

# FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES



The Magazine  
of Saint Rita of Cascia

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## CHRISTIANS TODAY

*A journey of faith in postmodernity*

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## FROM THE BEES TO THE ROSES

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# Brave and open to the world

“We are God's children from now on. But what we will be has not yet been revealed” (1 John 3: 1-2). This quote from the Gospel reminds us that our destiny is not yet fully manifested and pushes us to live in the present, being aware that we are called on to grow spiritually. The reason why I chose it to introduce this issue of the magazine, in which we wanted to analyse devotion in our small way, is that being devoted means being on a constant journey. Therefore, we must not fear the present day, with all its contradictions, because to be modern does not mean not having faith.

The articles you will read bring us back to a devotion that is in crisis, shoved into the background, which we are almost ashamed to express. The “blame”, it is said, lies with the modern world.

Yet, as a nun, I find a challenge to my faith journey in modernity, but also an opportunity. It is true that technological progress has generated a growing distance from sacredness and a superficiality in the search for the meaning of life. Faith, on the other hand, is rooted in the depth of the soul,

inviting us to embrace the eternal and to seek meaning in our existence. Modernity can only shake faith if we do not accept the challenge it offers us, with courage and openness. My faith is not rigid, rather it is a river that flows, adapting to the new questions that emerge from the world. Thus, modernity can be an invitation to live out faith in a more authentic way, to put the values of sharing, solidarity and responsibility towards others and Creation into practice.

Let us respond to this “call” to renew our faith, just as the Church is revolutionising its way of speaking to us about the Lord, and we will be witnesses of a God who makes himself present in the heart of human history precisely through each of us. Let us live in the world without being slaves to it, instead we transform it together with love and hope.







by Alessia Nicoletti

# It is rarely seen today

The gaze of photographer Giovanni Galardini



“In the past, the typical photo of the Feast of Saint Rita was composed of joined hands and raised roses.” Giovanni, who has been documenting the Ritian celebrations in Cascia for years, commented on a black and white shot he took in 1993, in which a single lady turns up to the camera, but does not seem to look at it: it is not the lens that cap-

tures what is happening, but his gaze. The eyes and faces of the devotees provided a field of work par excellence for Giovanni, because, as he said, “I saw and perceived the strength of faith there.”

The scenario has changed now, and Giovanni struggles to find people's faces because they are hidden by their phones. “The smartphone is becoming a symbol,” he reflect-





ed, “because what matters is what it picks up and brings home, so it can be shared with friends and family. I saw many people using their phones to livestream in front of the body of the saint with people on the other side of the screen in a bed, even in hospital.” The matter does not depend on the devices, in fact. “The change I noticed,” said Giovanni, “is in the approach to faith: whereas before it was the heart of the feast, it’s rare to find those who show their devotion today. Those who have joined hands, with tears in their eyes and lips that whisper prayers hide in the corners, when

there are few people left and you can be alone with the saint.” And Giovanni is there, to immortalise that special moment, so much so that he closes his eyes as he takes the shot, as if not wanting to violate that intimate and precious instant.

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by Rita Gentili

# The Church also speaks digitally

A word with journalist Angelo Scelzo

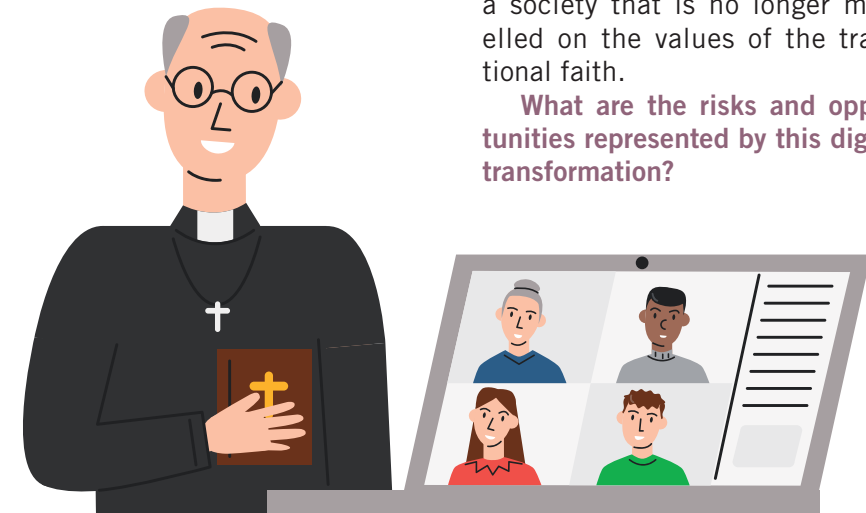


**Who is the Church addressing today?** In addition to communication of the Gospel and its values to the faithful – which we could assimilate to evangelisation, the primary task of the Church – there is the communication used to speak to institutions, groups, and the public opinion to convey its activities, its architecture, the way in which the Church acts in the world and dialogues with us. This communication is entrusted to professionals and to the tools of the sector, including newspapers, radio, TV and, increasingly, digital means.

