Regarding Msgr. Nicola Rotunno and Soufanieh

Chronology of Relations and Supporting Documents
(Damascus, July 18, 1984 – 1992)

Here briefly are the stages of the relationship between the Apostolic Nuncio, Msgr. Nicola ROTUNNO, and Soufanieh:

1. On Tuesday, July 18, 1984, Father Pierre FARAH, Superior of the Lazarist Fathers in Damascus, handed me an unsigned note from the Apostolic Nuncio, Msgr. Nicola ROTUNNO. In it, he asked me for a detailed report on Soufanieh, to be delivered to him on the morning of July 21.

2. On the morning of Friday, July 21, 1984, I delivered the report to the Apostolic Nuncio by hand.

3. At the end of October, the Nuncio requested a secret meeting with Myrna.

4. This meeting took place on Sunday, November 4, at the home of the Little Sisters of Foucauld, in the presence of Little Sister Pia, an Italian who speaks Arabic, and Salwa, a friend of Myrna.

5. During this meeting, Sister Pia proposed praying while presenting Myrna with an ordinary picture of the Blessed Virgin. Myrna held the picture during the prayer, and suddenly oil covered the picture, while both of Myrna's hands remained dry. The Nuncio took the picture and walked out saying: "It is a sign from Heaven!"

6. Subsequently, the Nuncio received Myrna and Nicolas several times at the Nunciature, frequently in my presence, or also in the presence of Father MALOULI.

7. When Father LAURENTIN came to Damascus, the Nuncio insisted that he come to the Nunciature as soon as he arrived. Many of us accompanied him: Myrna, Nicolas, Father MALOULI, Adib MOUSLEH, and myself.

8. At the Nunciature, there was communal prayer in the chapel. Immediately afterward, oil appeared on Myrna's hands: widespread emotion.

9. Before leaving Damascus, the Nuncio invited Myrna and Nicolas. Praying together in the chapel, he saw oil flowing from Myrna's hands, "as if from a faucet," he told me over the phone.

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10. The Nuncio left Damascus at the end of 1987, taking with him seven complete files on the Soufanieh phenomenon. We learned that he delivered them to the competent authorities in Rome, including Cardinal RATZINGER himself.

11. After his departure from Damascus, and during his stay in the United States, he made a point of maintaining regular contact with Soufanieh.

12. In Los Angeles, he made the acquaintance of Doctor Antoine MANSOUR, known for his important role in the service of Soufanieh. He wrote him, among other things, a letter dated December 12, 1992, which I deem necessary to reproduce following my report.

13. DOCUMENTS

A. My Report to the Apostolic Nuncio Nicola ROTUNNO

« Damascus, July 21, 1984

Your Excellency,

This Tuesday, July 18, Rev. Fr. Pierre FARAH, Superior of the Lazarists in Damascus, conveyed to me your wish "to have a detailed account with dates, names, etc., regarding the matter of the Virgin, and to have this before Saturday or Saturday morning."

It is a joy for me to do so for you, who are among us the representative of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Allow me, however, to make two brief remarks on the note that I intend to hand to you in person:

1. Since the family where "the Phenomenon of the Virgin" is taking place is Orthodox, Father Joseph MALOULI and I—who have followed and lived the event from the beginning (in addition to Father Mitri ATHANASE)—forbade ourselves from publishing or having anything published on this subject. Everything that has been done in this regard was done against our wishes.

2. However, Father MALOULI and I had agreed two weeks ago to withdraw for a time to finalize the broad outlines and details of this event in its various aspects, judging that it was time to prepare, with the utmost discretion, for the investigation that will inevitably come sooner or later. And both of us were joyfully looking forward to finishing our various youth camps during these holidays. That is why

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what I am doing today, I do with joy, yet also with regret, being unable to hand over to the representative of His Holiness the exhaustive work we had hoped for.

Your Excellency,

Please consider this note as a brief, yet personal, presentation of a "manifestation" that continues to grow in scale, in all its Humility, and to unveil new aspects of a single Event.

