

Excerpts from letters re Relics (fac simile)  
of the Turin Shroud

- M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita (who had supplied other Relics)
1. Nov. 26, 1923 - "Would it be possible for you to obtain a Relic of the Holy Winding Sheet...?"
  2. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
Mar. 4, 1924 - "My dear Mother Prioress and the whole Community take great pleasure in sending you the Holy Winding Sheet (Sindone) so much venerated by our Monastery - On the days of the Passion the said Winding Sheet was exposed in Choir all spread out and fixed firmly to 4 "Poggioli" - and the whole Community went in procession reciting special prayers to kiss the Winding Sheet - We are thinking of making a gift of this dear souvenir to you to make you blessed together with all your Pilgrims."
  3. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
Jan. 30, 1924 - "I have ready a real treasure to send to you - a treasure which for 300 years has continued to be venerated by our Community - Now I, with the Council of the Mothers, have been able to obtain permission to send it to you, because I believe it will be greatly venerated by you all. It is a "Fac simile" of the True Winding Sheet of Our Lord Jesus Christ which is preserved at Turin - Our Winding Sheet (Sindone) has been touched throughout its entirety to the true Winding Sheet - It has been painted in duplicate, that is, the under part and the upper part (of the body) which latter is distinguished by the opening in the Sacred Side; however, I am not sending it until I shall have received a letter from you . -----  
"Mother dear, seeing that the packages arrive in Summit with great difficulty, I feel dismayed about dispatching the large Reliquary and the Holy Winding Sheet which I have to send - If it is possible for you, write me clearly how I must declare the contents on the box in order for you not to pay much duty and so that it may reach you quickly" -
  4. M. M. Imelda gives directions for sending "fac Simile" by American Express Co. Feb. 25, 1924.
  5. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
Feb. 26, 1924 - "On Feb. 14 of the current year I sent you an iron tube, a meter in length (it appears to me) containing a "fac simile" of the true Winding Sheet of Our Lord Jesus Christ and touched to the true Winding Sheet - You will observe that the figure is double; the front part is that where the Sacred Side is seen - This Sacred treasure has been venerated for 300 years in our Community - The day of the Winding Sheet, it was extended in choir and all went to kiss it, reciting in common 6 Paters, Aves and Glorias, and with that the Plenary Indulgence was gained. I hardly understood that my dear Mother, Sr. M. Imelda, desired the Winding Sheet that I made known your desire to the Council of Mothers and immediately it was granted to me, by privilege, for you who are so very good to us, who take the trouble to

lift us up in this state of misery in which we are at present, and we hope that it will be much venerated and appreciated by your Community and by the good Pilgrims."

6. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita

April 6, 1924 - "We have received the Holy Winding Sheet!!! What a treasure! It was venerated for the first time by our pious Pilgrims yesterday. I wish that you could have witnessed the impression made upon our pious Pilgrims by this Holy Relic. How generous you all are! Believe that we shall never forget the great sacrifice you have made in parting with this treasure!"

7. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda

April 27, 1924 - "We hear with much pleasure of the splendid welcome which the good pilgrims have given to the "Sacred Winding Sheet" - this certainly will be the dearest remembrance that they will have of our poor Monastery which has voluntarily deprived itself for love of our good and holy Sisters of Summit."

8. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita

June 13, 1924 - "Is there no authentication for the Holy Winding Sheet? Can our Pilgrims gain a Plenary Indulgence by venerating it? A pious benefactress has ordered a very beautiful frame in mahogany, 7 ft. long and 3 ft. wide for this most precious Winding Sheet. It will be set with glass in front and back in order to show the two sides of the Relic. The frame will have two handles of bronze on each side of the frame in order to facilitate its transportation from one place to another. The base and the cross will be of bronze".

9. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda

June 27, 1924 - "As for the Holy Winding Sheet, we greatly regret that we are unable to send the authentication because it has been lost. The said Winding Sheet belonged to the Monastery of Santa Caterina and when we came into this Monastery of St. Domenico e Sisto, a box which contained various authentications was lost. Nevertheless all our dear ancient Mothers assure us that the said Winding Sheet had been touched to the true Winding Sheet which is at Turin - and various Popes had granted the Plenary Indulgence for venerating it on the day on which the Office of the Winding Sheet is made. On that day, therefore, the whole Community went in procession to kiss the said Winding Sheet and recited 5 Paters, Aves and Glorias (cf letter Feb. 26, 1924 - plus 1 Pater, Ave, Gloria for Pope) and with that gained the Plenary Indulgence. "I am sorry that I did not present it to Pope Pius XI before sending it to you - but I will see if I can do something."

10. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda

Dec. 5, 1924 - "My good Mother, the first time you write me, have the goodness to let me know if you desire the Plenary Indulgence for the Winding Sheet that we may have it sent to you - And I ask you the favor to let me know precisely the date of the Winding Sheet, which it seems to me is 1662, but I do not remember exactly. If your Maternity desires the Plenary Indulgence for your Community or

for the Pilgrims in perpetuity or for some year - tell me everything. The Most Rev. Father Filippo Caterini, Procurator General will obtain from the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences all that I shall ask of him, because I have already spoken to him about it".

11. Printed on our Replica of the Holy Winding sheet  
"CAVATA DAL ORIGINALE in Torino - L'Anno 1624"

cf. letter 6/27/24 - "Cavata - taken off"

All that is visible as it is in the frame is--

Cavata dal originale TV - on upper right hand side.

12. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita  
Jan 2, 1925 - "We received the frame for the Holy Winding Sheet on the Vigil of Xmas (1924); it is in wrought copper and mahogany; it is 7 ft. high and has cost our benefactress (Mrs. P. P. Peck of Boston) \$700.00. I did not wish her to give so much but she insisted, telling me that it was not too much for so precious a Relic. As soon as I have a photograph of it, I will send you one..  
"I forgot to tell you how happy we are to have the Indulgences applied to our Holy Winding Sheet. Could we obtain the Plenary Indulgence for the Sisters and for the Pilgrims in perpetuity each time we venerate it? Would it be possible to obtain a Plenary Indulgence for the Pilgrims each time that they make a Pilgrimage to our Shrine? I am very sure that Monsignor, who wishes our good in everything would be happy for us to have this privilege. Nothing is impossible to Rome and this would be such a great encouragement for so many of the world who come here from all parts of the U.S. The Most Blessed Virgin grants many favors and even some cures. I have seen them with my own eyes. We are going to pray much here in order that we may receive the notable favor which we dare to ask. How the Blessed Virgin would be honored by it! The First Sunday of October it is believed there were nearly 10,000 Pilgrims!"
13. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
Feb. 12, 1925 - "I wanted to send you the answer to the matter of the Indulgence for the "Winding Sheet" but until today I have not received any reply - Hardly had I received your letter when I at once wrote the Petition (Supplica) to the Most Rev. Father Caterini, but he has not yet answered me. -  
"With much pleasure I learn of the veneration that you have for our Holy Winding Sheet and we hope you will send us a photograph. ."
14. Father Caterini to M. M. Imelda  
Feb. 25, 1925 - "I am occupied with the indulgences you desired for the Holy Winding Sheet; I hope to succeed, and then when I know something I will write to you.."

15. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita  
Feb. 27, 1925 - "I saw the Vicar General this week and spoke to him about the Holy Winding Sheet. I asked him if we could expose it for the veneration of the Pilgrims without the authentication, and to my great surprise, and to my great regret also, he said that was forbidden. Our benefactress has given the magnificent frame because thousands of Pilgrims were to venerate the Relic. Monsignor only told me that if you could procure a copy of the first authentication, or an equivalent authentication, he would permit us to expose it in our chapel for the veneration of the Pilgrims. How grateful I would be to you to obtain this privilege for us! I would even consent to sending back the Holy Winding Sheet to have it retouched to the Holy Winding Sheet kept at Turin, if that were possible. Will you write me very quickly on this matter and assure me that you are going to help us?"
16. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita  
March 5, 1925 - "The Relics of the "Tempietto" were exposed for the first time last Sunday. Our chaplain (The Very Rev. Daniel Raymond Towle, O.P., P.G.) also exposed the "Nails" and the "Holy Face". We were to expose the Holy Winding Sheet but, as I wrote in my last letter, without an authentication we did not have the permission to do so. We hope that you will obtain it for us, my good Sister, as you have obtained all the other favors for us. The Holy Winding Sheet inspires much piety in its magnificent frame. As soon as I can I will have it photographed."
17. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
March 20, 1925 - "And now let us conclude the affair of the Winding Sheet. I have spoken of it with the Most Rev. Father Caterini; he would be disposed to send you some sort of document with a seal for the authentication of the Holy Winding Sheet, but he told me that in order to avoid any sort of cavilling whatever that might arise on the part of your Bishop as well as on the part of the Pilgrims, he will occupy himself with returning the Holy Winding Sheet to Turin to have it retouched to the true Winding Sheet and to have the seals placed on the Winding Sheet there at Turin itself. This is the best way to make the doubtful secure; however, dear Mother, you must know that it is not such an easy thing to touch the true Winding Sheet; on the contrary it is very difficult, because the seals with which it is sealed must be cut, and then the great privilege must be obtained to touch the "fac simile" (Replica) not to the glass but precisely to the linen with which Our Lord Jesus Christ was covered!! But we will do everything, we will even do the impossible in order to obtain for dear Mother Imelda this privilege, so great yet so rare!! -  
"It is advisable, however, Mother mine, that you send back the Winding Sheet to me; I am sorry for this trouble, but it is the best way to make all secure.  
"The Rescript of Indulgences is all ready now. I am thinking of writing it on parchment so that you can have it framed; tell me whether you wish it written in Latin or in English."

18. March 31, 1925--Date on Rescript from Sacred Congregation of Indulgences.  
This Rescript grants for public veneration of the Replica of the Holy Winding Sheet at Rosary Shrine, Summit, N. J. Three Plenary Indulgences: on May 4 (fixed by the Holy See), Passion Sunday and the First Sunday of November, fixed by the Bishop of Newark, (Rt. Rev. John J. O'Connor). There is also a partial indulgence of 7 years and 7 lents for every Friday. (cf Archives)
19. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
April 14, 1925 - "I hope you shall have already received my letter in which I told you that, for the tranquillity of everyone, it would be well to send back the Winding Sheet to me, that we may do the impossible to get it retouched to the true Winding Sheet at Turin."
20. April 20, 1925 - Date on which we returned Replica to Rome.
21. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita  
May 8, 1925 - "The Holy Winding Sheet was sent back to you on April 20. I hope that the Most Rev. Father Caterini is going to do all in his power to get it re-applied. This will certainly be a very great act of charity that we shall strive to repay by the necessary offering to cover the expenses of the proceedings, etc. I am going to write to the good Father and arrange with him.  
  
It would be better to have the authentication in Latin.
22. M. M. Imelda's notes summarizing letter sent  
June 2, 1925 - "Have you received the Holy Winding Sheet?...Received the letter from the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences which grants us three (3) Plenary Indulgences, etc.  
  
Do you know if the Holy Winding Sheet will be sent to Turin? Happiness of the Pilgrims when it shall be returned to us."
23. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita  
July 3, 1925 - "Have you received the Holy Winding Sheet? Is it going to be (re-touched) or re-applied to the Holy Winding Sheet of Turin? I have written to the Reverend Father Caterini on this matter, but I have received no reply, except a certificate which comes from the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences. We should be very happy to receive the Holy Winding Sheet in order to have it venerated on the Feast of the Holy Rosary."
24. Father Caterini to M. M. Imelda  
July 18, 1925 - "I received your letter of the 26th of May and I have not answered it waiting for information from Turin--Now I can tell you that the Winding Sheet at Turin is closed in a shrine with two keys, one belonging to the King and another to the Pope.  
  
"It will be opened only when the son of the King marries. I hope the marriage of the King's son is not far distant. Will you wait for this occasion?  
  
