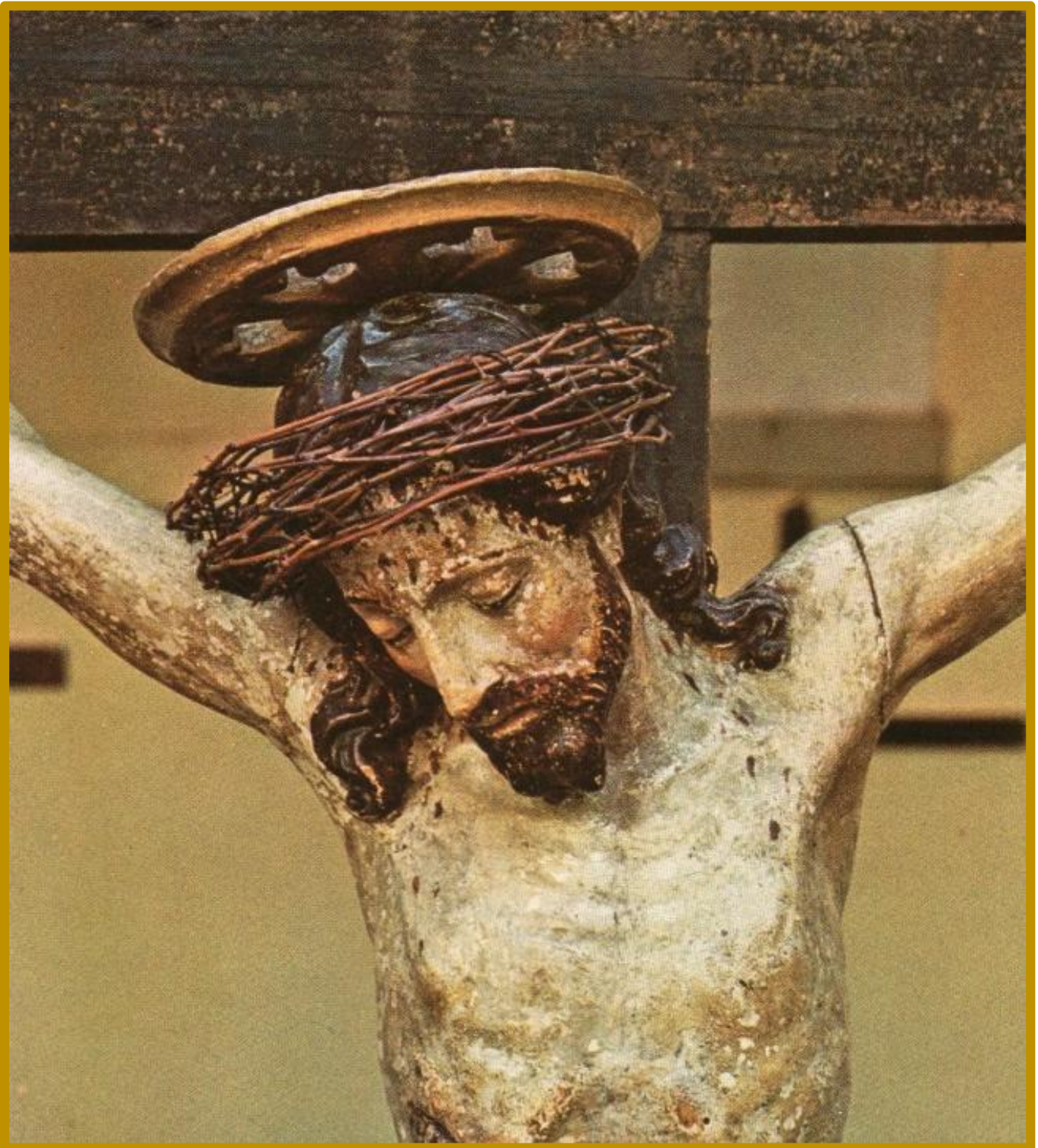


The Way of the Cross with Saint Veronica Giuliani with the Word of God



Texts: Monastery “Saint Veronica Giuliani” Citta’ di Castello Italian version
Translation by Fr. John Aurilia, OFM. Cap.



Introduction

“If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me” (Mt. 16:24).

“In his suffering and death,” says Saint John Paul II, “Christ reveals to us the Truth about God and about us.” To participate in the Way of the Cross means being part of the cross of Jesus, experiencing in the Holy Spirit the love, which is hidden in the cross, and recognizing our own cross in the light of his love. It means to take the cross on our own shoulders and walk with strong certainty that beyond the suffering and death, there is life without end, which flows from his wounded side and from the empty tomb. Saint Veronica will guide us in this journey because she was in a special way associated with the Passion of Christ, having the sublime imprint of the stigmata. The message for us is first of all a message of love. She wants to proclaim to everybody the immensity, the power, the greatness of the passionate love of God toward each one of us; the love which brought him to die on the cross for us sinners giving us the true life in him.

