

# Carmelites of the Holy Face

St. Joseph's Carmelite Hermitage, O.Carm  
Inchincurka, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, Rep. of Ireland



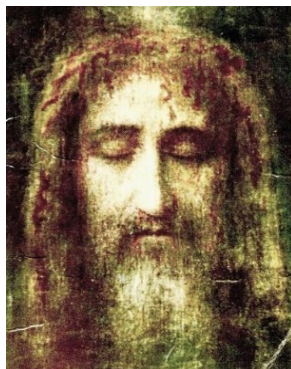
Website: [carmeliteshollyface.com](http://carmeliteshollyface.com)

Issue 28 — February 2024

*“And the Lord said: My Face shall go before thee, and I will give thee rest.”  
— Exodus 33:14*

Dear Friends & Benefactors,

As most of you are well aware, society is presently suffering greatly from “the malice of revolutionary men” who are doing their best to destroy the Church of Christ and to wipe out every trace of a Christian civilisation. Heaven has warned us of this danger and indicated the remedy, which is the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus; but the revelations made to Sr. Mary of St. Peter on this subject are not sufficiently known and generally people attach but little importance to them. After all, how could something so simple be an effective weapon in a conflict so great? Nevertheless, the more seriously we think about it, the more apparent it becomes that the Holy Face Devotion is not merely another pious devotion among many others, but is precisely the weapon needed to defeat those revolutionary men who are working so tirelessly for the demonization of Church and State.



The ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East are a visible indication of a problem which lies much deeper. Physical battles are always connected with a warfare of a different kind. They remind us of the inner conflict in which every human being who possesses the use of reason is compelled to choose sides. They show us in a very concrete way that there is a struggle between good and evil, grace and sin, the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. They dispel the illusion that it is possible for both sides to live in mutual harmony or that compromise can succeed in restoring the tranquillity of order while justice and truth are ignored. We all desire peace, but we shall never enjoy it unless and until the King of Peace reigns in our hearts. As Our Lady of Fatima said, war is a punishment from God. It is permitted by Him as a corrective punishment for sin. Sin is rebellion from God. By it we refuse to follow His plan for our eternal happiness, and so we must suffer the consequences. Sin is

evidently the underlying cause of every war. *“For if thou hadst walked in the way of God, thou hadst surely dwelt in peace for ever.” – Baruch 3:13*

There was peace and harmony when the world began. “God saw all the things that He had made, and they were very good.” They were good because they reflected His own infinite goodness, beauty and perfection by corresponding perfectly to His plan for them. The highest and noblest of God’s creatures was man, whom He had endowed with an immortal and rational soul. *“For God created man incorruptible, and to the image of His own likeness he made him. But by the envy of the devil, death came into the world.” – Wisdom 2:23-24*

When Adam and Eve sinned, they lost this divine likeness, for it was a very serious sin which robbed them of sanctifying grace and put them in a state of enmity with God. According to the teaching of St. Bernard, however, the image of God can never be entirely lost, even if it is obscured and marred by sin. The entire spiritual life is intimately connected with restoring the image and likeness of God in our soul, so that we may reflect Him perfectly in eternity when we see Him Face to face in the Beatific Vision.

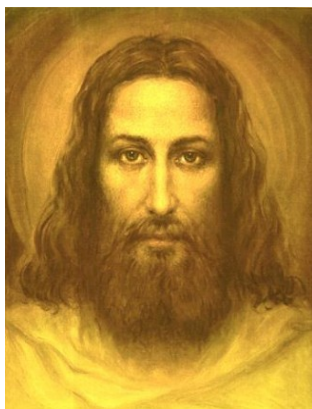


When Adam and Eve lost that divine likeness, they immediately began to experience the effects of the disorder caused by opposing God’s plan. Their passions were no longer submissive and rebelled against their higher powers just as they had rebelled from God. We all suffer from the consequences of original sin, even after the sin itself has been washed away by Baptism. We all have to fight against our passions in order to bring our lower nature into subjection to God and His will. *“For the flesh lusteth against the spirit: and the spirit against the flesh; for these are contrary one to another: so that you do not the things that you would.” – Galatians 5:17*

