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A ROUTE OF THE DEVOTION TO THE SHROUD FROM THE 19TH TO THE 20TH CENTURY: MOTHER MARIA PIA MASTENA (1881-1951), THE FOUNDESS OF THE 'RELIGIOSE DEL SANTO VOLTO'

Abstract

Late in the 19th century the Shroud exhibition in Turin helped to rekindle the devotion to this holy image among the clergy and the homes in Veneto.

In one of these homes young Maria Pia Mastena (1881-1951) developed an intense spiritual life focused in the love of Christ's suffering face as appeared to her on the Turin Shroud. This image powerfully expressed to her the force of His redemptive love of mankind. Her spiritual experience inspired Maria Pia Mastena to create a congregation of nuns, named "Religiose del S.Volto" to share and spread love of crucified Christ's face – quite an unusual charismatic mission in the Church of the early 20th century – devoted to assisting the poor, the young and the sick in their needs.