

The Immaculate Conception in Rome: Mother of Mercy

written by Salvatore Carloni. You can read freely in Italian language on the following official internet site at the link:

<https://www.culturacattolica.it/cristianesimo/le-piaghe-del-messia/la-passione-del-signore-vista-dai-mistici/l-immacolata-a-roma-madre-della-misericordia>

February has always been a very strongly Marian month because February 2 is the liturgical commemoration of the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple and of the Purification of Mary, but it is also the month of the beginning of the apparitions in Lourdes. Now I intend to make you aware of what I believe is a sensational discovery that I made myself (but I really believe that Our Lord wanted me to discover it naturally for the benefit of all).

This discovery starts from the Roman Church of Saint Andrea della Valle and from the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe "the patron saint of the difficult twentieth century", as St. John Paul II defined him. In fact, in the Church of Saint Andrea della Valle in Rome, St. Maximilian Kolbe was ordained priest on April 28, 1918, while St. Maximilian Kolbe always celebrated his first mass in the Church of S. Andrea della Fratte in Rome on April 29, 1918. Divine Providence established in these two dates a single message of blessings and graces for the Christian people as a gift to the Church and then to the whole world. A year earlier, on October 16, 1917, St. Maximilian Kolbe had prophetically founded the Militia of the Immaculate Conception and carried out precisely the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to arrive at the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And in 1978 precisely on October 16, when the Church made the liturgical memorial of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, nun and mystic who had the great apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, that man who came from afar was elected because he had to mark indelibly the history of the Catholic Church and of the whole world. That day was elected St. John Paul II, the Pope Totus Tuus entirely consecrated to the Immaculate Heart and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who will die at 21:37 on April 2, 2005, the first Saturday of the month (particular day according to the requests of Our Lady of Fatima to Sister Lucia) and already liturgically the Feast of Divine Mercy. Three encyclicals of the Ordinary Magisterium about the cult of the Sacred Heart have been issued by the Roman Pontiff in the history.

Now I add what I have found in Rome:

1. In the Basilica of Saint Andrea della Valle in the center of Rome, Theatine Fathers have the authority, granted by the Holy See, to invest the faithful with the Scapular of the Immaculate Conception. This blue scapular has the supernatural promise of numerous graces due to the Marian apparition happened on February 2, 1617 to the Venerable Sister Ursula Benincasa.
2. In the Basilica of Saint Andrea delle Fratte, always in the center of Rome, the miraculous medal due to the well-known apparition of the Immaculate Conception to Saint Catherine Labouré on 27 November 1830 is distributed with the promise of great graces.

There is an absolutely spectacular quadruple symmetry:

1. in both these apparitions of the blue scapular and of the miraculous medal the Virgin has the typical dress of the Immaculate Conception
2. both these very important Roman Churches in which the blue scapular and the miraculous medal are widespread are dedicated to Saint Andrew and the words "della Valle" and "delle Fratte" sound similar.
3. there is a clear complementarity of promises: numerous graces for the blue scapular and great graces for the medal
4. There is also a very clear symmetry of dates:
 - for the blue scapular the day of the apparition is February 2, 1617 which is the 33rd day after the beginning of the year
 - for the miraculous medal the day of the apparition is November, 27 1830 which is the 34th day before the end of the year.

In the USA Marian Fathers of Saint Stanislaus of Jesus and Mary Papczyński has obtained by Theatine Fathers the privilege to invest the faithful with the Scapular of the Immaculate Conception. Marian Fathers administer the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge (Massachusetts): <https://www.shrineofdivinemercury.org/welcome>

On February 2, 1617, 300 years before Fatima, Our Lady appeared with the Holy Child in her arms to Ven. Sister Ursula Benincasa (called the "ecstatic Theatine" for the many ecstasies she had) with the gift of the blue scapular and the promise of numerous graces for who will wear it.

This apparition is portrayed in a stupendous fresco in the solemn Basilica of Saint Andrea della Valle (next to the curia of the Theatine fathers).

A. Veny Ballester's book "*Ursula Benincasa - an experience of God*" is the official biography of Ven. Sister Ursula Benincasa and you can ask for this book speaking with the Theatine nuns of Villa Nave in Palermo (Italy) for information. The 34th chapter of this book has the title: "The blue scapular" and is entirely dedicated to the story of the apparition happened on February 2, 1617 for the blue scapular. In this chapter is reported, about this apparition and the promise for the blue scapular, the authentic deposition of Father Antonio of Naples with details and witnesses that was recorded in the Apostolic process of Pope Pius VI for the heroic virtues of the Ven. Sister Ursula Benincasa. There is a final coincidence that you absolutely have to know:

Ven. Sister Ursula Benincasa is also the founder of the female branch of the Theatine Congregation, while the founder of the male branch is Saint Cajetan from Thiene.

You must consider these absolutely striking facts:

- 1) on December 25, 1517 Saint Cajetan had a great apparition of Our Lady and Child Jesus on Christmas day in the Basilica of Saint Mary Maggiore in Rome.
- 2) 100 years after this apparition to Saint Cajetan, on February 2, 1617 Ven. Ursula Benincasa had the great apparition of Our Lady and Child Jesus for the blue scapular.
- 3) the apparition to Saint Cajetan happened on the day of the third joyful mystery: Christmas
- 4) the apparition to Venerable Sister Ursula happened on the day of the fourth joyful mystery: Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and Purification of Mary

The Ven. Suor Orsola Benincasa was personally examined by Saint Philip Neri who undoubtedly found her fully reliable.

The blue scapular after the imposition can be replaced with a particular medal called the scapular medal with the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on one side and on the other with the image of the Madonna with child. This medal must be blessed by the priest with an sign of Cross and with the Our Father prayer as it was established by Saint Pius X who authorized the diffusion of the scapular medal. To request the blue scapular of the Immaculate Conception, you can contact the Theatine Fathers who have their Curia in Piazza Vidoni 6 in Rome near the Basilica of Saint Andrea della Valle. Their telephone number is 06-68.61.339

You can read in english language the history of the Basilica of Saint Andrea della Valle on the official website of the Theatine Fathers at the link: <https://teatinos.org/en/history-basilica/> Finally, it should be noted that both the minor Basilica of Saint Andrea della Valle and the minor Basilica of Saint Andrea delle Fratte are enriched with artistic masterpieces of inestimable value that Divine Providence wanted to give us so that sacred art expresses perennially and with exceptional power the extraordinary nature of these two Basilicas in which the blue scapular and the miraculous medal are widespread. About these artistic masterpieces, please read these two articles in english language on the official website of Roma Capitale for Tourism:

1) Basilica of Saint Andrea della Valle:

<https://www.turismoroma.it/en/places/church-santandrea-della-valle>

2) Basilica of Saint Andrea delle Fratte:

<https://www.turismoroma.it/en/places/sant%E2%80%99andrea-delle-fratte-church>

To know in depth the story of the apparitions of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in 1830, you must read the entire story at the link:

<https://www.culturacattolica.it/cristianesimo/maria/apparizioni/per-una-storia-della-medaglia-miracolosa>