personally experienced the fear and devastation of the 2016 earthquake, but also the enormous inconveniences that followed. Despite this, 56-year-old Nicola Ambrosini, who resides in Abruzzo, chose to extend his hand to help a sister land in grief: “For me, the Monastery of Cascia represents a second family, but beyond this bond my gesture was moved by having experienced first hand how negative it is for a community to lack those points of reference that no longer existed after the earthquake, first of all the health service, which is essential for life. In my area, unfortunately, many hospital centres are closing and so I wanted to make my contribution so that here in Cascia this would not happen”.



# "The Lord has selected me for a team called Monastery"

The young athletes of Perugia Calcio interview  
Sister M. Giacomina Stuani

*Nun of the Monastery of Saint Rita, editorial director of "From the Bees to the Roses", former athlete and great Milan fan, Sister M. Giacomina Stuani answers the questions of the young athletes of the Under 17 series A and B of AC Perugia Calcio, in the context of the "Culture in goal" project that took place in Cascia in August.*

**W**hy did you decide to become a nun? Well then, let's start immediately without warming up ... I actually decided only to answer, to say yes, to get in the game ... Someone - that is, the Lord - saw me, selected me, and made the proposal to be part of a particular team called Monastery. Before entering the monastery, my days were entirely dedicated to sport, then the Lord slipped into my life through the desires that he placed in my heart. And that's how I arrived here.

**When did your passion for football start?** I started playing football on the parish pitch at the age of eight, we had a team, "Leoni" we called each other, and it was strange for a girl, especially then, to play football.

**Regarding Milan, what about the market this year?** I'm very up to date on Milan, my family recently came to visit me, my mum buys the Gazzetta dello Sport and she brings it to me here. I'm happy about the market, about the players, but I've also seen that at managerial level serious people have arrived, flag bearers. Well, flags bearers are important because when you, besides passion, put in your heart and know the history of that team not only because they told you but because you have lived it, the passion becomes even stronger.



**Do you have a favourite player?** I heard that Maldini has come back to Milan. I have always appreciated the players who were not only good on the field, but also had important values.

**What is the nuns's diet in the monastery?** Diet is also important for us, we are attentive to the care of the body because the body is a gift from God, life is a gift received. A bit like your talent, it has been given to you, but you must take care of it. Then of course, even when we have the occasion to eat a pizza, some nuns drink a glass of beer ... we are still human beings!

**So ... A real Milan fan, eh?** Oh yes. On my birthday, with the permission of the Prioress, I went to lunch with the Milan apron, napkin and cup, and I hung the shirt at the window. Outside the monastery, I had the Milan Club card of my home town in the province of Mantua. I went to San Siro to see matches among the Fossa and Brigade diehard groups. Now, of course, I follow them only by reading the results of the games in the newspaper; besides, you can't get rid of passion, it it's passion it's passion.



PIA UNIONE PRIMARIA  
SANTA RITA  
DA CASCIA  
Famiglia agostiniana

edited by Marta Ferraro

# Piazza Santa Rita sees the light in Campofranco

That Saint Rita is one of the saints most loved by the Christian population is well known. There are, however, occasions and places where this devotion is expressed in a warmer way, as for example in Sicily.

The Primary Pious Union, born with the aim of creating a bond between devotees of the saint and the monastery of Cascia, has the highest number of members on the island. Sicilian devotees actively live the spirit of the Association with the participation in the General Meeting held in Cascia every year and, once back home, they continue meeting to live and spread the cult of Saint Rita. In May, the 6th Regional Meeting of the PPU and Ritian devotees took place in Campofranco.



Inauguration of Piazza Santa Rita in Campofranco

An event made of sharing, not only because of the devotees coming from all over the region, but also because of the different institutional figures present in the local area. An example of teamwork that has affect-

ed many aspects of common life. Various Sicilian PPUs took part in the event: Alessandria della Rocca, Augusta, Calamonaci, Caltabelotta, Enna, Licata, Marianopoli, Menti, Messina, Ribera, Riposto and Viagrande

## THEY LIVE IN CHRIST

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

Bruna Lupi (Cadrò - Switzerland)  
Bruna Rigon Corradin (Fara Vicentino VI - Italy)  
Caterina Morta (Hoboken NJ - USA)  
Corrado D'Epiro (Florence - Italy)  
Edda Galassi (Rome - Italy)  
Elena Beati (Mende - Switzerland)  
Elisabetta Rosaria Russo (San Ferdinando di Puglia BT - Italy)