It goes without saying that as a Catholic priest, I ultimately leave—beyond my personal feelings and convictions—the final word to the Church, the presence of the Lord among us.

I beg you, Your Excellency, to accept the expression of my profound and filial respect.

Fr. Elie ZAHLAOUI
Church of Our Lady of Damascus

B. "Matter of the Virgin, Our Lady of Soufanieh"

This phenomenon, unique in its essence, presents various aspects that I feel compelled to point out.

1- Oil flows from Myrna's hands

On Monday, November 22, 1982, oil flowed from Myrna's hands while she was praying beside her sister-in-law Leila, who was bedridden and suffering. Myrna, whose baptismal name is Marie, was born in May 1964 and was married in May 1982 to Nicolas NAZZOUR, whose younger brother Khalil was already married to Myrna's older sister, Lina. Now, Nicolas lives in his paternal home with his older brother Awad and his family, as well as his unmarried brother Mounir and their 70-year-old mother Alice. This house is located in a modest neighborhood of Damascus called Soufanieh.

The same phenomenon recurred a few days later beside her mother, who was bedridden due to a "slipped disc."

And Myrna anointed her sister-in-law and her mother with this strange oil where they were in pain, and behold, they were back on their feet, completely recovered.

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I was a more than astonished witness to this phenomenon of oil flowing from Myrna's hands on the evening of Sunday, November 28, when friends—married men and young people—came to ask me to "go and see" so I could tell them what I thought of it.

That evening, while praying alone with Myrna in front of the very "small" miraculous picture that was exuding oil, I saw the oil literally "boil" in both of Myrna's hands, as she begged the Virgin—The Source, as she called her—not to allow oil to flow from her hands without flowing from her picture...

This phenomenon of oil flowing from Myrna's hands has continued up to these recent days. Thousands of people have witnessed it, the most recent being a priest from the Archdiocese of Paris, Rev. Fr. Pierre BOZ, who came in a personal capacity to "see" what friends of his, including myself, had told him about. Father BOZ witnessed this phenomenon at the "house of the Virgin" on the morning of Tuesday, July 10 of this month. He felt the urge, he told me as he was leaving, to kiss Myrna's hands in the face of this "manifestation."

2- Oil flows from the picture of the Virgin Mary

It is a very modest picture, barely ten centimeters by six. Made of paper, in a very modest plastic frame. Myrna and her husband Nicolas had bought ten of them at the Alexander NEVSKY Cathedral in Sofia during their honeymoon.

On Saturday, November 27, 1982, oil flowed early in the morning from one of these pictures, a phenomenon preceded by a strong scent of incense. That day was the "beginning" of the "phenomenon of the Virgin of Soufanieh"... People seemed to be waiting only for a "gesture" from heaven...

Having come myself "in spite of myself" due to the insistence of friends on the evening of Sunday, November 28, I witnessed oil flowing from both the picture and Myrna's hands.

That evening, I reported all of this to Bishop François ABOU-MOKH, who told me to "continue my observation"... Which I did, until the day His Beatitude Ignatius IV HAZIM told me of his express wish that I stay away from the house. That was on the morning of February 21, 1983. He

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reiterated it to me on the morning of February 25 in his very office, in the presence of Bishop François ABOU-MOKH...

The flow of oil from the picture took various forms, but the strangest was on the night of December 12, 1982, when at a quarter to midnight, the oil began not to flow in drops, as on previous days, but in the form of bubbles that swelled and burst to fall back into the plate placed beneath the picture. The witnesses to this strange sight are numerous. But I am pleased to mention one in particular: the Lebanese singer Tony HANNA, who was summoned at two o'clock in the morning, and whose wife—whom I met recently in the United States (where I was traveling to visit alumni of the University Parish) at their home in Detroit—told me that he had announced it to her in tears over the phone, unable to articulate his words clearly until, she assured me, an hour and a half had passed... to the point that she feared a "serious accident" had befallen him...