Once this divine likeness had been lost, man himself was incapable of regaining it and of repairing the damage caused by sin. In His great mercy, God promised to send a Redeemer, and when the fullness of time had come, He Himself became man. By His Passion and Death and by His perfect obedience to the Father, Our Lord Jesus Christ atoned for the disobedience of our First Parents, reopened the gates of Heaven, and restored the divine image and likeness which had been disfigured by sin. This restoration, however, does not happen automatically, for God respects our free will. And it is not enough to say that we accept Jesus as our Saviour if our lives have nothing in common with His life. Of course in externals there may be little we have in

common, but our interior life must be marked by the same characteristics as His. We must endeavour to act as He would act were He in our place. We must strive to seek the will of the Father in all things, even as He did.

Through the merits of the Passion of Our Lord applied to us through the Sacrament of Baptism, we are cleansed of original sin and our souls take on the divine likeness once again. At that moment, we cease to be isolated individuals and we become members of the Mystical Body of Christ. But this is only the beginning of the Christian life. The perfect completion and fulfilment is found only in the Beatific Vision in Heaven; and in order for us to behold the Lord Face to face, His likeness within us must be perfectly restored. In the meantime, we find ourselves frequently falling into sin. The “old Adam” is not entirely dead within us. We have to fight hard to overcome our evil tendencies and develop our resemblance to Christ. But we are not fighting alone, and nor is it a losing battle unless we deliberately cease to strive for perfection. Our Lord has left us the image of His Holy Face to be our shield, our guide and a pledge of victory.



The image of His Face which Our Lord left impressed upon the Veil of Veronica and the Holy Shroud is the image of His suffering Face. This is very significant. It shows us what sin does to His likeness in our souls; how it mars and disfigures the divine beauty which we bear within us when in the state of grace. It demonstrates the love which led Him to take upon Himself the suffering due to sin so that we might know the bliss of perfect resemblance to God and see Him eternally, Face to face. It reminds us that we also have to suffer in order to become truly like Him.

*“For we have not a high priest who can not have compassion on our infirmities: but one tempted in all things like as we are, without sin.” – Hebrews 4:15*

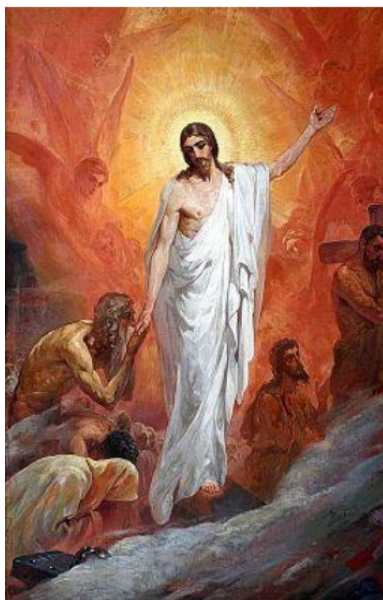
Deep within every human heart there is a secret and generally subconscious longing to become like God. That is not a bad thing. We have been created for this, and perfect happiness is impossible until this destiny has been realised. The danger lies in thinking that we can achieve this goal ourselves, by our own efforts, independently of God and His grace. “You will be as gods” – such is the subtle temptation which the devil uses to lead us into sin. His tactics haven’t changed much from the day when he tempted Eve in the garden of paradise. The only way to be truly like God is by union with Jesus Christ who

has said: *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father, but by Me.” – John 14:5-6*

True Devotion to the Holy Face does not demand a multitude of additional vocal prayer and pious practices. If it did, there would be some excuse for considering it to be something unnecessary for salvation. The essence of the Holy Face Devotion consists in restoring the divine likeness in souls. Every soul in the state of grace may be said to have it already in some degree. The external practices of the Devotion (such as reciting the prayers of reparation and venerating an image of the Holy Face) are useful only insofar as they lead us to focus on the end of this Devotion; namely, the attainment of perfect likeness to God – the immediate preparation for the Beatific Vision, which is what Heaven is. There is no devotion more calculated to spur us on to achieve that Christian perfection to which we are called – every one of us without exception. The souls in Purgatory are detained there only because they did not attain to the perfect restoration of the divine likeness in their souls during their life on earth.

