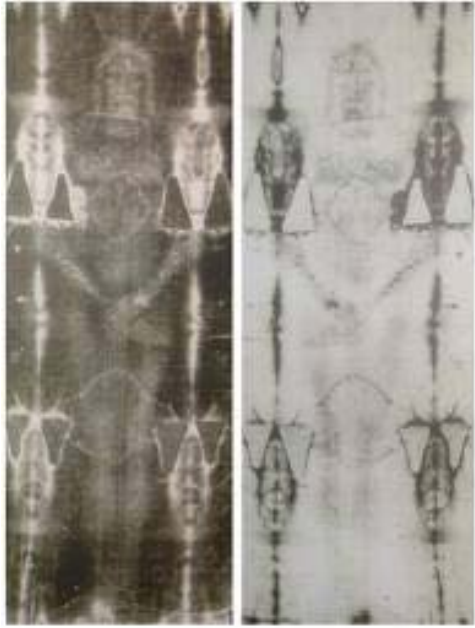


Basilica in Rome, but an excellent copy on glass is housed in this basilica in the room with the other relics of Jesus' Passion. The original Shroud is still in Turin, Italy, and the Savoy family who owned it, gave it to the Vatican in 1983.



The Shroud has a long history of being passed on from one family to another until finally in the year 1204, the Shroud disappeared. It seems to have eventually come into the hands of the Knights Templar—whose members took vows of chastity, poverty and obedience. In the 1350's one of the Knights Templar came forward with the Holy Shroud. Later in 1453, it was given to the Savoy family.

In 1464, Pope Sixtus said that the Shroud was authentic. St. Charles Borromeo viewed the Shroud in Turin, Italy in 1578. St. Francis de Sales helped to hold up the Shroud during the exposition of 1613. St. Jane de Chantal venerated the Shroud during an exposition in 1639.

In 1978, twenty of the best scientists came to Italy to do an examination of the Holy Shroud. They found that the Shroud was indeed authentic and that there was even human blood (from Jesus) on the Shroud. And what is more, the picture on the Shroud is only on the top of the fibres of the cloth, the picture of Jesus does not penetrate through the cloth!

The End



Reliquary of the True Cross

THE GUARDIAN OF CRUSADERS
Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Canada

March 2012 # 223

The Holy Cross of Jesus

Dear Crusaders,

Please pay attention to the picture on the front cover of this issue of your magazine, *the Guardian of Crusaders*. It was taken from a huge reliquary, some kind of box gorgeously ornate with gold, silver and jewels. Such reliquary contains some major relics of the Holy Cross of Jesus, and is kept in the *Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem*, in Rome.

Even though you may not have a chance to go to Rome, yet you may have the occasion of venerating a smaller reliquary with a relic of the Holy Cross when you go to Church for Good Friday devotions.

When you see this reliquary on the altar, remember that the tiny pieces of wood contained therein were taken from the real wood of the Holy Cross of Jesus. It was on that wood, soaked with His Blood that Jesus remained for three hours on Good Friday; thus offering His life in sacrifice to His Father for the salvation of our souls.

Jesus gave us an example of faithfulness till the end, and He died on the Cross in obedience to His Father. Now, if you want to be His true disciple, look upon the reliquary of the Holy Cross of Jesus, and ask for the grace of fidelity to your commitments in the Eucharistic Crusade, especially by doing sacrifices in union with the Sacrifice of Jesus on the wood of the Cross.

Last but not least, I am sure that you heard from your parents of the Rosary Crusade from Bishop Fellay, in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to free the Church from her enemies. So, apply yourselves with more generosity to this Rosary Crusade: this would be an excellent resolution for Lent. Keep it up!

Fr. Dominique Boulet

*** On March 4th, a Mass will be said for the intentions of the Eucharistic Crusade in Canada**

*** Eucharistic Crusade Canada, 1395 Rue Notre-Dame,
St. Césaire, QC, J0L 1T0**

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St. Thomas in person. They have an ancient oral tradition that he landed at Cranganore on the west coast and established seven churches in Malabar. Thomas then went eastward to the Coromandel Coast, where he was martyred in the year 72 A.D. by being speared to death, on the "**Big Hill**", eight miles from Madras. He was then buried at Mylapore. Today there is the Cathedral of St. Thomas at Mylapore and a few of his relics are housed in this cathedral. The bulk of St. Thomas' relics were at Edessa and were later transferred to the island of Khios in the Aegean. From there they were taken to Ortona, where they still are today.

