



MISSIONARY OF THE HOLY FACE

BLESSED MARIA PIERINA DE MICHELI

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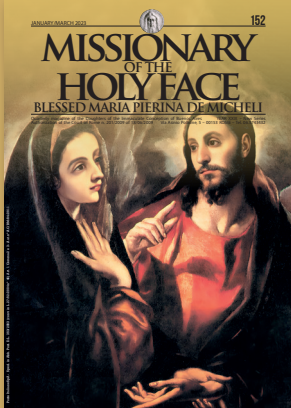
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The Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus, which this year took place on 21 February, always has a privileged place among the Daughters of the Immaculate Conception of Buenos Aires and those devoted to Blessed Maria Pierina De Micheli. There is no doubt that it is a feast that is particularly important for those who wish to follow the charism left to us by the Blessed Mother, that is, that invitation to make reparations, to contemplate and adore that Face disfigured by the wounds of His Passion.

Let us remember what Mather Maria Pierina wrote to Pius XII, regarding this revelation: "On 31 May 1938, as I was praying in the small chapel of my novitiate, a Beautiful Woman appeared to me: in her hand she held a scapular consisting of two small white pieces of cloth, joined by a cord. One cloth bore the image of the Holy Face of Jesus, the other a Host surrounded by rays. She drew near to me and said: 'Listen carefully and report everything precisely to the father. This scapular is a weapon of defense, a shield of fortitude, a token of the love and mercy that Jesus wants to give to the world in these times of sensuality and hatred of God and the Church. Diabolical nets are being spread to tear the faith from hearts, evil is spreading and there are few true apostles. A divine remedy is needed and this remedy is the Holy Face of Jesus. All those who will wear a scapular like this one and, if they can, will visit the Most Holy Sacrament every Tuesday to make reparation for the insults received by His Holy Face during His Passion and received daily in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, will be strengthened in their faith, ready to defend it and to overcome any internal and external difficulty, and furthermore they will have a peaceful death under the loving gaze of my Divine Son'."

These then, are the promises of the Holy Face to His adorers, according to what was confided by Jesus to the Blessed Mother. These promises can therefore be within reach of us all, as receivers and beneficiaries.

Let us retrace some of the history of devotion to the Holy Face and of the benefits linked to it. We have to go back to the 13th century when Innocent III, who was Pope from 1198 to 1216, wrote a prayer that was linked to an indulgence that was recited before the Holy Face, worshipped in Saint Peter's Basilica: "O God, who has marked us with the light of Thy Face as your memorial, and at the request of Veronica, left us Thy Image imprinted on the sudarium; by your passion and death, grant to us that by adoring, venerating and honouring you, in mystery and as through a mirror on earth, we may be able to certainly see you, face to face, when you come as our judge."

In the 19th century, the Discalced Carmelite, Marie de Saint-Pierre et de la Sainte Famille - Saint Mary of Peter - (1816-1848) of the Convent of Tours, France, fostered devotion to the Holy Face. Starting from 1843, she received from Jesus some promises linked to the Holy Face: "By my Holy Face, they will work wonders... and the conversion of many sinners will be obtained; By offering My Face to My Eternal Father, nothing will be refused". On another occasion, Jesus said to her: "I seek Veronicas to wipe and honour My Divine Face which has few adorers".

The heavenly messages invited her to make reparation for the insults made to Christ: she had to encourage devotion to the Holy Name of God, to the Infancy of Jesus and to His Holy Face disfigured and abused in the Passion. After the death of Sister Marie de Saint-Pierre, Venerable Léon Dupont (1797-1876) continued her mission, spreading devotion to the Holy Face in a spirit of reparation. His apostolate began during Holy Week in 1851, when on Palm Sunday, the Prioress of the Carmel gave him a copy of the Holy Face, a reproduction of the "Veronica" (the true image) which was venerated in Saint Peter's Basilica, at the time. He displayed it in his living room and lit a small lamp beside it. On Holy Saturday, Dupont was visited by a woman who was suffering from eye pain. He prayed with her before the Holy Face and suggested that she put some oil from the lamp on her eyes. The woman's eyes ceased to hurt. This was the first healing, which was followed by many others among those who visited the "holy man of Tours" to pray before the Holy Face in a spirit of reparation and love.

