

**Robert Baral\*10/14/2019\*essay – Revisiting The Faith of Christopher Columbus\*p 1**

an essay: That Thy Sacred Name Should Be Made Known -  
*Revisiting The Faith of Christopher Columbus*

Robert Baral  
10/14/2019

***FIRST,***

Christopher Columbus was a devout Catholic, a fervent lay student of Holy Scripture - both Old and New Testaments - and a Third Order Franciscan. He wrote of his waiting and lobbying in the Spanish court to support his expedition to the Indies for 7 years in his “Book of Prophecy.”

His conclusion that he could find a seaward route to the Orient was based on decades of experience as a seaman and study of the knowledge available in his time. But his conviction was based in a deep trust in The Divine Providence of GOD The Father, as a faithful servant of JESUS CHRIST and The Catholic Church, devoted to Holy Mary and St. Francis of Assisi and empowerment by The HOLY SPIRIT.

***SECOND,***

Consider the prayer of praise and thanks to GOD that Columbus said on his knees when he and his men first landed in The New World on San Salvador island in the Bahamas in 1492. The words and themes of his prayers are familiar to devotees of St. Francis of Assisi and recorded throughout the prayers and Scriptures in the “Ritual of The Secular Franciscan Order.” Columbus prayed in Latin, translated into the King’s English:

“O Lord, eternal and omnipotent GOD, Thou hast, by Thy Holy Word, created the heavens, the earth, and the sea; blessed and glorified be Thy Name; praised be Thy Majesty, Who has deigned [consented] that, by means of Thy unworthy servant, Thy Sacred Name should be acknowledged and made known in this new quarter of the world!”<sup>1</sup>

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1 “The Catholic Spirit of Christopher Columbus. Ben Broussard. America Needs Fatima. 8/31/2002. 1<sup>st</sup> quote, prayer of Christopher Columbus.

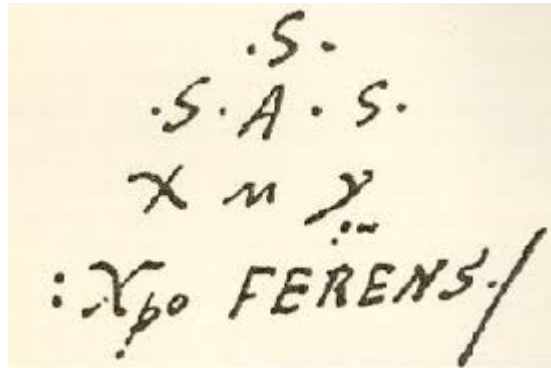
**THIRD,**

Note the remarkable religious triangular autograph signature that Columbus adopted in place of his given name signature from 1483 until his death. It is a combination of Hebrew, Greek and Latin, rooted in Judaism and Christianity, recorded as:

S  
SAS  
XMY  
Xpo FERENS <sup>2</sup>

Columbus directed his descendants “to sign with my signature which I now employ which is an X with an S over it and an M with a Roman A over it and over that an S, and then a Greek Y with an S over it, preserving the relation of the lines and points.” <sup>3</sup>

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<https://www.tfp.org/the-catholic-spirit-of-christopher-columbus/>  
2 “Columbus’s Signature – What Does It Mean?” Kevin A. Miller. ChristianityToday, <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-35/columbuss-signature.html>  
3 “Christopher Columbus Signature.” Author not identified. <http://www.christopher-columbus.eu/signature.htm>  
4 “Unsolved Code – Signature of Christopher Columbus.” Jenny Kile. 9/17/2018. <http://mysteriouswritings.com/unsolved-code-signature-of-christopher-columbus/>

Some theorize Columbus may have been born of Spanish Jewish parents who converted to Catholicism, sailing from Spain the day after the Jewish Holiday of lament marking the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem [Tisha B'Av - the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Av], the day King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella marked for the conversion of Jews to Catholicism [Thus, “Los Conversos”] or expulsion from Spain in 1492 AD. <sup>5</sup>

Columbus could just as well have been a Gentile Catholic from Genoa, Italy who was reverently exploring and rediscovering The Old Testament Jewish foundations of The New Testament Christian Faith that traditional history tells us of. In any event, he was clearly a devout and dedicated Catholic. Both devout Jews and Christians of his day, and down through the ages, have prayed for the liberation of Jerusalem from the Muslims, both in anticipation of The Messiah's Kingdom Come on earth as in Heaven.

My view is that Columbus was likely a man of both heritages and faiths, in which I see no contradiction, but rather mutually reinforcing fulfillment. His unique triangular letter & dot signature may well represent an amalgamation of both Jewish and Christian belief in a soul obviously burning with a deep sense of Divine Mission and fired by The HOLY SPIRIT. It is however good here to recall The Words of St. Paul:

**GALATIANS 3:28**

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all One in CHRIST JESUS. <sup>6</sup>

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5 “Was Christopher Columbus a Marrano Jew? His Hebrew Writings Say Yes!” Tsivya Fox. 3/27/2017.

