



## A Shroud of MYSTERY

Actual burial cloth of Jesus, used to wrap him in his tomb after his crucifixion in 33 A.D., or a pious medieval fake?

There's been a confusion of contradictory opinion (and evidence, and scientific chicanery) ever since 1898 when an Italian named Secondo Pia was allowed to photograph it while it was on exhibit in the Turin Cathedral. On the evening of May 28, 1898, looking at the photographic plate, he saw the image much more clearly than it can be seen in real life because it is a negative image.

This was never noticed prior to the age of photography. It means that only in the past 110 years have we even begun to realize how truly mysterious this image is. I think that's significant. There does seem to be a funneling effect, including all the Marian apparitions, a speed-up of history if you will, like water speeds up as it circles the drainpipe opening.

Be that as it may, the general understanding of the Shroud's convoluted history remains mysterious, with detractors and believers still carping at each other. The scientific evidence seemed clear: The cloth was 650 years old, not 2,000. The "verdict of science?" A mysterious medieval painting, or scorching, but not Christ's burial cloth.

Told by the Church that we may believe or not, it yet strikes me as significant that Pope Benedict will go to Turin on May 2, to venerate the Holy Shroud in person. "As the first act of his visit, the Holy Father will pause for personal prayer before the Holy Shroud," the Turin archdiocese says. Papal veneration automatically lifts this above mere trivia.

The Holy Father is not noted for whimsical, meaningless public acts. Does he have a specific reason for weighing in on the side of authenticity? I suspect that he does, and thus I'll simply add one odd little footnote to the Shroud's embattled history. On the side of disbelieving "science," there clearly has been at least one evidence of outright conspiracy.

The Carbon 14 testing labs. Seven at first, but fierce infighting and then there were three. Who did not work separately and free from objective suspicion. Instead they met secretly in Switzerland late in October, 1987, and agreed on a finding. That was Really Bad Science, if science at all.

I don't know about you, but I'll trust the Pope's opinion on the matter of authenticity.

~yr. obt. svt.

### STEWARDSHIP

8 Nov. 2009	
Adults	1202.00
Youth	1.00
Children	0.00
Plate	40.25
Bake Sale	10.00
Prop. of Faith	25.00
Votives	22.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>1300.45</b>



We are living in the first age in the history of the world that denies guilt and sin. We cannot receive the mercy of God until we recognize that we are sinners. When we suppress guilt, it is there for eternity unless it is forgiven through confession. Sin is not the worst thing in the world; the worst thing is the denial of sin.

~Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

### HAPPENING ELSEWHERE

**Nov 21 – Sacred Heart Church basement, Freeport. Rummage/Soup/Bake Sale.** 8:00 am–3:00 pm. Lunch will be served: homemade chicken noodle soup, sandwiches and pie. Take-out orders will be available.

**Nov 22 – Church of St. Anthony, 6 mi. N of Albany. CAA-MG Breakfast.** 8:30 am–12:30 pm. Old-fashioned ham, scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, caramel rolls, frosted cinnamon rolls, juice/coffee/milk. Adults \$7.00, age 5-10 \$4.00, age 4 & under free.

**Nov 22 – St. Michael's Church, Spring Hill. Annual Sausage and Eggs Breakfast.** 9:00 am–12:30 pm. Sausage, eggs, fried potatoes, apple sauce & beverage. Adults \$7.00, children 6-12 \$3.00. Sponsored by St. Michael's Men's Society.

### Worldwide Marriage Encounter - Open Dates

"But of that day or hour, no one knows". Today's Gospel challenges us to be prepared. None of us knows our last day, so don't wait - take time now with your spouse. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends are **Dec. 4-6 in Albany** and May 14-16 in St. Cloud. Early registration is recommended. For more info please call Alan & Missy Block, 320-259-4444 /888-455-3496 or visit [www.wvmesection8.org](http://www.wvmesection8.org).

Even if you're on the right track,  
you'll get run over if you just sit there.

~Will Rogers



### DRINKING PROBLEMS:

Isn't it curious that at this juncture in our culture's evolution, we collectively believe Twinkies, Lucky Charms, and Coca-Cola are safe foods, but compost-grown tomatoes and raw milk are unsafe? With legislation moving through Congress demanding that all agricultural practices be "science-based," [Joel Salatin believes our food system is at Wounded Knee.](#)

Next week the Diocese offers a retreat on the **Beatitudes**. These are free and open to the public. Please share this information with others in your small group, neighbors, friends. One does not need to be part of a small faith sharing group to attend.

**Friday, November 20**  
**1:00 - 4:00 p.m.**  
**St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Cloud**

**Also, you are invited** to a book study on *"What Makes Us Catholic"* by Thomas Groome on November 23 from 9:30-noon at the Diocesan Pastoral Center.

### U.S. Bishops Challenge Political "Cafeteria Catholics"

In recent months a groundswell of reasoned traditional opinion has gathered momentum across the public face of the Church. Just how far have the American bishops shifted toward a militant defense of Catholic teaching? If you're able to read this Bulletin online you might want to check out writer/publisher Dr. Jeff Mirus' article at his omnibus website [CatholicCulture.com](http://CatholicCulture.com) — click [The Bishops at the Cliff: Tobin's Challenge.](#)