

The sorrowful Mysteries

Meditated on Tuesday and on Friday

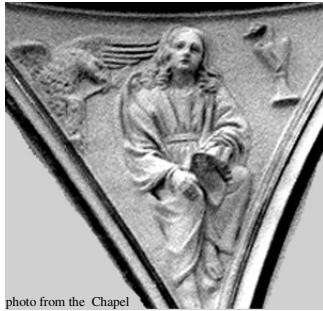


photo from the Chapel

Here begins the history of the Passion of Christ.

These eighteen terrible hours endured by Jesus before His death shows the deep love of God for us.

The Passion of St John, which we read in the Roman liturgy on Good Friday, is the most touching. It is not because St John is the only recorder, but he has also seen and heard it. As a disciple of the first and the last hour, he wrote his "memories" in Ephesus (in Asia Minor) at the end of the first century.

His gospel begins with "in Heaven", close to God, hence the eagle is his symbol. The impressive Prologue announces the mystery of the Word of God incarnate, which appears like a key to history. John, whom we call the theologian was also the first one who saw Mary's part in the salvation of the world.

His writing, simple but picturesque and detailed, is extraordinary powerful. He brings the images of the creation: light, water, wind and the everyday realities of life: the vine, bread, the shepherd. It is a living image of his Lord that John has left us, himself the witness and the friend whose soul was in harmony with that of Christ.

September 2003

John 19,39 Pilate orders Jesus to be whipped (scourged).
A short meditation on the event
 Jesus was whipped. It is a factual historical incident found in all four gospels. It is an important episode of His Passion. Pilate to whom Jesus was brought after he had appeared before the chief priest Caiaphas, handed Jesus over to the executioner even before announcing the death sentence. Embarrassed by the situation, he then proposed to set Jesus free, but a famous prisoner called Barrabas was then preferred by the Jews to be set free. In order to please the enemies of Jesus, Pilate handed Jesus over to be scourged.

The Roman soldiers stripped Jesus of his clothes and attached Him to a pillar and lashed Him with their whips, which were composed of two to three lashes joined at their end by a sheep's knucklebone or two metallic balls. With the Jews, the torture was limited to 49 strokes. The Roman whipping was especially brutal. Experts have checked the shroud of Turin which is marked with about 120 strokes.

With the Chapel at "true du Bac"
 Among the victims of cruel human torture, there are those who suffered for their faith. Ordained priest in this Chapel, in 1815, St Jean-Gabriel Perboyre, Priest of the Mission, suffered martyrdom in China in 1840 under conditions very close to the Passion of Christ. His remains rest at the Chapel of St Vincent de Paul.

Graces for now
 Open your eyes, look at the unconcerned indifferent crowd in front of this terrible spectacle of the sufferings of Jesus. Look at the wild executioners whipping Him with cruelty Ask for the grace of understanding the suffering of others and like Mary uniting our sufferings to Jesus.

Clause : and Jesus *whipped*, the fruit of thy womb....
Reflection : How can I forget that this blood has been poured for me?

The Scourging At The Pillar



The Chapel Pamphlets

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Pray the Rosary with the Chapel

N° 4

The Sorrowful Mysteries



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The Agony of Jesus in Gethsemane
 The 4th Gospel, which is well-known for recounting the life of Jesus, passes over the agony of Jesus at the Mount of Olives. We therefore follow St Mark who gives a simple sorrowful version.

Mark 14,34 He said to them, "The sorrow in my heart is so great that it almost crushes me. Stay here and keep watch."
A short meditation on the event
 In the garden called Gethsemane, Jesus took with Him the three disciples, Peter, James, and John who were with Him during the Transfiguration. The feeling of a deadly agony seized Jesus and the thought that He must go through this time of suffering brought an unfathomable desolation: the sadness of a friend's betrayal, the sadness of being abandoned by the Lord, the sadness of a Messiah being rejected; the horror of sin and vile actions of humanity; sorrow in front of the ingratitude with which men repaid his love and the loss of souls who rejected Him.

During this suffering, Jesus turned to his Father with humility and confidence. He stepped aside to pray, then he came back to the three disciples and found them asleep. He said to Peter reproached and added the exhortation: "Keep watch and pray..." The second time and then the third, Jesus stepped aside to pray. When He came back to join the disciples again, Jesus was fortified by the grace of God. Jesus accepted the chalice of the Passion.

With the Chapel at "true du Bac"
 The Blessed Virgin has appeared standing on a semi-sphere terrestrial. Her feet crushing a snake, the symbol of evil. In the spiritual fight, we are not alone. Mary fights for us and with us, if we ask her...

Graces for now
 Peter loves Jesus. He believes that he is ready for any sacrifice. But at the critical time when Jesus is in need of him, he sleeps... May prayer become the most important act in our lives...
Clause : and Jesus, who does not find a consoler, the fruit of...
Reflection : Pray with Jesus at the hour of His immense suffering, is the first love we are able to offer Him.