The GOOD THIEF'S CROSS

A very large piece of the Good Thief's Cross rests in the Holy Cross Basilica in Rome. There is also a tradition written in Butler's Lives of the Saints, saying that during the flight into Egypt, the Holy Family was waylaid by robbers. Their names were Titus—later **Dismas**, and Dumachus—later **Gestas**. Gestas was thinking of harming the Holy Family, but Dismas, stirred by compassion begged Gestas to leave them alone and let them pass. When Gestas refused, Dismas bribed him with some money (forty drachmas), to leave the Holy Family in peace. Then the Virgin Mary told Dismas: "**The Lord God shall sustain thee with His right hand and give thee remission of sins.**" And the Child Jesus added: "**After thirty years mother, the Jews will crucify me in Jerusalem, and these two robbers will be lifted on the cross with me, Dismas on my right hand and Gestas on my left, and after that day Dismas will go before me into Paradise.**"

So later when the two thieves were crucified on either side of Jesus, St. Luke tells us in his Gospel that Dismas confessed: "**We, indeed, suffer justly, but He (Jesus) has done no evil.**" Then he said: "**Lord remember me when Thou shalt come into Thy Kingdom.**" And Jesus answered: "**Amen I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with Me in paradise.**" So we see the great mercy of God to help save poor sinners, even at the last minute, if they love God and they are truly sorry for their sins.

The HOLY SHROUD

The Shroud of Jesus, (burial cloth which was wrapped around Jesus from top to bottom), is about fourteen feet long and about three and a half feet wide. It is not in Holy Cross

it from Constantinople to Rome in 1223. The base of the column is kept in St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice. St. Charles Borromeo loved the Church of St. Praxedes and when he visited Rome, he said Mass every morning in the Chapel of the Column.

The FINGER of ST. THOMAS the APOSTLE

When Jesus arose from the dead, after meeting with the holy women, he went to see his apostles. But when he appeared to them Thomas the apostle was not with them. Later, when the other apostles told Thomas that Jesus had come to see them, Thomas refused to believe them and said, ***"Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*** Eight days later, when all the apostles were together and the doors were shut, Jesus suddenly appeared in the midst of them, greeting them: ***"Peace be to you."*** Then He turned to Thomas and



said, ***"Put in thy finger hither, and see my hands; and bring hither thy hand and put it into my side. And be not faithless, but believing."*** And Thomas fell at his feet, exclaiming, ***"My Lord and my God!"*** Jesus answered, ***"Because thou hast seen me, Thomas, thou hast believed. Blessed are they that have not seen, and have believed."***

The most common tradition is that Thomas preached the gospel in India. According to St. Joseph of Arimathea, St. Thomas was the only witness of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven. The other Apostles were transported by angels to Jerusalem to witness Mary's death. But Thomas was left in India, and after Mary was placed in the tomb, Thomas was transported to Mary's tomb, and there he saw Mary's body Assumed into heaven. At the same time, she dropped her girdle (long, waist cord) as a relic for St. Thomas. The other apostles doubted Thomas when he told them about Mary's Assumption until they saw Mary's girdle and saw the empty tomb.

Along the Malabar Coast of India there is a large population of native Christians who call themselves **"the Christians of St. Thomas"**. These people claimed to have been evangelized by

HOLY CROSS BASILICA in ROME



St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, built in Rome, the original basilica known as Santa Croce in Jerusalem to house the Passion Relics, which she brought to Rome from the Holy Land. Later, Benedict XIV (1740-1758) built the existing basilica. The relics housed there are the following:

TRUE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

St. Helena went to Jerusalem in 326 to find the True Cross. Many believed that the True Cross was buried in the Holy Sepulchre where Jesus had been buried. But when St. Helena arrived, there had already been a temple of Venus built over the Tomb of Christ. Helena had the temple destroyed and a statue of Venus destroyed and then had some men start digging. After much digging the men found three crosses in the tomb and there they also found the Three Nails, the Crown of Thorns and the Title from the Cross, which proclaimed that Jesus was King of the Jews. Because nobody knew which one was the Cross of Christ, Bishop St. Macarius had each cross touched to a very sick lady of the city. When the True Cross was touched to her she was completely cured. St. Helena enclosed the main part of the Cross in a silver reliquary and gave it to St. Macarius to care for.

