

Fr Mikiel Fsadni OP, a prolific writer



Fr Hermann Duncan

Father Michael Fsadni (or Mikiel as he was better known) was born in Vittoriosa on the 15th of April 1916 to Giuseppe and Giovanna nee Cassano and was baptized a few days later in the Collegiate Church of St. Lawrence in Vittoriosa. As a child he attended school in Vittoriosa and also attended the Docyard School. He soon felt his vocation and joined the Order of Preachers and thus entered as a novice in the Dominican Priory in Rabat, Malta in 1933. He did his simple profession on the 21st of October 1934 and soon after began studying Philosophy and Theology at St. Thomas of Aquina College in Rabat.

He was ordained priest on 11th June 1939. During the Second World War he formed part of the community of Dominicans of his native village, Vittoriosa and it was during that time that the priory suffered a bomb attack while bombing the HMS Illustrious in January 1941.

Fr Fsadni was a prolific writer and wrote the history of the Order of Preachers. Worthy of note is that together with Professor Godfrey Wettinger he discovered the song of Peter Caxaro in 1966. He published historical and scientific documents on the Maltese 'girma', and five treatises on the Dominican Order while he had a passion for photography.

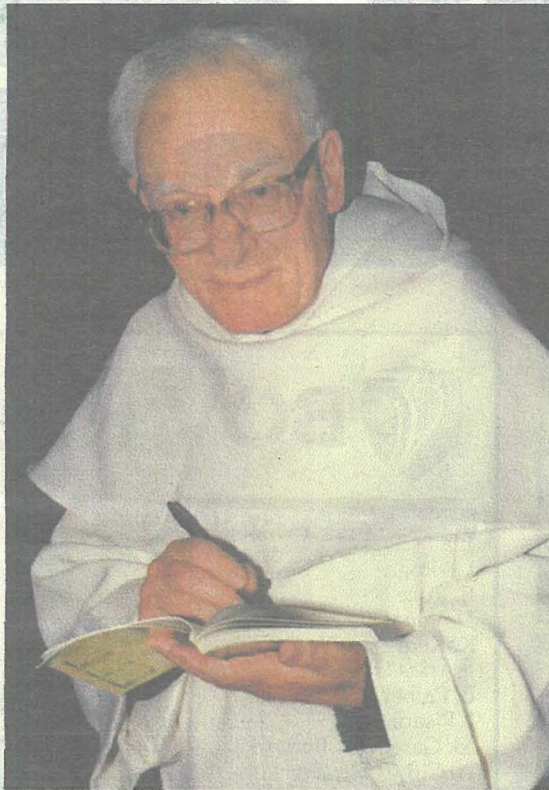
Fr Mikiel was awarded several honors including the Rothmans Prize for Literature in 1975, and in 1990 was awarded the Gold Medal in the literary awards of the Government of Malta for his book *Il-girma wirt arkittetoniku u etniku Malti*. In the year 2000 he was awarded the "Gieh il-Birgu" award for his contribution to history and in 2008 he won the National Order of Merit.

At the request of the founder of the MUSEUM society of Christian doctrine, Saint George Preca, he wrote the rule of this society. He also collected and compiled in a catalogue, all the manuscripts of the Priors of Rabat.

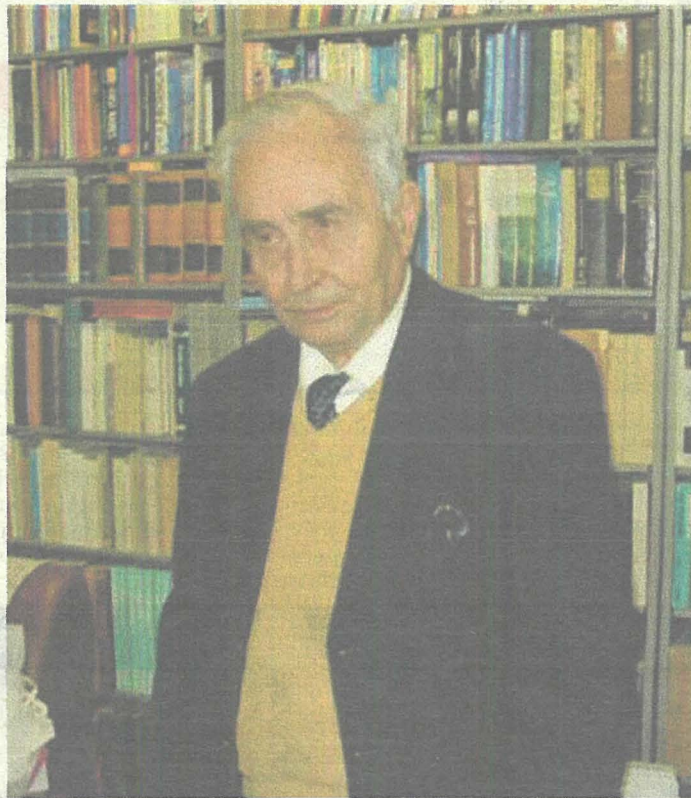
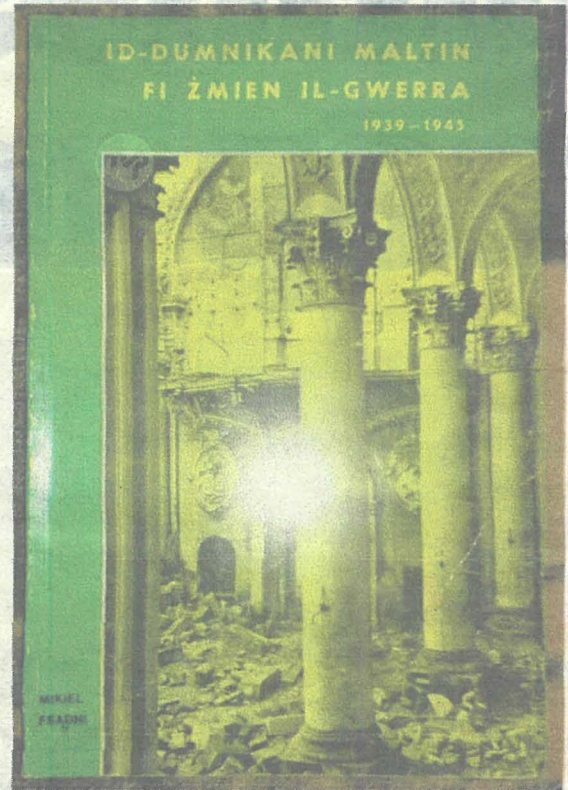
Father Mikiel had a great devotion to Our Lady of the Cave in Rabat. Throughout his life he strove to spread the devotion towards Her. When the image of Our Lady was solemnly incoronated in 1957, he, personally, created a multitude of plaster statues in honour of Our Lady. He also took it upon himself to make sure there were enough paintings, holy pictures, pictures of Our Lady and oil for those who visited this Marian Sanctuary. Above all he would watch and write about the pilgrimages which were held in Her honour in Rabat.

