

FEAST OF THE HOLY SHROUD SOLEMNLY CELEBRATED IN FÁTIMA, PORTUGAL

In remembrance of the 30th anniversary of the death of His Majesty King Umberto II of Savoy and of the perpetual transfer of the possession of the Holy Shroud of Turin to His Holiness the Pope, the Portuguese Delegation of the Dynastic Orders of the Italian Royal House, the Oureana Foundation for Religious Research and the Portuguese Shroud Research Centre held a Solemn Mass for the Feast of the Holy Shroud with an exposition of Holy Relics of the Passion of Jesus Christ and of Saints of the Royal House of Savoy and a special Ostentation of a replica of the Holy Shroud.

The Mass, which was held at the Fatima Byzantine Centre in the Domus Pacis, Fátima, owned by the American Blue Army (World Apostolate of Fátima), was celebrated by the Byzantine Chaplain Father Silvio and concelebrated by Chaplain of the Royal House of Savoy, Father Mariani.

At a reception for the one hundred and twenty guests attending, the President of the Oureana Foundation Carlos Evaristo, together with the Delegate of the Savoy Orders Paulo Falcão Tavares and the Founder and President of the Portuguese Shroud Research Centre, Fernando Lagrifa Fernandes, explained the significance of the event being commemorated and gave a short History of the Holy Shroud of Turin and the Royal and Ducal House of Savoy.

This briefing was followed by the veneration of the Holy Relics of the Passion of Our Lord and Relics of the Saints of the House of Savoy from the Fátima Lipsanoteca of the Foundation for Religious Research and collected by Relic Experts Carlos Evaristo and Savoy Royal Chaplain Don Carlo Cecchin.

The Relics exposed also included pieces from the Table of the Last Supper, the Cup of Valencia, bones of the Apostles, the Veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary and bones of Saint John the beloved. The various Genuine Relics of the Holy Shroud of Turin and the Holy Face Cloth of Oviedo were the special favorite of devotees that during the entire day flocked to the Chapel of the Icon of Kazan in the Byzantine Chapel.



Before the Mass, celebrated for the repose of the Soul of the last King of Italy, a funeral wreath and a crown were placed before an oil painting of the King depicting him in military uniform as the young Prince at the time of his Marriage, when the last Solemn Ostentation of the Holy Shroud with the Relic held by Bishops occurred. The Prince is also depicted wearing, around his neck, a special Reliquary with a piece of the Holy Shroud as was custom of the Ducal House of Savoy during weddings.

At the beginning of the Mass a special copy of the Holy Shroud of Turin folded so as to only show the frontal section of the Body of Christ, was unveiled vertically amidst the ringing of bells, a cloud of incense and the beautiful cavernous chants of the Byzantine Centre's Choir who intoned ancient hymns once sung in Byzantium before the Shroud when the Relic was exposed using the same ancient ritual at Constantinople prior to the sack of the City on April 12th, 1204.



After the Ostentation the Relic was reverently taken down by Paulo Tavares and Carlos Evaristo, both of whom were dressed in the Garb of the Knights of the ancient Order of Saint Maurice and Lazarus of the Royal House of Savoy and respectively, the Delegate and Vicar of the Order in Portugal. The Order named after the Commander of the Legion of Thebes who is traditionally credited as having been the Saint who was the Custodian of such Relics of the Passion as the Holy Lance of Saint Longinus (also known as the Lance of Saint Maurice) is also named after another traditional Guardian of Holy Relics, namely Saint Lazarus, the friend of Christ that He had Resurrected from the dead.



A Solemn blessing was then given by the two presiding Priests with the Relic Replica of the Shroud using the same ancient ritual that was first used in the West after the arrival of the Sindone in Europe. This Ritual, as rediscovered by Carlos Evaristo, involved the crossing of stoles over the front of the chest concealing the hands of the priests as they

held the Shroud precisely as depicted in the medieval pilgrims badge discovered in France during the XIX Century.

The Final Blessing after the Mass was bestowed with the copy of the Holy Shroud rolled up so as to only show the Holy Face precisely as the original relic and copies were venerated both in Antioch, Edessa and Rome. Carlos Evaristo explained that this was what happened when these Veils were presented as being “Vera Iconae” (True Images) originating the name of the non-biblical pious maiden of Jerusalem Saint “Veronica” (formerly known as Serafica in apocryphal traditions) and who was supposed to have wiped the Face of Christ on the Road to Calvary on a Veil that retained His image.

All present including the Duke of Terceira in representation of the head of the Portuguese Royal House Dom Duarte, Duke of Bragança and also Italian Royal Honor Guards, were then allowed to kiss or touch the Relic and also the Antimension cloth bearing the image of the Dead Christ. Carlos Evaristo also explained that the Feast of the Holy Shroud as held in the Byzantine Centre was a special event since King Umberto II had attended Mass there various times right up until his death, when on Pilgrimage to Fátima. Since 1946 the King had lived out his exile in Vila Itália, on Lisbon’s Portuguese Coast and it was at Fátima, in conversation with Blue Army Co-Founder John Haffert, that he first had the idea to donate the Holy Shroud to the living person of the Pope.

After the Mass, a short presentation was given by Carlos Evaristo in the Domus Pacis Auditorium regarding the origin and significance of the Feast of the Holy Shroud and also explaining the nature of the Copy of the Holy Shroud used for the Celebration as being a newly discovered 1775 “EX Extractum Originali” replica made using an ancient process for the transfer of portions of the original Shroud to the copy. Evaristo who is the Founder of the Fátima Lipsanoteca is considered one of the World’s foremost experts on Holy Relics and has tens of thousands of Relics in the Lipsanoteca’s impressive collection, many of them formerly belonging to members of the Royal House of Savoy.

Carlos Evaristo explained the various ancient methods used for the creation of such copies as exclusively rediscovered by the same and detailed in his 2011 published study “The untold Story of the Holy Shroud” and confirmed by King Umberto II previous to his death 30 years ago. Evaristo also explained how the missing sections of the Shroud of Turin were removed to make “Ex Extractum” copies and substituted with Medieval cloth from where the samples for the controversial 1988 Carbon 014 tests were taken. Rituals of Ostentation and Exposition of the Holy Shroud in the East and the West were also explained by the Author.

Paulo Tavares as Delegate of the Orders of Savoy then announced the proposed program for the visit to Portugal of the Prince and Princess of Italy in October of this year, a three day visit that will include a Solemn Mass, an Ostentation and Veneration of Holy Relics of the Holy Shroud and the attribution of an award by the Oureana Historical Cultural Foundation for Religious Research in Memory of King Umberto II and under the Patronage of the Italian Royal House of Savoy to be attributed to those who during the past 30 years have most contributed to devotion, research and promotion of the Holy Shroud.

The Medical Doctor Antero Moreira as Director of the Portuguese Shroud Research Centre then gave a short talk on the recent Shroud of Turin News including recent studies, discoveries, conferences and the televised Ostentation held on the 40th anniversary of the first televised transmission on RAI Italian TV. This was followed by the signing of his new authoritative Book on the Holy Shroud.

The day’s celebrations coincided with the Byzantine Catholic Holy Saturday Vigil and so the veneration of the Holy Relics of the Passion and the Shroud on this day was considered a very special privilege and blessing by the Byzantine Centre Parishioners.

Following a buffet lunch the dignitaries present as well as the members of the various Organization, the Foundation and Shroud Research Centre held various meetings so as to better plan for the celebrations, studies and conferences planned for the near future.

**Dr. Paulo Falcão Tavares – Delegate and President
Dynastic Orders of the Royal House of Savoy
Spokesperson for the Oureana Foundation**