



The Betrothal of Joseph and Mary



Marian Prayer for Couples in Difficulty

"O Mary, pure light of the heavens, joy of Angels and Archangels, sweet happiness of the elect, Your Name is the glory of Paradise as it is the consolation of the Earth, Your Praises will be sung eternally in all the ages of ages! And You are my Mother, so why would Your Child not be happy with Your Happiness?

Hail, Love and Glory to Mary, the Queen of Heaven! I am happy with Your Happiness, O Beautiful and Pure Mary, happy with this look of Love that the Holy Trinity has for You! This happiness that You possess, O Sweet Mary, place it within my couple in difficulty, for incomprehension and discord reign there!

Intervene, Sweet Mother, before words and gestures of hatred overcome the thoughts of each person; before the breakup becomes irreversible, before the Love that unites these beings is swallowed up by the forces of Evil and their followers! Intervene, Tender Mother, before the evil one can boast of a new victory over these souls who had promised themselves to God!

May Your Love, Your Sweetness, and Your Compassion enter into these ravaged hearts, to eliminate hatred, anger, and resentment, and install forever tenderness and understanding, respect for the other, and rekindle the Love that must not die, for it is the gift of God for the Earth!

I beg You, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."



Editorial

My Dear Readers,

One year before her death, Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face said: "Jesus, I am too little to do great things, and my folly is to hope."

Like the Patroness of the Roman Order of Mary Queen of France, let us hope, for Hope is a sign of life, a sign of courage and strength.

The month of August is coming to an end, and we invite you to unite with us through the Thirty Days of Prayer to Saint Thérèse, which will begin on September 1st. Let us not hesitate during these days to entrust her with our lives, our loneliness, our shortcomings, so that through Love she can shape us, renew us, and restore us through the True Love of Jesus!

To live is to hope, and to hope is to believe in a better world, a better future, a sincere future, a sincere understanding, a cordial understanding, a cordial relationship, a relationship of Peace, and a PEACE in God.

Brothers and sisters, let us not be afraid to place our trust in God and to move forward with complete serenity under the Mantle of Our Lady.

Through this edition, we invite you to continue with us on this path of discovery and constant renewal. May Nicola Reina, whom you will meet in the following lines, help you to improve in your daily life.

Happy reading and see you next week!

Thirty Days of Prayer to Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face

O Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, you who found the way of Trust and Love, through your intercession, may we be granted the grace to follow this path with confidence.

O Saint Thérèse, intercede for us.

Obtain for us the grace not to rely on our own strength, but to place our hope in God alone; to know how to accept our imperfections as gifts from God; to know how to humble ourselves, to make room within us for Jesus; not to seek honors and power, but to know, like you, how to hide with Love in the arms of Jesus.

Obtain for us the grace to work at all times to satisfy Jesus' thirst for Love; to be able to see the qualities of our neighbors and not their weaknesses; to know how to remain humble; to give thanks to God in all things.

Obtain for us, finally, to have an absolute Trust in the Love of God for each of us.

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, pray for us!



Rosary of the Little Way of Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus

- **Credo (Apostles' Creed)**
- **Pater (Our Father)**
- **3 Ave Maria (3 Hail Marys)**
- **Gloire au Père (Glory Be)**

On the large beads: "I love You, Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, show me the little way, that of Your Humility; and lead me by Your Love, to the Kingdom of Heaven."

On the small beads: "Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, through Your Silence in the face of suffering, You became the Balm of Reparation. Little Scented Rose, be my model: like You, I want to do good on this earth. AMEN."

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This is an excerpt from the GENERAL AUDIENCE in the Paul VI Hall on Wednesday, August 27, 2025.



This is a powerful reflection. Here is the English translation:

In the heart of the night, when everything seems to be falling apart, Jesus shows that Christian hope is not an escape, but a decision. This attitude is the fruit of a deep prayer through which we do not ask God to spare us suffering, but to have the strength to persevere in Love, aware that the life offered freely out of Love cannot be taken from us by anyone.

