

A Short Timeline History of the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus

Veneration of the Holy Face of Jesus has its beginning during the very passion of Our Lord, making it one of the oldest devotions in the Christian tradition. This devotion originated with the sacred image of Our Lord that miraculously appeared on St. Veronica's Veil. Below is a short account of how this devotion has spread from ancient times to today.

33 AD: St. Veronica, as a sign of her love and compassion, offered Our Savior a veil to wipe the blood and sweat from his face as he carried his cross. In reward for her charity and compassion, Jesus left an impression of his Holy Face upon the veil. This meeting of Our Lord and St. Veronica is forever memorialized in the Stations of the Cross. The meeting of Jesus and St. Veronica along his walk to the place of his crucifixion is the 6th Station.

1st - 4th c. AD: According to tradition, St. Veronica later entrusted the veil to St. Clement, a disciple of St. Peter who became the third Bishop of Rome. For the next three centuries the Holy Veil was kept in the Roman catacombs during the early persecutions of the Church. Eventually the Veronica's Veil was placed in the Basilica of St. Peter and kept there until the present day.

1843: Our Lord, in visions to Sister Mary (Marie) of St. Peter, requested that a devotion to His Holy Face be established, also known as the "Golden Arrow." The purpose of this devotion was to make amends for the wrongdoings in the world, as well as to request special intentions. Special prayers and promises were given to Sister Mary from Our Lord, who said:

"All who honor My Holy Face in a spirit of reparation thereby perform for Me the services of the pious Veronica."

1849: Soon after the death of Sister Mary, a revolution erupted in the Papal States. Pope Pius IX ordered public prayers to be offered in Rome to implore God's mercy, and Veronica's Veil was put on display for public veneration for three days. On the third day the sacred features of Our Lord, normally faded, became distinctly seen and surrounded by a soft halo of light. This lasted for three hours and was documented by Vatican officials.

1849-1876: After the miracle of the Holy Veil, it was customary to have copies of the Holy Face made. These copies would then be touched to the original Veil, making them objects of devotion. A holy man named Leo Dupont hung one of these copies in his home, accompanied by an oil lamp. Those who would say the devotional prayers and anoint themselves with oil from his lamp would receive healing. For the next 30 years, miracles of healing occurred in his home through adoration of the Holy Face.

1885: Because of the miracles credited to the Holy Face, Pope Leo XIII established the devotion as an Archconfraternity for the entire world. Saint Therese of Lisieux and her family were members of this Archconfraternity of the Holy Face. She was so faithful to this devotion that she took as her religious name, "St. Therese of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face."

1958: On April 17th, 1958, His Holiness Pope Pius XII approved the observance of a Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus on Shrove Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday).

Promises of Our Lord Jesus Christ to Sr. Mary of St. Peter regarding those who honor His Holy Face

1. By offering My Face to My Eternal Father, nothing will be refused, and the conversion of many sinners will be obtained.
2. By My Holy Face, they will work wonders, appease the anger of God and draw down mercy on sinners.
3. All those who honor My Face in a spirit of reparation will by so doing perform the office of the pious Veronica.
4. According to the care they take in making reparation to My Face, disfigured by blasphemers, so will I take care of their souls which have been disfigured by sin. My Face is the Seal of the Divinity, which has the virtue of reproducing in souls the image of God.

5. Those who by words, prayers or writing defend My cause in the Work of Reparation, especially My priests, I will defend before My Father, and will give them My Kingdom.
6. As in a kingdom they can procure all that is desired with a coin stamped with the King's effigy, so in the Kingdom of Heaven they will obtain all they desire with the precious coin of My Holy Face.
7. Those who on earth contemplate the wounds of My Face shall in Heaven behold it radiant with glory.
8. They will receive in their souls a bright and constant irradiation of My Divinity, that by their likeness to My Face they shall shine with particular splendor in Heaven.
9. I will defend them; I will preserve them and I assure them of Final Perseverance.

Further Revelations to Sister Mary of St. Peter from Our Divine Lord Concerning Reparation to His Holy Face

...It is the express will of God that this devotion be established in every diocese; that it be most zealously propagated; and granted a papal brief so that it will never perish.

...This devotion is to have the twofold purpose of (1) reparation for blasphemy and (2) reparation for the profanation of Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation, the two principal sins which in modern times are provoking the anger of God. Sr. Mary said, "He then made me see that this frightful sin wounds His Divine Heart more grievously than all other sins, showing me how by blasphemy the sinner curses Him to His Face, attacks Him publicly, nullifies His Redemption, and pronounces his own judgment and condemnation...The Savior made me understand that His justice was greatly irritated against mankind for its sins, but particularly for those that directly outrage the Majesty of God—that is, Communism, Atheism, cursing, and the desecration of Sundays and the Holy Days." He said, "The executioners crucified Me on Friday, Christians crucify Me on Sunday."

Praying the Chaplet of the Holy Face

The Chaplet of the Holy Face is a chaplet of reparation for sins and is composed of a cross, 39 beads (6 large and 33 small), and a medal of the Holy Face. The Cross calls to mind the mystery of our Redemption. The 33 small beads represent the 33 years of the mortal life of our Lord. The first 30 recall the 30 years of his private life, and are divided into 5 sets of 6 beads with the intention of honoring the 5 senses of touch, hearing, sight, smell and taste of Jesus, which have their seat principally in His Holy Face, and of rendering homage to all the sufferings which our Lord endured in His Face through each one of these senses. The last 3 small beads recall the 3 years of public life of our Savior and have for their object the honoring of all the wounds of His adorable Face.

First set of 6 beads: In honor of the sense of *touch* of our Lord

Second: In honor of the sense of *hearing* of our Lord

Third: In honor of the sense of *sight* of our Lord

Fourth: In honor of the sense of *smell* of our Lord

Fifth: In honor of the sense of *taste* of our Lord

Final 3 beads: In honor of our Lord's public life

Chaplet of Reparation Prayers

On the **Cross** pray, "*O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me,*" followed by the *Glory Be*.

On **each large bead** pray, "*My Jesus Mercy!*" followed by one *Glory Be*.

On **each small bead** pray, "*Arise, O Lord, and let Thy enemies be scattered, and let all that hate Thee flee from before Thy Face.*"

On the **Holy Face medal** say, "*God, our Protector, look on us, and look upon the Face of Thy Christ.*" "Amen."

At the end of the Chaplet, some people pray the *Glory Be* 7 times in honor of the 7 last words of Jesus upon the Cross, and the 7 sorrows of the Immaculate Virgin. Some pray the **Golden Arrow** prayer:

May the most holy, most sacred, most adorable, most incomprehensible and unutterable Name of God be always praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified in Heaven, on earth, and under the earth, by all the creatures of God, and by the Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.