However alarming the world situation may appear, let us not forget that the real warfare is taking place in the depths of every human heart. It is consoling to realise that Our Lord is fighting with us, and that He has promised us the victory so long as we have recourse to the divine weapon He has given us. With Him on our side, who can harm us? His Holy Face has gone before us like a banner on the battlefield which brings courage to the warriors who see it. By earnestly engaging in the spiritual combat, we rally around this standard of victory and unite in the battle against the powers of darkness.

It is truly fitting that the Church has established Shrove Tuesday as the Feast of the Holy Face. As we begin the Holy Season of Lent, symbolic of our journey on earth, may our focus be the restoration of the divine likeness in our souls by prayer and penance. Then, when our pilgrimage is over, and the day of the Resurrection dawns, we may hope to see the Face of Jesus in glory and to reflect His glorified Image for all eternity!



# A Holy War

Today there is much talk of wars,  
But mankind generally ignores  
Their deeper, underlying cause,  
Which is transgression of God's laws.

Since grace and peace are near akin,  
All wars are consequence of sin.  
They manifest the war within,  
In which they have their origin.

There was no war when time began,  
Nor opposition to God's plan;  
So every earthly battle can  
Be traced back to the Fall of man.

If harmony would be restored,  
The major key we can't afford  
To overlook or leave ignored  
Concerns the Image of the Lord.

In God's own image man was made;  
God's likeness, too, his soul displayed;  
And grace unto his heart conveyed  
True peace, until he disobeyed.

By sin that image had been marred,  
And likeness lost, so man was barred  
From paradise. He laboured hard,  
But still his soul was deeply scarred.

By Adam's sin we all were stained;  
Its bad effects have still remained;  
But by His Passion Christ obtained  
A way for grace to be regained.

His Face is image and reflection  
Of God's design for man's perfection.  
His suffering likeness brings  
protection,  
While pain restores the lost  
connection.

His Face reflects our wounded hearts.  
By pain accepted, healing starts.  
As love increases, sin departs;  
And God-like beauty grace imparts.

Christ's Passion gained the victory;  
It ransomed us and set us free.  
His wounded Face reminds us we  
Must battle too – on Calvary.

Since God alone can give repose,  
If we ignore our inward foes  
And cease to fight, it plainly shows  
That war, not peace, is what we chose.

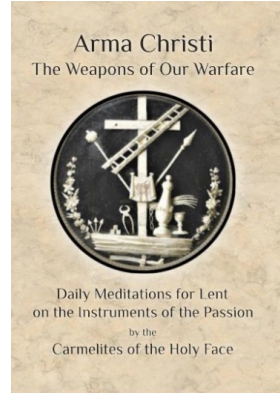
The daily combat to restore  
His likeness in our hearts once more  
Is quite a struggle, to be sure;  
But peace is gained by such a war.

When with our passions we have  
warred,  
When perfect likeness is restored,  
We shall behold as our reward  
The Glorious Face of Christ our Lord.

*Cf. Genesis 1:26, 5:1; Job 7:1; Ephesians 6:12;  
2 Corinthians 3:18, 10:4*

# Hermitage News

- ✦ December 2023 – Taking advantage of the winter months and the opportunity for indoor work, we were able to complete two manuscripts intended for publication. One book is entitled *“Beyond the Veil: the Holy Face Devotion in the Light of Sacred Scripture”*. The other is entitled *“Arma Christi: The Weapons of our Warfare.”* This one is a collection of daily meditations for Lent on the Instruments of the Passion. The instruments of the Passion are very much connected with the Holy Face Devotion and with bringing about the defeat of revolutionary men. We did not realise until now how much work goes into the publication of a book! A very kind traditional priest from the USA has read and approved of the draft for the former book and is currently writing the preface. We hope to have it published in the coming months. Given the current situation in the Church, it will be readily understood why it is not feasible to seek an imprimatur through the usual channels!
- ✦ 10 December 2023 – We held our third monthly meeting of the League of St. Martin, attended by nine faithful, including our next-door neighbour. Several members reported that they are attempting to get family members and work colleagues to stop blaspheming, with positive results. Naturally we were overjoyed to hear this good news.
- ✦ 25 December 2023 – Three Christmas Masses were offered in the Hermitage by a visiting priest, and we also were able to have Benediction that evening. It was a truly blessed Christmas day, and we could not have asked for more!
- ✦ January 2024 – A traditional bishop read and approved of the draft for our book on the “Arma Christi,” while a benefactor kindly did the editing and designed the cover for us. With Lent approaching rapidly, it did not leave them much time! Needless to say, we are grateful to them both for obliging us in this matter. Several hundred copies of this book have been ordered from a printing company and are due to arrive about one week before Ash Wednesday. As soon as we receive the copies, we will be able to fix a price and calculate the cost of postage. We will then send out a general email with more information in case you wish to place an order.