Gennaro Cistulli (Adelfia BA - Italy)  
Giuliano Ferri (San Feliciano of Magione PG - Italy)  
Iolanda Sicari (Cascia - Italy)  
Iolanda Trucco (Genoa - Italy)  
Irma Gizzi (Heidelberg - Australia)  
Luciana Blasi (Potenza - Italy)  
Luciano Contini (Basilicanova PR - Italy)  
Maria Cistulli (Montefalco PG - Italy)  
Marisa Cattaneo (Pontida BG - Italy)  
Matteo Alamia (Vestane BS - Italy)  
Rocco Zappacosta (Turin - Italy)  
Santa Castellani (Perugia - Italy)  
Vincenzo Battipaglia (Nocera Inferiore SA - Italy)





Triduum in preparation for the feast day. However, there is a particular local tradition that links the devotees of the town with other local people: the procession. Motivated by their chaplain Don Nazzeno Falletta, the statue of Saint Rita - which was bought by the workers of a factory in a neighbouring village - is carried in procession on a triumphal cart and taken to the locality where it remains in the Church of the Holy Family until the following Sunday. Although the

along with numerous other groups of devotees that are not yet affiliated. It was a moment of exchange in which the topic chosen for the General Meeting was picked up and examined by rapporteur Sister M. Giacomina Stuari, Augustinian of the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia: *Loving with the measure of Divine Love, symbolic expressions of the spirituality of Blessed Maria Teresa Fasce*. The meeting, as organiser Giuseppe Favata noted, saw the participation of 1,500 people and allowed the association to live the most significant moments of its history. A long history that dates back to the early 20th century when a priest who popularised the Ritian cult arrived in the town, leading his successor to expand the rectory and name it after Saint Rita. At that time, the square in front of the building, despite having another name, was popularly called “Piazzetta Santa Rita”. It was only with



Some moments (here and photo above) of the Regional Sicilian PPU Meeting, in its 2018 edition.

the general meeting of 2017, which was also attended by the mayor of Campofranco, Rosario Pitanza, who was impressed by the atmosphere lived in Cascia, changed place names in the area to make the name of the square official. Campofranco, like many other devout towns, eagerly awaits May 22 with the practice of the Fifteen Thursdays of Santa Rita, which recall the years in which Rita lived the privilege of bearing the thorn on her forehead, and the

Montecatini factory no longer exists and many others have closed, the former workers in the area still feel a strong sense of belonging to that devotion and consider Saint Rita their patron, continuing to carry the statue around the building as a sign of blessing. Another example of how devotion and tradition come together to hold together many aspects of living together, wisely safeguarded by today's priests, Don Luciano Calabrese and Don Maurizio Nicastro.

# In the house of relationships

the Barefoot Carmelites of Tolentino in Cascia

*In this issue, the “Dialogue with the Monastery” section exceptionally welcomes the testimony of the Carmelite nuns of Tolentino, guests of the Monastery of Saint Rita at the Convent of St. Augustine in Cascia, after having been forced to abandon their convent because of the 2016 earthquakes.*

**O**n May 22, Father Luciano De Michieli, Prior Provincial of the Augustinians of Italy, said that Saint Rita teaches us “to be in difficult situations with our gaze capable of seeing the light”. Her life, which “read in human terms is a failure ... is shattered”, becomes a great sign of the Love of God. At her school, we too are learning “a new way of seeing the present” of our community, all illuminated by the providence of the Father.

We arrive in Cascia on July 22, 2017: from the nine-month-long embrace of the sisters of Fano to the “indefinite” embrace of the Augustinian family of Cascia. The nuns of the Monastery of Saint Rita have placed at our disposal the House of Vocational Welcoming close to the church and ancient convent of Saint Augustine. The days following our arrival see us engaged in great works of reordering, organisation of spaces and of rhythm of life. The recurrent question among us is: “but now how are things done? When do you go to the chapel for prayer? Where do we put this thing?”. Up and down the stairs, on the landings, we stop and think in order not to go the wrong way ... In the meantime, the views fill our eyes with light and greenery, and our trepidation melts in the benevolence we feel surrounded by: not only of the fathers and the nuns, but also of the many Cascians who



