

Pilgrims of the Rosary

care of Marida D'Amora

1. On the occasion of their association retreat, the directors and volunteers of the "Nolite Timere non-profit organization" chose to visit the Marian city. Last July 1st, in fact, they spent a day in Pompeii, location of their meeting. They visited the Shrine and participated in the Holy Mass presided by Msgr. Salvatore Pennacchio, Apostolic



to Nuncio to India and founder of the Association, and concelebrated by Fr. Massimo del Prete, vice president. The Association, headed by lawyer Giovanni Abbate, was established by Msgr. Pennacchio in 2001, with the aim of as-

sisting orphans and children in need after the genocide in Rwanda in 1994, and is dedicated exclusively to sponsorship. The name "Nolite Timere" which means *do not be afraid*, is part of the Episcopal motto of Nuncio Pennacchio, drawn as a sign of gratitude from John Paul II's words uttered at the beginning of his Pontificate: "*Do not be afraid! Open, open wide the doors to Christ!*".

2. On July 3rd, a group of seminarians from Gozo (Malta), accompanied by the rector, Fr. Daniel Xerri, and the vice rector, Fr. Michael Curmi, were on a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrine. The visit was made on the eve of the pilgrimage to Rome for the "Day of Seminarians, Novices, and those on a vocational journey", held in the Italian capital from 4 to 7 July 2013 and promoted within the Year of Faith. In Pompeii, the seminarians met Archbishop Tommaso Caputo, who was Apostolic Nuncio to Malta from 2007 to 2012. During his homily, the Prelate expressed his deep joy in welcoming the seminarians of Gozo in Mary's house, which despite being a small diocese, has given the Church a great number of vocations. "*What will Mary give you today?*", exclaimed Msgr. Caputo addressing the Maltese seminarians. "*She will hand you the Holy Rosary as a powerful and fast means to reach Jesus. Pray the Rosary every day and you will receive the strength you need to move forward without fear and become brave ministers of the new evangelization*". Then, the group visited the Bell Tower and the Basilica.



3. Last July 10th, fifty faithful coming from Austria, led by Father Andrew Skoblicki, were pilgrims to the Shrine of Pompeii. The visit to the Marian Shrine had, for these faithful, a very special and profound meaning: to entrust their apostolate to Our Lady of Pompeii. In fact, under the guidance of Fr. Skoblicki, the group has been committed for some time to spreading the message of Our Lady of the Rosary and Blessed Bartolo Longo's story. Last year, Fr. Skoblicki translated into German a booklet containing the texts of the Novenas to Our Lady of Pompeii and had 3,000 copies printed for them to distribute to the faithful during prayer meetings and catechesis. Moreover, the priest offered his collaboration to the Shrine for the translation into German and their diffusion of books about the Blessed Founder's human existence.



3

4. On August 25th, forty young people from the towns of Scala (Salerno) and La Valletta (Malta) came to the Shrine of Pompeii on the occasion of a twinning between the Amalfitani and the Maltese youth. Their encounter could not but be enriched by a stopover in the Marian city. Here, in fact, the youth and the mayors of the two cities, Luigi Mansi and Alexiei Dingli, welcomed by the Mayor of Pompeii, Claudio D'Alessio, met with Archbishop Tommaso Caputo, Apostolic Nuncio to Malta from 2007 to 2012. The cultural exchange between these young people resulted

from what unites Scala and Malta: the two cities are linked by Blessed Gerardo Sasso, a native of Scala, founder of the Knights of St. John (later called Knights of Malta) to assist in the Holy Land the pilgrims of every faith or race. His family had, in fact, obtained permission to build a convent, a church and a hospital in Jerusalem. Deep ties also unite the Marian city to the Maltese Archipelago, where there are two churches dedicated to the Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii. Moreover, even in the ancient church of the Jesuits of Valletta is kept an image of our *Madonna*.



4