## Mary Rosa Mystica



A few weeks ago, we welcomed Our Lady to our home for a special visit when members from the Legion of Mary brought us a pilgrim statue of Mary. We've had other pilgrim statues come to our home before, Our Lady of Grace and Our Lady of Guadalupe, and each time we've experienced a special time of grace.

As we eagerly awaited our visit this time, and wondered which statue would be brought to our house, I quickly made room for Mary on a family room table where we had our beautiful, large statue of Mary Rosa Mystica, and brought her upstairs to my office. Well, imagine our surprise as the ladies from the Legion of Mary

uncovered another statue of Rosa Mystica and placed her right where I just moved ours from! God has a sense of humor!

I thought to myself, why would Mary Rosa Mystica come to us when we had the same statue standing on that very table before she arrived? After reflecting a bit, what came to mind was what I had been meditating on since participating in a refresher course for Theology of the Body I attended a few weeks ago. The instructor, Christopher West, <u>teaches</u> how flowers are "one of nature's most beautiful reproductive organs …".

Rosa Mystica in English means Mystical Rose, which is one of Mary's titles in the Litany of Loreto (usually prayed after the Rosary). Mary, as Rosa Mystica is the most fruitful of all flowers bringing forth the Son of God from her womb. She was opened to the warmth of God by her total yes in her Fiat, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit like the dewfall on a flower, and conceived the most perfect fruit in her womb in Jesus. This dewfall and fruitfulness are echoed in the words of consecration at the Holy Mass when the priest prays over the gifts of bread and wine, fruits of the earth: "Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall, so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ." How often we've heard these words and their meaning never hit me.

The beauty of Mary, Mystical Rose, her fruitfulness in God and the fruitfulness of Christ's Bride the Church blows my mind and sets my heart on fire!

Mary Mystical Rose came to us perhaps to remind me and instill in my heart that all Christians, but we as women especially, are called to be open and fruitful like Mary. We too are called to give our full yes to God and are called to be like a beautiful flower, faces turned toward Our Lord fully open to His Will and His love, receiving the dew of the Holy Spirit, so we too bear fruit, carrying Christ within us to the whole world!



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