The Carmelites as they climb the slope leading to the Convent of Saint Augustine in Cascia, where they currently live

***Fixing our gaze on the essential helps us to live serenely***

approach us offering their help, and the Augustinians of Tolentino who remained a strong point of reference. A year later, we realise that the many questions of the early days are concentrated in the following one: what is indispensable for our life and what is not? Fixing our gaze on the essential helps us to live serenely the absence of some typical signs of being enclosed and also of a certain instability due to the un-



precedented situation in which we find ourselves. What then is indispensable for our life as Barefoot Carmelites in this time of exodus? The encounter with God and among us, that is, the life of prayer and fraternal communion, in the style that Thérèse of the Child Jesus, our Mother, sums up with the word *friendship*. An experience like the earthquake, which can really “shatter” walls and existences, has changed on the occasion through a rediscovery of the Love of God. Restructuring the life of our community has allowed us to look at traditions and consolidated rhythms without taking anything for granted, and to better understand the value of silence and fraternity. *Prayer* has been substantiated by solidarity with the poorest brothers, deprived of security, uprooted from their lands. Near Christmas, greetings come to us that refer to the “poverty of Bethlehem” and to the “flight into Egypt” of the Holy Family.

When we feel the weight of some uneasiness or deprivation, it is good to return with a gaze on Jesus: He, God and Lord, stripped of everything, enters the world as a child born in precariousness. The second aspect that cannot be given up for our vocation is *friendship* among us. Unity is the primary value to be preserved, no longer within the stability of the walls, but in the “home” of relationships: mutual acceptance, sharing, the precious support that each offers to the other with their simple “being there”. This experience has widened thanks to the discreet company of the Augustinian nuns: not only have they opened their house and hearts, but they find every way to confirm their affection and surprise us with their generosity. The constant interest, the communication of some suffering to be taken into prayer and the sharing of moments of celebration are all new steps on a journey of rare fruitfulness and beauty. ■

## GIVE ME A HEART THAT LISTENS...

Dearest friend,

“Return to your heart: see there what perhaps you perceive about God, because the image of God is there: in the inner self Christ dwells, in the inner self you are renewed according to the image of God”. This is the thought of our spiritual father St. Augustine. There is a challenge to which we are all called: that of learning to look within ourselves. The choice of life, in fact, is realised in listening to one's heart, in search of the most real and profound desires that the Father himself has hidden from you.

We offer you some days for listening, praying, discerning, living at the school of the Lord ...



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# Mother Prioress, do not be discouraged!

*From her writing, Reverend Sister Maria Rosa seems to me in need of encouragement for sharing with you the work for this hospital, which she has already mentioned some time ago. For my part, I tell you not to stop ... We trust in Divine Providence that is never absent for those who have faith, as she rightly writes, I am not rich, as you will have seen from my donations, which are not*



The Prioress together with two benefactors, Teodora and Antonio, during the inauguration of the new hospital on September 22, 2018.

*large figures, but what I offer is from my heart. It is to be hoped that there are many who offer for something of common interest and for the health of these needy people. Do not feel unworthy to work for the Lord, who chooses the people who do his will, so she is, in this moment, in the right place to do it with her sisters and it is good that you are united in deciding and doing. Here, if this writing can help her morally, I am happy. Then there is Saint Rita who helps her from heaven, certainly, especially that she already sees the good that will come. Reading again the first lines of her writing ... it can also be understood that perhaps she do not feel ready for this heavy economic effort, for completing it. Do not be discouraged! Put everything in the hands of the Lord and everything will be done wonderfully, do what you can. Sincere greetings. (Mario)*

Dear Mario,

your letter was truly providential. I was very comforted and encouraged for this difficult task, for re-opening the hospital in Cascia after the earthquake of October 30, 2016 had made the existing one unusable, and making available the former House of Spiritual Exercises, restructuring it for this purpose. I have read it many times and I have always felt it as a caress of the Lord. Your words in response to my request for help reveal a noble and generous soul with a granitic faith in Divine Providence. I have taken your advice seriously: I have placed my concerns in the hands of the Lord that it be He who will complete this work. He uses each one of us to do good, but without His help we cannot do anything. I therefore hope that your letter, so rich in wisdom and spirituality, reaches more people and may comfort others who find themselves with my same difficulties or fears. Thank you, Mario, for your prayers for me and for all the Sisters. We are all poor beggars, in need of walking in the path of the Lord with joy and perseverance. May the Lord reward you with his grace and consolation of the spirit, through the intercession of Saint Rita and Blessed Maria Teresa Fasce. For my part, I will not fail to pray a part of the Holy Rosary every day for you. In this way, this mutual prayer will strengthen our friendship.