<https://www.breakingisraelnews.com/85655/christopher-columbus-jew-led-belief-prophet-isaiah/>

6 NABRE, GALATIANS 3:28.

#### ***FOURTH,***

Examination of Columbus' signature should call us to a deeper faith and desire for holiness in our lives. Some hold the first lines of Columbus's signature are a Latinized form of a very abbreviated Hebrew end of life prayer – The Kaddish

“...Sanctus. Sanctus, Adonai, Sanctus. Chesed Moleh ...  
[HASHEM] (God. God, Lord, God. Lord grant mercy)...”<sup>7</sup>  
I have substituted The Name of GOD above with

“HASHEM,” means “The Name” in Hebrew, a practice of reverence of many observant Jews to not speak The 4-lettered Hebrew Name of GOD - “The Tetragrammaton” - where GOD revealed Himself to Moses in “The Burning Bush” in EXODUS 3:1-15. His Name is derived from a very particular tense of the Hebrew verb for “to be” - YHVH - the letters being Yod Hey Vav Hey - giving us the German transliteration of “JEHOVAH,” and for English speakers, “LORD.”<sup>8</sup>

#### ***FIFTH,***

Here I add my own humble Converso's mystical amalgamated understanding of the fusion of Old Testament Jewish prophecy and New Testament Christian fulfillment: The form of the Hebrew verb of being that GOD revealed to Moses is in the first person singular in the future-past-present infinitive, meaning in English, “I AM That I AM.” [KJV]

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7 “The End of History – Messiah Conspiracy, “ Chapter 16, “Was Christopher Columbus a Messianic Jew?” See “David's Discovery – Columbus's Mystery Decoded.” Credited to Maurice David and Newton Frohlich.  
<http://www.ramsheadpress.com/messiah/ch16.html>

8 “The Name of G-D.” Tracey R. Rich. Judaism 101. 1996-2011.  
<http://www.jewfaq.org/name.htm>

GOD's Personal Name describes that He is The Forever Eternal Existing One, Whose Being projects forever into the infinite past and into the infinite future from the present, simultaneously, and without end. The construct of human time is, like all parts of creation, given in Divine Love by The King of The Universe, GOD our Creator, blessed be His Name, for His Glory and our benefit. Our modern King's English only begins to reveal:

**EXODUS 3:13-14**

13 "But," said Moses to GOD, "if I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The GOD of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His Name?' what do I tell them?"

14 GOD replied to Moses: I AM Who I AM. Then He added: This is what you will tell the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you. <sup>9</sup>

***SIXTH,***

The Holy Gospels reveal that JESUS CHRIST is JEHOVAH Incarnate, in The Flesh – fully Man and fully GOD, but without sin, eternally in existence from the present simultaneously into the infinite past and infinite future:

**JOHN 1:1-3&14**

1 In the beginning was The Word, and The Word was with GOD, and The Word was GOD.

2 He was in the beginning with GOD.

3 All things came to be through Him, and without Him nothing came to be.

14 And The Word became Flesh and made His Dwelling among us, and we saw His Glory, The Glory as of The Father's only Son, full of Grace and Truth. <sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> NABRE, EXODUS 3:13-14.

<sup>10</sup> NABRE, JOHN 1:1-3&14.

The Son of GOD was therefore conceived by The HOLY SPIRIT in The Womb of Mary, “The THEO-Tokos” - “The GOD-Bearer,” Who became The Living Ark of The Living Word, GOD come into this world to again walk with man:

**LUKE 1:31-33**

31 Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name him JESUS.

32 He will be great and will be called Son of The Most High, and The Lord GOD will give Him the throne of David His father,

33 and He will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end. <sup>11</sup>

The Incarnation was necessary, so that JESUS CHRIST is The Lamb of GOD sacrificed for all who receive Him as Lord and Savior:

**JOHN 3:16**

For GOD so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. <sup>12</sup>

***SEVENTH,***

Columbus called himself a "CHRIST-bearer" in the last line of his letter & dot signature. He called upon GOD, invoked His holy Name upon his heart, soul and mind, rejoicing in JESUS, Mary and Joseph, asking to be a humble porter of CHRIST, as he sought to live out The Great Commission, to bring The Gospel to foreign peoples who were in darkness, humbly but boldly to help build The Kingdom of GOD on earth, and no doubt prayed fervently for The Peace of Jerusalem!

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<sup>11</sup> NABRE, LUKE 1:31-33.

<sup>12</sup> NABRE, JOHN 3:16.