"If it is me you are looking for, let these men go" (John 18:8). At the moment of His arrest, Jesus is not concerned with His own salvation: He only wants His friends to be able to leave. This shows that His Sacrifice is a true act of Love. Jesus allows Himself to be captured and imprisoned by the guards solely so that they would free His Disciples.

Jesus lived every day of His life in anticipation of this dramatic and sublime hour. That is why, when it arrives, He has the strength not to try to escape. His Heart knows well that losing one's life out of Love is not a failure, but that it possesses a mysterious fruitfulness. Like the grain of wheat that, having fallen to the ground, does not remain alone, but dies and becomes fruitful.

Jesus, too, is troubled by a path that seems to lead only to death and the end. But He is just as convinced that only a life lost out of Love is ultimately found again. This is where true hope lies: not in the attempt to avoid pain, but in the conviction that, even in the heart of the most unjust suffering, the seed of a new life is hidden. And us? How many times do we defend our lives, our projects, our certainties, without realizing that, by doing so, we remain alone. The logic of the Gospel is different: only that which is given away flourishes; only Love that becomes gratuitous can restore trust, even where everything seems lost.

In this article, we will present another of the many missions of the Roman Order of Mary Queen of France.

On August 24, a delegation from the Order traveled to Sievernich, located about 30 km southwest of Cologne, near Zülpich, and belonging to the Diocese of Aachen.

On the way, we passed by the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Banneux, also known as the Sanctuary of the Virgin of the Poor, a Marian shrine built after the apparitions of the Virgin Mary to a young girl in 1933 in the village of Banneux, Belgium.

The place truly radiated an aura of Peace. There, silence is respected, which creates an atmosphere conducive to prayer and contemplation. After this refreshing and beneficial "pause," we continued our journey, still under the protection of the Blessed Virgin.



Another memorable place visited by the delegation — and I will not mention others — is the Imperial Cathedral of Saint Mary (in German: Marienkaisterdom): the main Catholic place of worship in Aachen, Germany, the episcopal seat of the diocese of the same name and the oldest cathedral in Northern Europe.

It is the Palatine Chapel, originally built by the great Charlemagne! An architectural masterpiece blending Byzantine, Gothic, and Baroque styles.

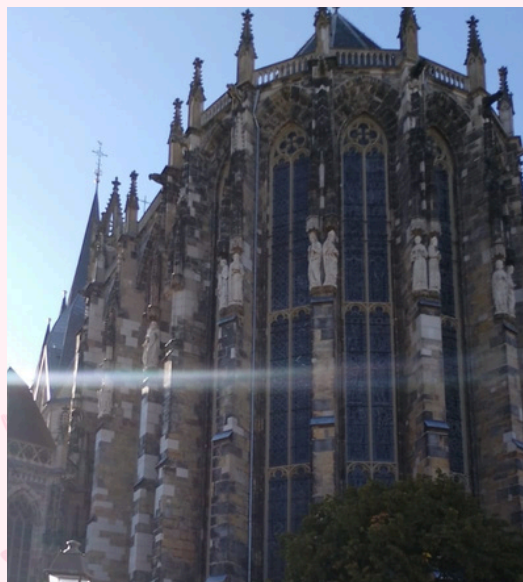
Mary in Sievernich

The delegation of Romanists has finally arrived in Sievernich. It is located about 30 km southwest of Cologne, near Zülpich, and belongs to the Diocese of Aachen.

Since June 2000, the Blessed Virgin Mary has been appearing in Sievernich, accompanied by various saints — Pope Pius XII, Saint Melchizedek, the Angel of Mercy (for example) !? — to a simple, calm, and quiet woman named Manuela Strack.



In 1979, the first sign of a special election manifested. Manuela was only 12 years old when the Virgin Mary appeared to her. The first apparition lasted about thirty minutes. The Virgin was all in white and came on a cloud outside the church. She was so beautiful that Manuela gazed at her throughout the silent apparition.