The annual novena in preparation for the Feast of the Holy Face of Jesus is beginning as usual on Sexagesima Sunday. We invite you all to join us in this novena, at least in spirit! We currently use the 9-day novena booklet provided by Human Life International, but we make the necessary adjustments to keep it traditional. This booklet is readily available online as a free PDF for those who wish to use the same prayers. Just like last time, we have no further news in relation to a permanent chaplain, but we continue to pray – and to ask your prayers – for this intention. Several young ladies have asked to come and discern their vocation with us and are planning a visit in the spring and summer, so we ask you to kindly keep them in your prayers as well. We pray for you all in turn, begging God to reward you, as only He can, for your generosity and support.

Wishing you a fruitful Lent as we unite in seeking the Face of God,

***Mother Irene & Community***

## **Available from our Carmelite Shop:**

|   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Holy Face (Shroud Image) A4 Prints .....  | €1.00 each, 10 for €5.00   |
| Hand-made Wooden Holy Face Chaplet Beads (purple/brown) .....                     | €6.00                      |
| Holy Face Prayer Booklet (36 pages) .....   | €2.00                      |
| Holy Face Medal (Shroud Image) .....  | €1.00                      |
| Holy Face Medal 3D (bronze/gold/silver) .....                                     | €2.00                      |
| Large Holy Face Scapular (white) .....  | €9.50                      |
| Hand-made plastic Holy Face Chaplet Beads (red/green) .....                       | €6.00                      |
| Blessed Oil of the Holy Face .....  | Free                       |
| Hand-made plastic Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal (var. colours. avail.) ..... | €6.00                      |
| Hand-made wooden Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal (purple) .....                | €6.00                      |
| Brown wool Scapulars of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel .....                              | €3.00                      |
| Miraculous Medal, Standard Size (silver) .....                                    | €1.00                      |
| Large Ornate St. Benedict Medal (silver) .....                                    | €7.00                      |
| St. Christopher & St. Anthony Bronze Medal .....                                  | €4.50                      |
| St. Benedict Copper- Coloured Crucifix .....                                      | €2.00                      |
| St. Benedict Medal, Silver-coloured, oval, standard size .....                    | €1.00                      |
| Pardon Crucifix (gold/silver/bronze) .....  | €7.00                      |
| Cord of St Joseph (with explanatory leaflet and holycard) .....                   | €5.00                      |
| Greeting and/or Mass Cards .....  | €3.00 each or €10.00 for 4 |
| Blessed 100% Beeswax Candle .....   | offering, €1.00            |
| Blessed Salt .....  | Free                       |

## HOW TO HELP US?

- ✓ **By your prayers**, especially that Our Lord will send us good vocations, courageous “Veronicas” to wipe and honour His Adorable Face and make reparation for poor sinners.
- ✓ **By your generosity**: bank transfer made payable to  
Carmelites of the Holy Face  
St. Joseph's Hermitage  
Inchincurka, Dunmanway,  
Co Cork, Ireland  
  
Bank Name: Allied Irish Bank  
Bank Address: East Green, Dunmanway, Co. Cork  
Bank Identifier Code (BIC): AIBKIE2D  
National Sort Code: 93-60-73  
Account Number: 09084069  
IBAN: IE 05 AIBK93 6073 0908 4069
- ✓ **PayPal**: [monabyrne@rocketmail.com](mailto:monabyrne@rocketmail.com)
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