Jesus Crowned With Thorns

John 19,3 They came to Him and said, "Long live the King of the Jews!" and they slapped

A short meditation on the event

When the executioners were tired of slapping, they untied Jesus, putting on His shoulders a purple robe and forcing over His head a crown made of long thorns with sharp ends cutting into His forehead. Sniggering and bowing down in front of Him to make fun of His royal claims while slapping His face. The kingship of Christ, King of heaven and earth, was ridiculously turned upside down; but the crowning of thorns far saw the triumph of the Christ-King through this abyss of humiliation. The crown of thorns, object of the veneration of all Christians, was placed in the Cathedral of Paris in a grand ceremony by Saint Louis, King of France, who ordered the construction of the Saint Chapel in order to conserve it, in 1246. The crown of thorns is venerated at Notre-Dame on the first Friday of every month and all the Fridays of Lent.

With the Chapel at "rue du Bac"

Sister Catherine saw, during the time of her training, the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The 6 June 1830 is the feast of the Holy Trinity: "Our Lord appeared like a King, with the cross on His chest..." This vision testifies the eucharistic royalty of Christ. From His tabernacle, Jesus-Host reigns over the universe: He is the God almighty, the Lord in front of Whom all kneel, bow and surrender, in Heaven, on earth and in the underworld.

Graces for now

That the Virgin Mary helps us to recognize in all suffering people the Sainly Face crowned with thrones.

Clausule : ...and Jesus crowned with thrones, the fruit of....

Reflection : Like St Vincent, say often with love: "O Saviour!"

The Crucifixion and the Death of Jesus

John 19, 25-27 Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, and next to her the disciples that He loved. Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son". Then He said to His disciple, "Here is your mother". From that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

A short meditation on the event

It was three o'clock in the afternoon. The Son of God died, executed by men at this tragic hour. Without resistance, the Lord of Heaven and of earth was ready to take up the horrible torture of crucifixion. How torn was the heart of His Mother, who followed Him up to Calvary and stood at the foot of the Cross!

As an eye witness of the death of Jesus, John reported the scene. Four women were also close to the cross. In front of this group, Jesus declared His supreme desire: He entrusted to His mother his beloved disciple, His Church and the whole of humanity; and on earth, John would be the one to shelter, to nourish and to love the Mother of Jesus after the death of her Son.

After His death, the last revelation of the love of Jesus was shown to us by this last symbolic act: His heart was pierced by a spear from which flowed blood and water.

With the Chapel at "rue du Bac"

At the foot of the cross, Mary became the Mother of men. The gift of the medal in our Chapel is the gift of a mother who protects and guides her children in order to lead them to God. And God had chosen for that a Chapel dedicated...to His Sacred Heart.

Graces for now

Let us ask the grace to contemplate Christ crucified, perfection of love in the Mass which continually renews the sacrifice of the cross. The altar in our churches is a new Calvary.

Clausule : ...et Jesus, crucified and died on the cross, the fruit...

Reflection : : It would appear that Jesus is abandoned by His Father and Mary is abandoned by her son. When we are burdened by temptations, look up to Jesus, look up to Mary.

The Carrying Of The Cross

John 19,17 Jesus, carrying His cross, came to "The Place of the Skull". In Hebrew called "Golgotha".

A short meditation on the event

According to the rules, the convicted person must carry the heavy cross beam, on which he would be nailed or attached, right up to the place where he would be tortured. In this ancient quarry, at the exterior of the fortress of Jerusalem, was a rock extending out, 4m high. Three stakes stood out on the mound called Golgotha.

Little by little, the memory of the path where the gloomy procession was followed has become the object of devotion for Christians. During the XVIII century, under the influence of St Léonard of Port-Maurice, the 14 stations were erected. The number was then increased to 572, included the Colisée at Rome. Each year, the Pope makes the stations there on Good Friday.

With the Chapel at "rue du Bac"

The 14 stations made of Carrara marble which cover the walls of the chapel date from 1930, a century after the apparitions. As always, 9 stations illustrate the scenes reported by the gospels while the other five mark incidents reported by tradition.

We are penetrating into the deepest love of God and discovering the source of our eternal life by making the way of the cross. This is also the way to learn how to carry the burden of one another.

Graces for now

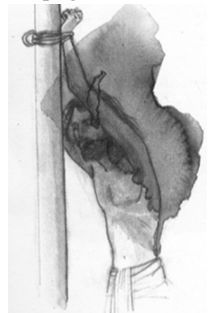
Those who applauded the miracles of Jesus, the friends of happy days, have disappeared but a small group of women are still loyal to Him and follow Him. Also him whom Jesus love, as named himself John. May we also be among the ones joining the little group who console Jesus by their fidelity and their love.

Clausule : And Jesus, carrying his cross, the fruit of.....

Reflection : "All the poor who are suffering everywhere, are my burden and my sorrow." said St Vincent.

The Agony of Jesus in Gethsemane

St Mark 14, 38



The Scourging At The Pillar

St John 19, 39



Jesus Crowned With Thorns

St John 19, 3



The Carrying Of The Cross

St John 19, 17



The Crucifixion and the Death of Jesus

St John 19, 25-27