The Message of the Virgin Mary (or "La Purissima") focuses on the usual requests from Heaven: conversion, reconciliation with God through the sacrament of confession, an ardent love for the Holy Sacrament, etc. The Immaculate One wants us to remain small and humble in all our actions. Prophecies are also part of the Messages, even those concerning France!

Currently, the Apparitions to Manuela in Sievernich (where fraternal charity is tangible) form a small spiritual center where the children of the Blessed Virgin Mary come to pray, hold reparatory processions, confess, and form a gentle chain of Love around the Mother of God!



The Betrothal of Mary and Joseph



How beautiful Mary is, in her bridal attire, surrounded by friends and her joyful Mistresses! ...

She wears a dress of radiant white linen, so soft and fine that it looks like precious silk. A gold and silver belt, chiseled with a burin, encircles her slender waist; it is entirely composed of medallions linked by small chains, and each medallion is an embroidery of gold threads on a heavy silver background that time has burnished. Likely because it is too large for the bride—still very young!—the last three medallions of this belt hang in the front. It descends between the folds of the very full dress, so long that it forms a short train. Mary wears sandals of very white leather on her feet, with silver buckles.

Her dress is fastened at the neck by a small chain with gold rosettes and a silver filigree, which reproduces the belt's motif on a smaller scale. This small chain passes through the openwork of her large neckline, gathering the folds that form a kind of small frill.

Mary's neck emerges from this white pleating with the grace of a flower surrounded by precious gauze and appears even more frail and white: she looks like a lily flower that blossoms on her lily-like face, which emotion makes even paler and fresher. It is the face of a very pure host.

Her hair no longer falls over her shoulders. It is gracefully arranged in intertwined braids, held from the top of her head by hairpins of burnished silver, made in filigree embroidery. Her mother's veil is placed over these braids and falls in beautiful folds below the precious band that encloses her very white forehead.... She has nothing on her fingers, but wears bracelets on her wrists....

And then the "young saint" enters, accompanied by Zacharias.

He is truly magnificent. Dressed entirely in golden yellow, he looks like an Eastern sovereign. A splendid belt holds his purse and a dagger, the first made of gold-embroidered morocco leather, the second, also, in a morocco leather scabbard with golden stripes. On his head, he wears a cloth turban, the usual headwear that serves as a hood for some African peoples, like the Bedouins. It is held in place by a precious circlet, a fine gold thread to which small sprigs of myrtle are attached. He has a brand-new, fringed cloak, in which he is majestically draped.

His eyes sparkle with joy. He holds bouquets of flowering myrtle. He greets them:

"Peace be with you, my bride! Peace be with everyone!"

After being greeted in return, he adds:

"I saw your joy the day I offered you the branch from your garden. So I thought to bring a little of the myrtle I picked near the grotto that is so dear to you. I would have liked to add some roses whose first flowers are appearing against your house. But they would not have survived several days of travel... I would have been left with only thorns upon arrival.

And I want to offer You, my beloved, only roses; I want to strew Your path with delicate and fragrant flowers, so that You may place Your foot upon it without getting dirty or stumbling.



"Oh, thank you, how kind you are! How were you able to keep them so fresh?"

"I tied a vase to the saddle and put the branches of budding flowers in it. They bloomed along the way. Here they are, Mary. May Your Brow be adorned with the garland of purity, a symbol of the bride, but a purity always much less than that of Your Heart."

Elizabeth and the mistresses adorn Mary with this flowery garland. They form it by attaching the white myrtle sprigs to the precious circlet on her Brow, alternating with small white roses taken from a vase placed on a chest.

He takes her hand gently and leads her to the door. The others follow them, and outside, her festive companions join them, all dressed in white and veiled.