When he get old and his health began to deteriorate, making it difficult for him to carry out his pastoral duties, he would still involve himself in the activities that took place in the church and till his strength permitted he would also join his brothers in prayer and at meal time.

He had a strong character and was a very determined person. He used to try and do everything to perfection even in his old age. Finally on the 18th April 2013, he passed to eternal rest at the venerable age of 97. His funeral was held 2 days later, in the church of Our Lady of the Cave in Rabat. Many relatives and friends attended to pay their last respects. Many of his Dominican brothers celebrated together with the Provincial in whose homily mentioned Fr



Fr Mikiel Fsadni OP and one of his publications



Prof. Godfrey Wettinger and the image of Our Lady of the Cave in Rabat (courtesy of Wikipedia)



Mikiel's work and the wonderful qualities that used to flourish out of this man. He is buried in the tombs of the Dominican Friars in Santa Maria Addolorata Cemetery in Paola.

Here we will take a brief look at his publications:

- 1949 - *Motto Veritas*
Ir-Ruzarju
 1950 - *Santa Katarina ta' Siena u Santa Tereza tal-Bambin Gesu*
Ir-Ruzarju I
 1951 - *Il-Htiega tal-hajja Spiritwali ta' zminijietna*
Ir-Ruzarju II
 1952 - *Kif Alla jinsab fil-hlejjaq*
Ir-Ruzarju III
 Il-Ghamara tat-Trinita Mqaddsa fl-erwieh twajba
Ir-Ruzarju IV
 1953 - *Kif ir-ruh tasal ghal-kontemplazzjoni tat-Trinita Mqaddsa*

- Ir-Ruzarju V*
 1956 - *Zghurija Spiritwali fil-Vangelu*
 1964 - *Sitt Apostrofi lill-Alla*
 1965 - *Il-Migja u l-Hidma ta' l-ewwel Dumnikani F'Malta 1450 - 1512*
 1966 - *Sinjur Alla inti hawn u jiena fik*
 1967 - *Il-Harsien tal-kotba mis-susa. Militia Christi*
 1968 - *Peter Caxaro Cantilena a poem in Medieval Maltese with G. Wettinger.*
 1971 - *The Fourth Century of St Mary of Porto Salvo I*
Harsa Storika lejn il-Parrocca ta' Portu Salvo
Il-Pujinieri tal-Ordni Dumnikan fil-Belt
Il-Parrocca tal-Portu Salvo taghlaq 400 sena Id-Dumnikani fil-Belt - 1569 - 1619.
 1972 - *Grappa ta' Erba daqqaqa fil-Milied tas-sena 1603*
 1974 - *Id-Dumnikani fir-Rabat u fil-Birgu sal-1620*
 1977 - *Id-Dumnikani fiz-zmien il-Gwerra 1939 - 1945*
 1978 - *Il-450 sena tad-Dumnikani fil-Birgu*

- It-Torca 13/8/1978*
 1980 - *Il-Madonna tal-Ghar*
Il-Kunvent u s-Santwarju
 1983 - *L-Ghanja ta' Pietru Caxaro*
 1990 - *Il-Girma Wirt Arkittetoniku u Etniku Malti*
 1993 - *The Dominicans in Birgu a Maltese Maritime City*
 1995 - *Dun Gorg Preca f'unjoni kontemplattiva ma' Alla*
 2003 - *Dumnikani Maltin maghrufa 1450 - 2003*
Tifkiriet Bibliografici

In addition he also wrote many articles. As Maltese we should pray for his soul and be grateful for everything that he did mostly through his writings and by his good example. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

Fr. Hermann Duncan is a Carmelite Friar at the Carmelite Priory in Balluta