Venerable Léon printed and distributed a large number of images with the following prayer on it: "O adorable Face of my Jesus, so pitifully turned towards us from the wood of the cross; like then today too, stoop towards us poor sinners, turn a compassionate gaze on us and hold us tight in your kiss of peace".

The Editorial Staff

SUMMARY

THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

The following is a homily by Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, Major Penitentiary, given on Tuesday afternoon, 21 February 2023, in the chapel of the Institute of the Holy Spirit on the Aventine, on the occasion of the Feast of the Holy Face.

To look at Christ, at his Holy Face, to follow Christ, to love Christ in everything is what should be recognised as the main characteristic of our daily journey and of our itinerary of life down here.

Today's celebration in this place, in this chapel that still

has the scent of Mother Pierina's dialogues with her Jesus, a chapel that hosts her venerated remains that spur us to emulation and





makes us savour the fact that we are here, together, to remember, to meditate and to pray.

Mother Pierina in front of the Holy Face is a humble and effective reminder of a desire for adoration, of sacred silence and a call to the awareness that silence means listening, it means opening the ears of our hearts; the silence that listens, that desires life from “Another”, if it enters our life, if we make room in our life, in our time, in the things we have to do, in our worries, in the joys and in the suffering of life, of all life; the silence that permeates life even just a little, becomes the main road through which all of life enters silence, that is, it enters into listening, stooping down to ask for and welcome life, becoming humble and passionate reparation, a reparation that constitutes

another fundamental and unfortunately often forgotten dimension to consider. A reparation that is also an important aspect of devotion to the Holy Face.

Let us especially ask the Immaculate, to whom your Congregation is dedicated, for this true silence, this authentic desire, because her heart was free from any stain of sin. Mary’s heart lived this desire always, in everything.

It was spontaneous for her to ask for everything, even without words, because the desire for life, was the constant beat of her Immaculate Heart.

In order to create within us a silence that asks, after all, even just a single instant of awareness of our distraction suffices, of our superficiality, whether it is an instant of suffering, of humiliation, like when Martha heard Jesus reprimand her for having too much “noise” and too much anxiety within her.

Here: this is the point! And here we cannot fail to turn our mind to the highly profound passage in the Gospel of Saint Luke (10:41–42) which tells of Jesus in Bethany. And this is what I thought of sharing with you tonight, as I meditated this morning.

We lack silence, listening, desiring, when we are dominated within by the presumption of already knowing what is needed, the presumption of already living what is necessary, what suffices for us, what suffices for me and for everyone, or perhaps for me without everyone, or for everyone without me.

If at the last breath of our earthly time, if at the end of times, Christ will ask us to account for what we have done or not done to one of the least of our brothers, if even our hair is all numbered, if not even the gift of a glass of water will be forgotten in heaven, if every word that we utter will be judged, well, then not even we can be silent, forgetting life. But life, even anxious life, even disorderly life, enters into silence

when it listens to what is needed, when it allows itself to be told like Martha that day, that only “one thing is needful”, that there is only “one good portion” that will never be taken away: “Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her” (Lk 10:41-42).

I think that we should live the silence of being before the Holy Face as Blessed Maria did, at least as a desire, as an intention like when Martha after Jesus’ reprimand stayed there, without saying anything, struck and wounded by those words. And so, she returned to the hearth, to the food she was cooking. She did not return brow beaten. Jesus never beats anyone. Jesus proclaims, Jesus teaches, Jesus reveals Himself and by revealing Himself, He reveals us to

ourselves. Martha returned to the kitchen certainly hurt, but she immediately felt within her that that hurt was good for her. It was as if it had lanced an abscess. There was something wrong, chaotic in her that had led her to be angry even at Jesus, something she would never have wanted to do or imagined doing before that evening. That wound was good for her, it lanced an abscess, it cleansed an infection that was poisoning her heart, life and relationships themselves. That wound was good for her.