## THE ABBESS RESPONDS

If you wish to share your fears, your questions or your happiness, write to **[monastero@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:monastero@santaritadacascia.org)**, specifying that you give us permission to publish your letter. Mother Maria Rosa will respond to everyone in the *From the Bees to the Roses* magazine.



# Two holy mothers

by Msgr. Giovanni Scanavino, OSA

**T**wo holy mothers, who teach us Love and Peace of the heart. With the beatification of Mother Teresa Fasce there are two Saints of the Monastery who shared the passion of Christ and who are able to help us overcome evil if we can live it with love and for love. Rita asked the Crucifix for the opportunity to share her suffering, also physical, to collaborate in her redemptive action in favour of so much suffering humanity, and she received the thorn, which caused her the stigmata that she bore for the last 15 years of her life. Maria Teresa always desired to imitate the passionate sanctity of Rita. She did not ask for the stigmata, but she also received it with that tumour on her left breast, which she suffered for years until her death but accepted as an offering to be shared with so many sick people. Their faith, through prayer, transformed a sore into a great opportunity for love, lived and offered with Christ for us.

**Our time, new opportunities for offering and for love.** Our time is marked by so many diseases, all rather serious, which make us think of inexorable and extreme times. I often wonder why our time has so inevitably surrendered to such frequent and inexorable diseases. Medical science, first of all, seems to have slowed down its re-

search with too much resignation. But even we, Christians of the years 2000, have also forgotten the solicitude of the Gospel that makes us pray more insistently and ask for healing. Now, faced

with such a tragic scenario, why not appeal to the two holy mothers of our Monastery of Saint Rita to help us to read so many signs of suffering and - why not! - to ask for the intervention of Christ the



### THE BEEHIVE TODAY

Today, the Beehive is a welcoming home that assures its young guests (the Little Bees and the Wildflowers) all that is necessary to allow them to grow in serenity, guaranteeing their education, health care and psychological assistance, adequate nourishment and a home full of love.

## A specialist help that transforms

When a girl arrives in the Beehive, her baggage is full of stories, of strong emotions, of fears, of people that she carries in her heart and others that she laboriously drags with her before letting them go. She is a "charged" girl, but it is a charge that in most cases needs to be "defused" because it produces discomfort and suffering. Sometimes, this defusing occurs through proximity with reference figures who are able to contain, protect and reassure. People who establish healthy and appropriate ways of relating. Other times, however, this is not enough and requires targeted and specialist support. From these needs, the *La stanza di dentro* [The room inside] project was born where our Little Bees are given the opportunity to have a space for facing the most difficult issues that generate suffering, with the help and careful guidance of the psychologist. The goal could be translated into transforming that first charge brought by the girls into positive energy. Working on emotional distress, traumas and various difficulties for producing well-being, for encouraging adequate psycho-physical growth. The workshop takes place twice a month and is managed in the small group. An individual space complements this activity through the psychological listening window. We care about our Little Bees and we always try to differentiate interventions so that each can choose the one that suits them, like a tailor-made suit. This is also the context of another service offered by Father Mario Di Quinzio: it is about spiritual listening, where the Beehive chaplain dedicates part of his time to the Little Bees and the children of the Wildflowers project, giving them comfort, help and answers to the thousand questions and curiosities that they come across during their journey.

*(Violanda Lleshaj, director of the Beehive of Saint Rita)*

doctor that he makes himself felt again as the true healer, and creator at the same time, at least in those cases where death inexorably claims an entire family, if the roots, or the mother or father, are taken away! Certainly science must be able to face all kinds of experimentation, and television campaigns are welcome for raising the necessary funds. But our faith, where is it? That which Jesus has indicated as the premise of every miracle. Where is our prayer, the

prayer recited all together, that Jesus may continue to work, the one that broke the chains of the imprisoned Apostles or gave back the only child to that desperate mother who accompanied him to the cemetery?