They pass through courtyards and archways, amidst the crowd observing them, and arrive at a place that is no longer the Temple, but which appears to be a hall consecrated for worship. One can see lamps and scrolls of parchment there, as in synagogues. The couple moves forward in front of a raised lectern, a kind of pulpit, and they wait. The others line up behind them. Other priests and onlookers take their places at the back.

The high priest enters solemnly. The onlookers whisper:

"Is he the one marrying them?"

"Yes, because the bride is of a royal and priestly line, a flower of David and Aaron. She is a virgin from the Temple. The groom is of the tribe of David."

The high priest places the bride's right hand in the groom's and blesses them solemnly: "May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob be with you. May He unite you and may His blessing be fulfilled in you, by giving you His peace and a numerous posterity as well as a long life and a blessed death in the bosom of Abraham."

Then he withdraws, as solemnly as he entered. With this promise exchanged, Mary is the bride of Joseph.

They all leave and, still in good order, go to a room where the marriage contract is written. It specifies that Mary, heir of Joachim, from the lineage of David, and of Anne, from the lineage of Aaron, brings as a dowry to Her Husband Her House and its annexed properties, Her personal trousseau, and everything She inherited from Her Father.

All is accomplished.



The Ravages of Mosquitoes



In southern China, Foshan and Canton have been facing an unprecedented chikungunya epidemic for the past two months. For those who haven't heard the name, chikungunya is a disease caused by the chikungunya virus, which is transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes.

Chikungunya causes fever and severe joint pain, which is often debilitating and can last for a long time. Other possible symptoms include swollen joints, muscle pain, headaches, nausea, fatigue, and skin rashes.

An estimated 10,000 cases have been officially reported, but we can assume the actual number is much higher.

Measures are being implemented to slow the spread of the epidemic: mosquito-eating fish, sterile mosquitoes, drones to detect stagnant water, and fines for residents who fail to eliminate stagnant water.

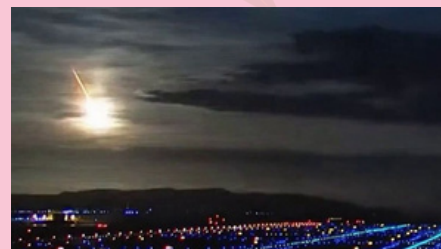
This proliferation is a consequence of the recent monsoon, which has created more stagnant water.

The virus has already spread to other Chinese cities and is even found in the Indian Ocean, South America, and Asia, among other places.

Let us pray to Saint Roch and Saint Sebastian for their protection over the world against epidemics.

Heaven Warns Us

Between the night of August 19 and 20, an immense and intense fireball was sighted in the sky by residents of the city of Kagoshima on the island of Kyushu in Southwestern Japan. This dazzling flash crossed the sky, illuminating it with green and blue light, then white.



This phenomenon caused a "supersonic bang" (a noise generated by an object exceeding the speed of sound). This spectacle lasted only a few seconds.

"Experts confirm that it was a bolide, an exceptionally bright meteor that entered the atmosphere. It's a mass of cosmic matter similar to a flaming ball, visible to the naked eye, rapidly crossing the atmosphere before fragmenting into several pieces... The object was traveling at about 21 km/s and likely fell into the sea" (explanation from the website tameteo.com).

Heaven uses time to give us signs and to show us what we will have to live through.

"We must take this cyclical period seriously—the meteor showers, the trail of debris, the fragments of dust—not as a spectacle, but as the beginning of something that we must view not as an extraordinary and grandiose sign but as a warning for the time we are living in, in this summer period, in this great battle that is beginning. We must not ignore it because heaven and earth will pass away, but eternity will not. We must welcome these signs. Pray and ask Heaven for the wisdom to be able to know how to be grateful in light of what is happening around us." (Address by Henri on August 10, 2025)

Jerusalem-France, a Renewal



Following the visit of the representatives of the Conference of Bishops of France—Cardinal Aveline, Monsignor Jordy, and Monsignor Bertrand—to the Holy Land to show their support for local Catholics, communities, and various peace advocates from August 16...