Let us seek it, let us allow Martha’s silence to enter in us, Martha’s listening, the “good portion” that that evening Martha had chosen too, perhaps at first with sadness. But she remains silent. And she allows Jesus’ words to work in her, to work within her, like a plow that makes the soil of our heart fertile, capable of welcoming the seed, capable of bearing fruit.

We need this silence of Martha and not just individually but also as a Church. We need it so that our life and the life of the ecclesial community may become fruitful, fruitful with what Christ says, the need for what Christ wants, for what Christ, the Word of God is! We need



Martha's silence to fully welcome the presence of Christ who has reached us to the point of being there, seated in our house speaking and waiting to dine with us, waiting to share with us the food that we are making for Him because He is our friend, He loves us so much, He appreciates our company so much that He even chose our home, our life, our heart, as a place to rest during His mission of salvation of the entire world, during the time of His coming from the Father and returning to the Father, making Himself man to redeem all of humanity! He comes to rest in my home! Do you understand what a great thing this is? How incredible this is?

That evening, what happened, what Jesus said and revealed was not a simple exchange of words between Him and Martha. Their exchange became the Gospel because it is a matter that regards us all and that immediately touched and involved all those who were present that evening in Martha's



house. We can be certain that for all three siblings, that evening there was an encounter with Christ that gave new meaning to their life together. Let us make it so that this evening it may also happen among us, brothers and sisters, in the house of our sister Pierina who experienced a heart to heart with Jesus, with the priestly Heart of Jesus!

Going back to the Gospel passage of Bethany, we note that following Jesus' correction of Martha, Lazarus and Mary also remained in adoring silence. Silence! They too listened and meditated. Because what Jesus said to Martha, that He was the only reality necessary, the only thing needed, was a thing that was too big, too important: it could not pertain only to Martha! Each of them meditated, even Mary who had been praised by Jesus and could feel at peace.

Lazarus and Mary surely asked themselves: "What about me? Do I truly live the encounter with Jesus, recognizing that He is the only answer necessary to my need for happiness, peace, fraternity, beauty and fulfillment in life? Is it true or not for me that He is everything, that He is the good portion?"

The Lenten Season is a favorable time to seek to answer this fundamental question.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE MILAN

*Day of Adoration and Reparation -- Institute of the Immaculate Conception -- Milan
(11 September 2022 – Feast of Blessed Maria Pierina De Micheli)*



“I want my Face that reflects the intimate suffering of my soul and the love and suffering of my heart, to be more honoured. Who contemplates me, who consoles me?” In this way, Jesus asked Mother Pierina for our prayers, in a spirit of adoration, reparation and consolation.

For this reason, celebrating the feast of our dear Blessed Mother on 11 September 2022, Mother Maria Pierina De Micheli, who was born in this city, Milan, and consecrated among the Daughters of the Immaculate Conception of Buenos Aires, we wished to honour her liturgical memory with a day dedicated entirely to prayer.

A few days earlier, the sisters of the Community and the collaborators of the FIC gathered together to pray and make plans for this spiritual day. They worked with great joy in the preparation of medals, linked to a thought of Mother Pie-





to remembering Mother Pierina, to honouring the Divine Face and to entrusting ourselves completely to the Immaculate Conception.

At around 9 am, the Most Blessed Sacrament was displayed. The chapel of the Community was beautifully decorated and filled with people who had arrived in succession to pray together. Mario Granata SDB was available for confession the whole day. He himself invited people to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation with these words: “True peace can only be found when we are reconciled with God”. It was beautiful to see people form ques for Mass to seek that peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, while another group stayed in the Chapel to adore the Lord.

At midmorning, we recited the Rosary together and meditated on

rina, that would be given to the pilgrims. The Collaborators had met one day earlier to prepare “the house” to welcome all those who would be participating.

The invitations were sent and, to our great surprise, many people came to share this day dedicated





the mysteries in which we can see the action of the Holy Spirit, and on some of Mother Pierina's words referring to Him.

At midday, we continued to take turns in the adoration and all the pilgrims went to share lunch. It was a joyful and relaxing time.