"But I think the Bishop should be satisfied with an attestation signed by me; because I can bear witness to the old tradition at the Monastery of Santa Caterina where the Relic was venerated for many centuries"....

25. M. M. Imelda's note summarizing letter sent to M. M. Margherita July 29, 1925 - "Letter written July 29, 1925--Sent \$75. Information on Holy Winding Sheet. Great anxiety to have it for Rosary Sunday Pilgrimage in October."
26. Father Caterini to M. M. Imelda August 10, 1925 - "I am surprised that you do not know the Winding Sheet arrived in Rome a long time ago. Sister Margaret told me to write to Turin and so I can assure you that it is not possible to have the Relic retouched unless at the marriage of the Prince, which is quite uncertain."

When I know anything of this event, I will let you know.

27. M. M. Imelda to Father Caterini August 24, 1925 - "I received your letter of July 18 and am grateful to you for the information you gave concerning the Winding Sheet. May I ask if you have any idea as to when the Prince will marry? Is he engaged? If so, we prefer to wait and have the Winding Sheet retouched. We set it back to the Sisters of SS Domenico e Sisto with a request to be informed upon its reception, but to date we do not know whether it ever reached Rome. We are very much worried about it."

I am somewhat fearful to ask our Bishop a second time, The Vicar General refused to have the Winding Sheet on veneration without an authentication. Had the Bishop been consulted first, I feel sure he would have granted the permission, but as things stand now, I think the surest way is to have it retouched..."

28. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita September ?, 1925 - "Have you received the Holy Winding Sheet which we sent you in April? You see how much reason we have to be disquieted about it, my good Sr. Margherita. I have written to the Rev. Father Caterini to know if the Holy Winding Sheet has reached him. I am waiting for his reply. Would you believe that the statuette of St. Dominic has only very recently arrived in New York? Things take an indefinite time to reach us."
29. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda includes 2 letters from Turin (July 8, 1925-#31; August 3, 1925-#32) September 9, 1925 - "But, Mother mine, there has not passed an hour of the day in which I have not thought of you and of the dear Winding Sheet. I received it in good condition and I stand pledged that it may arrive at being touched to the original of Turin--but it is very difficult!--it is not possible to send it so that it may be at Summit for the feast of the Holy Rosary. The 23rd of this month will be the espousals of the Princess Mafalda at Turin, so I have asked Monsignor Beccaria, Grand Chaplain of the Royal House, to consent to entreat the Sovereigns to visit the Holy Winding Sheet; this is the only means to get the Holy Winding Sheet touched. He

has given me some hope. Pray, dear Mother, that I may be able to obtain this privilege which will not be a little one--because it treats of inducing the Sovereigns to perform this act of religion. Mother mine, do not believe that I am not giving myself any trouble in order that our precious "fac simile" may arrive at being authenticated--quite the contrary! I am enclosing a letter from Turin of August 3, 1925; it explains the authenticity of our Winding Sheet.

\*When this was executed in 1624, according to the date printed on the "fac simile" there is a traditional history to tell us that: the Infanta Maria Maddalena of Austria was in intimate friendship with our Monastery and it was she who made a gift of the Winding Sheet to the Nuns. Dear Mother, it is so very logical that when it was copied it was likewise laid "for some time" on the Holy Winding Sheet as the account had from Turin attests; likewise our ancient Mothers say that: the Wound of the Side of the original was damp, and after placing the "fac simile" upon it, they did it in such a way that the true Blood of Our Lord was communicated to the "fac simile," and precisely on this account, it was held in very great veneration. However, of this we do not find anything written, but a constant tradition guarantees it to us very certainly.

\*Document 3

"On the first letter (cf. July 8, 1925 to M. M. Margherita from Turin) you will find written an annotation by the Most Rev. Father Caterini where it says to ask you if you wish to wait for the future marriage of the young Prince--but I hope to be able to obtain the favor at the approaching espousals of the Princess Mafalda.

