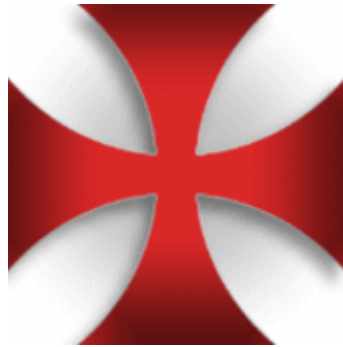
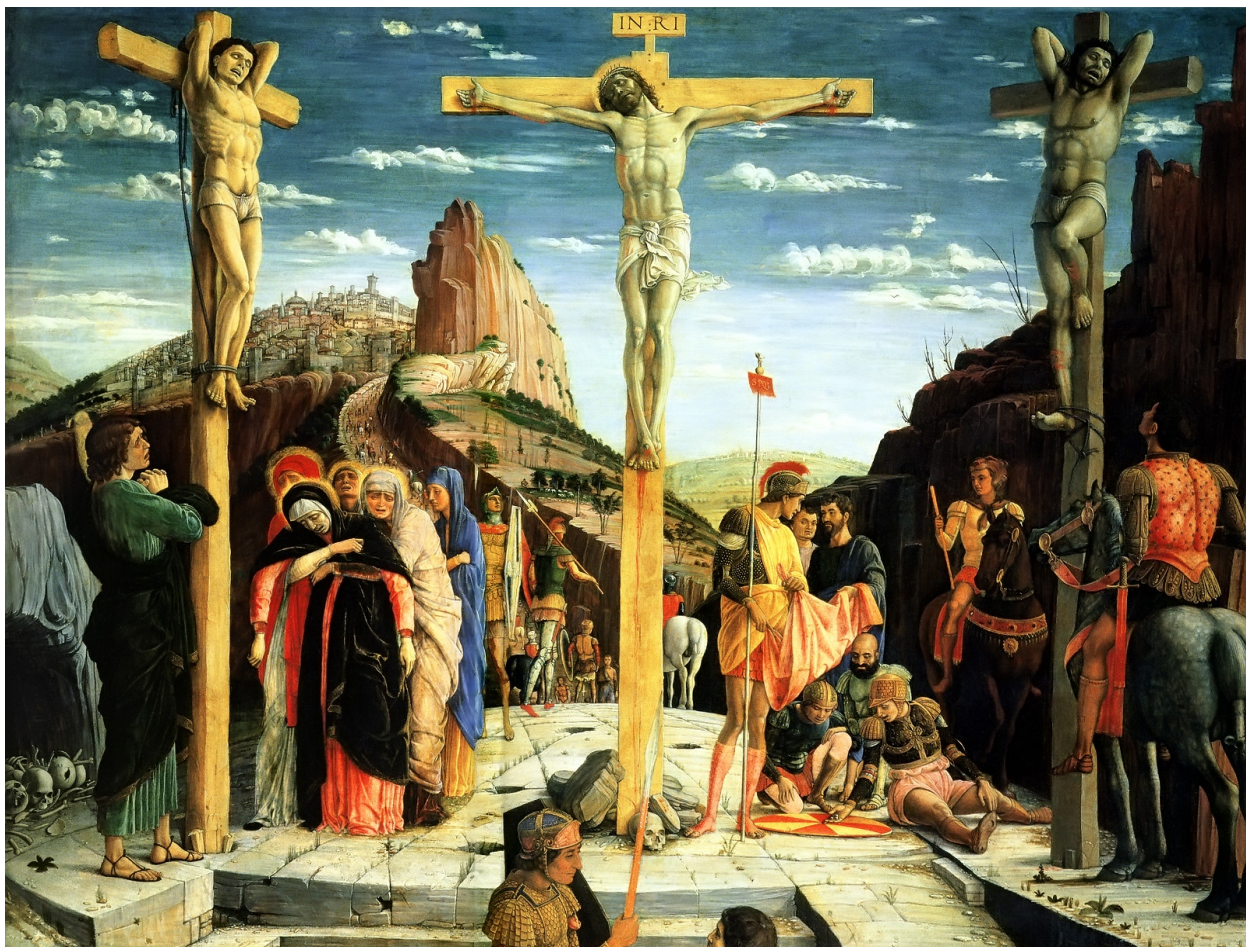


THE TRUE CROSS

God calls all christians to become one underneath the cross.



The unity of christians will cause a new pentecost
and the next level in world mission !



BISHOP RALPH NAPIERSKI

www.CorpusDei.de

God calls all christians to be one.

**The unity of christians will cause a second pentecost
and the next level in world mission !**



Jesus prays that we all may be one:

"I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

John 17,20-23

And as we can see, "to be one " will have an effect to the world.

By all christians really be one, the world will know that Jesus has been send by God.

To work for the fullfilment of Jesus prayer that all christians really bcome one is essential world mission too.

To become one, will set free a huge power of the Holy Spirit, which flows in unity.

This unity of all christians will cause a second pentecost !

How can this come true ?

The last centuries have shown that the unity of christians will not come through endless discussions and theologic debates.

Of course we need to overcome the lies of Satan that have intruded the church and did lead to divisions and fighting each other.

We need to come into "unity of the knowledge of the Son of God".

But before we can reach that we need to have the basis for it which is faith.

"Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God,"
Ephesian 4,13

The faith is much more than only the knowledge since faith is not only about our ideas but it is about our whole self in connection with God and our brothers and sisters.

We need to come together in faith before God and we need to experience the unity.

Then, we will overcome all devisions, including those theological differences who are caused by Satans lies.

What is the way?

Jesus answered, I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. John 14,6

Jesus is the way !

He died on the cross, and this sacrificce made it possible for us to become saved.

The cross is the place where salvation became possible, it is the place where all christians should come together.

God gave me this vision, that christians from all denominations from all over this planet come together under the cross.

All christians under the cross pray for the unity of christendom and more and more christians come together under the cross and join unity.

They understand that it is an illusion of the devil that there are many churches.

There is only one church: the body of Jesus Christ !

"So in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Roman 12,5

To understand this only intellectual is not enough.
It has to be experienced! It has to be lived!

The holy spirit will lead those, who come together under the cross and pray for the unity of all christians, into experiencing the oneness of all christians.

And the fire of Holy Spirit will burn in them.

A second pentecost will come !

How can all christians come together under the cross ?

The cross, on which Jesus has been crucified, is the place where we need to come together.

This cross has been parted in many many many little parts. Like christians are parted in many many many parts too.

So this one place "under the cross" where we are called to come together is parted like christendom too.

The one place "under the cross" now has become a network of places that are all connected.



Each part of the Holy Cross is a "transportable place". The place "under the cross".

Wherever a part of the holy cross is, we can come together under the holy cross to join this movement of unity to become one.

To come together at this physical place "under the cross" will first cause a physical union and second a union in this global movement and finally the awareness and experience of being one in Jesus Christ.

After this awakening to oneness we will experience a new pentecost.

And we will come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God and then we all will celebrate together the Holy Communion the Lord's Supper.

Join this movement that is founded by Jesus Christ himself !

What can you do?

Go under the cross and pray for the unity of all christians.
Meet with other christians under the cross and pray together with them.
Found a prayer group or join a prayer group.
Such a group could worship God by singing worship songs and praying together for the unity.
Invite christians from other confessions to join this group and movement.
Spread the message about this movement.
When church services are performed it is very good to do them under the cross and include into the church service the prayer for unity.

There are many other possibilities to support this movement of the Holy Spirit.
Processions with the Holy Cross to set a sign of unity, exhibitions to make the cross available and set a public sign too and and and ... be inspired by the Holy Spirit.

