



Nigra sum. Cults, sanctuaries and images of the Black Madonnas in Europe
 Sanctuary and Sacred Mount of Oropa - Sanctuary and Sacred Mount of Crea
 International Conference 20-22 May 2010



PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 20 May, Oropa

Conference Room of the Sanctuary of Oropa

First Session: Icons and simulacra of the Black Madonna

The Black Madonnas in the history of iconography

Chairman of Session

- h. 9.30 **Opening of the Conference and introductory speech delivered by the Authorities**
- h. 10.30 **Introduction to the Conference**
 Curated by the Scientific Committee of the Documentation Centre for European Sacred Mounts, Calvaries and Devotional Complexes
Pier Giorgio Longo
- Presentation of a survey of the Black Madonnas across Europe**
 Curated by the Documentation Centre for European Sacred Mounts, Calvaries and Devotional Complexes and by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano
Claudio Bernardi, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano
- h. 11.15 Coffee break
- h. 11.30 **Wooden dark-tinged Madonnas in the Sanctuaries of Puglia and Basilicata**
Maria Stella Calò Mariani, Università degli Studi di Bari "Aldo Moro"
- h. 12.10 **The Colour of the Sacred: an overview of Asia**
Stefano Piano, Università degli Studi di Torino

Second Session: History and Anthropology of the Black Madonnas

A general introduction on the critical literature; the origin, development and history of the Black Madonnas, an ancient and widespread artistic phenomenon

Chairman of Session

- h. 15.00 **The "Triumph" of Mary on the scene of the modern Catholic Piety**
Danilo Zardin, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano
- h. 15.40 **Reproduction and imitation of Marian images**
Guido Gentile, Scientific Committee of the Documentation Centre for European Sacred Mounts, Calvaries and Devotional Complexes
- h. 16.30 Coffee break
- h. 16.45 **Brown Madonnas between iconography and cult: certainties and doubts of a medievalist**
Xavier Barralt i Altet, Université de Rennes II and Institute for Advanced Study-Collegium Budapest
- h. 17.30 Debate and notifications
- h. 19.00 Presentation of the Photographic Exhibition "Women and Madonnas of the Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy", followed by the recital "Women and Madonnas" performed by the *Gruppo del Cerchio* of Turin

Friday 21 May, Oropa

Conference Room of the Sanctuary of Oropa

Third Session: The great Sanctuaries of the Black Madonnas of Europe

The religious, historical, artistic and cultural importance of the most prominent Marian Sanctuaries in Europe, each of them representative of their geo-anthropological area

Chairman of session: *dr. Janusz Jadczyk*, Director of the Museum of Czestochowa

- h. 9.00 **Black Virgins of Southern France: shapes and diffusion of the cult**
Sophie Cassagnes-Brouquet, Université de Toulouse
- h. 9.40 **The Virgin of Montserrat: image, liturgy and devotion in the Middle Ages**
Concepció Peig, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
- h. 10.20 **Sacra Majestas Nostre Domine Virginis Marie de Laureto** (Holy Majesty Our Lady Virgin Mary of Loreto)
Padre Floriano Grimaldi, formerly archivist at the Sanctuary of Loreto
- h. 11.00 Coffee break
- h. 11.15 **The black Madonnas of Einsiedeln and Altötting: devotion, copies, pilgrimage**
Irmgard Siede, Reiss-Engelhorn-Museum, Mannheim
- h. 12.00 **The Cult of the Black Madonna in Europe and America**
Malgorzata Oleszkiewicz-Peralba, University of Texas at San Antonio

Fourth Session: Virgin, Mother, Queen. Women's cultural revolution

A perspective on the relationship between Marian devotion, female imaginary, women's emancipation and the socio-political transformation of modernity

Chairman of Session

- h. 15.00 **The Eusebian Madonnas: Oropa and Crea**
Don Delmo Lebole
- h. 15.40 **Round table "Virgin, Mother, Queen: women's cultural revolution"**
Anna Benvenuti, Università degli Studi di Firenze, *Lucetta Scaraffia*, Università "La Sapienza" di Roma, *Adriana Valerio*, Università "Federico II" di Napoli, *Lucilla Giagnoni*, actress and playwright
- h. 17.00 Coffee break
- h. 17.15 *Lucilla Giagnoni* performs Dante Alighieri's *Vergine Madre* from the *Divina Commedia*, Canto XXXIII, *Il Paradiso*
- h. 17.30 Debate

Saturday 22 May, Crea

Basilica of the Sanctuary of Crea

Unified Session: Sanctuaries of Europe

A round table of the spiritual representatives of the Marian Sanctuaries of Czestochowa, Einsiedeln, Montserrat, Oropa, Loreto, Rocamadour, Varese, Crea

Chairman of session

- h. 9.30 **Greetings by the Authorities**
- h. 10.15 **Mary of Nazaret, the metaphorical bridge between God and man**
Prof. Don Umberto Casale, Facoltà Teologica di Torino
- h. 10.45 **The meaning of the Pilgrimage**
Mons. Giacomo Canobbio
- h. 11.15 **Round table**
Father *Jan Pach*, Director of the Marian Library of the Sanctuary of Jasna Gora (Czestochowa); Father *Othmar Lustenberger*, Sanctuary of Einsiedeln; Don *Angelo Corno*, Rector of the Sanctuary of Varese; Don *Michele Berchi*, Rector of the Sanctuary of Oropa, Don *Francesco Mancinelli*, Rector of the Sanctuary of Crea; Other spiritual representatives
- h. 13.00 Welcome brunch
- h. 14.45 **Conclusions**
Oliviero Girardi, Special Natural Reserve of the Sacred Mount of Oropa; *Claudio Bernardi*, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano; *Amilcare Barbero*, Documentation Centre for European Sacred Mounts, Calvaries and Devotional Complexes
- h. 15.30 Concert "Nigra sum" performed by the *Cultural Association "Gli Invaghiti"* from Chivasso; performed by the ensemble *De Labyrintho* directed by Walter Testolin