**Have these latter led to a change in the content and how it is being communicated?**

Yes, but it's not just about digital. Because in the meantime not only has the digital revolution taken place but society has also changed, as has the way in which the values of the Church are perceived. Coming into continuous contact with the people puts the Church in the position of having to update itself, not only in a technical sense but in the conception of its values, which, while always remaining the same, are formulated differently according to the era. The defined value of each individual teaching may be affected, but this does not mean that the Church must withdraw from its own teachings; rather, it must communicate them better to a society that is no longer modelled on the values of the traditional faith.

**What are the risks and opportunities represented by this digital transformation?**



Of course, with digital media we can get to a much larger audience and the message reaches areas impossible to reach before. But it changes the way it reaches them. Speed, rhythm, simultaneity and, in some cases, superficiality represent a risk, because immediacy does not always allow for that reflection inherent in the message mediated by more traditional tools. It is a transition phase in which there are perhaps more risks than benefits because, paradoxically, the Church needs more time today, more opportunities to present and enhance its message. Instead, the tools available tend to break up the message, to make it more superficial. But it is a risk that the Church must take.

**Without leaving out those who don't use digital tools...**

Of course, it is a question of not turning your back on modernity but also not abandoning your

own terrain. The Church must always aim towards the objective of direct encounter, of the possibility of coming into contact. Because hyperconnection does not lead to greater knowledge, but rather to incommunicability. During the pandemic, we witnessed very generous attempts by the parish priests to bring the community together with digital tools, but just as all this was happening, the absence of the community, of the Eucharist, of the encounter, was felt even more. These forms of communication broaden the scope of the Church but we must be able to assess the difference between a communication that repairs an absence from the active kind, aimed at creating community. In this revolution, the Church has understood that this is a changing world precisely because of communication, and it is equipping itself to meet the needs of people who intend to come into contact with it.

Coming into continuous contact with the people puts the Church in the position of having to update itself

*Psalm 41: 9: By day the Lord gives me his grace, for Him I raise up my song.*

The saying “he who sings well prays twice” is attributed to St. Augustine. For the Bishop of Hippo, in fact, singing is proper to the Christian who, as a pilgrim, expresses the love they carry within in singing. The holy doctor preached: “A song is a fact of love; whoever knows how to love the new life in Christ knows how to sing a new song. God has given us himself as an object to love and the resources to love him. The apostle Paul says, “The charity of God is poured into our hearts. But how? Maybe by our own hand? No. But then how? Through the action of the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Speech 34).

## THE PILGRIM'S BOX: TOWARDS THE 2025 JUBILEE

*Edited by  
Fr. Vittorino  
Grossi OSA*



by Carmela Mascio

# Return to selfless Love

The voice of anthropologist Mario Polia



In the current historical context, everything revolves around us

**T**ogether with Professor Mario Polia, anthropologist and university professor, we wanted to explore the intrinsic meaning of “devotion”. We asked what it really is and if it has changed over time. Professor Polia explained that there is an innate religious component in human beings. People need to believe in a real, intelligent being, but one that is outside the real. For monotheistic religions it is a Supreme Being, in polytheism they are Gods. The word “devotion” comes from the Latin “devoveo” and means “to dedicate oneself to someone in the form of an offering”. This is done by practicing prayer and spiritual sacrifice: people offer prayers in exchange for protection. But devotion must be nurtured, contextualised and taught, because otherwise the Human-God relationship fails. There is an irreplaceable component underlying everything: Love.

In the current historical context, everything revolves around us. People have unlearned how to love because often it is enough for them to use whoever is useful to them. God created humanity in His image and likeness but humanity creates a God who resembles

them. This is not always the case, but if people do not go back to listening to God in the silence of prayer and to learning the culture of Loving, they risk being devoted to themselves only. By nature we