"Do not doubt, dear Mother, I will do the impossible in order to have this precious document for you. Our precious Winding Sheet is now yours. It will be a question of time, but then it will come to you with all the written documents--then it will be an object of public veneration."

30. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
September 11, 1925 - "I forgot to put the 2 letters from Turin in the letter I wrote to you (cf. Sept. 9, 1925) I am including them in this."

The following 2 letters #31 and #32 are from Turin to M. M. Margherita from the Rector of the Chapel of the Royal Confraternity of the Holy Winding Sheet.

31. Turin, July 8, 1925 J.M.J.  
Reverend Sister M. Margherita,  
Some time ago I received a letter from dear Mario, almost the same as that of Your Reverence, and I replied to him at once, wondering that he should ask such a task of me, since he especially ought to know it is utterly impossible to treat of this matter at present.

You may know, then that the Most Holy Winding Sheet is closed up in the Royal Chapel (and not in my church) in a silver casket and placed in the marble urn soaring above the altar, fortified with the seals affixed on June 2, 1898, when it was withdrawn after the Solemn Exposition which had lasted 8 days and 8 nights.

In order to do all that Your Reverence desires, we require the permission of the Pope and of the King, and this suffices to make the thing impossible at this time. When the Court was at Turin, the Winding Sheet was exposed on the occasion of the marriage of the Crown Prince; and since His Majesty Victor Emanuel III was not married in Turin, it was not exposed for the festival of his wedding, therefore, our Sovereign himself (prevented from going to Turin in 1898), although the proprietor of so very notable a Relic, nevertheless has never seen it. Since it had not been exposed after the wedding of Their Majesties Umberto and Margherita in 1868, either, and as everyone was desirous of seeing it again, poor King Umberto permitted its Solemn Exposition in 1898 for the Tercentenary of my Confraternity which is entitled "of the Holy Winding Sheet (Sindone)".

"Therefore, it is necessary to have patience, to wait for said Relic to be exposed (we hope within a few years, but I really cannot say when), and in that case, beg the Archbishop of Turin for what Your Reverence desires; since you must know that when it is exposed, the major excommunication is at once announced against whoever dares to touch it.

"This is why I have written Mario, and now I write to Your Reverence, saying that for now it is quite impossible."

"Therefore, I cannot understand how Mario did not know all this..." D. Giuslaudera

Annotation on back of above letter signed by Procurator General

N.B. - I believe that, as things are, we must wait and see if they (The Dominican Sisters of Rosary Shrine, Summit, N. J.) wish to wait for the marriage of the young prince which it is hoped will take place at Turin.

"In case they do not wish to wait, let us return to my first idea, that is, to see if the Bishop will be satisfied with my attestation of what was always the tradition of the Monastery of Santa Caterina. P.F. Caterini, O.P., Proc. Gen.

(The Most Rev. P.F. Caterini O.P., Procurator General of the Order of Preachers)



32. Turin, August 3, 1925  
Very Rev. Sr. M. Margherita,

J.M.J.

Your letter arrived at Turin when I was absent from the city and that is the reason for the delay in answering it.

For your guidance, I do not have archives of the sort that contain documents regarding the Winding Sheet for the reason, which it seems to me, I have already written, that I am the Rector of the Church of the Royal Confraternity dedicated to that notable Relic, but these are kept in the Royal Chapel adjoining the Royal Palace where there are the archives to which you allude. However, in the work of P. Sanna, S.J.,<sup>(1)</sup> entitled "La Sindone di Torino" on page 57 I have found what follows and which serves your purpose:

"The Most Serene Infanta Maria Maddalena of Austria, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, in a letter of April 1624, asks Margherita of Savoy, Duchess of Mantua, daughter of Carlo Emanuel I that with her good offices she may obtain that two copies of the Winding Sheet be made for her. And these two copies were not only executed faithfully by a good painter on linen, in texture, dimensions, and painting resembling those of the true Winding Sheet (Sindone), but in order to give them greater value they were both laid for some time upon the true Relic.

"The letter of request is extant, as is also the letter of receipt by the Grand Duchess, which is dated April 27, 1626."

