



## 'JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH'

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph!" I cried as I was thrown across my cabin whilst preparing to disembark from the 'River Countess' in Venice in June. Together with some one hundred and twenty folk I had enjoyed a tour of Northern Italy by sea, river and land. Unbeknown to me and others below deck the large cruise ship 'MSC Opera', that was trying to moor near our ship, lost control after a steel cable that tied it to a tugboat snapped. This meant everything in the cabin and elsewhere that was not a fixture was quickly on the move, including me. Thanks be to the Holy Family I was able to avoid flying drawers, open doors, bedding, tables and chairs and light fittings as I sought to find the door and safety. On reaching the upper deck we remaining thirty passengers and crew were gathered together to be accounted for and given medical assistance if needed. Fortunately, I was okay and so able to be with others who were distressed and shocked.

Up to this point, others were not aware of my priestly ministry but this soon became obvious as I began to assist my fellow travellers. I accompanied three couples in a water ambulance to a hospital and remained with them until we were discharged. We were thankful our luggage was waiting for us on our return, as well as a great meal and lovely hotel overlooking the canals.

È scontro aperto tra il sindaco di Venezia Luigi Brugnaro e il ministro dei Trasporti e delle Infrastrutture Danilo Toninelli. Ieri, dopo l'incidente a San Basilio, il Comitato per l'ordine e la sicurezza ha approvato un documento favorevole alla scelta del canale Vittorio Emanuele per le grandi navi. Una decisione in linea con il Comitato e con Ca' Farsetti. Il ministro Toninelli però, non vuole sentire parlare di Marghera e propone altre soluzioni. Da qui lo sfogo di Luigi Brugnaro. «Basta - sbotta il sindaco - il ministro da tempo bloccato tutto, non si può continuare così».

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**L'attesa**  
«L'urlo delle sirene poi l'impatto»  
Il panico sulla Msc

Sbarcando, con forti ritardi, i passeggeri hanno rievocato lo scontro e la paura. Hanno elogiato l'assistenza ricevuta a bordo ma hanno criticato i tempi d'attesa.

Cera a pagina IV

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**La politica**  
Il Pd: riunire subito il Comitato  
La Lega: il piano c'è

Il Pd chiede subito la convocazione del Comitato, la Lega replica: «C'è un piano pronto da mesi, ma il Mit lo tiene bloccato»

Borzomi a pagina VI

LA GRANDE PAURA La Msc Opera ja centrato una nave fluviale ormeggiata sulla banchina di San Basilio

**«Due violenti boati e a bordo il terrore»**  
«Abbiamo sentito nettamente due boati, il secondo fortissimo. Quella nave si avvicinava sempre di più alla nostra...». I racconti delle turiste ferite sono tutti simili: i boati, lo schianto, il terrore a bordo.

alle pagine II e III

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**L'allarme**  
«C'è stata una perdita ai comandi»

Il comandante del battello ha mollato gli ormeggi a poppa, permettendo così di «scodare» ed evitare di rimanere intrappolato contro la banchina. Quello della Msc Opera, invece, ha coordinato le operazioni cercando di evitare l'impatto seguendo passo passo le procedure. Nell'incidente di San Basilio, almeno, non ci sono stati "inchini" o "abbandonare la nave" di schettiniana memoria.

Tamiello a pagina III

The next morning I headed off to Rome where I needed to rest after the trauma of the collision, before joining the Cathedral Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. God bless the Columban Fathers for their care and hospitality.

Having been offered a ticket to the weekly Papal Audience I headed off to the colonnade and joined the crowd. Much to my surprise and joy, the ticket gave me entry into one section, then another and then another, until I was in a reserved spot some thirty feet from the Papal dais. Lo and behold, I was privileged to meet Pope Francis. I was so overwhelmed that I could hardly speak, let alone hear him. He gave me a blessing and a pair of Rosary Beads.



That is the second ship collision in which yours truly has been involved and survived. That story is for another time. They say things go in 'threes' so I had better remain on "*terra firma*". I don't want to ask too much of my good friends, 'Jesus, Mary and Joseph'.

*Fr Tom Brophy*