



The Miraculous Crucifix

History of the Miraculous Crucifix

1606 : -St Francois of Sales, Bishop of Geneva and Ancey was in Chambéry during Lent. While preaching from the pulpit in the Dominican church on Good Friday, the Christ on the Crucifix attached to the choir screen began to shine rays of light toward Francis. All present witnessed the event.



1624 : Saint Jeanne de Chantal founded the Visitation Convent of Chambéry.

1662 : The Dominicans renovated their church. A large Crucifix with an alabaster Christ was hung on the choir screen, and the old Crucifix was given to the sculptor who had renovated the Church.

1672 : The Visitation Sisters decided to purchase the Miraculous Crucifix from the sculptor. He wrote out a bill of sale for the Sisters who then glued it in the Book of Records of the Convent.

1789 : The French Revolution. On June 8th 1793, the Visitation Sisters were expelled from their convent and their possessions were sold for a pittance. The Miraculous Crucifix was recorded as item number 139 before its attempted destruction. First, the arms of the Christ figure were removed, and then an axe was used to try to destroy the body. Only partially damaged, the sculpture was thrown into a shed behind some bundles of firewood, destined to be burned. The grandmother of one of the nuns secretly gathered up the pieces of the Miraculous Crucifix and hid them in her house. During the Restoration period, the Visitation sisters, who were no longer in Chambéry, gave the pieces of the Crucifix to the priest of Notre Dame Church. He placed them for safekeeping in the church of the Incurables (which was subsequently destroyed). Once the church Notre Dame was restored the Miraculous Crucifix safely store there. After the church was renovated, the Crucifix was placed in a side chapel, after it was restored and repainted.

History of the Miraculous Crucifix

1806: The Visitation Sisters were permitted to return to their convent in Chambéry. It had become a Jesuit High School, named Vaugelas. Subsequently, the nuns decided to move to the old convent of the Feuillants Order. It was situated next to the Lemenc church and they hoped to hang the Miraculous Crucifix in this convent. The priest of Notre Dame was recalcitrant. When the Sisters showed him their bill of sale, the priest gave back the Miraculous Crucifix to the rightful owners. On 24 December 1820 it was hung in a collonaded hall which served as a cloister. It was blessed two days later by the Bishop of Nancy, Msgr Jeanson who thereupon granted 300 days of indulgence for reciting 5 Our Fathers and Hail Marys It was during this time that Sister Mary-Martha Chambon It was a nun in this Chamberian convent (1863-1907)

1903: The practice of establishing inventories was instituted, which gave rise to fear of confiscation. The Miraculous Crucifix was therefore dismantled and hidden in the Suiffet family home in Modane. In 1909 the Miraculous Crucifix was restored to the convent.

1944: Chambéry was bombed, and part of the convent was damaged. The chapel was flattened, but fortunately the Miraculous Crucifix had been removed. After prolonged negotiations, the Visitation community settled in St Pierre d'Albigny in 1956. A chapel was built for the Miraculous Crucifix where it was visible for all who came to pray before it. In 2006 the convent was closed and the Miraculous Crucifix and the relics of deceased Sister Mary-Martha were then transferred with the nuns to the Visitation Convent, 74200 Thonon-les-B., on the shores of Lake Lemman. We cordially invite you to visit us there and to participate in the veneration of Christ's Holy Wounds.

The Rosary or Chapelet of the Holy Wounds

Between each decade of the Rosary one can contemplate one of Jesus' five Holy Wounds and formulate a prayer

Prayer before reciting the Rosary :

- *O Jesus, Divine Redeemer, be merciful to us and to the whole world.*
- *R. /Amen*
- *Holy God, Mighty God, Immortal God, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*
- *R. /Amen*
- *Eternal Father, grant us mercy through the Blood of Jesus Christ, Your only Son. Grant us mercy, we beseech You*
- *R. /Amen*

After each decade, on the large bead :

- *Eternal Father, I offer You the Wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls. On the small beads:*

On the small beads :

- *I/. O my Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Your Holy Wounds.*

At the ends of the Rosary repeat three times :

- *R/. Eternal Father, I offer You the Wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls.*

Decree of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, Rome March 23, 1999).

Adoration of the Holy Wounds

Wounds of the Feet

O my most lovable Lord Jesus, kneeling before You in profound respect, and in union with the Most Holy Virgin Mary, with all the Angels and the Blessed of Heaven, I adore the most Holy Wounds of Your Feet.

I pray to You for the delivery of the souls of Purgatory, principally those who, during their life, were the most devoted to Your Holy Wounds.

- *Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, pray for us.*
- *O my Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Your Holy Wounds*
- *Eternal Father, I offer You the Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls*

Wound of the Right Hand

O my most lovable and crucified Lord Jesus, kneeling before You in profound respect, and in union with the Most Holy Virgin Mary with all the Angels and the Blessed of Heaven, I adore the most Holy Wound of your Right Hand.

Thank you for the infinite Love with which you have willingly accepted so many and such atrocious sufferings to expiate my sins, which I hate with all my heart. I ask for your Grace to accord victory for the Holy Church over its enemies, and for all its sons and daughters to march in Holy Union through the Way of your commandments.

- *Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, pray for us.*
- *O my Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Your Holy Wounds*
- *Eternal Father, I offer You the Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls*

Adoration of the Holy Wounds

Wound of the Left Hand

O my most lovable and crucified Lord Jesus, kneeling before You in profound respect, and in union with the Most Holy Virgin Mary with all the Angels and the Blessed of Heaven, I adore the most Holy Wound of Your Left Hand. I beseech Your grace for poor sinners and for the dying, especially for those who do not wish to reconcile themselves with You.