Consider these words on the Catholic piety of Christopher Columbus from a contemporary and biographer, Fr. Bartolome de las Casas:

“He observed The Fast of The Church most faithfully, confessed and made [Holy] Communion often, read The Divine Office [prayers of The Church] like a Churchman; hated blasphemy and profane swearing, and was most devoted to Our Lady [Holy Mary] and to the seraphic [angelic] father Saint Francis [of Assisi].”<sup>13</sup>

### ***EIGHTH,***

It is then not surprising to find it documented that the last act of Columbus and his small band of brave explorer mariners was to receive Catholic Holy Communion, The Sacrament of The Eucharist, before sailing:

“The squadron with which Columbus set out on his first voyage consisted of three vessels—the Santa Maria, completely decked, which carried the flag of Columbus as admiral, the Pinta, and the Nina, both caravels, i.e. undecked, with cabins and forecastles. These three ships carried altogether 120 men. Two seamen of repute, Martin Alonso Pin-ion and his brother Vicente Yanez Pinzon, well-to-do-residents of Palos commanded, the former the Pinta, the latter the Nina, and experienced pilots were placed on both ships.”

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13 “The Catholic Spirit of Christopher Columbus. Ben Broussard. America Needs Fatima. 8/31/2002. 2<sup>nd</sup> quote, on the Catholic piety of Christopher Columbus, <https://www.tfp.org/the-catholic-spirit-of-christopher-columbus/>



*“Before leaving, Columbus received The Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist, at the hands (it is stated) of Father Juan Perez, the officers and crews of the little squadron following his example. On August 3, 1492, the people of Palos with heavy hearts saw them depart on an expedition regarded by many as foolhardy.”*<sup>14</sup>

The Catechism of The Catholic Church, # 1323, reminds us of That Same Holy Food, of which Columbus and his men received before setting sail to The New World, which is ours to receive in a worthy manner - from our Lord JESUS CHRIST Himself from His faithful Priests - sustaining us in our daily voyages that GOD calls us to sail:

*“At The Last Supper, on the night He was betrayed, our Savior instituted The Eucharistic Sacrifice of His Body and Blood. This He did in order to perpetuate The Sacrifice of The Cross throughout the ages until He should come again, and so to entrust to His Beloved Spouse, The Church, a Memorial of His Death and Resurrection: a Sacrament of Love, a Sign of Unity, a Bond of Charity, a... [Passover] Banquet 'in which CHRIST is consumed, the mind is filled with Grace, and a Pledge of Future Glory is given to us.”*<sup>15</sup>

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14 “Christopher Columbus – Explorer.” F. Bandelier. Catholic Answers Encyclopedia, end of para 5. From Catholic Encyclopedia, 1905-1912.

<https://www.catholic.com/encyclopedia/christopher-columbus>

15 CCC # 1323. See entire Article 3, “The Sacrament of The Eucharist,” # 1322 – 1419.

## ***NINTH,***

It is clear that Christopher Columbus was more than a mere gifted mariner in the service of the Spanish Crown. He was a Missionary, Evangelist, Explorer, Servant of The Church a bearer of CHRIST to The New World and perhaps a man also hopeful of the liberation of Jerusalem from the Muslim infidels. His heart was ever conscious of The Risen CHRIST's Call of The Great Commission to bring The Holy Gospel to the unredeemed.

Fr. Bartolomé de las Casas, Confessor and friend of Christopher Columbus, a 16th-century Spanish Dominican Priest, historian and missionary, observed of him, "He was the first to open the doors to the ocean sea, where he entered the remote lands and kingdoms which until then had not known our Savior, JESUS CHRIST, and His blessed Name..."<sup>16</sup>

## **MATTHEW 28:16-20**

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where JESUS had told them to go.

17 When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some doubted.

18 Then JESUS came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in The Name of The Father and of The Son and of The Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."<sup>17</sup>

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16 "Christopher Columbus and Fake History." Gerald Korson. Knights of Columbus. 9/01/2017. "A Renewed Defense," para 3.

<http://www.kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/christopher-columbus-fake-history.html>

17 NABRE, MATTHEW 28:16-20. The Great Commission, given by The Risen JESUS CHRIST to His Apostles, to preach The Salvation of The Holy Gospel to every corner of the earth to all men, a charge He also gives to all Christians of whatever station.

**PSALM 122:6-9**

6 For the peace of Jerusalem pray: “May those who love you prosper!

7 May peace be within your ramparts, prosperity within your towers.”

8 For the sake of my brothers and friends I say, “Peace be with you.”

9 For the sake of The House of The Lord, our GOD, I pray for your good. <sup>18</sup>

Carol Delaney, a former professor at Stanford and Brown universities, wrote in her 2011 book, “Columbus and The Quest for Jerusalem,” that

Columbus “fervently believed it was the duty of every Christian to try to save the souls of non-Christians,” and it was this passion that “led him on a great adventure, an encounter such as the world has never seen.”

