

Civitavecchia, Medjugorje, Pope J.P.II and Cardinal Ruini

INTRODUCTION:

Everybody knows now that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has installed a special Vatican commission concerning the 'apparitions' in Medjugorje with Card. Ruini as president.

But it is not well known that the same Card. Ruini has been the president of a Vatican commission concerning the weeping statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje in Civitavecchia.

CIVITAVECCHIA:

Civitavecchia is a port city 60 km N.W. of Rome at the Italian western coast. On February 2, 1995, it has been reported that a small statue of 43 cm started weeping tears of blood in Pantano, a suburb of Civitavecchia. In the late summer of 1994 the parish priest of St Augustin, don Pablo Martin, went on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, and the electrician Fabio Gregori had asked him to buy a statue of Our Lady of Medjugorje for him. On September 18, 1994, the priest gave it to Fabio, who put it in a small grotto in his garden.

In the afternoon of February 2, 1995, his 6 years old daughter Jessica, called her father Fabio. They saw tears of blood from the eyes of the statue. Fabio then called don Pablo, who called the bishop, Mgr. Girolamo Grillo.

A first dubious element was that the tears not only were seen in the vertical direction under the eyes, but also horizontally till the right ear of the statue, against the law of gravity! Was this the result of an injection with a syringe?.. Don Pablo declares before the T.V. transmission 'Misteri'(Rai Due) on April 4, 1995, that he did not see the tears flowing. Later on in some testimonies it was said that some had seen flowing of the tears, but perhaps this was a reflection on the glass that protected the statue. Bishop Grillo said on T.V. 'that people saw what they wanted to see'...

The following days, until February 6, another 13 lachrymations followed, but as from February 3, nothing peculiar could be observed in the pictures taken of the statue.

On February 10, bishop Grillo takes the statue to the 'Gemelli' polyclinic in Rome and gives it in the hands of professors Angelo Fiori and Giancarlo Umani Ronchi. By the end of February they publish the result of their research: "X rays revealed no hidden gadgetry, but the blood on the statue is human and MASCULINE !" Very strange indeed. Is Our Lady a man, or...?

During the time in hospital there was not any lachrymation of the statue...

Later on the statue returns to the residence of bishop Grillo under custody of two Roman nuns, who put it in a cupboard. We do not know who had access to that place, but... on March 15 bishop Grillo, who always remained sceptical, took the statue in his hand and

saw a fresh drop on the face of it. His own sister with her husband and one of the nuns were present. The bishop later said he had seen not only tears of blood, but also a white liquid (serum?).

CARDINAL RATZINGER:

Bishop Grillo reported the phenomenon to the then Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Card. Ratzinger, with whom he spoke for an hour.

On March 22, 1995, at the opening of the International Mariological Congress in Loreto, Card Ratzinger warned that our faith is not based on signs and miracles, and that we should not overestimate those phenomena...

On March 28, Dr. Aldo Spinella of the criminal police department of Civitavecchia removed a lot of the blood from the statue in the bishop's residence for a fresh examination.

On April 6, two procurators, Antonio Albano and Antonio Larosa, sequestered the statue in a sealed cupboard in the bishop's residence. No more lachrymations occurred. On April 18 the lawyer of the family Gregori, Bruno Forestieri, obtained the end of the sequestration.

On June 17, the bishop, during an official ceremony, put the statue in a grotto in the parish church of St Augustin. On that moment there was not yet any official pronouncement from the diocese. The statue was protected behind glass. No more lachrymations happened.

The communist mayor of Civitavecchia, Pietro Tidei, already dreamt of an Italian Lourdes with big business... He proposed to donate money for a new big church.

Meanwhile on April 29 Fabio Gregori and his masculine family members (3 brothers, a cousin and an uncle) were convoked by the magistracy to appear on May 5 for an analysis of their blood to compare with the blood on the statue. They all REFUSED! On July 9, 1996, the Constitutional Court decided that nobody could be obliged to such an examination. This case made jurisprudence in Italy. Criminals and murderers could refuse in the same manner now...

Therefore the case was closed on June 7 2000 without a verdict. Fabio was acquitted of trickery because of lack of evidence...

DIOCESAN COMMISSION:

Meanwhile the church started a diocesan commission with 11 members on April 19, 1995. They concluded on November 22, 1996, with 7 votes, in favour of supernaturalness, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

VATICAN COMMISSION:

But this judgment has been rejected by the Vatican!! Indeed in 2000 the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith installed a new commission under the responsibility of cardinal Camillo Ruini. Their prudent conclusion was “NON constat de supernaturalitate”.