**Believing and praying does not mean demanding a miracle every time**, but if Jesus told us to announce the presence of his kingdom and to heal the sick, as a sign of the new gospel, why do we not manage to move the smallest ob-

stacle? We, first of all, must work hard to support and offer disease as a "treasure", a "stigmata", to be placed side by side with the Cross of Christ: this is an indispensable sharing! But we cannot give up on also asking for healing, for continuing to hear ourselves be told: "yours, your faith has saved you"! We cannot give ourselves peace without asking Jesus what he himself told us to ask for insistently. Offering the Lord a suffering that no one had anticipated is part





**Ilaria,  
Wildflower**

## WHO I AM ...

My name is Ilaria, I am 9 years old. I'm in Primary 4 in Cascia. I like singing and playing instruments with teacher Maria.

## WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT THE BEEHIVE ...

I feel really good here because I have so many friends with whom I play and do my homework. Through the workshops I learn many things. What I liked most was the art workshop, because I learned to work with ceramics. My work was a tablet to hang that showed a sunset. Really beautiful!

## The flowers and the bees

### WHO I AM ...

My name is Serena, I am 12 years old and I'm in 2nd year at the Beato Simone Fidati school. I'm from Perugia, but with Ivorian origins. Mum, dad and my brothers Ian and Jean Marc live in Perugia. I really like dancing and cooking (I've started the cooking workshop).

### WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT THE BEEHIVE ...

It's when we're all together, because we can talk, sing, joke. I also like when I'm in difficulty and they help me. The experience of the Nave Italia project was the best: we were all together, we talked a lot and did wonderful things like the off-shore bathroom, karaoke, reading history and the lantern of emotions. I miss my home, but when I'm in the Beehive everything passes because they love me.



**Serena,  
Little Bee**

of the saving mystery of the Cross. But also asking that the cup be passed in fulfilment of God's will is part of the same mystery.

**I think it is time to make a**

**family with these two holy mothers:** two Holy Mothers, only one Beehive ... A single family that continues to love and ask for the healing of the heart and of every type of

cancer. Lord, we know you are there: for the love of your children, and for the intercession of two Holy Mothers, strike a few blows, as You know how! Thank you.





Here I am.  
I beseech  
You, plant  
Your roots in  
my heart.

2019



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## JANUARY

1	T	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
2	W	Sts. Basil and Gregory
3	T	Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus
4	F	Bl. Christine of the Holy Cross OSA
5	S	St. Edward
6	S	Epiphany of Our Lord
7	M	St. Raymond of Penyafort
8	T	Bl. Ugolino of Gualdo Cattaneo OSA
9	W	St. Adrian
10	T	St. Gregory of Nyssa
11	F	St. Hyginus
12	S	St. Arcadius
13	S	Baptism of Our Lord
14	M	St. Felix of Nola
15	T	St. Maurus ab.
16	W	Comm. Deceased Relatives of the Religious OSA
17	T	St. Anthony ab.
18	F	Bl. Christina of Aquila OSA
19	S	St. Marius
20	S	Ordinary Time II - Sts. Fabian and Sebastian
21	M	St. Agnes
22	T	St. Vincent
23	W	Bl. Josephine Mary of Beniganim OSA
24	T	St. Francis de Sales
25	F	Conversion of Paul the Apostle
26	S	Sts. Timothy and Titus
27	S	Ordinary Time III - St. Angela Merici
28	M	St. Thomas Aquinas
29	T	Bl. Anthony of Amandola OSA
30	W	St. Martina
31	T	St. John Bosco

## FEBRUARY

1	F	St. Severino
2	S	Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
3	S	Ordinary Time IV - Bl. Stefano Bellisimi OSA and St. Blaise
4	M	Bl. Angelo da Furci OSA
5	T	St. Agatha
6	W	Sts. Paolo Miki and Co.
7	T	1st Thursday of St. Rita - Bl. Anselmo Polanco OSA
8	F	Sts. Jerome E. and Bakhita
9	S	St. Sabino
10	S	Ordinary Time V - St. Scholastica
11	M	Our Lady of Lourdes
12	T	Sts. Martyrs of Abitinae
13	W	Bl. Christine of Spoleto OSA
14	T	2nd Thursday of St. Rita - Sts. Cyril and Methodius
15	F	Bl. Julia of Certaldo OSA
16	S	Bl. SIMON FIDATI OF CASCIA OSA
17	S	Ordinary Time VI - St. Donatus m.
18	M	St. John Francis Regis
19	T	Bl. Alvaro
20	W	Sts. Francisco and Jacinta Marlo
21	T	3rd Thursday of St. Rita - St. Peter Damian
22	F	Chair of St. Peter
23	S	St. Polycarp
24	S	Ordinary Time VII - St. Modesto
25	M	St. Nestor
26	T	St. Paola
27	W	St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows
28	T	4th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Romanus ab.