- *Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, pray for us.*
- *O my Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Your Holy Wounds*
- *Eternal Father, I offer You the Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls*

Wound of Jesus Sacred Side

O my most lovable and crucified Lord Jesus, kneeling before You in profound respect, and in union with the Most Holy Virgin Mary, with all the Angels and the Blessed of Heaven, I adore the most Holy Wound of Your Sacred Side. I beseech You to bless all those who have asked me to pray for them, and to grant their prayers.

- *Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, pray for us.*
- *O my Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Your Holy Wounds*
- *Eternal Father, I offer You the Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls*

Wounds from the Crown of Thorns, the Shoulder, the Knees and from the Flagellation

O my most lovable and crucified Lord Jesus, Your Holy Face was disfigured by the malice of mankind and by our sins. The punishment which brings us peace is upon You. The Crown of Thorns digs into Your Skull, Your venerable Forehead, and Your Holy Head, temple of divine wisdom. I love and adore You Lord Jesus. The Wound of Thy battered shoulder, the Wounds of Your torn Knees and those of the atrocious Flagellation are, each one, a mouth crying out Your love, beloved Savior. I unite my humble life to Your merits, to Your suffering, O Victim of Mercy. With You, I offer myself to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

- *Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, pray for us.*
- *O my Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Your Holy Wounds*
- *Eternal Father, I offer You the Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls*

O my most lovable, crucified Jesus, deign to enrich these prayers through the merits of Your Passion, grant me a holy life, the grace to receive the sacraments at the time of my death, and eternal glory, Amen. Pater, Ave, Gloria

Sister Marie-Marthe Chambon

Sister Mary-Martha Chambon in prayer (according to living testimony)

Born on March 6. 1841 in La Croix Rouge near Chambéry, and baptized the same day, she died in the odour of sanctity on March 21. 1907.

Sister Mary-Martha Chambon was a humble lay sister from the Saint Mary Visitation convent of Chambéry. Her laborious and hidden life was a fertile soil which nourished an intense inner life : profoundly united to Jesus through the mystery of the Holy Childhood and that of the Passion, she declared that she had received a "mission" from Him: she was to unceasingly and personally invoke the Holy Wounds, as well as to revive that devotion throughout the world.

The mysticism of the Cross and the of the Holy Wounds of the Nun from Chambéry has a common denominator in the return of mankind and the entire world through seeking the salvation of all which is afforded through the Passion of Christ. Despite the initial point of departure consisting of individual grace, Sister Mary- Martha's mysticism cannot be boxed into a subjective, mere "save your own soul attitude".

Through the passionate veneration of the Savior's Holy Wounds revealed to Sister Mary-Martha, it becomes evident that the redemption of the individual is achieved through universal devotion. It is clearly apparent that, to Sister Mary-Martha, this newly-revived devotion is the unfolding of the veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and came naturally to the monastic Order in which she was nurtured. In the vision of the five Wounds, the Pierced Heart was considered by the visionary as, in relation to the Cross, the substantial symbol of divine salvation which the other wounds complete, complementing and highlighting the secret of Redemption for believers sensitive to tangible signs which reinforce its reality.

The idea that the human body was totally concerned by the suffering of the Savior played an important role, although the visionary had the truth of what Saint Thomas taught in mind when he said that even the smallest drop of His blood would be sufficient for the salvation of humanity. In this context, taking into consideration the other Wounds of the Savior did not appear to her as a needed supplement to the saving force (of His Heart) otherwise diminished or even absent, but rather as a living object of worship, enhancing devotion and love in the heart of loving and prayerful Christians.

Information and contacts

For information, membership in the association and purchase of books :

- Way of the Cross to honour the Holy Wounds of our Lord Jésus-Christ.
- Sister Marie-Marthe Chambon and the devotion to the Holy Wounds.

**Monastère de la Visitation - 32 Route de la Visitation Marclaz - 74200 Thonon-les-Bains - France
Tel : 04 50 70 34 46**



The chapel of the Monastery of the Visitation in Thonon-les-Bains, home of the Miraculous Crucifix, Here also are found the remains of Sister Mary-Martha Chambon behind a plaque (to the right in the photo).

**Site Internet : www.marie-marthe-chambon.fr
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From a theological point of view, it is possible to view this as a flowering veneration of the Sacred Heart of Jesus moving towards a devotion to the Holy Wounds as a reinforcement of the saving meaning of Christ's humanity: the true cause which contributed to the Redemption sprang forth from His human nature.

Overall, the testimonials from this visionary from Chambéry appertain to a genius which sprung from a private revelation, and are indications or clues of the grace of an innate faith residing in a person whose personal intellectual and spiritual resources could never have attained such a height, or such luminous supernatural visions. -
Text of Cardinal Scheffczyk (1920-2005)

At a time when the spirit of absolute independence, of pride pushed to atheism, seeks to spread itself throughout the whole world even in Christian nations, the Lord suggests to many interior souls to pray as did the humble lay Sister of visitation of Chambéry.

Father Garrigou-Lagrange



Each Friday in the chapel of the Visitation monastery of Thonon-les-Bains

Summer hours:

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm -Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
5:15 pm- Rosary of the Holy Wounds

Winter hours:

4:30 pm to 5:30 pm- Veneration of the Blessed Sacrament
4:30pm- Rosary of the Holy Wounds