In an instant, I saw the Lord, who was beautiful and resplendent, with his holy stigmata. He spoke to me thus: “I am who I am, and I am your spouse. Being the supreme Love, I have loved you with love, and I love you with love. My love for you is so great, that I hold you always in my own heart (Diary of St. Veronica II, 38).

We offer three patterns of the Way of the Cross with texts from the writings of Saint Veronica together with the Word of God in the first plan; in the second plan we quote the words of the saints and the fathers of the church, and in the third plan we stress Saint Veronica in relation with the most holy Mary.

The Poor Clares of Citta’ di Castello

The Way of the Cross with the Word of God

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

First Station: Jesus is condemned to death

We adore you, O Christ and we bless you,

Because of you holy cross, you have redeemed the world

Then Pilate saw that he was making no impression, released Barabbas for them. After having Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified (Mt. 27: 24a.26).

O great charity of God towards our souls! He did everything for all. He was not thinking of himself, but he was thinking of us; everything was done for us. All his suffering and reward of his suffering were for us. So many treasures of merits, virtues, actions, everything for us, and if we wish everything is ours. This is of great importance! I could not help crying, while considering the profound love of God towards me, miserable creature. I was saying to Him: My God, I am yours. Here I am ready to do your holy will (Diary of Saint Veronica III, 58).



Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Lord, have mercy on us

For the times we do not understand your loving plan...**Lord, have mercy on us**

For the times we do not accept your gifts.....**Lord, have mercy on us**

For the times we do not know how to say “thank you” **Lord have mercy on us**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

At the Cross her station keeping
Stood the mournful Mother weeping
Close to Jesus to the last



Second station: Jesus carries the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of you holy cross, you have redeemed the world

Then, speaking to all, he said, “If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross every day and follow me (Lk. 9:23).

While I was processing, with my heavy cross, and making my rounds around the cloister, all of sudden, I felt that I was out of my senses, and my mind completely in God.

It seemed that the Lord gave me some insight about his holy Passion; particularly, when he was going to the Calvary, with the heaviest cross. At this point, he was communicating with me and was putting together my small suffering with all his suffering during his Passion. It seemed that the Lord liked very much to unite my suffering with his (D I, 575)

Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Hear us, O Lord

Jesus, help us to understand and do your will.....**Hear us, O Lord**

Jesus, help us to accept pain.....**Hear us, O Lord**

Jesus, help us to receive your love..... **Hear us, O Lord**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing
All his bitter anguish bearing
Now at length the sword has passed



Third Station: Jesus falls the first time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of your holy cross, you have redeemed the world

He was bearing our sins in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our sins and live for up righteousness; through his bruises you have been healed (1 Pt. 2:24).

While I was thinking of the infinite love of God, I said: *My God, our ingratitude and stubbornness towards you, made you sweat blood.* I understood that the excess of love, which Jesus brought to the whole humanity, that infinite love which was the reason of his coming to earth to redeem, with his blood, our souls, wanted to pour it all. Here, surely, I perceived well how much he

did for this soul of mine; what he did for everybody, he did for each one as well, so I heard him saying: *I did all that for you (D II, 609).*

Petitions;

Let us pray together and say: **Forgive us, Lord**

For the times, closed in our selfishness, we forget the sacrifice of love you made for us.....**Forgive us, Lord.**

For the times when our life is not a continuous and generous offering for our brothers and sisters in difficulty.....**Forgive us, Lord**

For the times we are not open to forgiveness and mercy.....**Forgive us, Lord**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Oh, how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother highly blest
Of the sole begotten One

Fourth Station: Jesus meets his mother

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of your holy cross, you have redeemed the world

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Look, he is destined for the fall and for the rise of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is opposed – and a sword will pierce your soul too (Lk. 2:34-35a).



At once, I found myself pierced by that pain and sorrow, which suffered the most holy Mary when she met Jesus on the way to Calvary. Mother and Son embraced each other, and those two pierced hearts became one according to the divine will and caring for our redemption. The most holy Mary was collaborator of her Son; whatever the Son did, so did his Mother; whatever the Son suffered, so did his Mother; the deepest pains, however, were internal. They knew how little all the creatures could do for such a great price and some would not even care! (D III, 1175).

Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Lord, have mercy

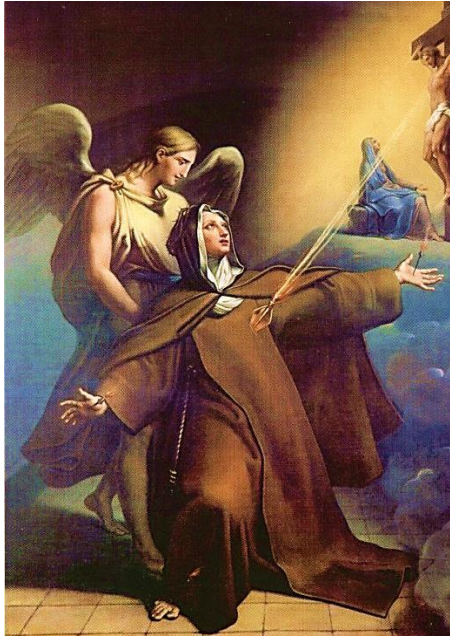
For all the children who make their mothers suffer.....**Lord, have mercy**
For those who suffer and do not trust in Mary's protection.....**Lord, have mercy**
For those who do not allow Mary to help them with her silent presence..... **Lord, have mercy**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Christ above in torment hangs
She beneath beholds the pangs
Of her dying glorious Son



Fifth station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of you holy cross, you have redeemed the world

They enlisted a passer-by, Simon of Cyrene, father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross (Mk. 15:21).

The Lord said to me: *I want you to share the pains that I had while going to the Calvary.* Having said that, he took his cross from his shoulder and placed it on my shoulders and I fell to the ground. The Lord helped me get up. Meanwhile, I returned to my senses, and still felt the weight of the cross. I

was more dead than alive; I was panting and could hardly breathe. I was saying: *My Lord, united with you in suffering under the weight of the cross, I offer my little suffering. Your will be done (D I, 890.*

Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Lord, have mercy on us

For the times we are unable to serve others, because of pride**Lord, have mercy on us**

For the times we close our hearts to Jesus who comes by.....**Lord, have mercy on us**

For the times we do not share the pain of others.....**Lord, have mercy on us**

Our Father

Hail Mar

Glory to the Father

Is there one who would not weep
Whelmed in miseries so deep
Christ's dear Mother to behold

Sixth station: Veronica wipes Jesus' face

We adore you; O Chris, and we bless you
Because of your holy cross, you have redeemed
the world

He had no form or charm to attract us, no beauty to win our
hearts.....he was despised, for whom we had no esteem (Is. 53:
2b.3b)

Meditating on this, I thought I understood that when Jesus
met Veronica, He had fallen for the third time carrying the cross
and his face was covered with blood, dust, and spitting. While
everybody was running: some for curiosity, some to insult him,
the lady and handmaid Veronica, who was at the threshold of her house, took the towel or the cloth
from her head and, without hesitation, gave it to Jesus to wipe his face; the face of Jesus was
imprinted on the cloth, but more importantly, it was impressed in her soul (D III, 1184-1185).



Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Renew us, O Lord

For the times we do not recognize you in our neighbor.....**Renew us, O Lord**

For the times we hurt our brothers and sisters with our indifference.....**Renew us, O Lord**

For the times we do not proclaim the truth for fear of others.....**Renew us, O Lord**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Can the human heart refrain?
From partaking in her pain
In that Mother's pain untold

Seventh station: Jesus falls a second time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of your holy cross, you have
redeemed the world

I have offered my back to those who struck me, my cheek
to those who plucked my beard; I have not turned my face
away from insult and spitting. Lord God comes to my help,
this is why insult has not touched me, this is why I have set
my face like flint and know that I shall not be put to shame
(Is. 50, 6-7).



I understood that it was not the heavy weight of the wood, which caused Jesus to fall, but
the burden of the sins and ingratitude of the whole world. I was with them, and his heart was hurt,
knowing that I was supposed to be grateful. O great love of God! I was leading you to death, death
on the cross with my ingratitude and He, with infinite love, was pouring all his blood for my soul
(D II, 792).

Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Lord, forgive us

For the times we non do not recognize your actions

Lord, forgive us

For the times we do not thank you in our brothers and sisters

Lord, forgive us

For the times we turn our back to your mercy

Lord, forgive us

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled
She beheld her tender Child
All with bloody scourges rent



Eighth station: Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of your holy cross, you have redeemed the world

Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep rather for yourselves and for your children (Lk. 23:28).

