



# The Holy Face of Jesus

## Newsletter/ Video log



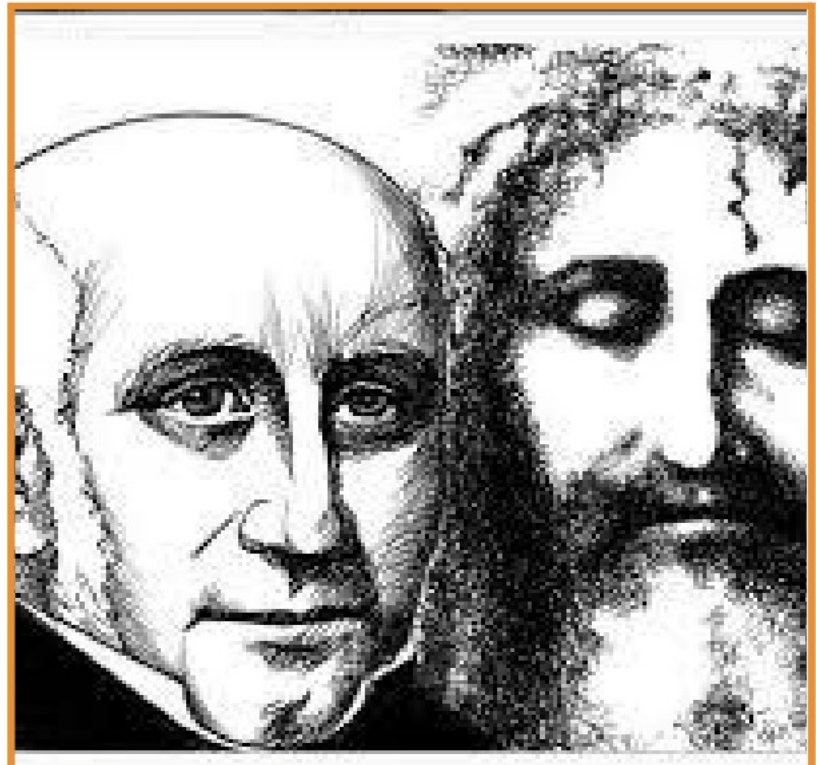
Issue 20 February 10th, 2025

### Part 2: The conversion of the Holy Man of Tours, Venerable Leon Dupont

#### VENERABLE LEO DUPONT

Last week, we discussed the early life of now Venerable Leo Dupont, dubbed 'the Holy Man of Tours' and one of 'the greatest miracle workers ever,' by none less than Blessed Pope Pius IX. It is extraordinary, how little known, then, this lay 19th century wonder worker or thaumaturgist is.

Leo's road to sanctity was however a long one. Age 21, a number of encounters with another rich gentleman like himself, a Monsieur Bordier, who freely gave catechetical instruction to the Parisian poor and who had been doing so to Clement, Leo's jockey, changed Leo's life. He was forced to contemplate how he'd easily forgotten Mass on Ascension Thursday while gallivanting in Paris with friends. This, compared with M. Bordier's concern for the salvation of all souls and his own. It could be said M. Bordier ultimately enlightened Leo on the centrality of the importance of his future lay vocation in saving souls. M. Bordier belonged to 'the Congregation of Mary,' a society of lay people started by a priest to combat the horrific consequences of the French revolution 20 years on in France, which Leo's family had avoided, by moving to the French colony of Martinique. Leo's compunction, that he had been living frivolously, also lead him to turn to a man who during his legal studies, was the most brilliant mind in his university. Now a priest, Fr Freyssinous, Leo's former friend, guided the young, handsome and fabulously wealthy Leo Dupont, through the differences between scrupulosity and laxity and on authentic detachment from worldly goods and acclaim. Fr Freyssinous and M. Bourdier, further enlightened Leo on his faith journey and on the socio-political consequences of the French revolution. For M. Bourdier, the intellectual hijacking of universities by evangelical atheists, shaped the minds and souls of future leaders and shapers of France. Noting how French youth were now treated to the regular scoffing of religion,



such that those who were religious, were intimidated into silence, M. Bordier argued that these hostile professors, found little opposition in their twenty something students who had little experience in argument or refutation, thus converting many of them into their own atheistic stance.

Noting in parallel, that priests during the revolution had almost disappeared as a class from France through mass murder or exile, M. Bordier commented that a seismic change was underway to dechristianize France. Bringing the Blessed Sacrament as viaticum to those in prison or in hiding, it was the French lay people, who undertook to keep the faith alive during the revolution. Unknown martyrs were caught and faced the guillotine themselves, especially if attending a banned underground Mass or sheltering a priest in a safe house. It was the French laity thus who came forth in France, eldest daughter of the Church, to keep the flame of faith alive and the Congregation of Mary was a fruit of this heroic witness.

According to M. Bordier, the balance between good and evil became so disproportionate, that the chaos ensued. There is nothing new under the sun. The decide of Christ, was not due solely to Pontius Pilate, or the high priest or the fickle people who hailed Jesus one day and denounced Him the next. It took all three groups; elites, failed religious and a mob to kill Christ. This repeated in the revolution. Elites including some clergy and the mob fomented it. A handful does not create a national or global conflagration. Rather, it is the end point of the culmination of wholesale wickedness and a turning from God. Therefore, it was no surprise that on pain of imprisonment and death, an oath of allegiance was demanded to the commune and state, even of the poorer clergy who had supported changes to improve the lot of the poorest of the poor. So it was,



20 years after the revolution ended, the Congregation of Mary, were now practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy and above all, were zealously evangelising the population as an antidote to the spiritual rot that they perceived had precipitated the reign of terror.

Witnessing to his faith, even to his anti-religious professors, now became a focus for Leo. A sign of the future miracles of conversion and healing Leo's faith would help work, was the completely unexpected conversion of Professor Durant, his determinedly anti-Catholic law professor. So hostile was Durant, that Leo had dropped out of his classes, studying privately instead. Matters came to a head, when Leo discovered Durant required an interview with each student and a review of attendance at his lectures, in order to sit the final exam and qualify as a lawyer. Expecting the worse, Leo nonetheless approached Durant and admitted to his non-attendance. Leo's faith and willingness to be thrown out was rewarded. God had intervened. Professor Durant had converted inexplicably just before Leo approached him and appreciating Leo's candour, permitted him to sit his finals. These he passed with flying colours and it was his business and legal acumen that God would later use to confound the sons of the revolution who scoffed at miracles.


**Call to Action: HLI Ireland aims to get the Holy Face of Jesus into every parish internationally.**

Remember, Jesus told Sr Marie Pierre in Tours in the mid 19th century, that He wanted the Holy Face prayers in EVERY TOWN, where they are “a weapon and a shield” and said:  
“Woe to those towns that will not make this act of reparation.”

**Become Familiar:** through books, videos and talks. Pray the prayers for your priests to know the Holy Face. Embed the prayers in your parish by praying them all in one go (20 minutes) or pray one a day of the five (4 minute) prayers over five days e.g. Monday to Friday e.g. before or after Mass together. Organise events: video showings, book clubs, prayer meetings onsite and online.

**Partner with Us:** become a **HLI Ireland ally** and a **Holy Face missionary** to the world. Our entire operation is expanding, entirely running on God’s providence and we invest any surplus back into mission. We are upgrading our website, translating into multiple languages and funding for an international state of the art app to get the Holy Face EVERYWHERE.

**Contact us:** [info@theholysface.com](mailto:info@theholysface.com) and let us know how we can help you and vice versa.

<p><b>For an overview of the devotion go to our website right:</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.theholysface.com">www.theholysface.com</a></p>
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