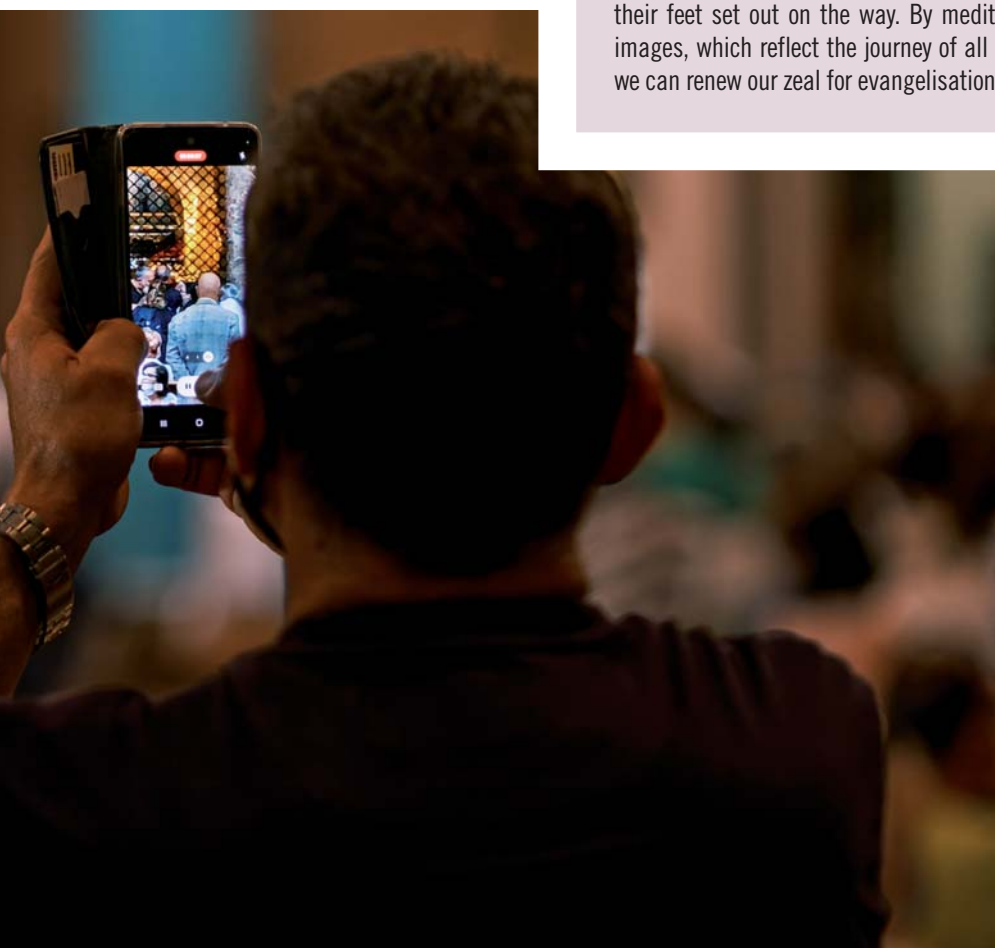


need to transcend but we replace the magical ritual with prayer: who among us has not gone to Church to light a candle before an exam or test? There is nothing wicked about this, but it can become habit and the credo of sects or pseudo-religious groups can be grafted onto it. Devotion still exists but it is based on selfless love that knows well that the saints are only intermediaries. Devotees just believe and that's it. They ask for nothing more in return than the love of those to whom they are devoted. They are devoted to Love out of love alone!

## MISSIONARY DAY

**HEARTS ON FIRE,  
FEET ON THE MOVE**

This is the theme of the World Missionary Day on 22 October, for which the Pope took his cue from the account of the disciples of Emmaus in the Gospel of Luke. "They were confused and dismayed," wrote the Pontiff, "but their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again towards Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: their hearts burned within them as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, their eyes were opened as they recognised him and, ultimately, their feet set out on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelisation in today's world."





# In defence of Nigerian children's health

**I**n Africa, children can still die from measles outbreaks because they are unvaccinated. Jacob fell ill when he was only two months old. He was transported to the hospital in Namu, Nigeria, because he had rashes on his face and body, a cough and fever. During the first visit, his mother stated that the baby had not been vaccinated because he had been delivered at home. Following investigation it was then found that he had measles, so he was given antibiotics, analgesics, anti-diarrhoeals and other drugs. The little boy slowly recovered and was then discharged. The hospital to which Jacob was taken is the temporary clinic that was lifted up by the Congregation of Our Lady of Fatima after the destruction of St. Virgilius Memorial Hospital in August 2019, due to a fire caused by an electrical failure. Since the beginning of

2023, with your valuable contribution, our Foundation has decided to support the reconstruction works, to support the children and their loved ones in particular. The temporary facility continues to offer essential services, such as vaccinating new-borns against the main deadly diseases, but it lacks the necessary spaces and equipment to be able to respond to all the requests that come from the 35 villages that make up the community of Namu, home to over 35 thousand inhabitants.

## THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN ADMITTED

In 2022, with the limited means at its disposal, the temporary clinic guaranteed health care to 1988 children out of a total of over 12,000 people taken into care: 850 children were treated; 835 were vac-



cinated against six deadly diseases; 303 were born, of which 83 by caesarean section. Children especially suffer from malaria, anaemia, diarrhoea, malnutrition and measles, and efforts are also made to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV. What we want to rebuild is a much larger and more modern hospital, which can provide more specialist care and assistance to over 20,000 people every year.

### THE TESTIMONY

“Before the fire broke out,” said Sister Mercy, one of the nuns who serves as a nurse at the clinic, “the hospital was able to take care of the children's health needs. After the fire, we had to start again from scratch and we can't manage the way we did before. Ours is a very important medical facility in the area, as it is considered a point of reference. We do our best to hire the most qualified staff, who can provide the best medical services every single day,” she continued. “We mostly deal with

diseases that have become chronic or are at a serious stage, situations that need special attention, and we also provide prevention and health education services. In addition, we had a very active “expert” disease information management centre. Since the fire hit the hospital, we cannot continue with the same standards as we have little space and the structures have been damaged.”

### THE NEW SERVICES GUARANTEED WITH FUNDRAISING

By deciding to support the reconstruction of Namu hospital, you will be able to guarantee the children the following services, which will be part of the new hospital: a special paediatric unit for new-borns, with incubators and devices for blood transfusions in severe cases of jaundice; an obstetrics and gynaecology department; a maternity ward with a delivery room; a playroom, so that the little ones can recover faster.

## SUPPORT THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NAMU HOSPITAL

With your donation, we can continue to support young Africans and their loved ones, and guarantee them adequate medical care and a healthier future. **DONATE NOW!**

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**THANK YOU!**



# We embrace their hopes. Together.



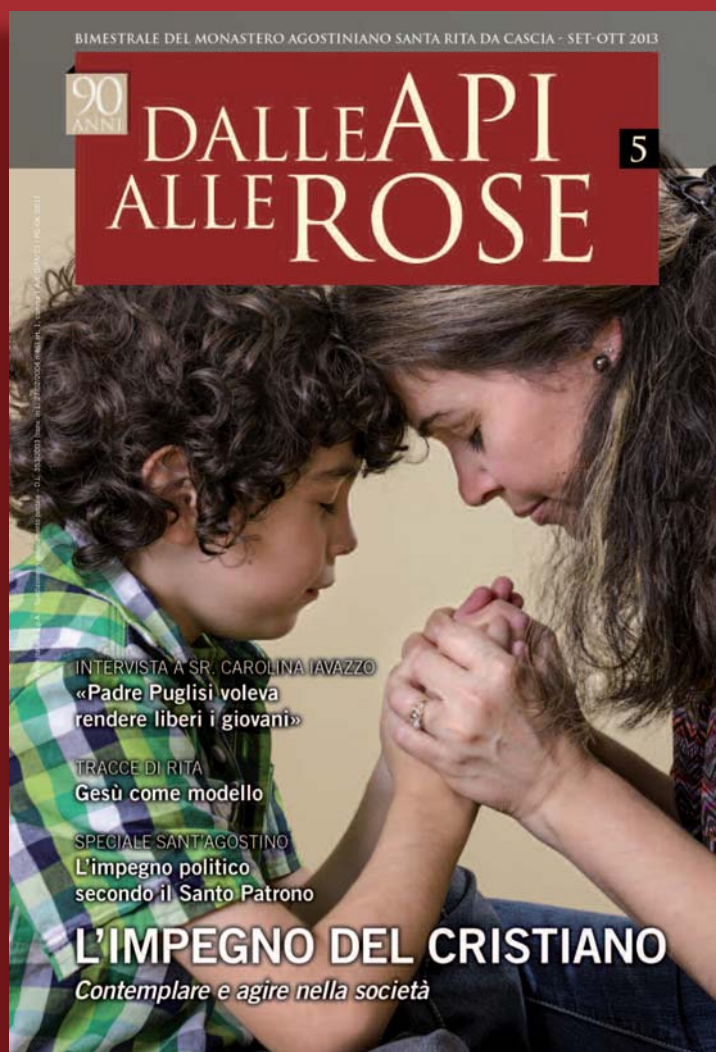
**THE BEEHIVE OF SAINT RITA IS A FAMILY WHERE HOPES ALSO FEED ON LOVE.** Founded by Blessed Mother Fasce in 1938, the Beehive of Saint Rita has become home, school and assistance for many young girls. A real family that includes all our supporters who, with their help, continue to give a future to thousands of young people in difficulty. Stay close to us, your love is the most solid foundation on which to build new hopes. [alveare@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:alveare@santaritadacascia.org) • [santaritadacascia.org/beehive](http://santaritadacascia.org/beehive)

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# A century-long history

## *From the Bees to the Roses turns 100*

In 2013 the magazine turned 90 and, after undergoing an update in terms of the graphic design and style of content, it began to resemble what it is today. It was renewed to get closer to everyone, with a direct and fresh language. Greater attention was given to social issues, starting from everyday elements.



