



LAKE ORTA
SAN GIULIO ISLAND

CLOISTERED NUNS MASTERS IN *restoration*

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DYEING LABORATORY FOR THE
RESTORATION OF ANCIENT SACRED FABRICS
IN THE MATER ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY

THE MATER ECCLESIAE ABBEY IS AN ENCLOSED FEMININE BENEDICTINE ABBEY LOCATED IN SAN GIULIO ISLAND, ON THE LAKE OF ORTA. ORIGINALLY, ONLY SIX NUNS USED TO LIVE HERE AFTER MOVING FROM VIBOLDONE ABBEY IN 1973. THEIR PRIORESS IS ANNA MARIA CANOPI, AUTHOR OF SEVERAL BOOKS ON CHRISTIAN AND MONASTIC SPIRITUALITY AND WIDELY CONSIDERED AS THE MOST PROMINENT LIVING FEMALE FIGURE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. AT PRESENT, OVER SEVENTY NUNS LIVE IN THE ABBEY, THIS PROVING BOTH THE VITALITY OF THE ORDER AND THE STRENGTH OF AN EXTREME CHOICE OF LIVING, WHICH MIGHT APPARENTLY SEEM OFFBEAT WITH THE LACK OF VOCATION WITHIN THE CLERGY. ALL THE NUNS IN THE ABBEY HAVE A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF CULTURE AND THEIR PRIORITY IS TO KEEP ALIVE THE TRADITION OF GUGLIELMO DA VOLPIANO, WHO WAS BORN IN SAN GIULIO ISLAND IN 962 A.D. AND WHO STRONGLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE SPREAD OF MONASTICISM THROUGHOUT EUROPE. IN THE ABBEY, THE NUNS CARRY OUT RESEARCH ON ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS AND THEY TRANSLATE THEM FROM VULGAR AND LATIN TO ITALIAN. BUT RESTAURATION OF ANCIENT TEXTILES (TAPESTRIES, VESTMENTS AND FURNITURE) IS THEIR FORTE: PROFESSIONALISM, COMMITMENT AND RESEARCH IS THEIR HALLMARK.





A NUN OF THE MATER ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY
IS CLEANING AN ANCIENT FABRIC IN THE RESTORATION
LABORATORY (TAPESTRIES, VESTMENTS AND FURNITURE)



A NUN OF THE MATER ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY,
WITH A DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE, CARRIES OUT A RESEARCH ON
THE PATTERNS OF THE FABRICS AND TAPESTRIES TO BE RESTORED IN
THE RESTORATION LABORATORY (TAPESTRIES, VESTMENTS AND FURNITURE)



MADRE ANNA MARIA CANOPI, PRIORESS OF THE
MATER ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY AND AUTHOR
OF BOOKS ON SPIRITUALITY. SHE IS CONSIDERED AS THE
MOST PROMINENT LIVING FEMALE FIGURE IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE CRUCIFIX WORN BY MADRE ANNA MARIA
CANOPI, PRIORESS MOF THE MATER
ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY





A NUN OF THE MATER ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY
IS REPAIRING AN ANCIENT TAPESTRY IN THE RESTORATION
LABORATORY (TAPESTRIES, VESTMENTS AND FURNITURE)

SISTER LUCIA, DIRECTOR OF THE RESTORATION
LABORATORY WITH A YOUNG NUN





A NUN OF THE MATER ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY WORKING IN
THE RESTORATION LABORATORY (TAPESTRIES, VESTMENTS AND FURNITURE)



A NUN OF THE MATER ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY IS REPAIRING AN ANCIENT TAPESTRY IN THE RESTORATION LABORATORY (TAPESTRIES, VESTMENTS AND FURNITURE)

MADRE ANNA MARIA CANOPI, prioress of the Mater Ecclesiae
Benedictine monastery and author of books on spirituality.
She is considered as the most prominent living female
figure in the Catholic Church





A NUN OF THE MATER
ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE
MONASTERY PAINTING AN ICON

A NUN OF THE MATER ECCLESIAE
BENEDICTINE MONASTERY IS PAINTING ON
AN OLD ICON IN THE RESTORATION LABORATORY
(TAPESTRIES, VESTMENTS AND FURNITURE)





SISTER LUCIA, DIRECTOR OF THE RESTORATION
LABORATORY SHOWING A RECENTLY RESTORED TAPESTRY



A NUN OF THE MATER ECCLESIAE BENEDICTINE MONASTERY
IS MENDING AN ANCIENT TAPESTRY IN THE RESTORATION
LABORATORY (TAPESTRIES, VESTMENTS AND FURNITURE)



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