The phenomenon of oil flowing from the picture passed on January 17 to a second picture, while the first was displayed at the Church of the Holy Cross, where it had been transferred on January 9, 1983, carried at arm's length by Rev. Fr. Joseph ZAHLAOUI amidst a praying crowd estimated at several thousand people. Moreover, this transfer was filmed.

The first picture was brought back, very discreetly, to the house by two Orthodox priests... on the evening of Monday, February 21, 1983. That very evening, it exuded oil. Since then, the two pictures have exuded oil in turn, one might say.

Remarkably, the flow of oil was especially noticeable on the great feasts of the Lord, of the Virgin, of Saint Joseph, and of Saint Luke. At Easter 1983, there was a total absence of oil, both Orthodox and Catholic.

Toward the end of October 1983, a new phenomenon occurred: postcards —which had been printed in thousands of copies and distributed free of charge, depicting the image of "the Virgin of Soufanieh" as it had been photographed on September 8, 1983—began to exude oil. This happened both at "the house of the Virgin" and in other homes where this picture had been displayed and served as a focal point for family prayer... Hundreds of names were carefully recorded of those whose picture had "given" oil.

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An even stranger phenomenon: pictures sent outside of Syria have "given" oil... We have certain names and addresses even in the United States, some of whom I met during my last trip...

The oil continues to flow from time to time...

The witnesses number in the thousands...

One of them happens to be the same Father Pierre BOZ, who on Wednesday, July 11, at 8:30 in the evening, was the stunned witness of oil flowing from the mouth of the Virgin and filling the picture he was hurrying to take away—which he carefully kept and took back with him to Paris, where he returned on Sunday, July 15. The phenomenon occurred right before his eyes while he was praying with an entire group and standing beside Myrna, praying to the Lord in his heart, as he confessed to me, to spare him the sight of a miracle...

I must note regarding the oil that Bishop François ABOU-MOKH had said, as early as the evening of November 28, 1982, when I showed him the cotton soaked in oil: it has the scent of chrism (confirmation oil). He still maintains this opinion.

Let us also note that Father Farès MACARON, former director of the Greek Catholic minor seminary in Damascus, had this oil examined at the Damascus Research Center by four doctors of chemistry, three of whom were Muslim and one a Christian friend of his. Result: Pure olive oil, without acid, plus a substance for which they found no equivalent among all known substances, and which they ended up calling "substance of the Spirit of God"...

3- Prayer is organized and continues to this day, July 21

Spontaneously, "crowds" gathered—for there was a crowd from the very first minute, on Saturday, November 27, when the first person to pray was Bishop Boulos PANDÉLI, Greek Orthodox Bishop, accompanied by two Orthodox priests, having been notified at the Patriarchate by the NAZZOUR family. He was the first to come, to see, and to pray before the picture, after removing his shoes, as did the two Fathers accompanying him: Fr. Georges GILO and Fr. Georges ABOU-ZAKHM.

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At the start, the prayer was not entirely organized… But slowly, everything got underway, and the priests who came there to pray helped with this. It should be noted that the Orthodox priests always came accompanied by their choir. Likewise Father Farès MACARON and his assistant Fr. Elias HAYEK. I myself participated with the choir of Our Lady of Damascus.

The prayers recited—or rather celebrated—there were on the whole Byzantine prayers such as the Akathist, the Paraklesis… Yet the spontaneity of the prayer shied away from no prayer: Maronite hymns… Never, however, was the Divine Liturgy celebrated there.

When did this prayer take place?

Night and day… Yes, non-stop; many men, women, and especially young people took turns at night beside the sick who slept in the newlyweds' bed…

For it was the newlyweds' bedroom that had become the preferred oratory, while throughout the humble house an atmosphere of prayer, recollection, and reflection continued, especially when people sought to "understand" what was happening…

Naturally, the lives of the house's inhabitants were turned completely upside down… How to sleep, rest, or even eat… that was out of the question… Moreover, the entire family and extended relatives had literally mobilized to be, as they said, at the service of the Virgin… In total, 22 people, men and women, in addition to volunteer friends, had suspended all work from November 27, 1982, until January 9, 1983, the day the picture was transferred to the Church of the Holy Cross…

And all of this in the utmost GRATUITOUSNESS… THEY PRAYED and HELPED everyone to PRAY. THAT WAS ALL: To pray.