# A new style to unite every reader

by Carmela Mascio

**F**ather Vittorino Grossi, former editor of the magazine and university professor, is continuing the journey to discover our roots and, in particular, the changes that took place in the magazine as it turned 90. We asked him why the need was felt to renew the communication style and graphic identity. His answer contains the very mandate of the magazine!

Father Vittorino reminded us that the magazine arose from Blessed Maria Teresa Fasce's intuition and her devotion to promoting the news and the needs of Cascia and the Cascians for worshipping Saint Rita. In addition, there were two premises that led to the changes in 2013. The first was that the magazine was entering homes and this was

its mission of solidarity: to bring families closer to Saint Rita and each individual member to the other family members. Family has always been at the heart of Saint Rita and Blessed Mother Fasce: both wanted to bring people closer to the heart of God. The second started from the Second Vatican Council, when many things changed in the Church: there was a turning point in the consideration of the saint, who was included in the Liturgy and so also the 15 Thursdays of Saint Rita. This was decisive for the growth of knowledge and devotion to Rita, and the magazine became the ambassador for this. This, then, is how the style of the newspaper united Catholic readers, sceptics and the curious, becoming a stimulus to consciences.



The images have a clear impact and the texts talk in the manner of the new millennium: clear terms, precise concepts free from false modesty, faithful bearers of that experiential catechesis that every person and family experiences in everyday life. The magazine therefore became more relevant than ever in a historical and social moment in which individualism exacerbated the passing of time. It continued its mission of solidarity, gently bringing readers closer together and uniting them through Saint Rita's courageous message of forgiveness and peace. Many families who were scared by illness, disappointed by a failure or marginalised by their social conditions have found among the pages of the magazine the right word for their situation: not magic formulas but the courage of the truth! It is a truth that makes no conces-

sions, because no one is exempt from fatigue and pain, but precisely for this reason they can feel part of a community that walks the paths of Life, starting from Rita's experience. Not a sigh nor a tear are unknown to Providence: the magazine speaks to the heart and becomes a mirror of everyone's experience!

We asked Father Vittorino if he has particular memories regarding the topics covered. He replied that the magazine is the reflection of a collective work in which everyone makes suggestions, and this allows it to be varied and socially adjustable. Father Vittorino sent his greetings and hoped to be able to spend a day studying the topics addressed by the magazine, in order to highlight the great contribution it has made to society: demonstrating that all there is between saying and doing is Love!

## The Beehive of Saint Rita: always listening to children's needs

by Mauro Papalini

On 24 September 1938, 7-year-old Edda Petrucci arrived at the monastery of Cascia, the first of Saint Rita's "little bees", as Mother Fasce called the orphan girls who formed the Beehive. The Blessed Mother hosted several orphans in those years, relying totally on the Providence of God in very difficult times: the work on the construction of the new Basilica and the war that broke out shortly after. Mother Fasce oversaw the education of these girls with great care and played with

them whenever possible. Today the Beehive has grown and is still growing: it welcomes girls who are no longer orphans but who come from difficult contexts, from broken families or uncomfortable living conditions. In the Beehive they not only find a safe roof and daily bread, but following the example of Mother Fasce, they receive affection and love from the religious and lay people tending to them, who carry out their work with competence, but above all with charity.



# The Mother and the Saint of the impossible

Saint Rita  
recounts the life  
of Blessed Mother  
Maria Teresa  
Fasce



"On 24 September 1938, you opened the doors of the monastery, in the name of love and charity, breaking the rules of cloistering. On that day, the Beehive was created..."



Mother,  
I'm a desperate widow.  
I can't support my  
daughter. Please take  
her in!

Yes, come little  
Edda, you'll stay  
with us nuns.



We will look after you. Together  
with Edda you will be the  
Little Bees of Saint Rita!

"...Maria Teresa, together with the whole community, you started a project to house young orphans inside the monastery..."



"...Since then, following in your footsteps, the nuns have welcomed thousands of Little Bees, responding to the needs of the time. They constructed a building for the Beehive and entrusted the educators with their education..."



"...today, 85 years later, the Beehive no longer hosts orphans, but rather girls from families with economic and social difficulties, addressing young people of all nationalities."



by Mother Maria Rosa  
Bernardinis OSA

I BRING YOU JESUS

Get to know Jesus and learn to love Him  
with the Prioress of the Monastery of Saint Rita of Cascia

# The fruits of devotion

**T**he dictionary definition of the word devotion is: adherence to the spiritual aspects of worship and religious practices in general. But there is also a second, “trusting abandonment in God”, which satisfies me more.

