



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



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: *Mons. Gabriele Mana*, Bishop of Biella

- h. 9.30 **Opening of the Conference and introductory speech delivered by the Authorities**
Mons. Gabriele Mana, Bishop of Biella
Don Michele Berchi, Rector of the Sanctuary of Oropa
Giancarlo Macchetto and *Don Gianni Panigoni*, Managing directors of the Sanctuary of Oropa
Dino Gentile, Mayor of the Municipality of Biella
Roberto Simonetti, President of the Province of Biella
William Casoni, Regional Minister for the Parks of Piedmont
- h. 10.30 **Introduction to the Conference**
Amilcare Barbero, *Paolo Sorrenti*, Scientific Committee of the Documentation Centre for European Sacred Mounts, Calvaries and Devotional Complexes
Presentation of a survey of the Black Madonnas across Europe
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: *Anna Benvenuti*, Università degli Studi di Firenze

- 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 **Reception, 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. 18.30 Discovery of the 'Treasures of Oropa', visit to the exhibition on the Black Madonna of Czestochowa and 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: *Lucetta Scaraffia*, Università "La Sapienza" di Roma

- 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 the Americas: Origins and Transformations across the Atlantic**
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: *Janusz Jadczyk*, Director of the Museum of Czestochowa

- h. 15.00 **The Eusebian Madonnas: Oropa and Crea**
Don Delmo Lebole, Expert in the history of the Diocese of Biella
- 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
- h. 19.00 Presentation of the guide to the "Sacri Monti del Piemonte e della Lombardia", edited by SAGEP
- h. 21.15 Play: "Maria nera, mitografia cantata intorno alla Madonna Nera di Viggiano", written and directed by *Caterina Pontrandolfo*. Produced by Nuova Atlantide Teatro and recommended by the "Festival I Teatri del Sacro 2009"

Saturday 22 May, Crea

Basilica of the Sanctuary of Crea

Unified Session: Sanctuaries of Europe

Black Madonnas: the religious experience of the Sanctuaries

Chairman of Session: *Mons. Alceste Catella*, Bishop of Casale Monferrato

- h. 9.30 **Greetings by the Authorities**
Mons. Alceste Catella, Bishop of Casale Monferrato
Mons. Francesco Mancinelli, Rector of the Sanctuary of Crea
Gianni Calvi, President of the Natural Park of the Sacred Mount of Crea
Paolo Lavagno, Mayor of the Municipality of Ponzano Monferrato
Giancarlo Berto, Mayor of the Municipality of Serralunga di Crea
Paolo Filippi, President of the Province of Alessandria
- h. 10.15 **Mary of Nazaret, the essential link: the closest to God therefore the closest to man**
Don Umberto Casale, Facoltà Teologica di Torino
- h. 10.45 **Who shall ascend your sacred mount? The meaning and forms of the pilgrimage**
Mons. Giacomo Canobbio, Facoltà Teologica di Milano
- h. 11.15 **Round table "A crown of stars: the Europe of Marian Sanctuaries"**
Father Jan Pach, Director of the Marian Library of the Sanctuary of Jasna Gora (Czestochowa); *Father Othmar Lustenberger*, Sanctuary of Einsiedeln; *Father Josep Ma. Sanromà*, Rector of the Sanctuary of Montserrat; *Father Ronan de Gouvello*, Sanctuary of Rocamadour; *Father Marcello Montanari*, Sanctuary of Loreto; *Don Angelo Corno*, Rector of the Sanctuary of Varese; *Don Michele Berchi*, Rector of the Sanctuary of Oropa; *Mons. Francesco Mancinelli*, Rector of the Sanctuary of Crea
- 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