

International Crusade for Holy Relics USA



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CRACKING DOWN ON THE SALE OF HOLY RELICS

Technology is making it easier to buy all kinds of things, including holy relics.

"In the old days you had to creep around in the dark corners and the dirty streets to sell things. Now you just get on the Internet," says Tom Serafin, founder of the International Crusade for Holy Relics.

Catholics have venerated relics, including bone splinters and hairs from the saints for centuries. Serafin says, "A relic is mostly a keepsake, a memento of a person who is possibly an inspiration to you."

The sale of relics is forbidden by the Catholic Church he adds. "The sin of simony is a sin named after Simon Magnus. And it's the sin of selling a religious item. And that would incorporate selling relics."

But online auctions are creating a huge and lucrative market for them. "Here's a Website selling relics. And she starts out in her copy by explaining it's exosibus, so that's a bone of a saint. And she's starting her bid at \$199," he says.

The 200 members of Serafin's group are upset with auction sites like e-Bay and have demanded they remove the relics.

E-Bay's Kevin Pursglove says they can't monitor every single thing for sale online. "There are 6 million items available on e-Bay on any given day. And they generate 25 million dollars a day in sales."

While federal law prohibits the sale of human bones, Pursglove says there's not much e-Bay can do about the auctioning of relics. "If e-Bay took the position that it had to determine what was offensive to any individual or organization then probably every single item on e-Bay could be challenged at some point."

Tom Serafin says, "I don't think we can just simply think of spirituality as a mere business. These are held in great veneration by the Church. And it's very offensive to people."

E-Bay's Pursglove says this is how the free market works. "E-Bay is a marketplace and it is up to the e-Bay users, as a buyer or a seller, to determine how the marketplace is going to be used."

If you find the Holy Grail on there. Let me know.

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Special Points of Interest

- **Official ICHRusa membership ring available (see page 6 for detailed picture)**
- **Visit ICHRusa's webpages at www.ichrusa.com**

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Local Chapter of ICHR

May 2002 (ICHRusa message board)

Dear Tom and my brothers and sisters of the ICHR,

I have been keeping in touch with the six or more new members of our first loca, "The Guardians of The Relics of St. Francis of Assisi, Middletown N.J. Loca".

Progress is slow but visible. As you said the key to dealing with the church is caution and patience. This is very true as I am still awaiting the formal authorization from the bishop's director of apostolic programs and activities for the formal go ahead with my proposed display and promotion of the loca here in the Trenton diocese.

I also asked my bishop for special permission to acquire relics from certain religious orders to further my apostolate, he seems to be discerning my request thoughtfully, which is good!

Needless to say with the horrible scandals rocking the church I expect that my request will be slow in reaching a definitive answer. I have the utmost faith however that in the end this loca will be given the green light by the bishop thus allowing me the necessary leverage to secure a room in one of my local churches to officially start the meetings, and assign a group of local officers. Please keep Me and our local in your prayers!

God Bless!

PS: I would ask the members to please tell me of any books on saints and relics that they recommend (Don't worry if it is out of print as I have great resources for locating old and rare books. Please include proper title, author, publisher, and copy right date.

Yours In Christ Through Our Lady,

JMJ,
Paul Ignatius Murphy

CHURCHES IN ROME REPUTED TO CONTAIN RELICS

Abdon & Sennen
San Marco

Abundantius (Abundius)
Il Gesu, St. Cosmos & Damian, Santa Maria in Aracoeli

Achilleus
Santi Nereo & Achilleo (Via Appia)

Adalbert
San Bartolomeo all' Isola

Adria (Greek)
Sant' Agata dei Goti

Adrian
Formerly in Sant' Adriano

Agapitus I (P)
Santa Maria in Via Lata

Agatha
Sant' Agata dei Goti

Agnes
Sant' Agnese fuori le Mura. Head reputed to be in Scala Sancta

Alexander I (P)
Santa Maria in Trastevere, San Lorenzo in Lucina, Santa Sabina

Alexius
Sant' Alessio

Alexis Falconieri
Santa Cecilia

Aloysius Gonzago
Sant' Ignazio

Anatasia of Rome
Santa Maria della Pace

Anatasia
Sant' