

The Holy Shroud was hidden in Montevergine to save it from the bombings



The Holy Shroud was hidden in Montevergine to save it from the bombings. Not everyone knows that the relic stayed in the Sanctuary of the Madonna di Montevergine in Mercogliano, during the Second World War. In September 1939, King Vittorio Emanuele III was convinced that the sacred object placed in the chapel near the Royal Palace of Turin should shelter in a quieter place, that is, far from any aerial bombing of the Anglo-Americans. An operation of extreme secrecy began, the Duce himself knew nothing of this. Some men took care to move the relic to Rome on September 7, then the next day in the Quirinale. Before transferring it, it was well protected, I trace the words present in the "delivery and temporary deposit report of the Holy Shroud":

"... And therefore, after having been totally from its usual place, the silver box containing the said Relic and placed in a wooden crate, closed with screws, lined with white cloth stitched in the ingot and surrounded with twine bearing the knots the lead seal with the initials of Count General Giovanni Amico di Meane, Regent of the Administration of the Real Casa in Turin ... ".

Crown Prince Umberto I consulted Giovanni Battista Montini (future Pope Paul VI) then substitute of the Secretariat of State of His Holiness for ordinary affairs, so that the Vatican would take care to keep the sacred object. The proposal was rejected, since Vatican City ran the same risk as Turin.

At this juncture, the Holy See convened the abbot of Montevergine Ramiro Marcone. Without delay, the abbot went to his destination and communicated with the Secretary of State, Cardinal Maglione. The latter made him aware of the invitation to move the relic to Montevergine, well the abbot was quick to accept the invitation. The choice fell on Montevergine not only because it presented itself as a safe place, but also by the historical relationship that linked the Savoy house with the black Madonna. To tell one, in 1433 Margherita di Savoia donated a fresco by Pietro Cavallino dei Cerroni to the Sanctuary to express her devotion, as she escaped a shipwreck thanks to the intermediation of Mamma Schiavona.

On September 25 the sacred object was hidden in the religious building, in particular under the Coretto altar at night. If the structure was bombed, the sacred object should have been moved to a safer place than the sacred place, in an artificial corridor 145 meters deep. The operation was so delicate that only a few members of the Shrine were informed of this.

In 1943 during the Nazi-fascist occupation in Italy, the Germans did not discover the Shroud during their routine checks in the Sanctuary. At the end of the war, it was not known what the fate of the relic should be, meanwhile in early June 1946 the Savoy house left home and throne, after the Italian people expressed themselves through a referendum in favor of the Republic. In these anxious moments, on June 10, 1946, a letter arrived at the Sanctuary, the Savoy House clarified the fate of the Shroud, the order was to have it returned to Turin.

The archbishop of the city of Turin, Maurilio Fossati, personally presented himself to Montevergine on October 28, 1946, to bring the Shroud back to Turin. The abbot of the Sanctuary, Roberto D'Amore, asked the Cardinal to see the Relic, Fossati with extreme benevolence consented to the request. The reception hall was prepared for the Shroud display ceremony. At the end of the conference, at midnight the Cardinal opened the ballot box and discovered the Shroud. At 1:30 the singular event ended, a documentary film immortalized everything. Followed the movement of the Shroud in the Chapel of the Madonna, the Cardinal celebrated mass at 5:30 am then came the time of greetings, some present loaded the sacred object by car. The trip included a short stop in Rome before arriving in Turin.

Holy Shroud placed under the altar of the Montevergine night fair.

Source: <http://www.monarchia.it/montevergine.html>