

covering the eyes of the Crucified Christ. These were placed on the eyelids to keep them closed, which was a common burial practice in the first half of the first century in Judea. Professor Filas, using slide enlargements, discovered on the right eye a Pontius Pilate coin minted in Palestine between the years 29 and 32 A.D. Dr. Whanger corroborated the work of Professor Filas and discovered on the left eye a Pontius Pilate lepton, struck only in the year 29 A.D.

• Dr. Max Frei, a criminologist, botanist and pollen expert, after exhaustively testing the microscopic pollen grains imbedded in the fabric, declared that fifty-six varieties of pollen were found on the cloth. He determined that some were at least five hundred years old. It was his opinion that the cloth is approximately two thousand years old and came from the area of Palestine.

• The Images on the Holy Shroud are “consistent with medical and pathological knowledge, with Roman practices, with Jewish ritual, with history, and with the Bible.”

• No other “photograph” exists revealing the inhuman barbarity of death by crucifixion, and no other crucified has, in recorded history, been given a crown of thorns, in hateful mockery of His Divine Kingship, save Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

God, in establishing the conditions of our salvation, had determined that the price to be paid for our redemp-

tion should be nothing less than His bloody Sacrifice on the Cross.

All of the acts of Our Lord’s life were bound up with His death, “*for this I came, for this I die,*” forming with it the complete price of our redemption. “Priest as He was, and entirely and only a Priest,” His every action from the first moment of His existence was colored by His future Sacrifice. The whole of His life on earth was ordained to the consummation of the Sacrifice of the Cross. His life was beautiful beyond description; all is encompassed in a sublime grandeur and a divine loveliness when viewed in the luminous reflection of the shower of graces which fall from Mount Calvary.

The key to the life of Our Lord may be summarized in the words of Saint Paul: “*Sacrifice and oblation thou wouldst not: but a body thou hast fitted to me: Holocausts for sin did not please Thee. Then said I; Behold I come.*”

The Man of the Shroud, the Incarnate God, has taken the place of the world’s rejected sacrifices and has become Himself the one true Sacrifice for sinful mankind:

“He saw from the first earth covered with sin, and with sinners who stood desperately in need of a ‘deluge of blood’ to wash away their offenses. He saw that this great work was reserved for Him alone. He accepted and adored the designs of His Father in His vocation. He accepted the reasons

why He was sent on earth, the work and mysteries which He must accomplish, the abasement in which He must live, the Cross on which He must die. And He gloriously offers Himself a perpetual Victim, for the great glory of His Father, for the wiping out of sin, and for the salvation of men.”

Conclusion

And so, dear Reader:

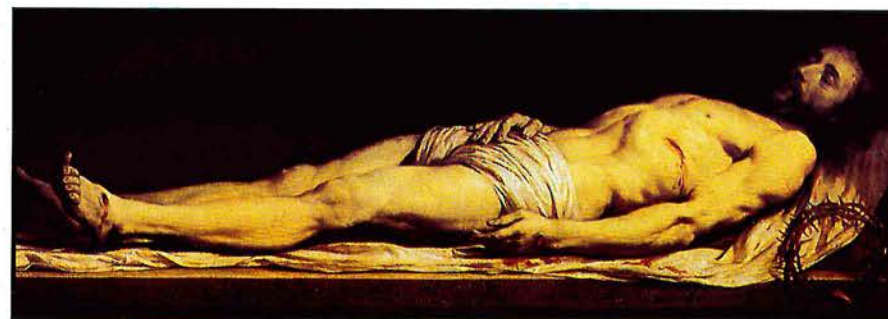
- Know nothing save that Jesus Christ is Almighty God.
- Realize nothing save that Our Lord Jesus Christ has overcome sin, death, and Satan through His sublime death on the Cross.
- Fear nothing save that Our Lord say to you, “*Dost thou betray the Son of Man with a kiss?*”
- Learn nothing save His Divine Faith and that He is risen glorious from the dead.
- Desire nothing apart from Him and the great call to eternal beatitude.
- Do nothing which would jeopardize your union with the Glorified Christ, when in death you will embark upon the eternal years.
- And contemplate nothing save

“Jesus Christ and Him Crucified.”

“His sepulcher is truly glorious.” The glory of the great ones of this world ends in the tomb; it is in the tomb that the glory of God Incarnate begins. To profess the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is to profess that He is truly God. To profess that He is truly God is to embrace His holy religion, since the Catholic religion is wholly founded upon the Divinity of Jesus Christ, and that the Divinity of Jesus Christ has been unmistakably revealed to us through the glorious miracle of His Resurrection.

In His Passion and Death Our Lord submitted in humble and terrible atonement for the sins of those He created. The glory of Christianity is inseparable from the glory of the Cross. In the Providence of God there is no Resurrection without the Crucifixion, no Easter Sunday without Good Friday, no Infant Jesus without the Virgin Mother, and no salvation without the Savior of the world and His holy religion.