(State Archives vol. 31, No. 33.)  
(Archivio di Stato, Mazzo 31, citato)

"In case all this is not sufficient, you may apply to the Director of the State Archives in Turin. I have sent you two copies of the Winding Sheet photographed at the last exposition in 1898. You will observe that in one there is the negative of the figure of Our Lord and in the other the positive. This one, therefore, presents the Divine Lineaments more distinctly (and is to be observed from a distance) and was obtained by photographing the negative. This last instead reproduces the Winding Sheet (Sindone) as it is seen (and ought, therefore, to be similar to that of your possession), and from the simple fact that it is a negative, it serves greatly to prove the authenticity of the precious Relic..."

33. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
September 11, 1925 - "I forgot to enclose the two letters from Turin. I am including them herewith."

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(1) P. Giammaria Sanna Solaro, S.J.

34. September 23, 1925 - (from Chronicles) - "Return of our Relic of the Holy Winding Sheet of Turin from Rome where it had been sent for official authentication before it could be exposed for public veneration. With it came verification of its unbroken tradition of veneration in that city, in the Monastery of Santa Caterina from which Monastery the Community went about 1910 to SS Domenico e Sisto.
35. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita  
December 19, 1925 - "Now let us speak of our precious Winding Sheet, we are going to ask the Most Rev. Father Caterini to write us a letter, which we shall hand over to the Bishop. I hope that the letter will be convincing enough to permit us to expose our treasure to the veneration of the Pilgrims. If you think it advisable, we shall send the letters of the Chaplain of the Royal Palace to the Bishop with that which we shall ask of the Most Rev. Father Caterini. We are in a hurry to receive all these permissions. What you have written regarding the Holy Winding Sheet is very touching, and I am sure that thousands of persons will come to venerate so holy a Relic. Will you keep it with you until we are permitted to have it venerated?"
36. M. M. Imelda to Father Caterini  
January 15, 1926 - "Fearing that we may have to wait too long for our treasured Winding Sheet to be retouched to the true one at Turin, I am going to ask our St. Rev. Bishop to accept your attestation together with the letters sent me by Sr. Margherita as to its authenticity. Since you so kindly offered to do us this service some time ago, I know you will try to make your letter to His Lordship as forcible as possible so that he will permit the veneration of the precious relic by the thousands of Pilgrims who journey to Rosary Shrine..."
37. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda - Postcard  
January 21, 1926 - "Today I have the great fortune to send by means of the very kind Most Rev. James J. Flannery, the precious Winding Sheet--this is for me a very great pleasure.
- "I have already spoken to the Most Rev. Father F. Caterini and at once he will write a letter to Bishop John O'Connor and thus the question of the Holy Winding Sheet will be settled. I received your letter of Dec. 19 last and at once I wrote at length--for now a thousand thanks for your goodness."
38. Father Caterini to M. M. Imelda  
March 2, 1926 - My answer to your letter of January 15, is not so prompt as you desired. But the difficulty was to get the book from which I obtained unmistakable testimony so as to make a strong attestation for your Bishop.

Now I am sure that His Lordship will permit you to venerate the precious relic..."

39. Father Caterini to Bishop O'Connor

March 8, 1926 - "I write to assure Your Lordship that the Copy of the Holy Winding Sheet, which was made in 1624 and laid on the Holy Winding Sheet has been in the keeping of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine in Rome for many centuries. It was given to the Monastery by Maria Maddalena of Austria, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, and was always most jealously guarded by them as a sacred treasure.

"Fifteen years ago during the removal of the nuns of St. Catherine to the Monastery of SS. Domenico e Sisto, the authentication was lost, but the old nuns certify to the genuineness of the relic in question.

"Further proof there is in a history of the Holy Winding Sheet written by the Rev. Fr. John Mary Sanna Salsro, S.J., in his book called: "La S. Sindone che si venera a Torino," published by Vincenzo Bona, Turin 1901. This book, in chapter XII, p. 57, says:

In the year 1624 two copies of the Holy Winding Sheet were made and laid on the sacred relic and that they were given to Maria Maddalena of Austria, Grand Duchess of Tuscany, which she had asked of the Duchess of Savoy.

in whose family was the custody of the Holy Winding Sheet and which still retains the key.