I went to another room, so nobody could hear me; there, with sighs and tears, I called out loud my sweetest Jesus. I was saying to him: *Come, my Spouse, I cannot be without you.* I

do not know what extravagance this is. I had many things mentioned here, yet they were giving me pain, and the pain was such that if it lasted longer, I would not have been able to survive. At the end I started calling Him "Peaceful King." And I kept on saying: *Come, my Goodness, my God, bring peace to this poor heart.* By saying this, I felt in the recess of my heart that consolation was coming (D I, 193-194).

Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Lord, take away our sin

For the times we rejected your love

Lord, take away our sin

For the times we chose somebody else over you

Lord, take away our sin

For the times we did not recognize you as king on the cross

Lord, take away our sin

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

For the sins of his own nation
Saw Him hang in desolation
Till His Spirit forth He sent

Ninth station: Jesus falls the third time

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because of your holy cross, you have
redeemed the world

Jesus, being in the form of God, did not deem equality with God, something to be grasped at. But he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being (Phil. 2:6-7).



At the third fall, while going to the Calvary....it seemed like the Lord was inviting to me to ask for a grace... because He would have given to me anything. I said: *My God, I do not want anything except to love you and to do your will.* While I was saying that I saw his most holy Humanity with a joyful and beautiful face. He gave me the blessing and quickly disappeared (D I, 577,578).

Petitions

Let us pray together and say: Lord, have mercy on us sinners

For the times we did not accept the cross as source of salvation...

Lord, have mercy on us sinners

For the times we ignore the suffering of our brothers and sisters...

Lord, have mercy on us sinners

For the times we do not trust you, Lord, giver of every good thing...

Lord, have mercy on us sinners

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

O thou Mother! fount of love
Touch my spirit from above



Make my heart with thine accord

Tenth station: Jesus is stripped of his garments

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of your holy cross, you have redeemed the world

The soldiers, then, took his clothing and divided it into four shares, one for each soldier. In this way the words of scripture were fulfilled: They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothes (Jn. 19: 23a.24b).

When Jesus was stripped of his garments, he suffered multiple pains: the wounds covering his most holy body were bleeding again, they took the crown of thorns and put it back again. This second operation of the crown was indeed very painful: the Lord made me partaker of this pain as well. This pain made my spirit more sensitive and kept my mind better connected with God. Every puncture was an invitation to ask graces from God (D V, 240)

Petitions

Let us pray together:

Do not abandon us, Lord

When we do not strip ourselves of our selfishness to be clothed with your grace...

Do not abandon us, Lord

When we do not try our best in creating an atmosphere of peace around us...

Do not abandon us, Lord

When we do not undertake the process of conversion in You...

Do not abandon us, Lord

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Make me feel as thou hast felt
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ my Lord



Eleventh station: Jesus is nailed to the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of your holy cross, you have redeemed the world

When they reached the place called The Skull, there they crucified him and the two criminals, one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing” (Lk. 23:33-34).

At that point, God shared some pains Jesus suffered, when they lifted up on the cross. They used such a cruelty in setting the cross in the ground, that the

whole most holy body was shacking, and all the pains of his wounds multiplied. Jesus was concentrated in offering himself for us; and he did it with so much love! His love was so ardent, that he showed it in everything he did, especially, praying to the Eternal Father to forgive his executioners who did not know what they were doing (D III, 80).

Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Forgive us, Lord Jesus

For the times we are not ready to forgive..... **Forgive us, Lord Jesus**

For the times we do not accept your forgiveness..... **Forgive us, Lord Jesus**

For the times we do not love you and our sisters and brothers..... **Forgive us, Lord Jesus**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Holy Mother! Pierce me through
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified

Twelfth station: Jesus dies on the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of your holy cross, you have
redeemed the world

It was not about the sixth hours and the sun's light failed, so that darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. The veil of the Sanctuary was torn right down the middle. Jesus cried out in a loud voice saying, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit. With these words he breathed the last (Lk. 23:44-46).



At once I felt recollected with the vision of Jesus and the most holy Mary...Jesus was speaking, not with his voice, but with love of his heart; He was saying: *I am all yours, and what do you do?* It seemed that the love of the heart was giving an answer to his questions, which were all connected with the same topic: love. The soul was suddenly absorbed in love; but how, I do not know. It seemed that Jesus was saying: *I love you so much.... look what I did for you*, then he continued, *for you and what you do for me?* (D V, 202).

Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Hear our prayer

Our Lord and teacher, who became servant for us..... **Hear our prayer**

Christ Jesus, who died on the cross for us..... **Hear our prayer**

King of kings, who gave us life through your death and resurrection..... **Hear our prayer**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Let me share with thee His pain
Who for all my sins was slain
Who for me in torments died

Thirteenth station: The most holy Mary at the foot of the cross

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you
Because of your holy cross, you have redeemed the world

When it was evening, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, called Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. The man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus (Mt. 27:57a-58a).