The mystery of Jesus Christ – Son of God, who became human to the point of dying on the cross for love, to lead humanity, who had grown distant from Him and lost their way because of original sin, back to God the Father – is vast! It is an inexhaustible Source, a gold mine where new rich veins can always be found. Devotion helps us probe the mystery to love it more. It is an affective bond of friendship, trust and confidence. And this is real devotion. It is the same devotion that so many people feel for the saints and which must lead to this. “The servant is not greater than the Master.” The saints show us the way to reach Jesus, so that faith, hope and charity in Him may be revived in us. It is a gift of the Spirit both for the person who receives it, for their spirituality, and for the good of the Church. Let's think about how many devotions are addressed to the Son of God. There is that of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which began in France with Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673 and which Blessed Pius IX extended to the whole Church, call-



ing Christianity back to that human-divine Heart that loves us immensely. Or there is the more recent example of Divine Mercy: Jesus appeared to Saint Faustina Kowalska to help humanity get out of the darkness caused by totalitarian regimes, which blinded the hearts of so many people, inspiring her with the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy. Then, St. John Paul II instituted the Feast of Divine Mercy on the second Sunday after Easter. His limitless mercy is aimed at the salvation of sinners. He died for them. Thus devotion to the Holy Rosary, beloved to the Christian people, is a compendium of the Gospel, “contemplated with the eyes of Mary”.

If we have devotion, let us follow it and let us be amazed at what the Lord reveals to his chosen ones.

Devotion  
helps us  
probe the  
mystery to  
love it more





by Sister M. Lucia Solera OSA

# Friend to Christ and everyone

Her heart  
expands to  
accommodate  
those who  
turn to her

**L**et us begin with a question: why do we turn to the saints? What are we looking for, what do we hope for from them? For them to obtain what we ask for; for them to intercede for our needs; for them to resolve the painful situations we are going through, with their burden of anguish. That's all true, all legitimate. But, we should ask ourselves: is that all?

Let's try to dig deeper: we look for company in the saints. In them, we recognise friends who are able to understand us, to join us by making our requests their own. The saints are our friends, because they have gone through the same trou-

bles in life in which we find ourselves. How did they do it? How did they manage not to succumb, not to let themselves be robbed of their trust? They drew their strength from the friendship of God: this is their secret. It is a friendship that is welcomed first and foremost, guarded as a precious and priceless treasure, reciprocated in the concrete and sprinkled with prayer.

We can also say of Rita that her strength lay in her friendship with humble Jesus. Their spousal covenant started from afar, from the heart of God, who gently repeated to her what he does to each of us: "I have loved you with



eternal love!” (Jeremiah 31: 3).

Rita, like the widow of the Gospel (Mark 12:42), threw her whole life into the “treasure chest” of Christ, without holding back. She could have stopped at the request for consolation for herself, but instead Rita went further, pushing for a reciprocity that involved her entirely: she wanted to become an instrument of consolation and intercession for all.

We can imagine Rita's long vigils, in contact with the heart of Jesus: an inner “bath” in his feelings. To cherish what was dear to Him, to participate in His Passion, offering salvation for all. And Rita's heart expanded, widening immeasurably, to accommodate those who turn to her. This gave rise to the saint that we feel close to us, next to us. Indeed, she is a true friend.

Devotion is friendship. Let us turn to Saint Rita, entrusting our sorrows to her magnanimous heart, but also in the confidence of having in her a trusted friend who accompanies us along the path of Christ's friendship.

## WITH HER, NO ONE IS ALONE

Rita was able to actualise her decision to enter the monastery thanks to the special help of the saints she prayed to in particular: Saint John the Baptist, Saint Augustine and Saint Nicholas of Tolentino. This is the importance of communion with the saints: they are here, next to us, to pray to the Lord for us, to obtain for us from the Lord that which is good for us. Having experienced the strength and grace of intercession, Rita in turn became a saint who is friend to many, who is sought out to help with the needs of many people who turn to her, through her intercession. (taken from: *Donne artigiane di futuro con Rita da Cascia*, Tau editrice 2021, pp. 90,92)



*Saint Rita, Our Sister,  
friend of God and of people,  
help us to grow in the  
sweet and flavourful friendship  
of humble Jesus*

## 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.*

Angelo Achilli (Rome - Italy)  
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Maria Rosaria Tedeschi (Taranto - Italy)  
Mario Spadaro (Milan - Italy)  
Rocco La Valle (Genoa - Italy)  
Rosa Ferri (Pesaro - Italy)  
Rosalba Papi (Pomarance PI - Italy)





# Hymn to Saint Rita

Long live Rita - dear Saint  
who listens in heaven - to our words.  
All the people - distraught by mourning  
express their desire to her.