August 20. Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, expressed his gratitude, as both Israelis and Palestinians need to know they are supported and heard. They also need to renew their connection with French Christians amidst these great sufferings, where uncertainty is a daily reality.

Cardinal Pizzaballa calls on French Catholics to pray for these nations in conflict and to show courage by traveling to the Holy Land.

Let's keep our lamps tended.



Satan wants to destroy, to destroy everything related to the virtue of Love. The Blessed Virgin Mary has been descending from Heaven for several years, decades, and centuries so that the virtue of Love remains imprinted in our hearts despite the tricks that Satan uses. She comes to give us messages to show us the path, the way to follow to always be bearers of Love. May Love always reign on Earth.

Mary is Queen of Love, and we must conform ourselves to her to achieve what Heaven expects for humanity. Everything that Satan wants to put in place, all his maneuvers and schemes, will not work if we practice what Mary comes to teach us through her apparitions.

We must help the Blessed Virgin and be promoters of this Love by giving God the first place in our hearts, by finding a place for His Son within us, by drawing strength before the Tabernacle, by praying daily, and by reading the Divine Messages given by Heaven.

JESUS MUST REGAIN HIS PLACE. We have set Him aside and replaced Him with materialism, with the torments of our lives. We have turned all these frivolities and worldly matters into golden calves. Everything is now disordered within us, in our hearts. We love our fathers, mothers, friends, spouses, and children more than God Himself. Yet it is clearly said: you shall love God above all else.

We need to bring order back to our lives and our hearts, to give real meaning to our existence. For this, we must restore God to His rightful place. It is only by reordering Love that a true change will take place within us. Let us remove what is disordered (evil) and restore order (God). If we have this genuine will, we will succeed. What we believe to be impossible will seem so easy.

In this way, we will understand more of what God wants from us. We must do this work now because the time that is coming will require us to be foresighted; for this, we need preparation. The night will be dark, and we will need to light the way. During this dark time of waiting, the desire for Jesus must burn within us.

Jesus will need to be with us, in our midst, living within us, and our lamps must be true oil lamps, not rudimentary torches, but lamps that need to be refueled.

...Lamps that need to be fueled. Let's not be foolish virgins; let's have a large quantity of oil, a significant reserve of oil to fuel our lamps. Let's know how to light our lamp's flame and protect it, for it is fragile. We need the greatest wisdom. Only the Holy Spirit gives us Wisdom.

When we pray, we must invoke the Holy Spirit, that He be present there, like a small fire, always burning within us.

Will we risk running out of oil? What if someone comes to ask us for oil? Will you take the risk of being in the dark on the path and not knowing where to go?

This oil is our faith. Jesus must find us in the heart of the night, firm in our faith, alive, and awake. Let us build this reserve of faith, this reserve of Love. Love is given to us through Faith. Oil is a treasure; we must guard it very carefully so that we can always fuel our lamps. The oil we need is this great, unwavering Faith in the presence of Jesus.

What attitude do we adopt toward the poor, the sick, the abandoned, the destitute?

Do we have this reserve of double Love within us —for God and for others?

Do we have enough interiority within us to step out of ourselves and externalize the Faith within us?

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A fervent, accessible, and enlightened Marian spirituality

In the 1987 encyclical *Redemptoris Mater*, written for the Marian Year, His Holiness Saint John Paul II wrote near the end of the encyclical:

"Marian spirituality, like the corresponding devotion, finds a very rich source in the historical experience of individuals and various Christian communities living among different peoples and nations of the earth. In this regard, I am keen to recall, among the many witnesses and teachers of this spirituality, the figure of Saint Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort, who proposed to Christians consecration to Christ through the hands of Mary, as an effective means of faithfully living out their baptismal commitments. I note with pleasure that even today, new manifestations of this spirituality and devotion are not lacking. There are therefore secure points of reference to which we must strive and refer within the framework of this Marian Year" (3. 48 *The Meaning of the Marian Year*).

