

**MESSAGE OF ARCHBISHOP OF TURIN CESARE NOSIGLIA, ON THE TV EXHIBITION OF THE HOLY SHROUD, ON HOLY SATURDAY MARCH 30, 2013**

*Dear priests, deacons, consecrated persons, religious men and women and laity of the Church of Turin and dear citizens of our city and the diocesan territory,*

I am pleased to announce an extraordinary event, agreed with the Holy See, scheduled for Easter Saturday March 30 in the Cathedral of Turin. It is a TV Exhibition of the Holy Shroud, broadcast by Rai Uno internationally. In this year of faith we wish to contemplate that icon of Holy Saturday, as it was described by Pope Benedict XVI in his homily of May 2, 2010 during his visit to Turin for the Exhibition of the Shroud.

The Exhibition will take place in the context of a moment of prayer and celebration of the Word of God and will be attended by about 300 people in the Cathedral chosen among those who carry in their body and mind the Passion of suffering Christ, along with their companions. There will also be a group of young people of the Synod.

The Shroud of course reminds us of the passion, death and burial of the Lord and then to Holy Friday, the day in which the Church remembers and celebrates the passion of Christ. Holy Saturday is a day of silent prayer and meditation on the Lord's death, but it is also a day of joyful waiting of the light of the resurrection that will explode in the great celebration of the Easter Vigil. Well, the Shroud is a witness of this double mystery: it brings us back to the darkness of the tomb, but it also opens the way to receive the light that from it will emerge, in the event of the resurrection. The Shroud is not a sign of defeat, but of victory, of life over death, of love over hatred and violence, hope over despair. This is the greatness of the Shroud. The face of the Man of Sorrows, which is the face of every man on the earth, represents his suffering, his death, it speaks to us of love and gift, of grace and forgiveness. Everything in the Shroud speaks of pain and a time of hope. Who can contemplate with faith, receives strength and power to overcome all evil and difficulties: the blood that you still see so clearly etched in the fabric is not bearer of death but of life, because it is through the blood of Christ the Lord, that we all receive full and definitive life.

The silence that surrounds the Holy Saturday is therefore the same silence in which is the Shroud, but it is a silence of joyful and glad waiting that talks about the future and not the past, a future of love and victory for all of us and a source of a joy therefore unspeakable and full of glory.

We must hear the voice of the Shroud, we must listen to its silence speaking, we have to fill our hearts with a faith that can transform the contemplation of the Holy Shroud in a song of joy and Easter alleluia. The Exhibition of this coming Holy Saturday, therefore, wants to help those who love the Shroud and those who respect the mystery, however, to ask themselves these questions to look for a response and be prepared so to the event of the resurrection that will be celebrated on the evening of Saturday in every church, renewed in spirit and full of joyful amazement for the biggest and shocking event in the history of mankind and in the faith of believers.

I hope that this worldwide event will lead in the hearts of many people who will see it a little light and peace in these complex times and give strength and hope to many sick and poor, but also families and people in need. I am sure that the Exhibition TV that will reach every home will also help us to prepare with faith and prayer and contemplation to the central event of our faith: the Easter of the Lord's Resurrection.

I greet and bless you

*Mgr. Cesare Nosiglia*