She and Constantine had a magnificent basilica built over the Holy Sepulchre. A piece of the True Cross was put in a silver reliquary and placed in the new basilica. St. Helena sent another piece of the True Cross to Rome and placed it in the new Basilica of the Holy Cross.

St. Paulinus said, ***"Though chips of the Cross were almost daily cut off from it and given to devout persons, yet the sacred wood never diminished in size!"*** Twenty-five years later St. Cyril of Jerusalem said, ***"Pieces of the Cross are spread all over the earth. It is like the miraculous feeding of the five thousand men, which we read about in the Gospels."***

TITLE SIGN of the CROSS

The Title Sign of the Cross was found with the three crosses. St. Helena divided it into three pieces. She gave one piece to her son Constantine, one piece was sent to the Holy Cross Basilica in Rome and the third piece was given to a church in Jerusalem.



In Jerusalem, in 385, when the Holy Cross and the Title were exposed for veneration, the Title was touched to the eyes and foreheads of visiting pilgrims. And around 585, one pilgrim adored and kissed the wood of the True Cross and also held the Title in his hand.

In 455, the clergy hid the Title piece in the Holy Cross Basilica in Rome from enemies of the Catholic Church. It was forgotten about and some workmen found it later in 1492. It was in excellent condition but about seventy years later it was faded and worm-eaten.

The CRUCIFIXION NAILS

Three nails were found with the Holy Cross of Jesus. St. Ambrose said that: ***“St. Helena put one of the nails in Constantine’s crown and another was put in the bridle to make a bit for Constantine’s horse,”*** thus fulfilling the prophecy of Zacharias: ***“In that day, that which is upon the bridle of the horse shall be holy to the Lord.”*** The third nail was sent to the Holy Cross Basilica in Rome where it is still kept in a beautiful reliquary. The Empress continued to adorn churches and chapels and she built a convent for nuns in Jerusalem. She travelled all over the East helping the poor, the soldiers, the naked and those condemned to the mines; freeing many from chains and banishment. St. Helena died in Rome in 328 and there Constantine had his mother buried in a magnificent mausoleum.

Later, one of Constantine’s two nails was removed and placed in the **“Iron Crown of Lombardy”**. This crown was used for the crowning of Charlemagne, and it is now housed in the Cathedral of Monza, Italy.

(Continued on page 9)

(...Continued from Page 4)

The CROWN OF THORNS

The Crown of Thorns was made in a helmet type shape and covered the whole head of Jesus. St. Paulinus of Nola wrote:



“The Crown of Thorns was honoured together with the Holy Cross and the Pillar of the Scourging. St. Gregory of Tours said: “The Thorns of the Crown still look green and fresh and this miracle is renewed each day.”

The Crown of Thorns was venerated in Jerusalem for hundreds of years but it was transferred around 1063 to Constantinople during the reign of the French Emperors. In 1238, Baldwin II, the Emperor of Constantinople, offered the Crown to King St. Louis of France, so that he would give Constantinople his support. At that time the Crown was being held by the Venetians because of a loan to Baldwin II. St. Louis paid off the loan and in 1239, claimed the Crown of Jesus for France. In 1241, the Crown was carried to Paris and placed in Sainte Chapelle, which St. Louis had built especially for the Crown. The Crown is now kept in a beautiful reliquary in Paris, in Notre Dame Cathedral, and is exposed for public veneration on Good Friday. In 2009, the Crown and pictures showing the life of St. Louis of France were also publicly displayed for the veneration of the people. All the thorns have been taken from the Crown and placed in reliquaries—but the round woven part of the Crown is in a sealed glass reliquary.