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# APRIL



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1	M	St. Ugo	
2	T	St. Francis of Paola	
3	W	St. Luigi Scrosoppi	
4	T	9th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Isidore	
5	F	Bl. Mariano de la Mata Aparicio OSA	
6	S	St. Eutichius	
7	S	5th Sunday of Lent - St. Jean-Baptiste de La Salle	
8	M	St. Julia Billiard	
9	T	St. Liborius	
10	W	St. Magdalene of Canossa	
11	T	10th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Stanislaus	
12	F	St. Damian	
13	S	St. Martin I	
14	S	Palm Sunday	
15	M	St. Maron	
16	T	11th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Bernadette Soubirous	
17	W	Bl. James of Cerqueto OSA	
18	T	Maundy Thursday	
19	F	Good Friday	
20	S	Holy Saturday	
21	S	Easter Sunday	
22	M	Easter Monday	
23	T	Bl. Elena of Udine OSA	
24	W	Conversion of St. Augustine	
25	T	12th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Mark ev.	
26	F	Our Lady of Good Counsel	
27	S	St. Zita of Lucca	
28	S	Sunday of Divine Mercy - St. Peter Chanel	
29	M	St. Catherine of Siena	
30	T	St. Pius X	







In Saint Rita's  
garden,  
you are her  
favourite  
rose

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## MAY

1	W	St. Joseph the Worker
2	T	13th Thursday of St. Rita - St. Athanasius
3	F	Sts. Philip and James
4	S	St. Florian
5	S	Jubilate Sunday - Bl- Martyrs of Spain OSA
6	M	St. Peter Nolasco
7	T	St. Flavia Domitilla
8	W	Our Lady of Grace OSA
9	T	14th Thursday of St. Rita - S. Pachomius
10	F	St. John of Ávila
11	S	Bl. Gregory Celli OSA
12	S	Good Shepherd Sunday - Bl. William Tirry
13	M	Our Lady of Fátima
14	T	St. Matthew ap.
15	W	St. Isidore
16	T	15th Thursday of St. Rita - Sts. Alypius and Possidius OSA
17	F	St. Paschal Baylon
18	S	Bl. William of Toulouse OSA
19	S	5th Sunday of Easter - Bl. Clement of O. and Bl. Augustine of T. OSA
20	M	St. Bernardino of Siena
21	T	Sts. Christopher Magallanes and Co.
22	W	ST. RITA OF CASCIA OSA
23	T	St. Desiderius
24	F	Mary Help of Christians
25	S	St. Bede
26	S	6th Sunday of Easter - St. Philip Neri
27	M	St. Augustine of Canterbury
28	T	St. Germanus
29	W	St. Maximinus of Treviri
30	T	St. Joan of Arc
31	F	Feast of the Visitation

## JUNE

1	S	St. Justin
2	S	Ascension of Our Lord
3	M	Sts. Charles Lwanga and Co.
4	T	St. Francis Caracciolo
5	W	Bl. James of Viterbo OSA
6	T	St. Norbert
7	F	St. Antonio Maria Gianelli
8	S	St. Medardus
9	S	Pentecost
10	M	Bl. Edward Poppe
11	T	St. Barnabas ap.
12	W	St. John of Sahagún OSA
13	T	St. Anthony of Padua
14	F	St. Elisha pr.
15	S	St. Vitus
16	S	Feast of the Trinity
17	M	St. Rainierus of Pisa
18	T	St. Gregorio Giovanni Barbarigo
19	W	St. Romuald ab.
20	T	Bl. Philip of Piacenza OSA
21	F	St. Aloysius Gonzaga
22	S	St. Thomas More
23	S	Corpus Christi
24	M	Nativity of St. John the Baptist
25	T	Bl. Peter James of Pesaro OSA
26	W	Sts. John and Paul
27	T	St. Cyril of Alexandria
28	F	Sacred Heart of Jesus
29	S	Sts. Peter and Paul
30	S	Ordinary Time XIII - Sts. Promartys of Rome

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To give you  
strength,  
to console you  
I am here.