I see many thousands of christians coming together under the cross.
I see stadiums filled with christians singing worship songs and being one.
I see the fire of the Holy Spirit falling down on them.
I see a new pentecost coming.

Come together to pray for the unity and to worship God !

When christians from different denominations come together under the cross, they should not fight each other in discussions but they should worship together God and pray for the unity.
This will lead to the experience of unity and this will cause the unity.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'
his is the first and greatest commandment.
And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' "
Matthew 22,37-39

Where can you find the cross ?

In some churches around the world there are peaces of the Holy Cross guarded in churches.
Talk to them and tell them about this movement. Ask them to make the part of the cross available for all christians.

Corpus Dei is a guard of many parts of the Holy Cross and we make them available to mankind.

CONTACT US.

GOD IS CALLING YOU !



Be a supporter ! Be involved !

We search for christians from all over the world to **become a Guard of the Holy Cross**. People that guard a part of the Holy Cross and make it available for prayer groups, exhibitions, marches and use it in many ways to support the unity of all christians.

Found a group and work together for the unity of all christians.

Spread the brochure. Print it and hand it out to others. Send it to others by email. Share it with your contacts in your social media accounts. Become a Messenger for Jesus Christ and the unity of the church.

We suggest that people wear a cross, a medall or a button (or something else) that has touched the Holy Cross.

Wear this as a physical sign for your spiritual work and unity in christ. A sign for God, for yourself and especially for others too.

Give others a cross that touched the Holy Cross as a love gift together with a copy of this brochure.

Introduce them to this movement of unity.

Become an ambassador of the movement.

PRAY FOR THE UNITY OF ALL CHRISTIANS !

WHERE DOES THE CROSS RELIC COME FROM?

HOW COME THAT IT IS NOW FREELY ACCESSABLE?



**The History of the Parts
of the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ,
on which Jesus Christ was crucified
and that are now in the guardianship
of Bishop Ralph Napierski
and Corpus Dei.**

Already the first Christians guarded the knowledge about the holy places, where Jesus Christ worked during His ministry. This knowledge was continuously passed on and is part of the living tradition of His church.

Already the **apostle Paul** traveled with a delegation of the Greek congregation to Jerusalem Anno Domini 57 and they visited the places and relics of Christ. Since then the Christian pilgrimages have been witnessed and documented.

Bishop Meliton of Sardes (Minor Asia) came to visit Jerusalem Anno Domini 160, and when **Alexander of Cappadocia** (a disciple of Clemens of Alexandria) visited the holy sights in Jerusalem to pray there in A.D. 212 the joy of the local Christian community was so great that they did not let him travel home but spontaneously chose him as their bishop.

The **Church Father Origenes** came in the years 215 and 230 to visit and for research.

In the year 325 **Makarios, Bishop of Jerusalem** in Nicea, met the **emperor Constantine**. Bishop Makarios told the emperor about the places of Christ's passion (Golgotha, the place of Christ's Crucifixion and the tomb of Christ), which the emperor Hadrian let fill up with soil and then had a temple for Aphrodite built on it.

This was utmost desecration to the Christians at their most holy place and it was part of a plan pursued by Hadrian to integrate holy places and Jesus Christ into his religion and at the same time proclaim his own dominion at the same time.

It was a temple for Aphrodite because, accordingly to a legend she climbed down into Hades (the underworld) to resurrect the young Adonis/Tammuz from the dead.

Emperor Hadrian tried geographically and philosophically to transfer this story to Jesus in order to deceive and tempt the Christians.

When he let the platform fill with the soil he let stand out the top of the hill of Golgotha and put on its peak a statue of Aphrodite, who had a son called Golgos.

To complete this deceit Hadrian also desecrated the grotto of Jesus Christ into an Adonis/Tammuz shrine and built over the Jerusalem temple the temple of the three highest Roman gods.

Emperor Constantine immediately acted and ordered to remove the pagan temples that had been erected by Hadrian over Golgotha and over the holy tomb.