Pope John Paul II, while celebrating Mass at a Columbus monument in the Dominican Republic in 1992, in celebrating The Admiral’s daring voyage 500 years prior, said The Cross-shaped memorial “means to symbolize The Cross of CHRIST planted in this land in 1492.”

And in a speech to young people of Genoa, Italy, Pope Francis talked about how a disciple of CHRIST – like Christopher Columbus - needs the “virtue of a navigator,” and he pointed to the example of Columbus who faced “a great challenge” and showed “courage,” a trait he indicated was essential to becoming a “good missionary.” <sup>19</sup>

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18 NABRE, PSALM 122:6-9.

19 "Christopher Columbus and Fake History." Gerald Korson. Knights of Columbus. 9/01/2017. “A Renewed Defense,” para 4-6.  
<http://www.kofc.org/en/columbia/detail/christopher-columbus-fake-history.html>

**TENTH,**

We can conclude, whatever other motivations Columbus had in undertaking his voyages, he first sought to magnify The Lord JESUS CHRIST. Though not declared a formal saint on earth by Mother Church, I do not doubt such a soul as that of Christopher Columbus is a saint in Heaven, giving all sinners who call upon The Name of The Lord hope of Heaven - even us! So King David sang:

**PSALM 34:2-9**

2 I will bless The Lord at all times; His praise shall be always in my mouth.

3 My soul will glory in The Lord; let the poor hear and be glad.

4 Magnify The Lord with me; and let us exalt His Name together.

5 I sought The Lord, and He answered me, delivered me from all my fears.

6 Look to Him and be radiant, and your faces may not blush for shame.

7 This poor one cried out and The Lord heard, and from all his distress He saved him.

8 The Angel of The Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and He saves them.

9 Taste and see that The Lord is good; blessed is the stalwart one who takes refuge in Him. <sup>20</sup>

And with Christopher Columbus, we may earnestly join Holy Mary, Mother of GOD, in Her Magnificat, The Song of Praise of He Whom She bore to redeem Israel by His Blood – both Jew and Gentile – The faithful Church, His Body, on earth and in Heaven, now and forever:

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<sup>20</sup> NABRE, PSALM 34:2-9.

**LUKE 1:46-55**

46 And Mary said: “My soul proclaims the greatness of The Lord;

47 my spirit rejoices in GOD my Savior.

48 For He has looked upon His handmaid’s lowliness; behold,  
from now on will all ages call me blessed.

49 The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His  
Name.

50 His Mercy is from age to age to those who fear Him.

51 He has shown might with His arm, dispersed the arrogant of  
mind and heart.

52 He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up  
the lowly.

53 The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent  
away empty.

54 He has helped Israel His Servant, remembering His Mercy,

55 according to His promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his  
descendants forever.”<sup>21</sup>

***ELEVENTH,***

In conclusion, may The Redemption bought by The Sacrifice  
and Victory of CHRIST JESUS for us challenge us:

May we, like Christopher Columbus, as we sail across the  
oceans of our lives, be found by our Divine Master to be, by His  
Grace, worthy servants of His Word and His Church, doing our  
parts to fulfill His Great Commission to us, in both the great and  
the small times, places, people and events that He sends us.

May we, like Columbus, grow in holiness daily to be better  
“CHRIST-bearers,” especially when we may at times doubt or  
question, asking always for GOD’s help to purge words and deeds  
of blasphemy and profanity from our lips, our lives and our being.

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21 NABRE, LUKE 1:46-55. Holy Mary’s Magnificat Song of Praise to GOD.

May we, like Columbus, embrace The Cross, going forth boldly every day, calling upon our Mother Holy Mary, the prophets, apostles, angels and saints, and our saintly loved ones who have gone before us, to pray for us.

May we, like Columbus, as we enter this Advent again to celebrate our Redeemer's First Coming at CHRISTMAS, be mindful of being found doing His Work at His Second Coming, in everlasting EASTER joy.

And may we, like Columbus, kneel in the thankful awe of The Redeemed whenever our Priests stand in CHRIST's Person [In Persona CHRISTI] in The Holy Mass, speaking The Words of Institution of our Lord JESUS CHRIST of The Holy Eucharist:

**MATTHEW 26:26b-28a**

26 ...Take and eat. This is My Body.

27 ..Drink from It, all of you,

28 For This is My Blood of The [New] Covenant... <sup>22</sup>

of He Who is Almighty Eternal GOD, yet He Who was broken and poured out for us, and arose again, that - sinners that we are - may joyfully receive forgiveness of our sins in His Merciful Love, living in His Covenant as true and faithful CHRIST-bearers - Xpo FERENS - in this life and in Heaven forever! Amen.

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<sup>22</sup> NABRE, MATTHEW 26:26b-28a. CHRIST's Institution of The Holy Eucharist at The Last Supper Passover Meal with His Apostles before His Crucifixion Sacrifice.