2019



MONASTERO  
SANTA RITA  
DA CASCIA  
Comunità agostiniana

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## JULY

1	M	St. Esther queen
2	T	Bl. John and Peter Becchetti OSA
3	W	St. Thomas ap.
4	T	St. Elizabeth of Portugal
5	F	St. Anthony M. Zaccaria
6	S	St. Maria Goretti
7	S	Ordinary Time XIV - St. Antonino Fantosati
8	M	Sts. Priscilla and Aquila
9	T	St. Leticia
10	W	Sts. Rufina and Secunda
11	T	St. Benedict ab.
12	F	St. Giovanni Gualberto
13	S	St. Henry
14	S	Ordinary Time XV - St. Camillus de Lellis
15	M	St. Bonaventure
16	T	Our Lady of Mount Carmel
17	W	Bl. Maddalena Albrici OSA
18	T	St. Federick of Utrecht
19	F	St. Macrina
20	S	St. Apollinaris
21	S	Ordinary Time XVI - St. Lawrence of Brindisi
22	M	St. Mary Magdalene
23	T	St. Bridget of Sweden
24	W	Bl. Anthony della Torre OSA
25	T	St. James ap.
26	F	Sts. Joachim and Anne
27	S	Bl. Lucia Bufalari OSA
28	S	Ordinary Time XVII - Sts. Nazarius and Celsus
29	M	St. Martha of Bethany
30	T	St. Peter Chrysologus
31	W	St. Ignatius of Loyola

## AUGUST

1	T	St. Alphonsus M. Liguori
2	F	Bl. John of Rieti OSA
3	S	St. Asprenas
4	S	Ordinary Time XVIII - St. John Vianney
5	M	Dedication of St. Mary Major Basilica
6	T	Transfiguration of Our Lord
7	W	Sts. Sixtus and Co.
8	T	St. Dominic of Guzman
9	F	St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross
10	S	St. Lawrence
11	S	Ordinary Time XIX - St. Clare of Assisi
12	M	St. Jane Frances de Chantal
13	T	Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus
14	W	St. Maximilian Kolbe
15	T	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
16	F	St. Rocco
17	S	St. Clare of Montefalco OSA
18	S	Ordinary Time XX - St. Helena emp.
19	M	St. Ezekiel Moreno OSA
20	T	St. Bernard of Clairvaux
21	W	St. Pius X
22	T	Queenship of Mary
23	F	St. Rose of Lima
24	S	St. Bartholomew ap.
25	S	Ordinary Time XXI - St. Louis
26	M	Sts. Liberatus, Boniface and Co. OSA
27	T	St. Monica mother of St. Augustine
28	W	ST. AUGUSTINE
29	T	Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist
30	F	St. Margaret Ward
31	S	St. Joseph of Arimathea

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Saint Rita,  
you are as  
honey for  
my soul

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## SEPTEMBER

1	S	Ordinary Time XXII - St. Giles
2	M	St. Elpidius
3	T	St. Gregory the Great
4	W	Our Lady of Consolation
5	T	St. Teresa of Calcutta
6	F	Bl. Angelo da Foligno OSA
7	S	St. Regina
8	S	Ordinary Time XXIII - Nativity of Mary
9	M	St. Peter Claver
10	T	St. Nicholas of Tolentino OSA
11	W	Sts. Protus and Hyacinth
12	T	Most Holy Name of Mary
13	F	St. John Chrysostom
14	S	Triumph of the Cross
15	S	Ordinary Time XXIV - Our Lady of Sorrows
16	M	Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian
17	T	St. Robert Bellarmine
18	W	St. Joseph of Copertino
19	T	Sts. Alonso de Orozco OSA and Januarius
20	F	Sts. Korean Martyrs
21	S	St. Matthew ap. ev.
22	S	Ordinary Time XXV - St. Ignatius of Santhià
23	M	Sts. Pio of Pietrelcina and Thecla
24	T	Our Lady of Mercy
25	W	St. Sergius of Radonezh
26	T	St. Paul VI and Sts. Cosmas and Damian
27	F	St. Vincent de Paul
28	S	Bl. Japanese Martyrs OSA
29	S	Ordinary Time XXVI - Sts. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael, Archangels
30	M	St. Jerome

