



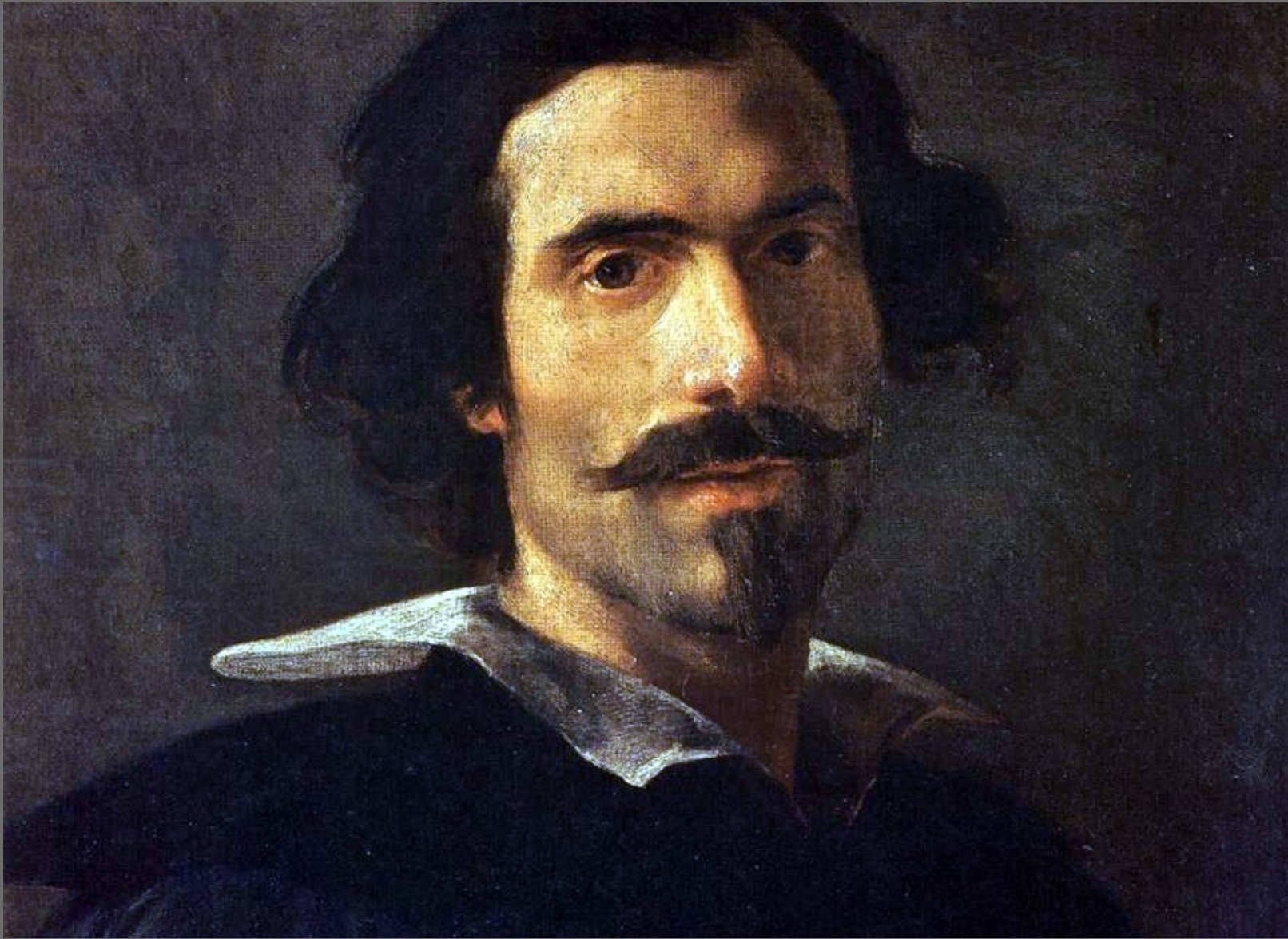
Pont San' Angelo, Rome

Rome is overflowing with beautiful art. The Pont San' Angelo, or Bridge of the Angels, over the River Tiber, is one of these incredible sights. But unless you look closely you'll miss its deeper meaning.

The Pont San Angelo' goes back to the first century. During the medieval period it was sometimes called 'The Bridge of St. Peter' since it was how most pilgrims crossed the River Tiber to get to St. Peter's Basilica.

In the 17th century Pope Clement IX commissioned statues for the Bridge.

Artist genius Gian Lorenzo Bernini came up with a plan. There would be ten statues of Angels but each would be holding something special: the instruments of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



Gian Lorenzo Bernini
1598-1680



The Instruments of the Passion

with the prayer of Pope Francis on Good Friday 2019



An angel with the column where Jesus was scourged

Lord Jesus, help us to see in your Cross all the crosses of the world:

The cross of those who hunger for bread and for love;

The cross of those who are alone or abandoned even by their own children and family members;



An angel with the whips that were used to scourge Jesus

The cross of those who thirst for justice and peace;

The cross of those who do not have the comfort of the faith;



An angel with the crown of thorns that were placed on the head of Jesus

The cross of the elderly who are bowed down under the weight of years and loneliness;

The cross of migrants who find doors closed because of fear, and hearts sealed by political calculations;



An angel with the cloth that was used by Veronica to wipe the face of Jesus

The cross of the little ones, wounded in their innocence and purity;

