

BASILICA OF THE HOLY CROSS IN JERUSALEM



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THE CHAPEL OF THE RELICS OF THE PASSION

The present day "Sanctuary of the Cross" - that's how pope John Paul II called it during the pastoral visit on 25th of March 1979- was realized in the old Sacristy of the Basilica according to the plan by the architect Florestano Di Fausto.

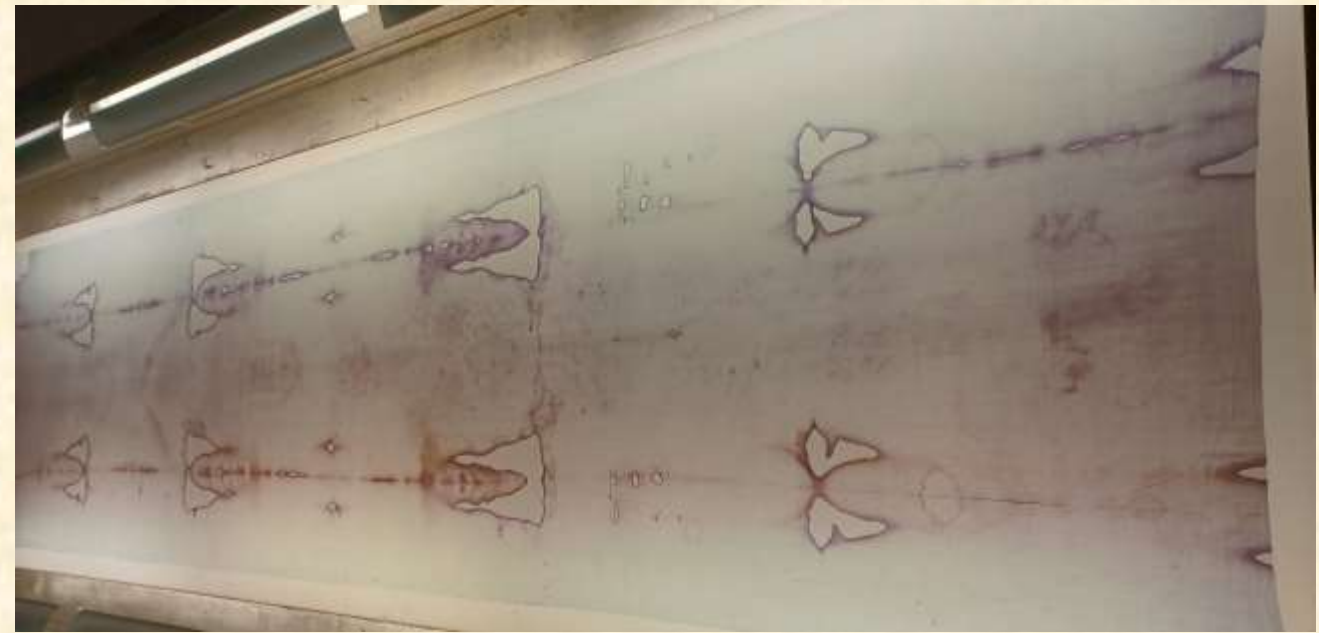
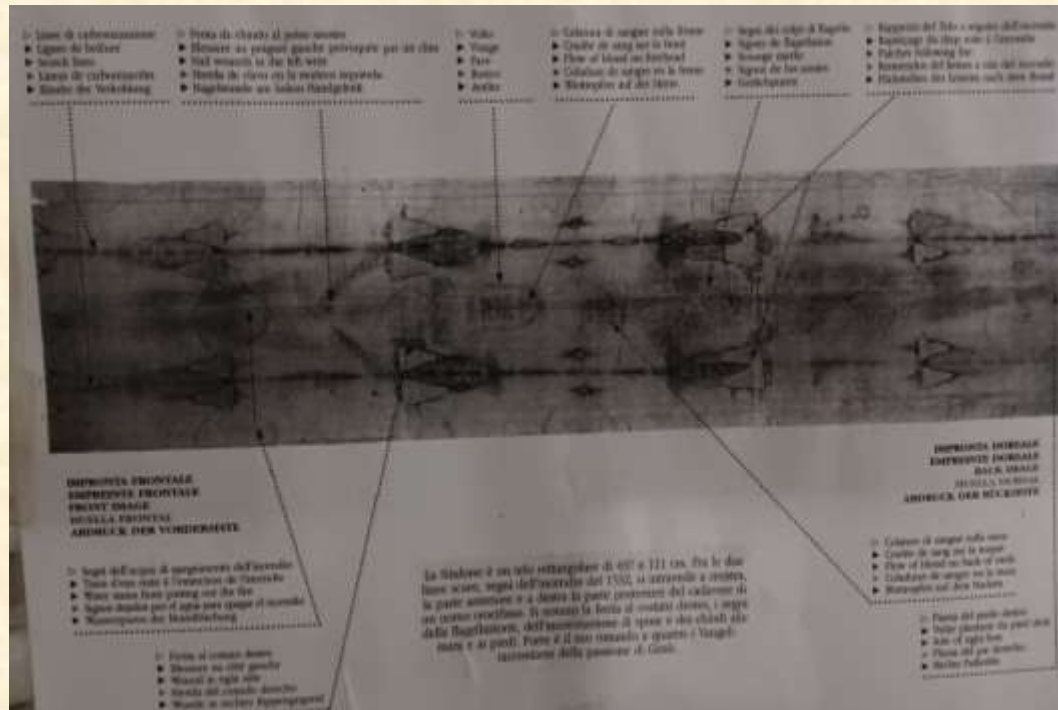
The idea that permeates the work is that of the pilgrimage to the Calvary, musing over the mystery of the Passion and the Death of Jesus. This theme is well expressed by the symbols along the way: after having passed the entrance - at the bottom of the left aisle of the Basilica - you find yourself in a meditative atmosphere and a flight of steps leads you to the Vestibule. Going up on the steps, you go over the Passion of Christ again with the stations of the Cross (in 14 bronze works by Giovanni Nicolini) and quotations from the New Testament and from the Liturgy of the Good Friday. Finally, from the Vestibule, beyond a rood-screen, you see the Relics, kept in six precious shrines, wholly or partly realized during the 19th cent. in order to replace the old ones forfeited in 1798 by the Roman Republic. The Chapel is made of polychrome marbles, enriched by the artistic stained glass windows and the mosaics planned by Corrado Mezzano. It was opened in 1930 and finished in 1952.

VERONICA

On the rood-screen of the Chapel of the Relics you can admire the "Veronica", a copy of one of the most worshipped icons in Russia. It's the true icon of Christ and was painted by the iconographer archimandrite Zenone and given to the Basilica in 2006.



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THE HOLY SHROUD

In a room next to the Chapel, there are a natural-sized
copy of the Holy Shroud – a present given to the
Basilica from the Diocesan Commission for the Holy
Shroud of the Archdiocese of Turin in 2002 – and the
Holy Shroud Crucifix by monsignor Giulio Ricci. All the
above in order to crown the catechesis about the
Passion suggested by the Relics.

