

Love is Stronger

Dear Friends,

Thousands and thousands are the messages that I receive from people, the elderly and adults and young, healthy and sick people to ask me that, in the moment of serious difficulty we are going through, we can pray during this Holy Week before the Shroud, to be from Christ dead and risen – that the Sacred Cloth presents to us in such a real and concrete way – the grace to overcome evil as he did, trusting in the goodness and mercy of God.

I gladly accepted this request and I assure everyone that we will carry it out on Holy Saturday in the after from 17 [5 p.m Turin time] onwards. From that hour onwards I will preside over a long prayer before the Shroud. Thanks to the television and social media this time of contemplation will make available to the whole world, the image of the Sacred Cloth, which reminds us of the passion and death of the Lord, but which also opens our hearts to faith in his resurrection.

Stronger is love. This is the Easter announcement that the Shroud brings to revive us and fills our hearts with gratitude and faith.

Yes, the love with which Jesus gave us his life and that we celebrate during Holy Week is stronger than any contagion, any trial and discouragement. Nothing and nobody can ever separate us from this love, because it is faithful forever and unites us to him with an unbreakable bond.

Pope Francis in his message for the 2013 exhibition told us that it is not us we contemplate, in the Shroud, a face that has its eyes closed by death. But it is he who looks at us and makes us understand what great love he had for us, freeing us from sin and death. That face speaks to our heart and communicates a great peace to us and it is as if it were telling us: trust, don't lose hope, the strength of the love of God and Risen One wins everything.

Dear friends all over the world, I look forward to seeing you next Saturday at 5 p.m. to raise up to God through the contemplation of the Shroud a choral prayer together with his son Jesus our brother and savior.

Yes, the Shroud always repeats to our heart: love is stronger.