At 3:00 pm we prayed together the Prayer to the Divine Face and then we stayed in silence until the time of our adoration. The priest imparted the blessing with the Most Holy Sacrament and then we got ready to celebrate Holy Mass in the school courtyard since, thanks to God, we were many which made it necessary to celebrate Mass in a larger space.

Around 4 pm the

Eucharist was celebrated, presided by Mario Granata and concelebrated by Father Michele, our chaplain, Father Matteo, parish priest of Jesus the Good Shepherd, Father Domenico, parish priest of San Pietro in Sala and Father Abramo.

It was especially beautiful to see the arrival of some teachers, families and former students of the school, a real feast! During the homily, Father highlighted the importance of a true and profound gaze, explaining that Mother Pierina had allowed herself to be captured by the Face and by the gaze of Jesus, that led her directly to loving His Heart.

At the end of Mass, a large image of Mother Pierina was blessed. It was placed in the school courtyard. A beautiful cross which was restored by the FIC collaborators was also blessed. It is a cross without nails but with holes, the history of which tells us that our Blessed Mother had a very special spiritual experience when she felt that Jesus had one of His arms outstretched to embrace her.

Beautiful hymns accompanied us both in the Chapel and during Mass, helping us to pray better, and to lift our hearts to God and humbly pray to our Lord.

At the end of the day, the Community greeted the over 800 pilgrims who had participated in this celebration throughout the day.

The community of nuns of Milan



A HEAVENLY DAY CENTONARA D'ARTO'

It is 12 June 2022,

Centonara d'Artò, a small village facing Lake Orta, where the Holy Face of Jesus radiated His light, is preparing to welcome the "Sisters" from Buenos Aires and Milan.

It is a beautiful, sunny day. Everything is ready for us to share this long-awaited and longed-for precious event together.

Here they are!

The "Daughters of the Immaculate Conception of Buenos Aires" arrive in front of the Church of Saint Mary Magdalene, along with all the collaborators and friends of the Holy Face of Jesus. They are welcomed with the hymn, "You are welcome", a composition by the Cenacle Community of Mother Elvira.

Also present, were Superior General Sister Mabel Vetti, accompanied by Sister María Laura and Sister Andrea; the Sisters of the "Immaculate

Conception" Institute of Milan: Sister Maria Giuliana, Sister Maria Giustina and Sister Maria Bruna.

To write about that day means to read into the heart because every moment is embedded there; it means to speak about Love, Friendship, of Faith, Prayer, Spirituality and Union. After the festive greeting at the beginning, we journey along the slope of Centonara to go to the small Crypt that hosted the remains of Blessed Maria Pierina until 2007.

We thus begin our heavenly day with prayer.

In that enveloping silence, one seems to sense the maternal embrace between the Blessed Mother and her sisters. How moving to receive that confidential greeting exchanged in the very gaze of their Spouse Jesus!

It is the Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity.

It is a Sunday, the day of the Lord, that has





brought together many people joined in their love for Jesus and for Blessed Mother Maria Pierina De Micheli.

It is impossible to describe our joy for their presence in our midst, that true joy that arises from the presence of God and that fills our hearts.

We thought about the Blessed Mother, as well as Mother Eufrasia, Mother Estanislada and their other Sisters, pleased to pray with us from Heaven...

In the garden in front of the Crypt, we take some photographs together and shortly thereafter, we enter through the main door of the "House of the Holy Face".

Our hearts still vibrate at the memory of that moment when, with your Sisters dear Mother Pierina, we looked at the Holy Face that you loved so dearly and that on your death bed called you to Him. The faces of the Sisters were enlightened by the grace that was present in that place. We could see expressions of gratitude, confidence and trust on their faces...

Suddenly, that sweet hymn bursts in, which from your room, undoubtedly reached the heavens:

"Nadie me da un beso de amor en el Rostro para reparar el beso de Judas...?"

Y la niña dice : "Ten paciencia! Te doy Yo, Jesús, el beso de amor."

"Does no one give me a kiss of love on the Face in reparation for Judas' kiss...?"

And the girl says: "Be patient! I will give you one O Jesus, a kiss of love".