The influx of people, night and day, simply made us relive entire pages of the Gospel…

An explosion of FAITH…

Everyone seemed, humanly speaking, on the verge of breaking down. Everyone except Myrna and her mother-in-law, always smiling and available. Myrna herself was always in prayer. Yet she had confessed to me during my first visit to the house, on the evening of November 28,

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1982, in answer to a question I asked her one-on-one: "Father, all I know how to pray is the Our Father and the Hail Mary... Do not have any illusions about me: I am not even 18, or barely so, I have lived as all the girls of the country my age live, and besides, don't forget that I have been married for seven months... Moreover, I am frightened by what is happening to me..."

After the transfer of the picture to the Church, many thought everything would die down... In fact, the house had become a sort of pilgrimage site, and prayer is celebrated there regularly, in winter at 6:00 p.m., in summer at 7:00 p.m., always in the presence of a crowd astonishing in its recollection and density...

Everything is centered on the Virgin.

For one must point out the astonishing simplicity with which the people of the house, and especially Myrna, treat people and treat themselves... Moreover, Myrna and her husband have been in Latakia for months, where her husband had started a job before the event of the Virgin, and which he had abandoned for exactly one year while waiting for a sign from the Virgin, as he said... And remarkably, Nicolas is not afraid to admit that he had no concern for religion before this phenomenon, whereas now he knows he has only one desire: "to pass into the next life, to see the whole truth, now that he has seen only fragments of it"...

Let us note finally that prayer is celebrated every day, whether a priest is present or not... One of the family members is always there: especially Myrna's father, Jean AKHRAS, or her brother-in-law Awad... And if by chance both happen to be away from Damascus, one of the faithful begins the prayer and the singing, and everyone joins in...

4- Numerous healings are to be noted

• Spiritual healings first.

One must have seen and lived this and heard the people to realize the depth of the fact...

Numerous witnesses would be happy to testify to it...

But there is one who must be mentioned above all: pediatrician Dr. Jamil MARJI, a political refugee from Jordan and official physician to the

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Ministry of Transport in Damascus. He had come courageously to dissuade the family from continuing "these maneuvers" which would soon be exposed. That was on Thursday, December 16, 1982. Suddenly, the healing occurred of a Muslim woman, whose son was carrying with him the attending physician's report dated the very day before... Dr. MARJI read the report, examined the woman, then came back to tell me: Father, I lay down my arms and am ready to give any testimony. Since then, Dr. Jamil has followed the event and the prayer regularly, and it was before Bishop François ABOU-MOKH and in the presence of many people, including myself, that he professed his conversion. He still lives in Damascus, Koussour district, telephone (4440-923).

• Physical healings.

Total or partial deafness... Hemiplegics... Paralyses: men and children... A retinal ulcer... Several cases of calcification of the shoulders, which had ended up causing total paralysis of an arm... A 25-year-old Muslim man, who had never walked and whose constitution had been completely deformed since the age of three months due to glandular disorders, carried to the Virgin with his "feet dangling like strings" as witnesses described it, walked out of the room on his own... The daughter of the interpreter to our Minister of Foreign Affairs, a certain Samih ABOU-FARÈS, who suddenly lost her sight and was about to be taken by her father to the United States on doctors' advice, regained her sight on Friday, January 7, 1983... Moreover, the phenomenon of oil flowing from her hands on several occasions—especially when she begins to read the Quran in the surah called "Surah Maryam," or while fast asleep—is there to refute any healing due to psychic influence...

In fact, the physical healings are numerous.

I point out one in particular, that of Mrs. Alice BENLIAN, of Aleppo, whose left arm had been completely immobilized since 1970 following a fracture of the left shoulder... she was healed on January 26, at the moment she was praying before the picture displayed at the Church of the Holy Cross...