Furthermore, there were to be built a beautiful mausoleum above Christ's tomb and over Golgotha a monumental basilica.

Constantine declared these projects top priority and sent his mother, the **empress Helena**, who had been a Christian since A.D. 312 and who had been told in a dream that she was to find the true Cross of Jesus Christ.

The project started immediately in the same year of **325**. When the soil that had been piled up by Hadrian was removed in the presence of **empress Helena, the mother of Constantine**, the grotto (cistern) was also discovered, in which the true cross of Christ was kept together with the sign that said 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews', three nails and the two crosses of the two criminals, who had also been crucified at the same time. (The grotto is now underneath the church of the tomb). **The cross was laid over a sick woman, who was healed instantly.**

Many church historians of the fourth and fifth century write about it: Gelasius, Rufinus, Theodoret, Sozomenos, Sokrates Scholasticus, Alexander Monachus, Holy Ambrosius von Mailand, Holy Chrisostomos, Holy Paulinus von Nola and many others.

The church of the tomb was finally consecrated on **14 th September 335**, which was the tenth anniversary of the finding of the cross.

The monumental Martyrion-Basilica was built exactly above the place of the place of the safekeeping of the cross. (Not above the peak of the hill of Golgotha that was in the inner court under the open sky).



Constantine and his mother Helena

Helena divided the miraculous wood of the cross into some parts. One fragment remained in Jerusalem, another she sent to her son in Constantinopel, and a third part she brought to Rome.

A part of this and a part of the sign with the inscription 'I NAZARINUS R...' is being kept in the **Basilica di S. Croce**, one of the seven main churches in Rome. In the year 1998 an in-depth investigation by a commission of the Vatican and seven Israeli experts for antique inscriptions (comparative palaeography) was carried out.

They dated the age of the inscription back to the first century, the time of Jesus Christ.



Already Anno Domini 349
the **Holy Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem,**

said that the true cross of Christ was part by part distributed
from Jerusalem into the whole world.

He documents the practice of distributing small parts of the
holy wood.

The church of the Roman city Tixter in Mauretania had a cross relic since the year 359, the inscription of the altar is now exhibited in the Louvre.

Presumably even earlier the North-African Roman city of Rasgunia at the Cape Matifu also held a cross relic.

Before A.D. 450 empress Galla Placida built the Santa-Croce-Church in Ravenna for the safekeeping of a cross relic.

Around the year A.D. 455 Juvenal, the Patriarch of Jerusalem sent a cross particle to Pope Leo.

When the **Holy Paulinus of Nola** received a part of the cross from bishop John of Jerusalem A.D. 401, and sent a part to his friend Sulpicius Severus, he wrote: 'Receive a big gift in a small case and use it as a weapon against the latest dangers and as an insurance for everlasting protection.'

He made clear that 'even the smallest particle of the cross contains the total power of the cross of Jesus Christ'.



We have an interesting **report of the nun Egeria**, who traveled to the church of the tomb to take part in the Good Friday mass. She describes very precise in all details, including, how the faithful kissed the cross.

Touching the relic with one's hands was forbidden and behind the cross was sitting the bishop and the pilgrims kissing the cross were surrounded by the watchful eyes of deacons, as there had been an incident, at which somebody had stolen parts of the the cross by biting them off the cross!

Hence the office of the **Staurophylax (cross keeper)** was introduced, a priest, who was responsible for the safety of the cross relic.

A well-known Staurophylax of the Jerusalem church was **Porphyrius, the later bishop of Gaza**, *A.D. 18 th March 395, + 5 th/ 26t th February 420.

That some Staurophylax had their own way of safekeeping the cross relics shows amongst others the case of the Spanish Staurophylax Toribius, who held his office under the Patriarch Juvenal (358-451).

When he returned to Astorga to become a bishop he had a part of the cross relic that is one of the biggest in the world in his luggage and that is being kept today in the mountainous monastery Santo Toribio de Liebana near Santander.