## OCTOBER

1	T	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus
2	W	Holy Guardian Angels
3	T	Bl. Angelo of Sansepolcro OSA
4	F	St. Francis of Assisi
5	S	Bl. Sante of Cori OSA
6	S	Ordinary Time XXVII - St. Bruno
7	M	Our Lady of the Rosary
8	T	St. Ugo
9	W	Bl. Anthony P. and Leccetans OSA
10	T	St. Thomas of Villanova OSA
11	F	Bl. Elias OSA and St. John XXIII
12	S	BL. M. TERESA FASCE OF CASCIA OSA
13	S	Ordinary Time XXVIII - Comm. Deceased Benefactors OSA
14	M	Bl. Gonzalo of Lagos OSA
15	T	St. Teresa of Jesus
16	W	St. Margaret M. Alacoque
17	T	St. Ignatius of Antioch
18	F	St. Luke ev.
19	S	Sts. Paul of the Cross and Laura
20	S	Ordinary Time XXIX - St. Magdalene of Nagasaki OSA
21	M	St. Ursula
22	T	St. John Paul II
23	W	St. William and Bl. John Bono OSA
24	T	St. Anthony M. Claret
25	F	St. John Stone OSA
26	S	Sts. Lucian and Marciano
27	S	Ordinary Time XXX - St. Evaristus p.
28	M	Sts. Simon and Jude apostles
29	T	Bl. Peter of Gubbio OSA
30	W	St. Germanus
31	T	Bl. James of Cerqueto OSA

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I want to read  
all Your pages  
to know you,  
Lord.

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## NOVEMBER

1	F	All Saints
2	S	All Souls
3	S	Ordinary Time XXXI - Sts. Martin de Porres and Silvia
4	M	St. Charles Borromeo
5	T	St. Dominus
6	W	Comm. Deceased Religious OSA
7	T	Bl. Grace of Kotar OSA
8	F	St. Godfrey of Amiens
9	S	Dedication of Lateran Basilica
10	S	Ordinary Time XXXII - St. Leo the Great
11	M	St. Martin of Tours
12	T	St. Josaphat
13	W	All Saints Family OSA
14	T	St. Theodotus
15	F	St. Albertus Magnus
16	S	St. Gertrude
17	S	Ordinary Time XXXIII - St. Elizabeth of Hungary
18	M	Dedication of the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul
19	T	St. Mechtilde of Hackeborn
20	W	St. Edmund king
21	T	Presentation of the B. V. Mary
22	F	St. Cecilia
23	S	St. Clement I
24	S	Solemnity of Christ the King
25	M	St. Catherine of Alexandria
26	T	St. Corrado
27	W	St. Vergilius
28	T	St. James of the Marches
29	F	Bl. Frederick of Regensburg OSA
30	S	St. Andrew ap.

## DECEMBER

1	S	1st Sunday of Advent - St. Eligius
2	M	St. Bibiana
3	T	St. Francis Xavier
4	W	St. Barbara
5	T	St. Crispina
6	F	St. Nicholas of Bari
7	S	St. Ambrose
8	S	Immaculate Conception of the B. V. Mary
9	M	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
10	T	Our Lady of Loreto
11	W	St. Damasus I
12	T	Our Lady of Guadalupe
13	F	St. Lucia
14	S	St. John of the Cross
15	S	3rd Sunday of Advent - St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli
16	M	Bl. Cherubim of A. OSA
17	T	St. Modestus
18	W	St. Gaius of Tours
19	T	St. Anastasius I
20	F	St. Liberatus
21	S	St. Peter Canisius
22	S	4th Sunday of Advent - St. Frances Cabrini
23	M	St. Ivo of Chartres
24	T	St. Delphinus
25	W	Nativity of the Lord
26	T	St. Stephen
27	F	St. John ev.
28	S	Holy Innocents Martyrs
29	S	Holy Family
30	M	St. Eugene
31	T	St. Sylvester I

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It is our  
task to let  
them grow  
serenely.



ESTROGENT

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

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

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