The attached report by the attending physician, Dr. Pierre SALAM, sets out the case. It is written in his own hand. I must also note that while

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accompanying Father Pierre BOZ last week to Aleppo, we visited Dr. Pierre SALAM, who still acknowledges the healing, which is completely inexplicable humanly speaking. Then we visited Mrs. BENLIAN, still in perfect health. She affirms that she still prays the Rosary every morning at 8:00 a.m. with her family and neighbors—a prayer none of them knew, because they are Armenian Orthodox. They have been doing so since the day of her healing.

5- The Stigmata

The prelude began at the end of October 1983 in the form of thin scar-like marks on the hands and feet, accompanied by loss of consciousness and oil flowing from the hands, neck, and forehead...

On Friday, November 4, first bleeding wound in the side...

Various pains in the feet, the palms of the hands, and the side continued...

Until Friday, November 25, two days before the anniversary of the phenomenon, around 4:15 p.m.: bleeding wound on the left side... Around 4:55 p.m., blood flowed from both hands and both feet...

Several doctors were called in...

The Orthodox Patriarchate was notified, from which Bishop Stéphanos HADDAD and two priests arrived...

A Catholic bishop who was alerted... sent his apologies...

That very evening, the five wounds were completely healed. Doctors verified this as well...

New stigmata on Holy Thursday, April 19, 1984, at 3:30 p.m.

New influx of doctors and churchmen, including Bishop MOUNAYER, Syrian Catholic Bishop of Damascus.

This time, everything was recorded on video...

The next day, Good Friday, at 3:30 p.m.: ecstasy, from which Myrna awoke at 5:00 p.m.

On Ascension Thursday, two new ecstasies during which Myrna affirmed having seen Christ, who gave her a prayer and advice concerning her. It was 5:00 p.m.

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Of all this, the chief witness is Father MALOULI, who took care to observe everything and write everything down, sometimes minute by minute...

6- Messages and Apparitions

The first apparition, without any message, took place on the night of December 15, a Wednesday, at 11:37 p.m. (in the year 1982).

The second, on the night of Saturday, December 18, 1982, around 11:30 p.m., was accompanied by a message:

Invitation to remember God, "for God is with us"
Invitation to penance and faith
Invitation to proclaim "her Son Emmanuel"
She "calls for charity"
She "promises to visit homes even more"
She asks for humility
She asks for a place of pilgrimage...

Third apparition on the eve of the icon's transfer to the church, January 8 at 11:30 p.m.: the Virgin wept and repeated three times to Myrna: "It does not matter."

Fourth apparition on the night of February 21, 1983, around 9:30 p.m.: this time the Virgin used spoken Arabic:

She invited the family to calm and humility.

She left them this recommendation:

"I have a request to make of you:
This word... fix it firmly in your mind, and repeat it always:
God saves me
Jesus enlightens me
The Holy Spirit is my life
Therefore I am not afraid"

Fifth apparition: the night of March 24, 1983, around 9:30 p.m. Here is the full message:

"My children,
My mission is accomplished.
On this night, the angel said to me:

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Blessed are you among all women.
And I could only say to him:
Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
I am glad.
I am not worthy to say to you: Your sins are forgiven.
But my God has said it.
Establish a church.
I did not say: build a church.
The Church that Jesus founded is one church, because Jesus is one.
The Church is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.
Whoever has divided it has sinned.
And whoever rejoices in its division has sinned.
Jesus built it.
It was very small.
And when it grew, it became divided.
Whoever divided it lacked charity (or rather, did not have Charity).
Gather together.
I say to you: pray, pray, and pray.
How beautiful my children are on their knees, imploring.
Do not be afraid. I am with you.
Do not scatter as the great ones scatter.
You shall teach the generations the word:
'Unity, charity, and faith.'
Pray for the inhabitants of earth and heaven."