Anno Domini 614 the Church of the Tomb was damaged by fire during the siege of Jerusalem through the Sassanadian ruler **Chosroes II**. 90000 Christians and the priests were killed. The Jerusalem part of the Holy Cross was taken to Ktesiphon by General Sharbaraz. As a consequence **Emperor Heraklius** became the first crusader with the support of Patriarch Sergios of Constantinopel. He moved out with an army to free the Holy Cross. Already the first encounter with his army led to the retreat of the Persians and by 627 he defeated the army of Chosreos completely.

Furious about the defeat the High King ordered the execution of his general and the disinheritance of his son, who let him in return incarcerated and torture to death to become High King himself. The new Persian king asked Heraklius for peace. Heraklius agreed under the condition of the return of all relics, the retreat from all occupied territories and the freedom of all prisoners. In May 628 the solemn return of the True Cross took place. Right on time for the feast of the discovery of the Cross the Emperor processed in triumph with the part of the cross into Constantinopel, where it was erected in a thanksgiving mass in the Hagia-Sophia Cathedral.

When the winter was over the emperor left again to bring the part of the cross to Jerusalem.

On **May 3rd 629** he entered the holy city in the presence of Patriarch Zacharias, who had been freed from imprisonment.

At the city gate the emperor got off his horse, laid his crown, his shoes and his robe down, and carried the True Cross of Christ barefeet in his white undergarment on the path, on which Jesus Christ was led to Golgotha 600 years earlier.

The church of the tomb was provisionally (in a smaller version) rebuilt by him.

Already nine years later (**A.D. 638**) Jerusalem was conquered by Muslim Arabs.

The early Muslim rulers protected the Christian sights in Jerusalem and forbade their destruction.

Nonetheless the Patriarch of Jerusalem had as a precaution the cross relic divided into 19 parts in 638, from which he sent 15 to other Christian bishops seats of the East:

Constantinopel, Cyprus, Antioch, Georgia, Crete, Odessa, Alexandria, Ascalon and Damascus.

Bishop Arculf reports in **670** of the **wonderful scent** emanating from the cross relic 'as if all flowers of the world were in this relic'.

He describes especially that there was a good smelling **fluid coming from the wood of the Holy Cross that healed people from illnesses.**



Golgatha in the Church of the Tomb



The tomb of Jesus Christ in the actual Church of the Tomb



The actual Church of the Tomb



The crack in the rock of Golgatha



Cross relic in the Church of the Tomb

On **18 th October 1009** the Church of the Tomb was destroyed on command of the Fatimid-khalif **Al-Hākīm bi-amri 'llāh** .

This fanatic persecuted Jews, Christians and Muslim brothers equally. A year later he let knock down the remaining rocks of the holy tomb.

An outcry went through the Western world, ever louder became the call for a liberation of the holy sights until the **crusades** spread over the Holy Land.

On **15 th July 1099** Jerusalem fell after a siege of only five weeks. The terrible slaughter carried out by many crusaders was extremely unchristian.



Godfrey of Bouillon,

one of the leaders of the crusade, became Lord over the **Christian Kingdom of Jerusalem** and Protector of the Holy Tomb.

He ordered instantly the rebuilding of the Church of the Tomb.

The four cross relics had been hidden by orthodox Christians in the until 1055 improvised Church of the Tomb.

Side by side fighting for the liberation of Jerusalem and of the parts of the True Cross of Christ, with Godfrey of Bouillon was the great-ancestor of the Dabrova-Clan.

He was described as a foreign knight.

It could to this day not yet be verified that he was an descendant of the Benjaminites. (The Israelite tribe of Benjamin presented with Saul the first Israelite king. His kingly line was then taken over by David from the house of Judah. In Moses 5, 33:12 ff it is said that the tribe of Benjamin was favoured by the Lord and therefore highly in regard. When it came to a rift with the other eleven tribes, many of his descendants emigrated to Europe and to parts of Africa).