Ah! O Rita, bless  
our loving hearts,  
in every moment - of this life  
may our love - be sacred to You.

Long live Rita! - May this beautiful cry  
echo everywhere - on land, at sea;  
Let it sound solemnly - on every shore  
on which an altar - of God stands.

Ah! O Rita, bless  
our loving hearts,  
in every moment - of this life  
may our love - be sacred to You.

Long live Rita! - Let the love of God  
be present always - in many families,  
and let the sons - as well as the daughters  
grow pure of heart - for her.

Ah! O Rita, bless  
our loving hearts,  
in every moment - of this life  
may our love - be sacred to You.

Long live Rita! - Where there's law,  
where there's science, - where there's love,  
where there's someone who judges,  
where there's someone who rules  
let the Lord reign.

Ah! O Rita, bless  
our loving hearts,  
in every moment - of this life  
may our love - be sacred to You.

Long live Rita! - Let this be the song  
that echoes at all times - on this soil.  
O holy Rita - ah! wipe away the tears  
of those who are sorrowful - who wail in  
mourning.

Ah! O Rita, bless  
our loving hearts,  
in every moment - of this life  
may our love - be sacred to You.

Long live Rita - with these words  
may all the dying - enter heaven,  
where with joy, - with great contentment  
they will see the good Lord - without veils.

Ah! O Rita, bless  
our loving hearts,  
in every moment - of this life  
may our love - be sacred to You.



Marta Ferraro meets the pilgrims  
of the Sanctuary of Saint Rita of Cascia

# A promise kept

Enea: from Rimini to Cascia for the first time

My devotion  
came from  
my family

**H**aving the honour of curating a column like this gives you the privilege of listening to many stories, of immersing yourself in the people of Saint Rita, the saint closest to me, together with Saint Joseph. However, after so many years, you begin to wonder if it is not appropriate to hand over to others, to offer the reader new ideas, other opportuni-

ties, a new way of interpreting the column. This certainly isn't a goodbye for me of course, but I think it's normal to ask these questions in terms of the reader, to make sure to always offer them the best.

Then came the story of Enea Stecca, a 21-year-old soldier from Rimini. "My devotion came from my family. There is a great faith in my city and every year there is an extraordinary manifestation of love for this saint for the feast on 22 May. The town church of Saint Rita is open from 7 AM to 7 PM and there is an uninterrupted flow of devotees. Personally, in addition to attending the Church assiduously and serving it as and where I can" – as a master of ceremonies in his diocese of origin, but also in the Military Ordinariate, that is, the military diocese – "I became even more intrigued by the history of the saint about 5 years ago, when I started thinking about subscribing to the magazine *From the Bees to the Roses*. Then, when I decided to start studying for a competition in the Public Administration, in order to change my military corps, I entrusted myself to her and promised her that if I passed I would go to Cascia to thank her."

Dear readers, often, before relying on our thoughts alone, we should tune into the frequencies of



Accompanying Enea on his first trip to Cascia was his entire family, his mother Fiammetta, his father Loris and his sister Rachele

the heavens and try to understand what they want to tell us... Enea's dream was the same as that of my brother, who died prematurely 13 years ago. Listening to his concerns, his determination to achieve that goal, inevitably took me back in time to when my brother was studying, believing and fighting for the same goal. His motto was "never give up". Ilario and Enea never gave up and achieved their goal, always supported by great willpower and faith.

Enea therefore kept his promise and, together with his family, he came to Cascia for the first time on 19 May. "Experiencing the feast in the land of Saint Rita was very exciting for me. Being able to be with her devotees to share the moments of the feast that I had only read about in the magazine in recent years has been wonderful for me. The strongest moment of course was being able to participate in the Novena, at the end of which I was able to go right around the Urn of Saint Rita, and seeing so many ex votos through the openings was very touching. I was very impressed by the love that the faithful show to Saint Rita. Seeing the avenue full of people with roses turned to heaven for blessing was exciting."

Dear friends, getting to know Enea, even only over the phone, was very moving for me. His calmness in talking about his faith, which he tries to share with his peers, his passion and his new career were a sign for me that I still have many stories to listen to and to get excited about, because there are still too many things

Saint Rita wants to tell me through the voice of her devotees. We just have to tune in to the right frequency!

It is good to know that Ilario's dreams and ideals still continue with honest and decent young



Statue of Saint Rita in Rimini

Experiencing the feast in the land of Saint Rita was very exciting for me

people like Enea. May you have a long and satisfying career, without ever forgetting the reason that brought you to Cascia, and may you return to visit us again. Congratulations Enea!