"These letters of petition for and acknowledgment of the gift exist in the State Archives at Turin: Vol. 31, No. 33."

"Therefore, Your Lordship may in conscience safely allow the copy of the Holy Winding Sheet to be publicly venerated as it was for so many centuries at St. Catherine's at Rome..."

40. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda

March 10, 1926 - "Through the medium of the Rev. James J. Flannery of New York, you will have received the Holy Winding Sheet and I believe it will have given you pleasure. The Father Procurator, Father Filippo Caterini, is fully inclined to favor you in the matter of the Holy Winding Sheet, but he was not able to do anything before yesterday because he was waiting for a book from Turin in which it is clearly explained that our Winding Sheet not only has been touched, but per vario tempo was deposited on the true Winding Sheet. With this document and with others gathered in our Convent, Father Filippo has written a secure document to your Bishop for the authorization to expose to the public our Holy Winding Sheet. With this I hope that Your Maternity will be content; however, scarcely will there be an opportunity to retouch it to the true Winding Sheet; I will send you a telegram to have it sent back to me, it may be this

coming year. Thus we shall have the authentication done over again and place the seals on the Winding Sheet. Dearest Mother mine! I will do for you everything possible to give you pleasure...."

41. March 10, 1926--Note of M. M. Imelda's Holy Winding Sheet received from the Rev. James J. Flannery.
42. March 29, 1926--(Palm Sunday)  
Our Replica of the Holy Winding Sheet received public veneration for the first time in America on Palm Sunday, March 29, 1926. (cf. letter M. M. Imelda to Fr. Caterini April 12, 1926, #45; and M. M. Imelda's to M. M. Margherita of April 6, 1924, #6.)
43. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita  
April 6, 1926 - "I will write you a long letter to tell you of our treasure, the Holy Winding Sheet, but that is impossible today. You will see that it was my intention to write you about the middle of last month and that I could not do so.  
  
"We have all the necessary permissions for the veneration of the Holy Winding Sheet..."
44. M. M. Imelda to Bishop John J. O'Connor, Bishop of Newark  
April 12, 1926 - "We deeply appreciate your kindness in permitting us to expose our Holy Winding Sheet and giving us the choice of two days on which the plenary indulgence may be gained; but we are returning the Rescript of Indulgences asking Your Lordship to kindly write the dates of these appointed days, adding Your Lordship's signature. The dates we have chosen were: the first Sunday in November and Passion Sunday.  
(Chancery Folder - Archives)
45. M. M. Imelda to the Most Rev. Filippo Caterini, O.P. Procurator Gen.  
April 12, 1926 - "Words fail to express our gratitude for your kind efforts on our behalf. Thanks to you all difficulties have been removed and our precious Winding Sheet was solemnly unveiled for public veneration on Palm Sunday, (March 29, 1926).

"On the previous day (Saturday, March 28), Father Towle<sup>(1)</sup> had carried all the papers to the Bishop. He permitted all that we asked and assigned the two Plenary Indulgences, left to his discretion, to Passion Sunday and the First Sunday of November.

"The Sacred Relic has already excited interest and veneration in our good Pilgrims who were greatly moved when Father Towle explained it to them during the devotions of Palm Sunday afternoon. We have placed it in a \$700 bronze (and mahogany) frame donated for the purpose by a benefactress in Boston (Mrs. P.P. Peck) and for the present it stands at the right of the altar (on the Gospel side of the chapel at 63 New England Ave. in an alcove) in our little Chapel. Later on, when the new church is built, it will occupy a prominent position in one of the Rosary Chapels.

(1) The Very Rev. D. R. Towle, O.P., P.G., Chaplain of Rosary Shrine.

"We feel that we cannot thank you enough for all your kindness, but at least we should like to offer you the assurance of our constant and most fervent prayers for all that you have at heart. I assure you, dear Father, that it will be a real pleasure for the whole Community to receive your visit."

