

"I felt a deep longing to live always united to Jesus, to love Him intensely because my death can only be a transport of love with my Spouse, Jesus."

N.B. The words in italic have been faithfully copied from Mother Pierina's own writings.

Prayers to the Holy Face of Jesus

Deus in auditorium... Gloria...

- L** You have made known to me the path of life, you will fill me with joy with your Holy Face
- A** In your right hand there are pleasures for evermore
- L** O, my sweet Jesus, for the slaps, the spittle, the contempt that deface the Divine image of Your Holy Face:
- A** Have pity on poor sinners: *Gloria...*
My heart has said of you, "Seek his face!" Yahweh, I do seek your Face.
- L** O, my sweet Jesus, for your Holy Face bathed with tears:
- A** May your Eucharistic Reign triumph, in the holiness of Your Priests: *Gloria...*
My heart has said of you, "Seek..."
- L** O, my sweet Jesus, for your Divine Face bathed in a sweat of blood in the agony of Gethsemane:
- A** Enliven and strengthen the souls consecrated to You: *Gloria...*
My heart has said of you, "Seek..."
- L** O, my sweet Jesus, for your gentleness, nobleness and divine beauty:
- A** Enthral all hearts to your love: *Gloria...*
My heart has said of you, "Seek..."
- L** O, my sweet Jesus, for the divine light emanating from your Holy Face:
- A** Dispel the darkness of ignorance and mistake and be the light of holiness for Your Priests: *Gloria...*
My heart has said of you, "Seek..."
- L** O Lord, do not hide your Face from me.
- L** Do not turn your servant away in anger.

Invocation

My heart has said of you, "Seek his Face." Yahweh, I do seek your Face; do not hide your Face from me.

(Psalm 26, 8-9)

O, Holy Face of my sweet Jesus, by that tenderness of love and unspeakable grief with which the Blessed Virgin Mary beheld Thee in Thy painful Passion, grant that our souls may share in that great love and great sorrow, and fulfil more perfectly the Holy Will of God.

Amen.

With Ecclesiastical Approbation



Anyone obtaining graces or favours through the intercession of Blessed Mother Mary Pierina is kindly requested to inform: Figlie dell'Immacolata Concezione di Buenos Aires, 00153 Roma, Via Asinio Pollione, 5 - Tel.: +39 06.57.43.432 - 201744 Milano, Via Elba, 18 - Tel.: +39 02.48.00.77.60



The devotion to the Holy Face

GIUSEPPINA DE MICHELI was clothed with the habit of the Daughters of the Immaculate Conception on the 16th May 1916 and took the name of Sister Maria Pierina. A soul burning with love for Christ, she gave herself up unconditionally to her Divine Spouse Who, in turn made her the object of His particular complacency. From her childhood, she nourished a desire for reparation, which grew with her until it ended in a complete immolation of self. It is not surprising then, that at the age of twelve, when she was in her Parochial Church (St. Peter in Sala, Milan) on Good Friday, she heard a voice saying quite distinctly: "*Nobody gives me a kiss of love on My Face to make amends for the Kiss of Judas*" In her childlike simplicity, she believed that the voice was heard by everyone and was pained to see that only the wounds were kissed but not the face. In her heart exclaiming, "*Have patience, dear Jesus, I will give you a kiss of love*", she imprinted a kiss on His Face with full ardour.

As a novice, she was permitted to do night adoration and on the night between Holy Thursday and Good Friday, while she was praying before the Crucifix, she heard it say, "*Kiss Me*." Sister Maria Pierina obeyed and her lips felt not the contact with the plaster figure but the contact with the living flesh of the Face of Jesus.

When her Mother Superior called her, it was morning, and her heart was full of the sufferings of Jesus and of the desire to repair the outrages the Holy Face received and is daily receiving in the Most Holy Sacrament.

In 1919 Sister Maria Pierina was sent to the Mother House in Buenos Aires and, on the 12th April 1920, when she was complaining to Jesus of one of her sorrows, He appeared to her covered with bloodstains and with a sorrowful and affectionate expression (*which I shall never forget* - she writes) telling her "*And what have I done?*" Sister Maria Pierina understood and from that time the Holy Face of Jesus became her meditation book and the door to His Heart. She returned to Milan in 1921 and Jesus continued to grant her generously His fine favours. A little later she was elected Superior of the House of Milan and then Superior Regional for Italy, and, besides accomplishing her task of Mother, she became the Apostle of the Holy Face to the Sisters under her care and to all those with whom she came into contact. Mother Pierina knew how to hide the revelations she received on this devotion and only some of these facts came to the knowledge of her Community. She asked Jesus the permission to conceal and it was granted to her.

