

Dear friends and family,

July 2025

With joy I write to you all after a long silence, at the beginning of a hot and sunny July. The Liturgical year was busy and full of events for us, but lived always in a spirit of recollection and meditation on the great events of the life of Our Lord and of the Church.

We celebrated the rites of Holy Week according to the 1955 Missal, with all their solemnity and depth, bringing a host of blessings on this small town.



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At Easter we even had the joy of welcoming new chicks to our family, hatched on this blessed day. The first of them was most appropriately named Alleluia! After a fruitful Lent spent in silence and reparation, we were able to host all the ceremonies of the Holy Triduum here in Villatalla, for the first time since the beginning of our foundation.





Another important time for us was the Rogation Days, when we ask God to bless and protect us and our communities and to render fruitful the olive gardens and

vegetable gardens.

This year we went on a long procession from Tavole to Villatalla, singing the litany of the Saints along the





way. As is custom in this area, don Tommaso tapped the rocks of the mountain three times with the Crucifix when asking for deliverance from earthquakes, a recurring problem in Liguria.









On Pentecost the sisters renewed their yearly tradition of picking a "gift" from a bouquet of seven cards, each representing a different gift of the Holy Ghost. Each sister will then meditate more deeply on the gift they've picked throughout the coming year. This little custom helps us to understand better the action of the Holy Ghost in our souls and how to be docile to His inspirations by His holy indwelling.



The feast of Corpus Christi was for us another occasion to participate in a local custom, the traditional procession on the streets of Villatalla with the Blessed Sacrament. We helped the townspeople decorate the streets with beautiful flowers for this solemn occasion.



We want to **thank you** again for your generosity in donating to our fundraiser for the monastic stalls. After their purchase, we were also able to add a few new pieces to the oratory, which looks more and more a place befitting of Our Lord's presence in the Tabernacle where the Divine praises are sung to His glory.



To the right is a picture of our new <u>choir bell</u>, which we use during the Offices. On the left is a picture of the new sanctuary lamp, placed on a little wooden stand we fixed to the wall next to the altar.











We were also able to purchase new appliques that hold the candles we light during the recitation of Compline, as well as the wooden stand that holds a statue of Our Lady and the sanctuary lamp.



Finally, we were also able to purchase some much needed choir books for the monastery!





Let me close by wishing you a blessed and joyful summer from the whole community! We thank you for your continued support and generosity. Please pray for our foundation, so that new vocations may blossom for the good of the Church and the entire world. As always, be assured of our continued prayers and sacrifices for your families and your intentions.

Through this death to self and to the world, this sort of white martyrdom, monks copied manuscripts, drained the swamps, planted seeds, built monasteries, learned philosophy, perfected the sciences, sculpted, painted and wrote. They built christendom.

We recently wrote an article on the secret of the monastic life as expressed by the founder of Le Barroux, dom Gerard Calvet. We link it here below for your meditation and edification.

Click here for the article





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