

FUTURE EVENTS (1)
EXTRAORDINARY EXPOSITION IN 2015

Starting with the latest, and most important, it was announced on 4 December that yet another extraordinary exposition of the Shroud would be held in its home, the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Turin, for about 45 days beginning at Easter 2015. The reason for such a remarkable decision, so soon after the last exposition, is the bicentenary of the birth of St John Bosco, who founded the Salesian Society in Turin in the late 19th century. Details will no doubt eventually appear on the 'Official' website, <http://www.sindone.org>, and elsewhere, but at the moment it has still to be properly updated from 2010! Cardinal Cesare Nosiglia, Archbishop of Turin and Papal Custodian of the Shroud, announced the news in a long statement (which I have edited) as follows:

“With a lot of hope, and also with a little trepidation, I am happy to announce that a special exhibition of the Holy Shroud will be held in the Cathedral of Turin in 2015. I have recently received the assent of the Holy Father to a public exhibition as part of the celebrations for the bicentenary of the birth of St John Bosco, Father and Teacher of young people, whose fruitful charism is now more relevant and alive than ever, both in the works initiated by him and in the service that his sons and daughters of the Salesian congregation perform for the universal Church. We are confident that on this occasion Pope Francis may come to pray before the sacred linen and to honor St John Bosco, sealing an extraordinary year for our ecclesiastical and civil communities.

“The opening of the exhibition at Easter refers to the death and resurrection of the Lord, and with it the beginning of the Church's mission. The Shroud, veil of death, becomes for believers a proof which recalls, with great effectiveness, the victory of the Lord of life. Yes, because the Shroud leads us into the darkness of the tomb of Christ, but also leaves a glimpse of the light of his resurrection.



Cardinal Nosiglia at the Special Exhibition in 2013. Photocredit: Associated Press

“It shows us the wounds caused to the Lord by his passion and death on the cross, announcing at the same time the victory of grace over sin, of forgiveness over hatred and violence, of trust in God over despair. The darkest mystery of faith that the Holy Saturday reminds us of, is at the same time the brightest sign of a hope that goes beyond the death.

“This is how Pope Francis invited us in his message on the occasion of the recent television exhibition of the Shroud: “The face in the Shroud reveals a restrained but powerful energy within it, shining through as if to say: have faith, do not lose hope; the power of the love of God, the power of the Risen One, overcomes all things”.

“The Shroud in this time of crisis, therefore, can give strength and hope to so many persons, families and communities, to anyone who knows how to contemplate and worship it with faith and love.

“I spoke of hope and concern. Hope because an exhibition is always a great occasion of pilgrimage and meditation that reaches the hearts of people and produces spiritual fruit. Concern because I know well what it means to organize such a big event, which involves the city and the whole region. We ask for the assistance of every qualified party in Turin and in Piedmont: from the parishes and the faithful to local authorities, banks and businesses. We also ask our brothers and sisters of other Christian denominations to join our prayer that this event promotes a common understanding of the death and resurrection of the Lord. We respectfully invite the faithful of other religions to accompany us with their friendship and goodwill during the time of the Shroud exhibition.

“I would like the Shroud exhibition of 2015 to excel also in terms of sobriety and simplicity. The exhibition is not the answer to the economic, social, ethical and cultural crisis we are fighting against, but it is an opportunity for us to prove that we are able to work together on a successful project with the greatest economy of resources, as emphasised by Pope Francis. The poor, the sick, the disabled, people in need, the elderly and families will be our priorities.

“There is another important word I want to say, and it is “Welcome.” We want the pilgrims and visitors to find a city that is “waiting for them”, that wants to meet them. In previous exhibitions, the great resource of volunteers, the “purple jackets of the Shroud,” as well as all those who work for the services that are needed for such an event, have been the real wealth of the pilgrimage.

“Prayer and faith, welcome, involvement, sober and essential organization of the resources are the keywords to organize together the exhibition of the Shroud, each one with its own role and its own powers and responsibilities.”

+ Cesare Nosiglia
Archbishop of Turin
Papal Custodian of the Shroud