It is impossible to hold back the tears; so much grace!

Gazes that are profoundly absorbed in prayer, in contemplation of that adorable Face...

Bright gazes that seek each other out, wishing to share all the grace of that moment without the need for words.

The Holy Spirit has descended on us all filling our hearts with His presence...

The day continues with a visit to the evocative Shrine of Our Lady of Sasso, a place that Blessed Mother Pierina De Micheli often visited on foot along with her sisters, to pray and contemplate the beauty of creation.

From the large square across the Shrine, one can enjoy a show of rare beauty over the entire Lake Orta, with the island of Saint Giulio, its precious pearl, in its midst.

After nourishing the soul and the Spirit, with many irrepressible emotions after the next, we feel the need to also nourish our bodies;





And so, he have lunch all together at “Bianconiglio” Restaurant. The lunch was a beautiful opportunity to share, during which we were able to swap life stories, share witnesses and form friendships.

All for the Glory of His Holy Face...

In the afternoon, we returned to Centonara. It was time for the most important moment of the day: Holy Mass.

Our souls were fervent and desired to unite with the Divine Spouse. We first recited the Holy Rosary to prepare ourselves for the encounter with Jesus; This was followed at 3 pm by the Eucharistic celebration enriched by hymns and solemn gestures.

The enflamed words we listened to during the homily of the celebrating priest, Father Sal-

vatore Maniscalco, and the concluding message by Mother General Sister Mabel Vetti, lifted our spirits and encouraged us to spread devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus.

All of us can state that on that day, 12 June 2022, Solemnity of the Most Blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit descended upon all those present, opening wide our hearts to the immense love for Jesus and His Holy Face, through Blessed Mother Pierina de Micheli; granting us the grace to be able to experience a HEAVENLY DAY.

“May God the Father and his Only Begotten Son of God and the Holy Spirit be blessed because great is His love for us”.

Michela Martani, Roberta Sacco, Denis Valeri





FEAST OF THE HOLY FACE GUANZATE



FOUR NEW CONSECRATIONS TO THE HOLY FACE

After the two-year break caused by the Covid 19 pandemic, on Thursday, 22 September, in the chapel of the Holy Spirit Institute of the Daughters of the Immaculate Conception of Buenos Aires, where the remains of Blessed Maria Pierina De Micheli lie, Holy Mass, presided by Father John Kumar was celebrated for the renewal of the consecration of Giampaolo and Gianluca and the first consecration of Antonella, Marina, Laura and Mariela. During the homily, the celebrant offered much inspiration for reflection, inviting each of us to be apostles of the Holy Face in our condition in life, in our workplaces and in the family and to thank him for the gift of our consecration to Him, which today solemnly and in complete freedom, but with consciousness, we pronounced in front of the altar during the Eucharist and in front of the priest. Due to a “God-incidence”, on this working day of the 25th week of Ordinary Time, we recalled the 275th anniversary of the beatification of Saint Girolamo Miani, Founder of the Somascan community in Rome’s Aventine Hill, to which Father John Kumar belongs. The priest’s prayer over the newly consecrated via the imposition of the hands, after having imposed on them the medals of the Holy Face, was moving.

At the end of the celebration, the newly consecrated went to the tomb of the Blessed Mother for a moment of personal prayer and the signing of the consecration on the designated card prepared for the occasion. I wish to offer my great gratitude to Sr Natalina, Superior of the House, for welcoming us and for her availability that distinguishes her, as well as to all

the sisters present for having participated and animated the celebration with hymns. I address a sincere grateful thanks to dear Father John, a friend and a very important reference point for us and for our group, for his availability despite his many commitments. A welcome and safe journey to Antonella, Marina, Laura and Mariela, who along with me and Gianluca and many others, join the group of the Apostles of the Holy Face. Let us invoke upon us and the entire world, the intercession of Jesus, of the Mother of Mercy and of Blessed Mother Pierina. May the invocation “Holy Face of Jesus, look upon us with mercy”, be on our lips every day but especially in our hearts.

Giampaolo Caracciolo