From the Holy Shroud our Crucified God, whose terrible suffering is so brutally manifested thereon, asks each: Do you not know that it was for you that I was reviled, spat upon, mocked,



scourged, condemned, cursed, and crucified? Do you not realize that you were among the number of those that put Me to death? Do you not know that in the hall of Pontius Pilate I had My eyes fixed on you — you whom I knew by name and sight before the creation of the world? It was you who fitted the nails to My hands and feet, and who plunged the spear into My side. It was you who mocked Me as My last breath was escaping from My quivering lips. All the world knows that without My Divine Faith it is impossible to please God. To all I have declared that there is no salvation without My Precious Blood. What recourse do I have in the face of a world that mocks Divine Faith and violently wars against My Blood? It is I who died for man, and it is modern man who would make of his world a colossal Golgotha. You, contemporary man, are a collaborator in the modern impiety that labors without interruption to ungod Me in My Creation, to ungod Me in My Incarnation, to ungod Me in the Sacrifice of the Mass, and to ungod Me in My heaven. You are an accomplice in the greatest crime that time and eternity could ever behold — you have crimsoned your hands in the Blood of the Savior of the world.

Do you not realize that shortly, momentarily, you will stand before the throne of judgment, “while Hell moans and Heaven weeps at the terrors of my anger?”

To a faithless, impious and turbulent generation, Our Lord has left to the world His Holy Shroud as a divine signet of His undying love for man. Look upon His Sacred Body which, in death, was filled with the horrors of sin. Look upon the terrible wages of sin which was the death of the God-Man.

No longer does the Heart throb. The countenance that was once the delight of heaven and earth, is now all bruised, disfigured and covered with Blood. The divine lips that proclaimed the law of Charity, the words of eternal life, are now silent and motionless. The Sacred Head that in Jesus' Infancy had reposed upon His Mother's breast, is now covered with a crown of thorns. The omnipotent Hands that had fashioned heaven and earth, and wrought stupendous miracles, are now rent with the Wounds of the cruel nails. The Side, the seat of the Sacred Heart, is now open from the Wound of the lance, and the Precious Blood and water trickle forth.

Behold your God “from Whom to depart is to die, to Whom to repair is to revive, in Whom to dwell is to live.”

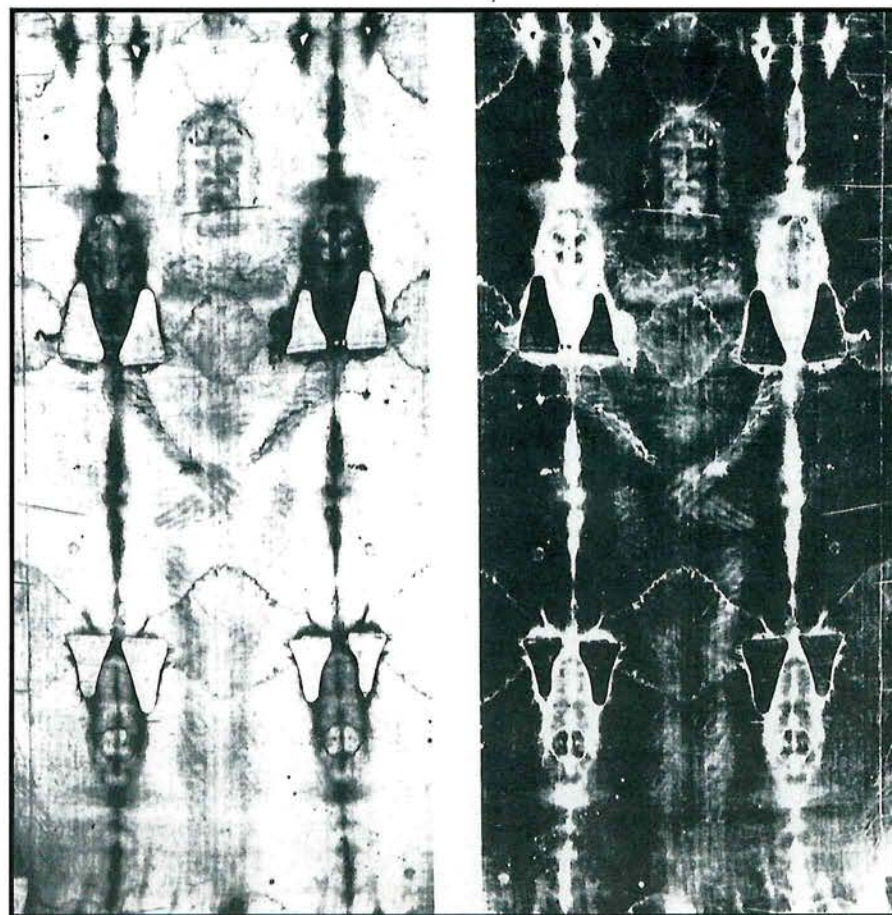
There is no greatness in this world apart from the Cross of Christ. We must not allow the cunning and cruelty of the enemies of Our Lord, the ceaseless tribulations that afflict us on all sides, and the terrible disloyalty and treachery of the modern world, to daunt our con-

stancy and courage in God's holy cause. If we are faithful to Him we must ever suffer with Him. The servant is not greater than His master, nor wiser than God himself.

If we would be faithful to Our Lord in all things, we would own that through Creation, Baptism, Grace and Providence we belong entirely to God; and as His our lives should mirror the fidelity of our hearts and ever exemplify the beauti-

ful words of Saint Robert Southwell:

“We should have no other university than Jerusalem, no other school but Mount Calvary, no other pulpit but the Cross, no other reader but the Crucifix, no other letters but His sacred wounds, no other commas but His lashes, no other periods but His nails, no other book but His open Side, and finally no other lessons but ‘to know Jesus Christ and Him Crucified’.” ✠



Positive and negative frontal images of the Shroud
(Holy Shroud Guild, 294 East 150 Street, Bronx, NY 10451)