Indeed, Saint Louis M. de Montfort presents a solid Marian doctrine accompanied not only by his brilliant personal examples but also by practical guidelines for striving to live daily in communion with the Most Holy Mary in the various expressions of life. All this is because it is by truly surrendering oneself (a term not to be understood in a purely passive dimension), entrusting, and consecrating oneself to Her, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, the Immaculate Conception, that one will be more easily and surely led to unite with her Divine Son, Jesus Christ, the unique Mediator between God and the human creature. This implies an asceticism that demands effort, faithfulness, sacrifices, constancy, listening to the Word of God, and so on. Just as the Lord and His salvation were given to us through Her, so too must we go to the Lord by passing everything through the Immaculate Heart of the Divine Mother.

In its liturgical expressions, the Church, with good reason, does not fear to apply to the Virgin Mary the words of Wisdom:

"I am the mother of beautiful Love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all grace of the way and of the truth; in me is all hope of life and of virtue. Come to me, all you who desire me, and fill yourselves with my fruits" (*Ecclesiasticus 24:24-26 Nova Vulgata*).

So let us breathe, let us immerse ourselves without fear and useless apprehension in Mary, to seize the treasures of the Father's House, by living continuously for Her, with Her, and in Her, and thus be transformed into our true and unique identity as adopted children of God, created in His image and likeness, to the point of being able to call upon and address Him, not only with our mouths but with all the expressions of our lives: "Abba, Father," in all truth. Amen!



Nicola Reina was born in Rome on March 25, 1954, the feast day of the Annunciation. He was the youngest of five children. From a young age, he showed great sensitivity, keen intelligence, a strong personality, and a willful, loyal, and objective character. He loved animals. He had a beautiful, warm tenor voice and a passion for music. He wrote songs and learned to play the guitar by ear. To pay for music lessons, he gave lessons to children. His greatest dream, which he unfortunately never realized, was to play the grand piano; he didn't have the space for one at home.

In primary school, he also really enjoyed technical classes. He was very skilled at working with wood, iron, and leather. After primary school, he attended the "Col di Lana" middle school in Rome, where he studied diligently. At 14, Nicola and his parents moved to Turin. It was then that he began to question his faith and definitively drifted away from the Church. He said he would only return the day he found an answer to his questions. He then returned to Rome and enrolled at the Julius Caesar High School and then the Faculty of Law.

He also worked in the law office of attorney Oliveti, who was delighted with his work. To support himself, he also worked as a house painter or upholsterer. He abandoned his university studies when he was almost finished because he had won a competition organized by the San Paolo Bank in Turin. During his training, he met his future wife, Antonella Picchiotti (another contest winner). They married in 1979, barely a month after they first met. They had a happy marriage.

In 1980, Nicola met Don Eugenio Martorano, a priest with an intense fervor for apostolate. A beautiful friendship was born between them. It was in November 1984 that Nicola began to feel unwell. On February 16, 1985, he consulted Dr. Dati, and his ordeal began. The diagnosis: sigmoid colon cancer. He was hospitalized at Umberto I Hospital in Rome, where he underwent two surgical procedures.

From the start, Nicola showed exceptional stoicism and courage: never a complaint, never a reproach. He had absolute respect for the pain of others and the work of the nurses, and he greatly appreciated the doctors. He faced each new obstacle with admirable gentleness and resignation.

Don Eugenio visited him three times, and during his last visit, Nicola asked him to...

Biography of Nicola Reina



...him to confess. He spent many nights, bedridden, unable to find sleep due to the pain, bathed in sweat from a fever that would rise to 40 degrees.

Every morning, he would lend himself almost with joy to the painful treatments, which could sometimes last as long as three hours: the doctor would make incisions and then stitch his sternum without anesthesia. The nurses said he was a saint because he never showed impatience. Nicola died on August 28, 1985, at the age of 31.