Because of his bravery during the crusade and of the liberation of Jerusalem the foreign knight of Godfrey of Bouillon was honoured with a coat of arms that depicts the hill of Golgotha with the True Cross of Christ, which is stylized and pointing also at the knighthood and framed by the crosses of the two criminals.

This coat of arms was later called **Dabrova**. At the end of the crusade he went from Jerusalem to Poland and started his noble family there, from which eventually comes forth the founder of the **Corpus Dei**

Bishop Ralph Napierski.



A.D. 1114 the Patriarchial chapter of Jerusalem is dissolved and replaced by the Order association of Canons (Ordensverbund der Kanoniker) of the Holy Tomb.

Their monastery was erected on the ruins of the entrance hall of the Constantinian Martyrion-basilica. That was the foundation of the Knights of the Tomb of the Order of the Knights of the Holy Tomb in Jerusalem (Ordo Equestris Sancti Sepulcri Hierosolymitani, in short: OESSH).

In 1847 the Latin Patriarchy Jerusalem was rebuilt; Pope Pius IX. Reorganized as a consequence the old Knighthood of the Holy Tomb with his Apostolic Decree 'Cum Multa' from 24th January 1868 and designed it as a formal papal religious knightorder. The Order was at first directly assigned to the Patriarch of Jerusalem, who was also the Grand Master of the Order: 1847-1872:

Patriarch Giuseppe Valerga, 1872-1889: Patriarch Vincenzo Bracco, 1889-1907: Patriarch Luigi Piavi. From then on the Popes have personally led the Order:

1907-1914: Pope Pius X., 1914-1922: Pope Benedict XV., 1922-1928: Pope Pius XI. Until Pope Pius XII. with the statutes of 1949 established a cardinal of the curia as the Grand Master.



In Germany many bishops belong to the Knights of the Tomb like Archbishop Robert Zollitsch (Freiburg), Archbishop Dr. Reinhard Marx (Muenchen-Freising).

Some of the parts of the Cross, on which Jesus Christ was crucified that are now in the possession of the CORPUS DEI stem from the Patriarch of Jerusalem Luigi Piavi, Grand Master of the Order of the Knights of the Holy Tomb in Jerusalem.



The reliquary contains some parts of the cross relics of the Corpus Dei



Authenticity certificate and letter of recommendation of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem Luigi Pavi, the Grand Master of the Knights of the Tomb OESSH



Further parts of the True Cross of our Lord God Jesus Christ, the which are now in the care of the Corpus Dei come from the Vatican and especially from the hands of:

Archbishop Pietro Kardinal Palazzini

Prefect of the Congregation for the Congregatio de Causis Sanctorum

The Congregatio de Causis Sanctorum is the Congregation of the Roman Curia, which is responsible for the complex process of canonization (including the establishing of the saintly virtues. After the preparation of a case including examination and testing of miracles the results are being presented to the Pope, who then decides over the sainthood or canonization.

The previous holder of office of the Congregation was the Holy Rites Congregation (Lat. Sacra Rituum Congregatio), also short called Rite Congregation. This was until 1969 the central administration of the Vatican founded by Pope Sixtus V A.D. 1588 with the Apostolic Constitution Immensa Aeterni Dei the Congregatio pro sacris ritibus et caeremoniis.

Cardinal Palazzini (May 19 th, 1912 – October 11 th, 2000) helped with the rescue of Jews in WWII and was honoured as 'Righteous amongst the Nations' by Yad Vashem in 1985. At the honour he protested against the often repeated criticism of Pope Pius XII, upon whose instructions Pallazzini had acted.

The relic then came into the administration of a Monsignore of the Congregatio pro Gentium Evangelizatione – previously Propaganda Fide.

The Monsignore started a project to find worthy sights and for causes for the use of relics because they were often simply hidden away and kept safe without being used at all.



