

True Image of the Holy Face of Jesus Veil of Veronica Relic

The Sacri Vultus-Holy Face Relic is one of a number of images that were created and touched to Veronica's Veil in St Peter's Basilica in the vatican. Since the miracle in 1849 the vatican, when Veronica's veil became vivid with Christ face and showed sunken in eyes, complete exhaustion and a deathlike hue around the face, became a custom in the vatican to display the veil every year afterward on passion sunday for veneration to the public. Each year, effigies/drawings, or print outs were created of Veronica's veil and then touched to the true veil of veronica, the true cross of christ and the spear that pierced his side. These were done on linen or silk, never paper. From there a text description was placed at the bottom or back of the relic, and the pope imprinted his wax seal on each. This practice was continued for about 60 years. The relic before you, because it was touched to the three instruments used in Christ's passion which were covered in his blood, is a relic in a class of its own. It is the true living face of Jesus and is a living image.

Text translations:

Latin/English(on bottom of the linen relic)

The True Image of The Face of our Lord Jesus Christ

Venerated in Rome, in the Holy Basilica of St. Peter at the Vatican,
(where it is) most religiously observed and kept.

Latin/English(paper below, at bottom left hand of the lithograph)

They are celebrated with diplomas and with (for) the greatest veneration of the people. In whose faith I have sealed and subscribed the aforesaid Image and these present letters. I would give from my house.

In the year of our Lord 1891

By the indictment of the Pontificate of the SSmi D.N. Domini

Polish/English(paper below, at bottom right hand of lithograph)

Canon of the Holy Church dictated by the Chief of the Apostles in Rome.

I testify to all those reading this letter and say that the image of the face of our lord jesus christ, very similar to the miraculous one on the veil or shawl of St. Veronica (is printed) on a cloth of white color of the same height and width, and I respectfully wiped it against the relics of St. (Veronica's) veil and the tip of St. (Longinus') spear and the wood of the cross of the Lord, which are relics in St. (Peter's), the above mentioned Cathedral Church, they are kept with religious reverence. In witness whereof I issue both my face and my seal.

The year of our Lord 1891 in the Pontificate of Pope Leo X111

Dimensions of the relic: height 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x width 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Dimensions of the relic in full view: h. 11" x w. 7 $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Overall dimensions of the entire documented relic in presentation: h. 21 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x w. 15 $\frac{1}{8}$ " original lithograph possibly attributed to the italian artist Giovanni Spellani (1831-1927) original frame complete with original wire, though the frame was restored

This relic was commissioned by Pope Leo the X111 the year 1891. It was sent to Poland, most likely to a church or high ranking family. The copies which are painted on linen or silk, if they are furnished with the seal of authentication, enjoy the same privileges as the miraculous picture (Veronica's veil) itself, and, according to the rules of the liturgy, ought to be equally honored; therefore, it is not proper to expose them to public veneration unless a lamp or a taper be kept constantly burning before them.(1) this Image is 133 years old.

Information compiled by Mr. Lawrence Crea, written by Julianna Pluth

(1) Chronology of the Holy Face Devotion, History, People Places and Prayers, Vicki Schreiner: Simply Faith Publishing, Oklahoma city, Oklahoma, 2022. P. 50