



The Holy Face of Jesus

Newsletter/ Video log



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Part 3: The return of Venerable Leon Dupont to Tours



The unassuming entrance to Venerable Leo Dupont's Home and site of countless miracles, Tours, France

Last week, we discussed how Venerable Leo Dupont went through a conversion experience in Paris through his interaction with two significant figures. A Monsieur Bordier, a well off devout catholic like himself and a brilliant man, Fr Freyssinous, instructed Leo on how the French revolution had spiritual underpinnings which had resulted from failures by elites, clergy and the people and that the antidote was to instruct and evangelise the people in their faith.

Following his sincere efforts to join the seminary were turned down, Leo was very disappointed. The rector, Fr Lemairie, of the Sulpician seminary he had applied to, remarked to him, that God had a very special work in store for him and that he would be better fitted to a layman. Despite his disappointment Leo found resonance with the words which echoed Mons. Bordier's zeal to evangelise the ordinary people. Mons. Bordier commented that the bloodbath of the Commune could have been avoided with an enlightened zealous, devout and active laity. Somehow Leo knew his vocation was towards this end. He could not have envisaged how extraordinary a lay vocation his would turn out to be in the entire history of the Church, never mind the 19th century when the clergy were expected to do most religious tasks in parishes.

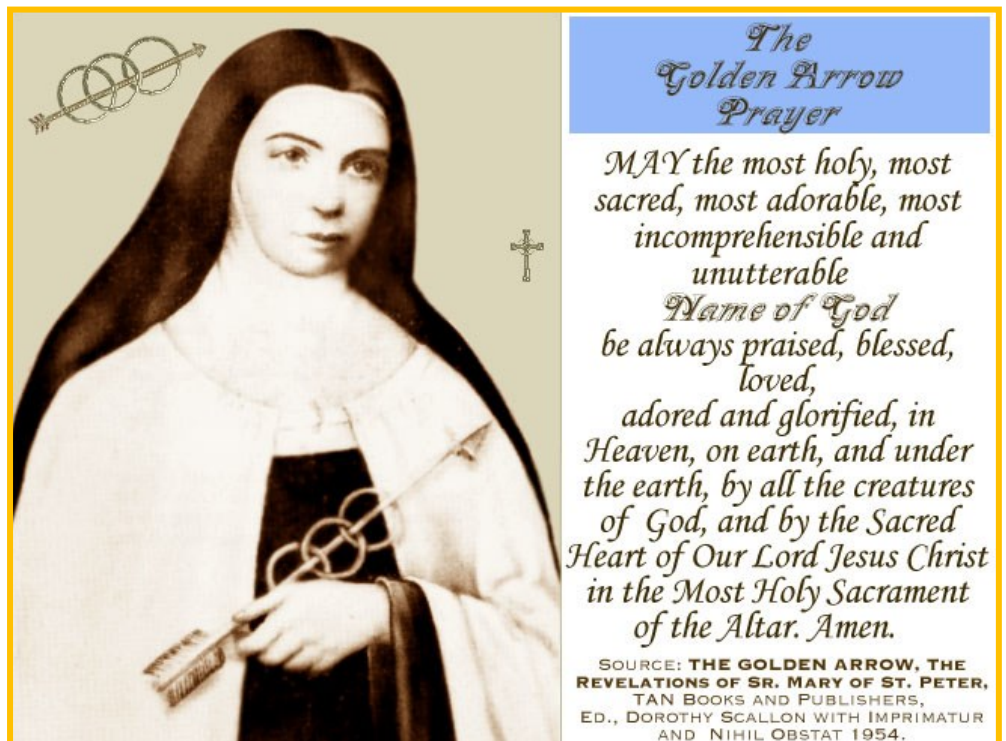
After this set back, Leo decided to return to home to Martinique, still a French colony, which had escaped the ravages of the revolution. He took on the running of the family plantation and became a councillor at the royal court there. Over time, he fell in love with Caroline Audifreddi, marrying her and spent six happy years there enhanced by the birth of their little daughter Henriette. But the words of Fr Lamairie haunted Leo. What was he doing for Christ?

Matters took a tragic turn when Caroline grew progressively more and more ill over months after the birth of Henriette and passed away shortly after her baptism.

Caroline was determined to leave Henriette's academic and religious education in the care of the Ursuline sisters of Tours, France, for whom she had the highest regard. In the end, a heart-broken Leo, his toddler Henrietta and his mother Mme. Arnaud, left Martinique and made their home in Tours, honouring his late wife's final wishes. Grieving, but with time on his hands, Leo's energy now turned entirely to evangelization.

Walking around Tours, Leo saw devastation to the French catholic Church. Not only during the revolution, anti-religious sentiment had brought waves of iconoclastic violence. Shrines and Churches were attacked. Leo heard blasphemy regularly and was grieved at the creeping increasingly immodest imagery displayed. The Cathedral of the great French bishop, St Martin of Tours, was rubble and his relics and crypt, buried under a new road. Though possibly the richest man in Tours and an esteemed lawyer, Leo set about teaching the poorest in Tours, basic reading, writing and instruction. Despite his intense prayer life, including the Divine Office, unusual for a lay person, Leo felt he needed to do even more to save souls. He described an illumination of conscience on the feast of St Mary Magdalene, July 22nd, to give up hunting, his one remaining pastime. A prayer card depicting St Teresa of Avila, reformer of the Carmelites, with a skull and the discipline or whip, fell from his bible. Leo started to practice the same penances as monks. He wrote pamphlets defending the faith against Voltaire and others who attacked not only the institution of the Church but her teachings especially on the Eucharist.

Friend to all religious orders in Tours, it was mainly the Carmelites that Leo befriended the most acting on any business matter for them. Eventually, he attended to a matter that unbeknownst to him at that time, would fulfil the "special vocation," Fr Freysson had prophesied for him. A young postulant, Sr Marie de Saint Pierre or Sr Marie of St Peter, had been instructed to write down mystical experiences she was having by her superior. After 4 years of this, Jesus revealed to her that she had a



special mission to advance a cause to repair for blasphemy. Leo felt a resonance in his soul. Our Lord had said: "Blasphemy! My Name is everywhere blasphemed. Even children blaspheme." He made me understand that this frightful sin more than any other, grievously wounds him." He further instructed that a prayer designed to repair for blasphemy be printed and distributed. This was entitled: "The Golden Arrow." This prayer, Jesus stated undid the poisonous arrows of abuse of God's Holy Name. Leo was both intrigued and well and truly hooked. He suggested the need for promoting this but realized this would face untold opposition at all levels, the first and most important one, permission from the bishop.


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 and let us know how we can help you and vice versa.

For an overview of the devotion go to our website right:	www.theholysface.com
History & Promises of the Holy Face devotion: >>>	Click History & Promises
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