In the years 2009 and 2010

Bishop Ralph Napierski

received the relics of the True Cross of Jesus Christ.

Now Corpus Dei uses the Holy Cross of Jesus Christ to spread the gospel and bring all christians together.

Some of the cross relics that were brought to Rome by Empress Helena are still being kept there to this very day. Her palace was built into a church and is nowadays the church **Santa Croce in Gerusalemme**.



Inside the church is the so-called Helena Chapel, and the floor was said to be covered with soil of the Holy Land. Therefore the grounds were rewritten into Holy Land, which gave the church its strange name of Gerusalemme.

The inscription inside in the Helena Chapel reads: 'Here is kept the holy soil of the mountain of Calvary of Jerusalem, of the blessed Helena in the crypt, with which she above erected this chapel with the name Jerusalem.'

There were some smaller and the biggest known cross relics in the Helena chapel until A.D. 1570. Due to the high humidity they had to be transferred to a higher floor.

In the year 1629 the great wood part of the Holy Cross was on instruction of Pope Urban VIII from S Croce in Gerusalemme to S Peter's Dome. There it received its own chapel in one of the four columns of the mighty cupola.

Since then the blessing of Good Friday is being given with this part of the Holy Cross in S Peter's Dome. At first from the balcony of the Helena Chapel and then finally until today from the opposite lying Veronica Chapel.

To this day in Santa Croce in Gerusalemme is to be found the half inscription sign of the True Cross:



The Cross-Inscription ~ Titulus Crucis ~

The half Titulus, which was brought to the church by Empress Helena, spent the longest time of its stay hidden away behind stones.

The Titulus was built into the wall **Anno Domini 410** to protect it from the plundering through the Goths, who took Rome under Alarich.

A.D. 1143 it was rediscovered at a refurbishment through Cardinal Gerardus (who later became Pope Lucius II). He had the the Titulus hidden in a leaden case sealed with his seal again behind walls above the arch of triumph in the Helena Chapel, which was probably used already 410 or 427 after the renovation of Emperor Valentine.

At restoration works (ordered by Cardinal Mendoza) at the church the bricks and the Titulus were discovered underneath the cement hidden on **1stst February 1492**.

After the founding of the Cisalpine Republic in **1767** came the relic again in danger, when French troops marched into Rome and arrested Pope Pius VI.

There were confiscations and plundering of churches and monasteries. In **1798** the representatives of the republic demanded the surrender of the Cross-Inscription-Sign. But the remaining monk, who had been the housekeeper had hidden it well and stayed silent. From **1803** the stolen empty reliquaries were replaced by new ones.

Anno Domini **1870** the Titulus was examined by the French scientist Rohault de Fleury. He published a study about it and compared the Titulus with other well-known samples of scriptures.

An interesting result of his research:

The statement of the 'enlightened' skeptics that all relics of the True Cross put together would be enough to build a whole ship was proven wrong by him:

He calculated mathematically the volume of all relics of the True Cross from all European cathedrals and proved that all together would only make the third of the Roman cross.

In the 20thth century this research was again looked into:

With official permission of the Vatican **Michael Hesemann** has examined again the relic of the Titulus of the cross of Jesus Christ. The Cross-Inscription Sign was by dated by seven experts for comparative paleography (the established method for comparative palaeography for inscriptions) to the **first century, which confirmed its authenticity wonderfully.**

The experts were:

Dr. Gabriel Barkay, Professor Dr. Hanan Eshel, Frau Dr. Leah di Segni (Hebrew University Jerusalem), Prof. Dr. Israel Roll, Prof. Ben Isaac(Tel Aviv) und Professor Carsten Peter Thiede (University Basel und University Beer-Sheva) by and it followed a confirmation also by Prof. Maria-Luisa Rigato of the Pontifical University Gregoriana in Rome.



On 17 th December 1998 Hesemann was received personally by Pope John Paul II to present the findings of his research about this important relic.