POPE J.P.II:

This rejection was NOT made public by the Vatican. In 2005 bishop Grillo declared that during his last ad-limina-visit in Rome, pope J.P.II asked him about the possible building of a sanctuary. Indeed, groups from the whole world arrived in communistic Civitavecchia, which was named before ‘the Stalingrad of Latium (or Lazio)’, an anticlerical town with 60% communists.

The Italian journal ‘Il Messagero’ on June 1, 2005, reports: “Bishop Grillo, in a meeting which took place yesterday, recalled the great veneration that pope J.P.II had for the Madonnina of Civitavecchia, and his desire NOT to make public this unfavourable verdict, waiting for more profound studies. One evening at the end of February 1995, Mgr. Grillo carried the miraculous statuette to the Vatican to pope J.P.II, who venerated it, prayed in front of it and, at the end, placed on the head of the Virgin a crown which he had brought with him.”

A good friend of pope J.P.II, Vittorio Messori, had written in the ‘Corriere della Sera’ that no human explanation was possible for the ‘weeping statue’. Therefore the origin must be supernatural... As a matter of fact also P. Jozo Zovko from Medjugorje has been photographed with the ‘miraculous Madonna’ and bishop Grillo’.

On February 17, 2005 Card. Bertone, during that time secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, was speaking in the T.V.-emission ‘Porta a Porta’ (Rai Uno). He said that ‘the diocesan commission had been composed in a hurry by bishop Grillo’. Afterwards many newspapers reported that the theological Vatican commission ended their work with the verdict “NON constat de supernaturalitate”.

Already on April 8, 1995, procurator Dr. Antonio Albano said “Don’t forget that the only proofs of this miracle are the testimonies.”

BOOKS :

Three Italian books have been published about the ‘miracle’ of Civitavecchia. All authors were in favour of the ‘miracle’:

R.Caniato “La Madonna si fa la strada-Civitavecchia, nel tempo di Maria” Ed. Ares 2005

F.Ubodi “La Madonna di Civitavecchia-Lacrime e messaggi” Ed. Piemme 2006

A.M.Turi “Miracoli e segreti della Madonnina di Civitavecchia” Ed. Segno 2006

MORE MIRACLES:

In those books is written that almost the whole family of Fabio Gregori has been granted with 'apparitions, visions, messages', etc. Even their son David at 3 years old has seen 'Our Lady'...

In June 1995 Annamaria, Fabio's wife, heard the 'voice of the Madonna' about a nuclear war. "I will come for one more year, if you don't listen to me, it will be too late..."

From September 1995, different holy images in the house of Fabio excreted oil, especially on a copy of the statue of Medjugorje, but always in the presence of the family Gregori.

EPIDEMIC :

Good to know is that in that time in Italy there were reports of dozens of weeping figures of the 'Madonna'. Here some examples:

March 26, 1994, in San Chirico Raparo, province of Potenza

March 30, 1994, in Lazise, near Verona

August 19, 1994, in Bernalda, near Matera

November 22, 1994, in Patti, near Messina

January 24, 1995, in Subiaco, near Rome

And then in Civitavecchia on February 2, 1995,...

SUMMARY:

- In Civitavecchia an alleged 'miracle' happened with a statue of Medjugorje that 'wept tears of blood'. Fabio Gregori and his family members reported 'apparitions, messages', etc. Pilgrims from the whole world arrived. Many conversions, prayer-groups, confessions, processions, etc were the good fruits.
- Medjugorje was involved, because the statuette was bought there. And Fr. Jozo came to Civitavecchia.
- Pope John Paul II had great sympathy for the 'miracle' in Civitavecchia and venerated the statue of Medjugorje
- Card. Ruini, as president of a Vatican theological commission, rejected the recognition of the 'miracle' by a diocesan commission of bishop Grillo in Civitavecchia. Indeed the blood originated from a ...man. All male family members refused an examination of their own blood.

- Cardinal Ratzinger, the then prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, had ordered that Vatican commission under the presidency of Card. Ruini

CONCLUSION : Comparison Civitavecchia-Medjugorje

Also in Medjugorje there are alleged 'miracles, apparitions, messages' with many good fruits like conversions, prayer-groups, etc.

It was said that pope J.P.II had great sympathy for Medjugorje and spoke with 'seers' and promoters of Medjugorje

Again the same realistic Card. Ruini has been appointed as president of a Vatican commission by ex-Card. Ratzinger, ex-prefect of the CDF, now pope Benedict XVI, who already expressed his own reservedness in the case of Medjugorje

References :

<http://marcocorvaglia.blog.lastampa.it/mcor/il-caso-civitavecchia.html>

(Italian on-line article by Marco Corvaglia)

Also dozens of articles in journals and magazines from Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, France, England...

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Sunday, April 11, Feast of the Merciful Jesus