### TELL US YOUR PILGRIMAGE STORY

If you have also visited the Sanctuary of Saint Rita of Cascia on pilgrimage and want to tell Marta Ferraro your story, write to us at [redazione@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:redazione@santaritadacascia.org) and we will contact you to share your experience with the readers of "From the Bees to the Roses".



# *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.





by Sister M. Giacomina Stuani OSA

## DIALOGUE WITH THE MONASTERY

# Young people are a resource to be cultivated

We bear witness  
to the joy  
of being Christians



**Y**oung people and the Church... what do young people look for and what answers do they find in the Church? And how does the Church present itself to young people?

In answer to the second question, we gratefully recall a Synod held for young people in 2018. Something a Bishop said then seems important to us: "This is the turning point: the humanity of the Church as a way to get through to

the humanity of young people, and then re-propose the truth of Christ as the bearer of a significant fullness that applies not only to today's young people, but to those of yesterday and forever. In this way, the dialogue between the Church and young people is mutually educational, because it leads young people to come out and adults to be freer. Mobility – understood as something that has the flavour of research, of young people's desire



The truth of  
Christ  
applies not  
only to the  
young  
people of  
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those of  
yesterday  
and forever

to commit to finding meaning in their own existence – and listening are the two paths to follow to create a new encounter between the Church and young people.”

Some interesting aspects emerge from listening to young people. Young people are not closed off. On the contrary, they manifest the desire to be reached in the “virtual” and “real” places they frequent every day and the “outgoing” Church can do it. The Church is facing young people who are willing to be protagonists of their time, to get to work, who have the desire to make their own contribution starting from what they know how to do, and this resource must be cultivated.

When we meet the groups,

there are young people who are not afraid to look you straight in the eye, to scrutinise the hearts and souls of us nuns. God is felt close by, individually and emotionally, in inner silence, in strong moments of joy or pain. We try to offer ourselves as travel companions and seek them out as our travel companions, as Jesus did, to enter into a dialogue with their dreams. It is in everyday life that young people ask for a testimony of authenticity, which shows that being Christian leads to happiness, to a full life, despite the difficulties and suffering.

They seek a present Church, one made up of “flesh and blood” people who are humble, who come at no expense, who spend them-



selves and commit, people who listen, dialogue, welcome, accompany and support their choices. In our testimony, they seek reference to Jesus, to the Gospel. It is certainly not the Gospel that has become antiquated – Jesus is such an ancient beauty but one that is also always new – it is us who are not always able to dialogue with the new generations, to transmit the joy of faith, of the encounter with Christ.

And here Holy Father Augustine comes to our aid: “You made us for you, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you” (Confessions.1, 1, 1). It is so... the tranquillity of our hearts is found in the meek and humble Heart of Jesus. And again: “Let us love the

Lord, our God; let us love his Church! Let us love him as a father, the Church as a mother. Let us love him as lord, the Church as his handmaiden. Indeed, we are the children of the maid... Well then, brothers, keep close to God as a father, and to the Church as mother” (Exposition on Psalm 88, IIa, 14).

For us Augustinians, it is vital to breathe in unison with the Church, with love for the Church, to be Church, to feel the Church, have the soul of the Church, serve the Church, to live on what the Church lives on. And we try to pass it on, to young and old alike, with hope and courage, being in love with Christ and acting as credible witnesses of his Gospel.

They are not  
afraid to look  
you straight  
in the eye,  
to scrutinise  
your heart  
and soul

## A WONDERFUL POLYHEDRON

*“When God's loving and creative gaze reaches us in a completely unique way in Jesus, our life changes. And to the extent that we welcome him, everything becomes a dialogue, between us and the Lord, but also between us and others. It is a dialogue that takes us deeper and deeper to discover, understand and welcome the nuances and facets of our personal vocation.*

We are waiting for you, not for an alternative holiday... but to spend a few days together in prayer and friendship.

*For more information:*

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06043 Cascia (PG) - tel. +39 (0)74376221  
email: [monastero@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:monastero@santaritadacascia.org)

*We safeguard their future.  
With joy.*



**THE BEEHIVE OF SAINT RITA IS A FAMILY WHERE HOPES ALSO FEED ON LOVE.** Founded by Blessed Mother Fasce in 1938, the Beehive of Saint Rita has become home, school and assistance for many young girls. A real family that includes all our supporters who, with their help, continue to give a future to thousands of young people in difficulty. Stay close to us, your love is the most solid foundation on which to build new hopes. [alveare@santaritadacascia.org](mailto:alveare@santaritadacascia.org) • [santaritadacascia.org/beehive](http://santaritadacascia.org/beehive)

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