Two days after his death, Nicola's mother, Pina, who was a mystic soul and had already received locutions since she was young, heard the voice of her son Nicola, who told her: "Mom, no longer think of me in pain but in joy, for the pain is gone." And he gave her the first of what would become, until November 27, 2006, 2,200 messages from Heaven collected in the 12 volumes of "IL MIO AMICO NICOLA." Even Jesus, in the message of 03/07/1989, said of Nicola: "...He is... my truth," and again in the message of 03/24/1989, said "...the book of Nicola is not like other books..."

And Nicola himself, in the message of 09/27/1989, warns those who disparage the book and pass judgment without having read it: "...Mom, it is not man who judges the book but the book that judges man..." This is your mission: apostle of faith, promulgator of God's reign.

How many conversions, thanks to you, have occurred through what God the Father Himself defines as "the pearls of the Gospel"—that is to say, your books, which are denigrated by the enemy of our souls: in 1988, there was an inexplicable breakdown during the printing of the first volume.

The purpose of Nicola's books is to purify theology from enemy infiltrations and to communicate truths that inspire the conquest of Good, to reveal the strategy of...

...the enemy to bring down souls, to restore serenity, to light up hope, and to stimulate faith.

Thanks to your books, Nicola, all those who have approached them with a pure heart have understood that with you and your mother, God the Father wanted to create a perfect channel, free from enemy interference and unassailable even by all of hell, to bear witness, in time, to how God's Plan has unfolded throughout the history of humankind; to witness the realization of the Triumph of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, which was prepared by God from all eternity and announced in the gardens of Eden by the curse upon Lucifer: "...a woman shall crush your head."

This woman enters History 2,000 years ago: she is the Blessed Virgin Mary. She gives us the Redeemer and, at the end of time, tells us through Pina, Nicola's mother, that She has chosen you, Nicola, to execute God the Father's curse, and She has made you, a poor sinner, into Her masterpiece of grace, which makes Jesus exclaim: "Nicola has imitated Me so well that I have raised him above the Angels..."

In the message of 09/23/1986, we can read: "...the irrefutable proof of Nicola's sanctity will be given through his body... intact, on which even the scars from his surgical operations will no longer be visible." In the message of 04/20/1987, it is said: "...they will come to kiss Nicola's body and will be healed. Sabaudia will become a center of mystical serenity."

We read again in the message of 07/23/1992: "Nicola's cause does not need proof but men who are in love with the truth." Nicola himself, on 10/02/1992, asserts: "Mom, with my beatification cause I will revolutionize all the rules established until now... my cause is based on my books... with Father Pio an era of obscurantism ends, with me the era of the spirit of Truth begins... tell the bishop that the guiding thread is my book... it brings back Truth where there is error... the Church must confirm the holy origin of my books..."

Nicola's spirit is alive. The purpose of Nicola's book is to precisely communicate this Truth, which today is being gagged by those who should be its spokespeople.

"Don't fall asleep, Mom! Disseminate my book to fight the heresies that infest the Church!" [1] —this is the imploring cry of a very much alive and still active Nicola that his Friends continually gather so that it may resonate in the hearts of those who have lost the Way, the Truth, the Life.

[1] My Friend Nicola, message 11.03.1997

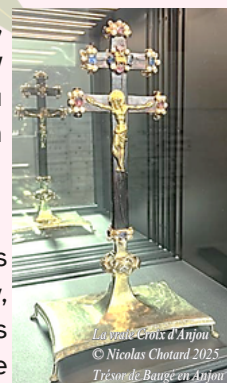
The Treasure of the Baugé-en-Anjou Treasure: The True Cross of Christ the Savior



On Pentecost 2025, having just been elected by the grace of the Holy Spirit on May 8, Leo XIV addressed this precious message in honor of the inauguration of the new treasury housing the highly valuable Cross of Anjou: "The Holy Father greets you fraternally and conveys to the guardian Sisters of this distinguished relic his unity in prayer on this day and confirms you in your vocation."