The cross of humanity that wanders in the darkness of uncertainty and in the darkness of the culture of the fleeting moment;



An angel with the garments that were taken from Jesus before his Crucifixion

The cross of families broken by betrayal, by the seductions of the evil one or by murderous lightness and by selfishness;

The cross of consecrated persons who tirelessly seek to bring your light into the world and feel rejected, mocked and humiliated;



An angel with the nails that held Jesus to the Cross

The cross of consecrated persons who, along the way, have forgotten their first love;

The cross of your children who, believing in you and trying to live according to your word, find themselves marginalized and discarded even by their families and their peers;



An angel with the Cross of Jesus

The cross of our weaknesses, our hypocrisies, our betrayals, our sins and our many broken promises;

The cross of your Church which, faithful to your Gospel, struggles to carry your love even among the baptized themselves;



An angel with the sign INRI attached to the Cross - Jesus, King of the Jews

The cross of the Church, your bride, who feels continually attacked from within and from without;

The cross of our common home that withers seriously before our selfish eyes that are blinded by greed and power.



An angel with the sponge that was offered to Jesus on the Cross

Lord Jesus, rekindle in us the hope of the resurrection and of your definitive victory against all evil and all death.

Amen!

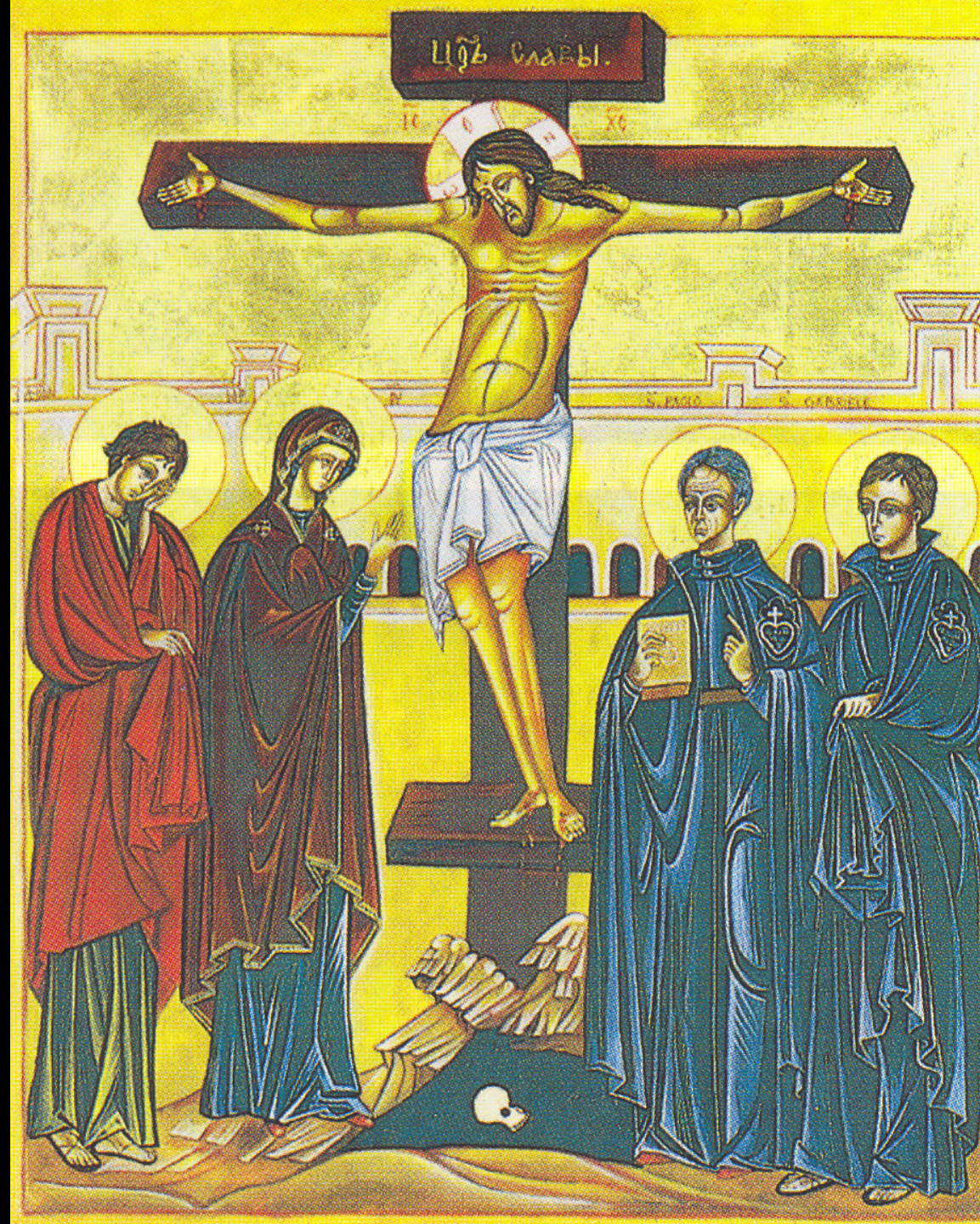


An angel with the lance that pierced the side of Jesus

Pope Francis reminds us –

“Looking at the cross we learn the features of God’s face. Because the Cross is God’s pulpit. It will do us good to look at the Crucified One in silence and see who our Lord is. He opens his arms wide to everyone. Christ does not treat us as strangers.”

8 April 2020





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