



Tours, October 29, 2025

Dear members of the Confraternities of the Holy Face,

As All Saints' Day approaches, I felt the desire to write you this first letter, as the new rector of the oratory, to thank you for your devotion to the Holy Face: how many graces are bestowed through this spirituality! Indeed, we are offered a whole school for learning to become contemplatives of the Holy Face, following in the footsteps of Léon Papin-Dupont, Sister Marie de Saint-Pierre and the Holy Family, and the Martin family (Louis, Céline, Thérèse, Léonie, etc.), among others:

All these spiritual masters have so much to teach us, **especially regarding our call to holiness**, as the Second Vatican Council emphasized in Chapter V of the constitution *Lumen Gentium*: "All the faithful are therefore invited—and indeed obliged—to pursue holiness and the perfection of their state in life." Later, I will have the opportunity to return to this Chapter 5 of this conciliar constitution, **concerning Léon Papin-Dupont, whose 150th birthday we will celebrate in 2026.**



Having been installed as rector of the Oratory of the Holy Face by the Archbishop of Tours, Bishop Jordy, on Sunday, October 5, 2025, I am well aware of the great work that remains to be done to rediscover the riches of the spirituality of the Holy Face in France and throughout the world. Recently, I immersed myself in the history of confraternities, perusing the 234-page register describing the foundations of the 1,064 confraternities worldwide. With regret, I discovered a gap in the founding of these confraternities, noting that the last foundation dates back to 1981, established in Monreale, Italy.

But I am very happy to know that **new foundations are being prepared in the United States**: at the Monastery of Our Lady of Mercy and Saint Joseph in Alexandria, South Dakota and another in Louisiana, in the diocese of Bishop Michael Duca, and more specifically in the parish of Father Christopher Decker.



Father Dou rin was installed as rector of La Sainte Face on October 5th by Bishop Jordy.

On this subject, I would like to inform you that the customs disputes between the United States and Europe are unfortunately having a tangible impact on the Holy Face apostolate, particularly on finances. Since August 25th, the French postal service has stopped sending packages to the USA, no matter how small. And at the Holy Face, we are seeing a dramatic drop in donations, Mass offerings, and sales of religious items: in fact, there are practically none left now. But if you have any ideas for continuing to send Holy Face oil and devotional items to the USA at reasonable shipping costs, please share them with us. Perhaps we could use American pilgrims, members of confraternities, when they pass through Tours? This is just one idea I'm putting forward, but I welcome any other simple, realistic, and inexpensive suggestions.

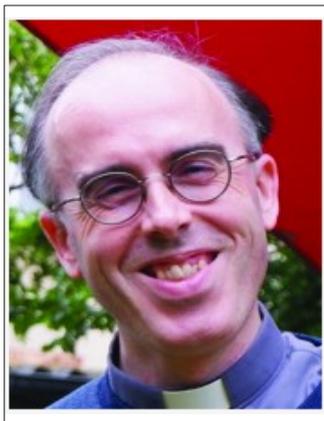
Noting the absence, for over 20 years, of a publication linking confraternities worldwide with the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face of Tours, I would like to develop connections between us in some way, so as to better meet the needs of confraternity members. To do this, I would need to know which confraternities are currently active. Could you help me compile a list of them and provide me with the contact information for the leaders and members of these confraternities, which I can then send to the Holy Face secretariat (whose email address is : sainteface.tours@gmail.com)?



Why have I decided to write to you on this October 29th? Please forgive me for writing so late, as some will read this message after October 31st, but the idea came to me in recent days. The aim is to ask confraternities around the world to pray especially on October 31st, particularly to atone for the blasphemies that will occur during that evening. At the Oratory of the Holy Face, this Friday, October 31st, from 5:30 PM to 10:00 PM, we are organizing an evening of Eucharistic adoration to atone for blasphemies, responding to curses with blessings! Therefore, all isolated members of the confraternities can join in the prayer of the Archconfraternity of Tours. Indeed, the Vice-President of the International Association of Exorcists, Father Bamonte, warns of the consequences of Halloween. For many Satanists, Halloween represents the beginning of the Satanic year. Therefore, this Italian priest explains that this "*phenomenon is very worrying and constitutes a real danger because, even if those who do it do not intend to celebrate witchcraft and the devil, they enter into communion with this evil spiritual current by which, without realizing it, they find themselves enveloped as if by a halo of darkness, consequently becoming more vulnerable to the ordinary and extraordinary actions of the devil, with all the disastrous consequences that this entails for their lives.* (source: <https://fr.aleteia.org/2024/10/21>) ". **Therefore, I invite confraternities worldwide to dedicate a time of prayer, however brief, during the evening of Friday, October 31st to November 1st:** by reciting the Prayer of the Golden Arrow, the Litany of the Holy Face, the Prayer of Leo XIII to St. Michael, or a Rosary, or by adoring the Blessed Sacrament. As for those who read this email after November 1st, I also invite them to engage in this act of reparation in the following days.



Thank you for praying for the work of the Shrine of the Holy Face. And I ask the Most Holy Trinity to bless all members of the confraternities of the Holy Face, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



Father Fabrice Douérin,
rector of the Shrine of the Holy Face, in Tours.