46. Father Caterini to M. M. Imelda  
May 1, 1926 - "I rejoiced in receiving the good news that the Bishop permitted you to expose to public veneration your precious relic. My letter took good effect. But the Bishop could have permitted that before."

"With all good wishes for the development of your community in numbers and in the good spirit of St. Dominic..."

47. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda  
May 17, 1926 - "Are you content that finally the "fac simile" of the Holy Winding Sheet can be venerated by the people? Nevertheless, I am making some experiments in order to obtain from Pope Pius XI a great privilege, namely to receive a Plenary Indulgence in perpetuo--every time that the said Winding Sheet shall be venerated by the members of your Community and by the Pilgrims. I hope to receive benevolently a signature from the Pope to this my petition."

One favor for Summit I have already obtained, namely, if you wish, Mother mine, you can advise beforehand the day of the Pilgrimage to your Church, and I will have sent to you--so as to arrive on said day--a telegram from Pope Pius XI with an express Plenary Indulgence and the Apostolic Benediction--for all the Pilgrims.

Of these telegrams from the Pope, I can have sent to you as many as you wish for all your special occasions, for your friends and for the whole Community. For example, Silver Jubilees, Golden Jubilees, Weddings, etc.

I am very sorry that I did not know the day of your re-confirmation to the Priorate--without doubt I would have had a telegram sent you from the Pope with the Apostolic Benediction. A thousand good wishes, therefore, now from me and from the whole Community."

48. M. M. Imelda to M. M. Margherita  
July 6, 1926 - "I cannot tell you how much our Pilgrims hold the Holy Winding Sheet in veneration. It is a true procession on Sunday. The large frame is at the bottom of the little sanctuary (cf note to M. M. Imelda's letter to Father Caterini--April 12, 1926). The Pilgrims in passing place their hands on the glass over the Wound of the Heart and there make their petitions. Many are moved even to tears. In our new chapel we shall see better from

the grille on the Second Floor over the sanctuary. Now we only see the frame. Later it will occupy a choice place in our new Chapel, and I am sure that if you obtain the Indulgence for us that you promise, it will attract thousands of Pilgrims. Do you think you will be able to obtain a Plenary Indulgence for each visit? If not, for every Friday and Sunday of the year? I know that I ask much, but the Church is so rich and Our Holy Father is so good that I hope to obtain this notable favor.

"We are going to have the Dedication of the Sub-Basement of our New Chapel on August 15, feast of the Assumption. Could you obtain an Indulgence and Papal Blessing for our Pilgrims on that day? It would also be splendid to receive one for the Feast of the Rosary when we have from eight to ten thousand persons."

49. M. M. Margherita to M. M. Imelda

July 28, 1926 - "Mother dearest, it is a long time ago that I wrote on a very beautiful photograph of the Holy Father the privilege of a Plenary Indulgence in perpetuo for the visitors of the Holy Winding Sheet. I sent it to a Monsignor of the Vatican who is very close to the Pope, who told me that what I asked was too much. This Pope while he lives will grant me time after time the Special Benediction for the Pilgrims, but in perpetuo through a Rescript, it is not possible; but I will try again. I will place it in the hands of my powerful friends of the Vatican--in the hope, that the good God will grant me this favor that will be the most precious for you, dear Mother, and for your Pilgrims. Pray much that this can be obtained.

For the 15th of August, you will receive a telegram from the Pope--and another telegram for October, then you will let me know always the date for which this Special Benediction from the Pope is desired; and I also will do the impossible to obtain this favor for you who are so good to us.

It gives us great pleasure to know how much our Holy Winding Sheet is venerated. We are happy to have given to America this our treasure from the moment we learned how much it is always venerated. May the good God ever increase the love for His Most Holy Passion!

Today I am sending you a large book which contains the whole history of the true Winding Sheet. On p. 57 there is written the little history of our Winding Sheet, which today is your property. I believe it will give you pleasure.

"Dear Mother!--I wish to show you all my gratitude for the charitable thought that you have for this poor Community--but I always await your orders in order to show you my strong fraternal love with deeds.