

SHORT PRAYER TO OFFER THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS TO THE FATHER

Eternal Father, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, I offer you the Holy Face of Jesus...

... In the enchanting beauty of His Divine Infancy,
... In His youth, zealous for His Fathers glory,
... In the beauty of His manhood,
... In the extreme sorrowfulness of His sufferings and death,
... In the glory of His Resurrection and Ascension,
... And hidden in the Eucharist for [mention your special intention]

REFERENCES

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ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS AND OF THE HOLY FACE

"The greatest Saint of modern times" Pope St. Pius X



At the beatification process of St. Theresa, Mother Agnes testified:
"Devotion to the Holy Face was the Servant of God's special attraction. As tender as was her devotion to the Child Jesus, it cannot be compared to her devotion to the Holy Face."

Three years before entering the Carmelites St. Theresa, together with her whole family, registered as members of the Archconfraternity of Reparation to the Holy Face at Tours, France. St. Theresa had such love for Sister Mary of St. Peter, through whom our Lord gave us this devotion, that she wore a relic of her hair, and carried her picture in her New Testament which she kept close to her heart.

Although St. Theresa is known with the added title “of the Child Jesus”, it was on the day that she received the Habit that she herself added the title “and of the Holy Face”. It is known that it was her older sister, her “little Mother” Pauline (Mother Agnes of Jesus) who introduced St. Theresa to this devotion. We read this in St. Theresa’s own words in “Story Of A Soul”, page 152:

“The little flower transplanted to Mt. Carmel was to expand under the shadow of the cross. The tears and blood of Jesus were to be her dew, and her sun was His adorable Face veiled with tears. Until my coming to Carmel, I had never fathomed the depths of the treasures hidden in the Holy Face. It was through you, dear Mother, that I learned to know these treasures. Just as formerly you had preceded us to Carmel, so also you were the first to enter deeply into the mysteries of love hidden in the Face of our Spouse. You called me and I understood. I understood what REAL GLORY was. He whose Kingdom is not of this world showed me that truth wisdom consists in “desiring to be unknown and counted as nothing,” in “placing one’s joy in the contempt of self.” Ah! I desired that, like the Face of Jesus, “my face be truly hidden, that no one on earth would know me.” (Isaias 53:3) I thirsted after suffering and I longed to be forgotten.”

While lying sick in the infirmary on August 5, 1897, with the picture of the Holy Face hung upon the curtains of her bed, St. Theresa said to Mother Agnes: “These words of Isaias: “Who has believed our report?...There is no beauty in Him, no comeliness, etc.,” have made the whole foundation of my devotion to the Holy Face, or to express it better, the foundation of all my piety.” (See Is. 53:1-3 & 63:1-3)

And earlier on the same day she said:

“How well Our Lord did lower His eyes when He gave us His portrait! Since the eyes are the mirror of the soul, if we had seen His soul, we would have died from joy. Oh how much good that Holy Face has done in my life!”

PRAYER OF ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS AND OF THE HOLY FACE TO THE HOLY FACE

O Jesus, who in Thy bitter Passion didst become “the most abject of men, a man of sorrows”, I venerate Thy Sacred Face whereon there once did shine the beauty and sweetness of the Godhead; but now it has become for me as if it were the face of a leper! Nevertheless, under those disfigured feature, I recognize Thy infinite Love and I am consumed with the desire to love Thee and make Thee loved by all men. The tears that thou hast shed so abundantly appear to me as so many precious pearls that I Love together up, in order to purchase the souls of poor sinners by means of their infinite value. O Jesus, whose adorable Face ravishes my heart, I implore Thee to fix deep within me Thy divine Image, to set me on fire with Thy Love, and to make me worthy to contemplate in Heaven Thy glorious Face. Amen.

THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS WHICH APPEARS ON THE BROCHURE FOR DEVOTION TO THE HOLY FACE

When the Holy Father, Pope Pius IX, fled to Gaeta in 1849 during a revolution which threatened Catholic France and Rome itself, he ordered public prayers to be offered in all of the churches of Rome to implore God's mercy on the Papal States. Complying with this, a three-day exposition of the Relic of Veronica's Veil was held for public veneration at St. Peter's Basilica. (Veronica was a holy woman who wiped the Face of Jesus with her veil as He carried His Cross to Calvary, and miraculously the image of His Face appeared on her veil.) On the 3rd day of the showing a miracle occurred. The Canons of the Basilica and a number of the faithful who were praying there noticed a remarkable change on the Veil of the Holy Face, the impression of which was so faint as to be scarcely visible. "Through another veil of silk which covers the true Relic of Veronica's Veil the Divine Face appeared distinctly, as if living, and was illumined by a soft light; the features assumed a deathlike hue, and the eyes, deep sunken, wore an expression of great pain." The Canons immediately ordered the bells to be rung, attracting crowds of people who witnessed the three-hour manifestation. And apostolic notary was called in and composed the document that testified to the fact.

That same evening copies of the effigy were made and touched to the veil, and later sent abroad. Two of these pictures of the Holy Face were sent by the Carmelite sisters in Tours, France, to Leo Dupont. After the death of Sister Mary of St. Peter, to whom Our Lord had revealed the devotion of Reparation to His Holy Face, it was Leo Dupont who continued to promote this devotion to the end of his life. Leo hung one of these pictures in his parlor, and placed a crystal oil lamp before it which he burned continuously as a mark of his reverence, veneration, and love. A few days later on Holy Saturday, the first miracle occurred. A woman afflicted with fiery pain in her eyes prayed with Leo Dupont to the Holy Face of Jesus and anointed her eyes with a little of the oil from the lamp. She was instantly cured. The oil had no curative powers. The anointing simply expressed exterior faith and was active piety.

Within several weeks twenty more persons had been relieved of serious illnesses, cured instantly the same way. They all knew that the anointing's and prayers were to conclude with Confession and Holy Communion. The miracles continued for 30 years! They became so numerous that Pope Pius IX declared Leo Dupont to be perhaps the greatest miracle worker and Church history. The prayers that were said before this sorrowful picture of Jesus are the prayers in the brochure -- the "Golden Arrow" prayer and the Litany of the Holy Face.