Later the Pope expressed his admiration and recognition in a letter for this extensive study.

Michael Hesemann's book „Die Jesus-Tafel: die Entdeckung der Kreuz-Inschrift. Freiburg im Breisgau 1999, ISBN 3-451-27092-7“ became a bestseller in Germany and in Italy, published by renowned Catholic publishers of both countries: Herder (1999) und San Paolo (2000)

It also inspired the dissertation of Dr. Maria-Luisa Rigato, Rome, and the international bestseller “The Quest for the True Cross” by Thiede/d’Ancona.

A later book by Michael Hesemann presents further interesting facts on the subject of relics: „Die stummen Zeugen von Golgatha: die faszinierende Geschichte der Passionsreliquien Christi.“ Kreuzlingen, München 2000, ISBN 3-7205-2139-7.

Further information about relics:

We can read about the use of relics already in the bible (Acts 19:11-12):

11And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:

12So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.



In MARC 5, 21-34 (also Mt 9,20-22) we read about the Jesus relics:

25And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. 27When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

30At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?"

31"You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'"

32But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

In Christianity the use and adoration of relics is one of the oldest forms of devotion to saints and evidence is found already clearly in the mid-second century.

This is remarkable because in the pagan antiquity adoration of relics was not desirable and body parts of even saints were seen as impure.

The very existence and fame of great Catholic cathedrals of the Middle Ages were based on the devotion to saints and the adoration of their relics – like the Three Kings in the Dome of Cologne.

It is important to understand in this context that devotion is not worship of a saint or the relic but simply the appreciation and use of the contained healing power in the relics, which is a purely and ultimately a free gift of God.

When all Christians come together then the Holy Spirit will cause healings and many other miracles too.

CATEGORIES IN ORDERS:

FIRST CLASS: Relics of the first class are all body parts of the saint, especially particles their bones but also their hair, fingernails and, if preserved, also other remains, in more rare incidents also blood. Saints, whose bodies were burnt the ash also counts as relic of the first class.

SECOND CLASS: Relics of the second class, also called authentic contact relics, are objects that the saint has touched in their lifetime, especially objects of special biographical relevance.

That includes also the robes and garments of saintly priests and religious people, with martyrs their instruments of torture and weapons, through which they found their death.

THIRD CLASS: Relics of the third class or mediary contact relics are objects that have had contact with the relics of the first class. Sometimes people declare as third class relics, items that touched second class relics, but in fact these would be fourth class relics, but they are not categorized as such.

An exceptional position of this scheme hold the **biblical relics**, those objects that are connected to Jesus Christ and Mary directly. They are **FIRST CLASS** too.

Objects in this category are the cross relics, the passion relics, that played a role in the Passion of Christ in His last days of His life. These are f.ex. the Holy Lance of Longinus, particles of the cross nails i.e. the Iron Crown, particles of the Thorn Crown (Notre Dame Paris) and other martyr instruments; furthermore the Turin shroud, the sweatcloth of Veronica (in the Peter's Dome in Rome) and the Holy Grail. In a similar way garments are adored that were worn by Jesus and Mary in their lives, f.ex. the Holy Skirt in Trier, the sandals of Jesus in Pruem as well as nappy and loin cloth of Jesus in Aachen and the gowns of Mary (veil, belt).

Warning: In the Middle Ages it has been very common to touch a relic of the true cross (1st class) with a piece of wood. This piece of wood became a 3rd class cross relic, like the crosses and medals that we spread as free gifts. Then they cut this piece of wood in many pieces and put it into a reliquary theca. So expect true cross relic that come without proper documents to be 3rd class.

Here are examples, of the parts of the true cross that Corpus Dei is making available to mankind:



Certificate of authenticity

The relic is saved inside molded metal to be prevented from any destruction for the next centuries to come.
The theca is designed to fit into a reliquary.

On the backside of the theca is a wax seal.



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