



THE AUGUSTINIAN FRIARS AND DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS

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Qed ingibu siltiet minn artiklu li P. Henry Schembri OSA, kien ghamel fl-okkażjoni tal- Kungress Internazzjonali fuq il-Madonna li kien sar fl-1983. Hu artiklu li, ghalkemm diġa ghadew numru ta' snin, ghadu validu hafna minhabba ir-riċerka storika li kienet saret ghalih mill-awtur. Hawn ser nippubblikaw il-parti li tmiss id-devozzjoni lejn il-Madonna taċ-Ċintura fir-Rabat. L-artiklu shih, bin-noti u l-illustrazzjonijiet, jinsab fil-ktieb: MARIAN DEVOTIONS IN THE ISLANDS OF ST. PAUL (1600-1800), Lux Press, Hamrun 1983, pp. 312-331.

Marian devotion within the Augustinian Order is deeply rooted and consequently after settling down in Malta they fostered it with enthusiasm...

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION

It is worth pointing out that, in Augustinian churches, the devotion to Our Lady of Consolation is closely related to another Marian title, namely the “Madonna del Soccorso”, which was indeed rather popular during the 16th century. From a petition sent by the Augustinians to the local bishop, Fra Paolo Alpheran de Bussan in 1754, it may be inferred that the title of Our Lady of Consolation had also been in use many years before.

The confraternity of St. Monica and the confraternity of Our Lady of Consolation, although they may appear to be two different bodies, they form, in fact, one confraternity. They used, however, different names on various occasions.

A papal brief, given by Pope Benedict XIV on the 10th May 1743, granted to the Augustinian Order, through its Father Prior General, the faculty of giving the Papal Blessing on certain feasts. The feast of Our Lady of Consolation was included among them, whenever it was celebrated in Augustinian churches.