In his address, Bishop Delmas of Angers recalled the importance of roots...

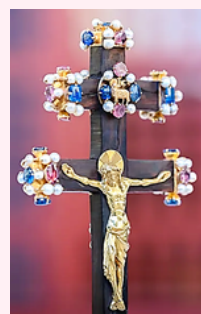
...the Christian roots of our holy nation: "...France would no longer be France without its religious heritage." But the Eldest Daughter of the Church, for the time of human History, would no longer be so, above all, without its faith and the return to the virtues of its baptism, powerfully recalled with prophetic force by St. John Paul II at Le Bourget on June



1...80, with the mission of being once again "the light of the nations."

Sister Claire Monique, Mother General Sister of the Congregation of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, guardians of this distinguished relic, recounted its truly miraculous history in this place during the very contrary times of the revolution: "In 1790, the Cross was put up for sale at the church of Baugé, but Anne de la Girouardière, the superior of the Order, hastened to buy this treasure to bequeath it to her Daughters, with the Poor... the first Treasure of the whole Church of Our Lord: 'How can we not see in this improbable arrival of the Cross of Christ a seal from Heaven.'"

This unique staurotheca, which does not contain just a fragment as is usual, but whose entire wood comes from the True Cross of Our Lord, the second largest in France, is one of the most important direct testimonies of Our Lord in His death, along with the Most Holy Crown of Thorns, currently incarcerated at Notre-Dame in Paris since 2024, the Holy Tunic of Argenteuil, and of course the most holy Shroud preserved in Turin, all impregnated with the Most Precious Blood of the tortured Jesus, in addition to the various relics disengaged (and not redeemed) from the Byzantines by King Saint Louis. After the dispersal of the true Cross discovered (325 or 326) by Empress Saint Helena, mother of Constantine, the holy reliquary was brought back from the Holy Land by a crusader from Baugé in 1244.



Characterized by having two unequal crossbars (patibula), it became the Cross of Lorraine through the union of René d'Anjou and Isabelle de Lorraine, an emblem forever shared in our Gaullist national memory.

This cross is therefore double, not only because of its two crossbars but also because of its reverse side, which shows the dead Christ in a style very comparable to that of the contemporary Cross of the Order of the Holy Spirit of Brittany, preserved in the Louvre, beneath a medallion adorned with the Paraclete Dove. The front side shows the glorious, living Christ beneath the oculus of the Agnus Dei carrying the labarum.

One can particularly contemplate the preciousness of the reliquary and its jewels, set in the 14th century under the mandate of its owner, Duke Louis I of Anjou. All are preserved in perfect condition. The figures are made of chiseled and repoussé gold. Sapphires and emeralds are set alongside marvelous fine pearls in the chapes, with a confusing perfection and, above all, revealing by their so pure, unaltered water—their nacre having remained luminous and radiant for more than eight centuries—quite simply... that they accompany the living Savior. This is because pearls, without being worn by a living person, inevitably die and become necrotic! What a confusing testimony to the authenticity of the sacred wood, of this tree of life, itself vivified and regenerated for eternity by the incredible contact of the tortured and dead Savior, nailed to its fibers!

The whole mystery of the Cross, but also of the Resurrection, can therefore be contemplated in the veneration of this absolute Treasure.

[1] Based on the article, which was inspired in part by a letter from Nicolas Chotard, Priest of the Lilies of France, dated June 21, 2025:

[1] Reliquary of the Holy Cross

[1] Saint Louis did not want to treat the holy relics of the Passion of Our Lord as mere commercial objects. He considered them the royal ransom for a Person, the most significant there is, who was held captive by the Latin Emperor of the East, Baldwin of Flanders, a cousin of Louis IX, in 1238. Baldwin, who was dying, had pawned the relics to Venetian bankers who wished to buy them. The holy king dedicated a large portion of his personal fortune to this cause.

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