



*La porta del terzo millennio during construction*

# Gabriel Caruana's Gate to the Third Millennium

An ambitious project by Maltese sculptor-ceramist Gabriel Caruana (b.1929) has recently been inaugurated in Cervara di Roma in Italy.

The project consists of a gate called by the artist *porta del terzo millennio* using wood and travertino stone from Estrada di Bagni in Tivoli. The gate, over five metres high and three metres and a half wide, is situated at the very entrance to the city in Via Santa Maria.

Cervara is some 70 kilometres from the centre of Rome, high up on the hills. It is close to Subiaco, a city that was completely destroyed in the last Great War. Cervara di Roma is built within the mountain caverns, and its narrow streets and flight of steps lead you to a magnificent, breathtaking panoramic view point.

Cervara is known today for an ambitious cultural project. Its people made it a mecca for poets and artists from all corners of the world who have been invited to turn Cervara into a living museum in the open air. Human figures can be seen carved in the living rock and entire poems are scratched on the walls. Cervara is now known as the *montagna d'Europa*

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**Joseph Paul Cassar**

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*per la pace nel mondo.*

Gabriel Caruana has been visiting the town for the last five years. He is greatly respected and his works are represented in the permanent collection of the town.

The gate consists of two pillars carved with Christian symbols and Gabriel's typical iconography on which the Latin words *Secundo Millenio Adveniente* are inscribed. A prayer by Fr George Ebejer is also carved in the white rock and it reads: "More Prayer, more love of God, more love for each other". At the base, a wheel of one and a half metres in diameter represents the passing of time. The wheel also resembles very much the shield of a warrior, which protects him from evil and harm.

In the execution of this monumental work, Gabriel was assisted by Italian sculptor Fabio Piscopo.

On a smaller scale but still very significant, Gabriel

Caruana has a monument placed at the University of Malta, commemorating 10 years of dedicated service to the rule of International Maritime Law by the International Maritime Law Institute.

The monument consists of hard stone and three blue ceramic sculptures that echo the different blues, greens and browns of the ocean floor. Last December, Gabriel Caruana was awarded the national order of merit, in recognition of:

"A respected name in the local art scene, he is considered a pioneer of the modern abstract idiom in Malta and is the leading Maltese ceramist. Having also exhibited in numerous centres in Italy and Britain he enjoys an international reputation in the medium. A valid contributor within the wider Mediterranean cultural context, his status makes him a worthy ambassador of our island's contemporary artistic heritage. He started the first art gallery of modern and abstract art in the improvised exhibition space at *Il-Mithna ta' Genu* in Birkirkara. He is the mentor of many ceramists who are or were his students or were directly influenced by him."