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On Ascension Thursday, Myrna experienced ecstasy twice, accompanied by an abundant flow of oil from her eyes, with excruciating pain in her neck and hands.

First ecstasy, she cried out upon awakening: I saw him, I saw him.

She assured us she had seen Jesus and, with eyes closed, transmitted the words he had spoken to her, which I translate literally and in full:

"My daughter,
I am the beginning and the end.
I am truth, freedom, and peace.
My peace I give to you.
Let your peace not depend on people's tongues,

whether for good or for ill.
Think poorly of yourself.
Whoever does not seek the favor of people, and does not fear displeasing them,
enjoys true peace,
and this will be in me.
Live your life, happy and independent.
Let not the hardships break you that you have undertaken for me.
Rather, rejoice.
I am able to reward you.
Your hardships will not last,
and your sufferings will not go on forever.
Pray with adoration,
for eternal life is worth these sufferings.
Pray that God's will may be fulfilled in you. And say:
'O beloved Jesus,
grant me to rest in you,
above all things,
above every creature,
above all your angels,
above all praise,
above all joy and rejoicing,
above all glory and dignity,
above all the host of heaven.
For you alone are the Most High,
You alone are powerful and good above all things.
Come to me and set me free.
Break my chains.
Grant me freedom.
For without You my joy is incomplete.
Without You my table is empty.'
Then I come to tell you:
Here I am; I have come because you called me."

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7- The Official Communiqué of the Orthodox Patriarchate

This communiqué was issued on December 31, 1982.

A communiqué astonishing in its balance. Yet one that raises question marks regarding the ultimate intention of the Patriarchate, in light of its attitude since February 21, when the picture was brought back to the house.

Signature »

C. Letter from Msgr. Nicola ROTUNNO to Doctor Antoine MANSOUR and His Wife, in Los Angeles

This letter, dated December 12, 1992, was written from California, where Msgr. ROTUNNO served St. Louis Church in "Cathedral City." It constitutes a true historical document:

« Dear Dr. Mansour and Claire,

My beloved in Jesus, Antoine and Claire,

What joy filled me when, together with my first cousin, Christine ROTUNNO RUFFALO, we had the joy of speaking at length with Antoine about what happened to our beloved Myrna. I long to hear of the faith of Claire, who had to leave us to accompany Mr. John BIRD to the airport. She is a person who loved to listen to the message of the Gospel through Our Lady of Unity in Soufanieh.

When, in Syria, a high-ranking religious figure warned me, saying: "Monsignor, be careful. Perhaps this is the devil!", I replied to this man of deep spirituality: "Thank you for your advice. Rest assured that I am not approving Myrna's phenomenon. I am simply trying to follow the facts and inform the Holy Father. It is my duty to await, with patience and understanding, the definitive decision of the Church and her judgment."

It was granted to me to verify the phenomenon of the oil on two occasions:

1) When we were in the chapel of the Little Sisters of Foucauld in Damascus. There were three of us: an Italian sister, Myrna, and myself, immersed in prayer and reciting the rosary. Though I had asked for no sign, Myrna suddenly asked the sister to give her a picture of the Virgin. The instant she held the picture in her hand, it became covered in oil. She offered it to me, saying: "Monsignor, it is yours."

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2) When I was in the chapel of the Apostolic Nunciature in Syria, I experienced the phenomenon of the oil a second time. I asked my secretary to write down his testimony in Italian and sign it. It is the pure truth, as you spoke of it in your book 'Our Lady of Soufanieh.'

Signature >>>

D. Report by Msgr. ROTUNNO's Secretary in Damascus, Msgr. "Eliseo ARIOTTI," Dated August 22, 1987

« On Saturday, August 22, 1987, around 7:00 p.m., I met for the first time at the Apostolic Nunciature in Damascus a woman named Myrna. She lives in a neighborhood called Soufanieh.

She came to the Nunciature accompanied by her husband Nicolas. Sister Fiorina, from the Italian Hospital, was with them, as well as Father Norberto, nephew of the Apostolic Nuncio. They had just come from Myrna's house, where they had spent two hours in prayer.

