

Sindone: scientific debate of the Order of Engineers of Turin

Shroud, an icon of faith and mystery for science. Following the thread of the many unresolved questions raised by the cloth, a seminar was held on Friday, 31 May by the Order of Engineers of Turin, in the Via Giolitti 1 headquarters in Turin, in collaboration with the International Center for Studies on the Shroud. The meeting conferred three formative credits in the context of ongoing formation.

Professor Gian Maria Zaccone, historian, director of the International Center for Studies on the Shroud, and professor of Shroud History and relics at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University spoke in front of the audience of engineers; the prof. Nello Balossino, deputy director of the CISS and director of the Museo della Sindone, professor of Image processing and investigative computer science at the University, forensic criminology consultant for the Public Prosecutor's Office; the prof. Paolo Di Lazzaro, deputy director of CISS, physicist and research manager at the Enea Research Center in Frascati; the dr. Enrico Simonato, chemist, secretary of the CISS and member of the Diocesan Commission for the Shroud; prof. Paola Iacomussi, researcher at the National Institute of Metrological Research (INRiM), university professor and member of the CISS. The CISS group will be joined by the electronic engineer Stefano Masiello of Thales Alenia Space, a member of the technical group for the conservation of the Shroud since 2003.

"The seminar - reads the presentation of the meeting - aims to take stock of the scientific results obtained so far and new technologies that could lead to progress in understanding this enigma between spirituality and science". Computer science, chemistry, physics, combined with the most recent investigative techniques will constitute the multidisciplinary field on which the investigation will move. Everything "to help formulate plausible hypotheses on the formation of the Shroud image". And it is in particular the dating of the Shroud carried out in 1988 with the radiocarbon method which does not cease to feed doubts in the cenacles of the experts.

No less interesting subject of in-depth analysis are the techniques of conservation and exposure to the public this type of finds. During the meeting, on the one hand, the methods used to illuminate the cloth during public exhibitions were analyzed - a delicate operation carried out under the responsibility of the INRiM - on the other hand, the design and construction specifications of the air-conditioned case in which the Sindone, work entrusted to Thales Alenia Space Italia. The attention of scientists is concentrated precisely on the Shroud conservation techniques. Because the Shroud is a gift that must be handed down.