As years went by, Jesus showed Himself to her every now and again, sometimes sad and other times bleeding, asking her for reparation, thus increasing her desire to suffer and to immolate herself for the salvation of souls. During the night adoration of the First Friday in Lent in 1936, Jesus, after letting her share in His spiritual sorrow of the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, with His Face covered with blood and profoundly sad, told her: "*I wish that my Face, which reflects the intimate sorrow of my soul, and the suffering and love of my Heart, be better honoured. He who contemplates me consoles me.*" On the Tuesday following Passion Sunday, Jesus returned to her and said: "*Each time my Face is contemplated I will pour my love into hearts and through my Holy Face the salvation of many souls will be obtained.*" On the first Tuesday of 1937, while she

was at prayer, the Lord Jesus instructed her on the devotion to His Holy Face and, in the end, told her: "*Perhaps some souls fear that the devotion to my Holy Face may diminish that to my Sacred Heart. Tell them that, on the contrary, it will complete and increase it. Contemplating my Face, souls will share my sorrows and will feel the need for love and reparation. Is this not the true devotion to my Heart?*"

These manifestations became more and more frequent and in May 1938, whilst at prayer, on the altar step, a beautiful Lady (Mary Immaculate) appeared, in a beam of light, holding a Scapular, made of two small pieces of flannel joined by a cord. One of these pieces bore the image of the Holy Face of Jesus with the words "Illumina Domine Vultum Tuum Super Nos" (May the light of Thy Face, O Lord, shine upon us) and the other, a Host surrounded by rays and the words "Mane Nobiscum Domine" (Stay with us, O Lord). Gently the Lady approached and said: "*Listen carefully and refer everything to Father (the confessor): this Scapular is an armour of defence, a shield of strength, a pledge of mercy which Jesus wishes to give to the world in these times of lust and hatred against God and His Church. There are very few true apostles. A divine remedy is necessary, and this remedy is the Holy Face of Jesus. All who shall wear a Scapular like this and make, if possible, a visit to the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday in reparation for the outrages that the Holy Face of my Son Jesus received during His Passion and is still receiving in the Holy Eucharist every day, will*

- be fortified in the Faith,
- ready to defend it,
- overcoming all difficulties, internal and external.
- Further, they will have a peaceful death under the loving gaze of my Divine Son".

The request of Our Lady was increasingly pressing but Mother Pierina replied that it was not in her power to put it into execution. The permission of the one who guided her spiritual life and funds were necessary. The same year Jesus appeared again covered with blood and very sadly said to her: "*Do you see how I suffer? Yet, very few understand me. Those who say they love me are very ungrateful! I have given my heart as the sensible object of my great love to men and I give My Face as the sensible object of my sorrow*

for all the sins of men. I wish that it be venerated by a special feast on Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. The feast will be preceded by a novena in which the faithful make reparation with me, joining together and sharing in my sorrow." In 1939 Jesus said again: "*I wish that My Holy Face be honoured in a particular manner on Tuesdays*".

Mother Pierina felt the desire of Our Blessed Lady more and more fervent. She obtained permission from her spiritual Director and, though means were wanting, she set about the task. She obtained the permission of the photographer Bruner to take copies of the Holy Shroud as reproduced by him, and also the permission of the venerable Curia of Milan on the 9th August 1940. Financial means were still wanting, but the faith of the Reverend Mother made up for it. One morning she saw on a little table an envelope: she opened it to find 11,200 Italian liras. Our Blessed Lady had seen to it. The devil, maddened at this, fell upon this soul to frighten it and prevent the distribution of the medals: he threw her down in the corridor and down the steps, he tore the images and pictures of the Holy Face, but she bore up everything. She tolerated and sacrificed all so that the Holy Face may be honoured.

She was worried because she got medals made instead of scapulars. She turned to Our Blessed Lady to obtain peace of mind in the matter. On the 17th of April 1943 the Blessed Virgin appeared to her and said: "*My daughter, rest assured, the Scapular is replaced by the medal with the same promises and favours - it only has to be spread widely. Now my heart is on the feast of the Face of my Divine Son. Tell the Pope that it preoccupies me.*" She blessed her and departed.

At present the medal is spread with enthusiasm. What wonderful graces, conversions and cures are being obtained, dangers averted, the condemned liberated. How many, o, how many!

On the 26th July 1945, at Centonara d'Artò (Verbania), Mother Pierina joined the One Whom she loved. Hers cannot be said to be death, but a transport of love, as she herself wrote in her diary on the 19th of July 1941.