The COLUMN of SCOURGING

St. Gregory Nazianzen who lived in the 5th Century said that the Scourging Post of Christ was shown on Mount Sion. A portion of this column is now kept in the chapel of St. Praxedes in Rome. It is made of Oriental Jasper. A Cardinal brought

THE COAT

Little Talks to Little People

S	T	B	O	N	A	V	E	N	T	U	R	E	S
C	A	S	S	U	M	P	T	I	O	N	S	J	A
O	R	C	O	L	U	M	N	G	O	D	T	E	I
N	E	S	T	L	O	U	I	S	J	T	T	R	N
S	L	H	O	Q	L	E	G	N	A	H	H	U	T
T	I	R	M	Z	R	O	M	E	S	O	O	S	E
A	Q	O	B	L	O	R	D	Y	P	R	M	A	C
N	U	U	I	N	D	I	A	R	E	N	A	L	H
T	A	D	J	E	S	U	S	A	R	S	S	E	A
I	R	E	F	F	U	S	A	M	S	I	D	M	P
N	Y	N	A	I	L	S	Q	Z	T	I	T	L	E
E	S	T	H	E	L	E	N	A	C	O	A	T	L
T	R	U	E	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	O	D	L
S	A	N	T	A	C	R	O	C	E	C	U	P	E

SAINTE CHAPELLE
 ST BONAVENTURE
 SANTA CROCE
 CONSTANTINE
 ASSUMPTION
 TRUE CROSS
 JERUSALEM
 RELIQUARY
 ST. THOMAS
 ST. HELENA

COLUMN
 ST LOUIS
 THORNS
 SHROUD
 SUFFER
 DISMAS
 JASPER
 ANGEL
 TITLE
 INDIA

WOOD
 ROME
 TOMB
 MARY
 NAILS
 JESUS
 LORD
 COAT
 GOD
 CUP

King Artaxerxes lost his friend Theridates through a sudden death. He had loved his friend very much and asked his wife, Aspasia, to appear before him, from time to time, in Theridates' purple coat. This was so that he would be reminded of his old friend and could then imagine, for his own happiness, that Theridates was still alive. He promised to grant his wife anything she might ask him while wearing Theridates' coat.

We can also do the same with God. St. Bonaventure says: ***“You appear before God, the Heavenly Father, in the coat of His Son Jesus when you accept from God the bitter cup of suffering, as Jesus did—when you suffer patiently an injury, disgrace and mockery, as Jesus did. When you submit yourself to the will of God in poverty and neglect, as Jesus did. When you forgive from the bottom of your heart, all your enemies and persecutors, as Jesus did. This way you will be vested with the purple coat of Jesus Christ and you can obtain from your Heavenly Father whatever you may ask for.”***

It is hard to do these things, like Jesus did, but if you try, little by little, you will succeed. Remember you have your Guardian Angel who loves you very much and is always ready to help you do better each day. In fact he will help you to suffer patiently when someone calls you a bad name or makes fun of you. Your Angel will help you to do God's Holy Will especially when it is very hard to do. He will help you to forgive, from the bottom of your heart, all your enemies and those that have hurt you. And your Angel will go with you when you have done these things well and want to speak to God, wearing your purple coat of suffering. Your Angel will help you to obtain from God some special favour you may ask for. May God Bless you in your efforts.

INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF March 2012



Daily offering

(To be recited every morning when you wake up)

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, and in reparation for my sins. I offer them particularly for the Catholic schools.

December 2011 Treasure Sheets

	Daily Off.	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrif.	Dec. Ros.	Visit Bl. S.	15 Min.	Good Example	Quantity
NB & NS	28	4	4	10	31	162	0	0	25	2
QC										
ON	937	389	335	828	2146	4866	260	318	1220	33
MB	62	14	12	44	54	186	19	28	61	2
SK	322	52	49	340	5680	1813	63	64	1062	11
AB	218	106	106	215	335	1416	164	261	325	8
BC	428	96	70	96	294	1215	52	1	103	16
Total	1967	657	572	1523	8509	9496	558	326	2771	70

TREASURE CHART FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2012

Day	Daily Off.	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrif.	Decades of Rosary	Visits Bl. Sacr.	15 Minutes Silence	Good Example
1									
2									
3									
4									
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31									
Total									

✂-----Cut here-----

March 2012

Total of the Month										
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To be sent to the secretariat of the Eucharistic Crusade, 1395 Rue Notre-Dame, St-Césaire, QC, J0L 1T0, or e-mail:

EucharisticCrusadeCDN@gmail.com