While I was praying for sinners, it came to my recollection the vision of Jesus crucified and of the Blessed Virgin of Sorrows at the feet of the cross. The Lord told me that he was coming to transform me totally in Him marking me with the seals of his stigmata. Then, I addressed the most holy Virgin and said: *I am ready for everything. Most Holy Virgin on my behalf, offer yourself with all your merits, pains, and sorrows, which you suffered under the cross and during his most holy Passion. Ask forgiveness and mercy to your Son for me. I am powerless. The Virgin placing herself at the feet of her Son, did everything in an instant (D I, 896).*



Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

Jesus, have mercy on us

For all the innocent blood poured out everywhere in the world because of injustices and wars

Jesus, have mercy on us

For the young lives cut short by drugs and false ideals..... **Jesus, have mercy on us**

For all the mothers who mourn their lost children..... **Jesus, have mercy on us**

Our Father

Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

Let me mingle tears with thee
Mourning him who mourned for me
All the days that I may live

Fourteenth station: Jesus is laid in the tomb

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you

Because of you holy cross, you have redeemed the world

So Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean shroud and put it in his own new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a large stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away (Mt. 27:59-60).

God made us understand many great things with the words: *It is finished!* It seems that He made me understand that He, from the altar of the cross, made us understand his deepest love. He accomplished everything, it was up to us to begin; the creature should immediately begin to live for God and with God; because we were not created for ourselves, but for God! (D III, 38-39).

Petitions

Let us pray together and say:

We pray to you, hear us, O Lord

For those who smother truth in injustice..... **We pray to you, hear us, O Lord**

For the times we did not witness our faith in the resurrection...**We pray to you, hear us, O Lord**

For the times we did not announce to our brothers and sisters the joy of the risen Christ

We pray to you, hear us, O Lord

Our Father

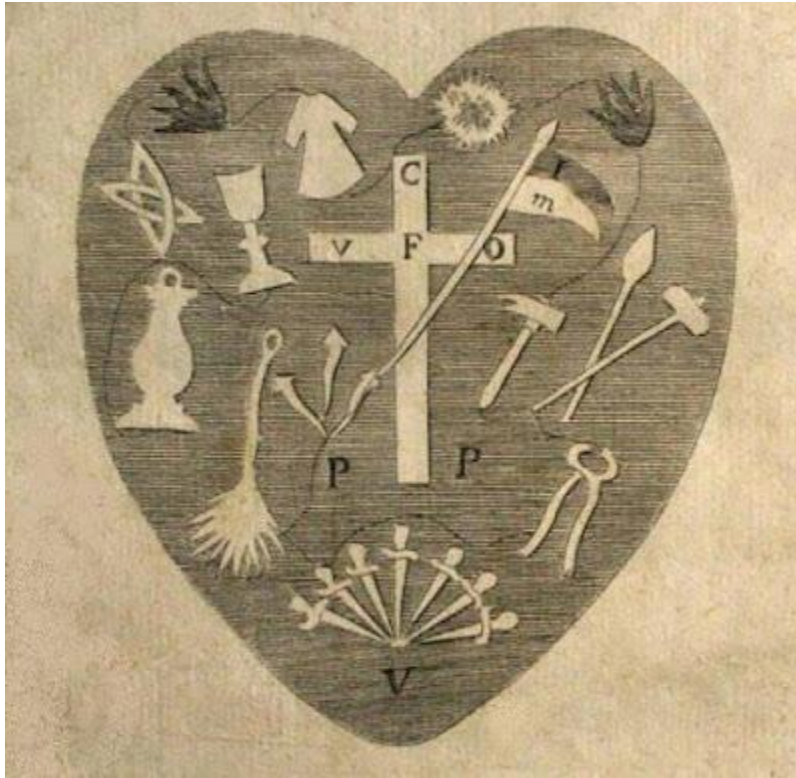
Hail Mary

Glory to the Father

While my body here decays
May my soul Thy goodness praise
Safe in Paradise with thee



The incorrupt body of St Veronica Giuliani



A drawing of the mystical wounds that Jesus imprinted upon the heart of St Veronica Giuliani

Biography

Saint Veronica – Biography and selected excerpts This is a brief biography, which highlights the most important events of her life and spiritual experience. The protagonist is the Lord, who takes to himself a small creature to reveal to everybody the true face of his love. There are excerpts taken from the Diary of the Saint. The selections are listed by topic and some statements of the nuns, who were with her for 50 years: this is a proof that holiness is living together, day after day, showing mutual love.

Excerpts from the Diary of Saint Veronica
Statements of some sisters