After the usual greetings and a pleasant conversation with her husband in French and English, the Nuncio took several photos of our guests in the small parlor. Then we all entered the Nunciature chapel and sang to the Virgin the hymn "Hail, O Queen" (Salve Regina).

Around 8:00 p.m., we prayed again in the Nunciature chapel to close this meeting. The Nuncio stood before the altar, while Sister Fiorina and Fr. Norberto stood near the chapel door. Myrna's husband knelt at one of the kneelers (prie-Dieu), and Myrna at the other. I was standing behind the two kneelers.

At the end of the prayer, everyone walked out. Myrna was about to leave, and I intended to follow her.

As she was preparing to stand up, suddenly both of her hands became covered in oil. Her left hand left a more opaque imprint on the kneeler than her right hand. Heavy drops of oil fell onto the floor in a single spot, as well as onto Myrna's dress.

Myrna called her husband in a soft voice and held out her hands to him. I called out to the Nuncio, raising my voice to alert him and so that he might help Myrna. Since I was standing behind Myrna, I was able to observe everything, struck with astonishment.

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The Apostolic Nuncio tried to help Myrna sit down in an armchair. With a piece of cotton, he wiped the oil that was flowing abundantly from her hands. The sisters serving at the Nunciature did the same.

Father Norberto sought to touch Myrna's oil-covered hands with a picture of the Virgin.

While everyone was trying to wipe the oil from Myrna's hands, I noticed that her hands began to dry spontaneously, even though the effusion of oil had lasted a long time. »

E. Report by Msgr. ROTUNNO's Nephew, Father "Norberto D'AMELIS," Dated August 23, 1987

« I participated in prayer at Myrna's house on August 23, 1987.

I arrived at the house before 5:00 p.m. Father MALOULI brought me up to date on her entire story, thanks to Sister Fiorina who translated into Italian for me.

The Father took me up to the terrace where the Virgin appeared to Myrna more than once. He also showed me the tree where the image of the Virgin had formed and began moving toward the terrace. During the first apparition, Myrna was frightened and ran away. Later, during subsequent apparitions, she stopped running away.

The Father also showed me on the terrace the spot where the Virgin had caused oil to flow during one of her apparitions. This oil was so abundant that one of the young people present was able to wash his face with it.

We went back downstairs into the bedroom, and there Father MALOULI showed me photos of Myrna's stigmata—on her forehead, her hands, her feet, and her side. The photos bore the date of Holy Thursday. Yet by the evening of Good Friday, all the stigmata had healed. The Father explained to me that the stigmata occur when Catholics and Orthodox celebrate Easter together, because the Virgin rejoices in the unity of Christians. That is the main message, as I understood it: Pray for unity.

Around 5:30 p.m., we prayed the Holy Rosary before a small picture of the Virgin of Soufanieh, which she had bought during her honeymoon.

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Sister Fiorina told me that oil had flowed many times from this Icon. That day, I noticed that the picture was filled with oil. Sr. Fiorina informed me that oil had flowed from all the pictures, or at least a great many of the pictures, that had been distributed to various homes. The Virgin had indeed said that she wanted to visit all families.

Around 6:00 p.m., the crowd had filled the house, including the staircase. Everyone prayed in Arabic. I did not understand anything. At the end of the prayer, most of the people left. Some of them stayed at the house.

Myrna, her husband, and Sr. Fiorina took me to the Apostolic Nunciature.

We had a brief conversation with the Nuncio and his secretary. Afterward, we entered the chapel for a short prayer.

At the end of the prayer, the Nuncio and I had barely stepped out when Msgr. Eliseo, his secretary, was already calling us.

We saw the oil on Myrna's hands, as well as on the carpet and the kneeler where she was praying. We touched Myrna's hands, anointed our own hands with the oil, and then wiped her hands with cotton, which we kept.

Myrna passed her oil-coated hands over a picture that the Apostolic Nuncio had given her. This picture was given to me. »

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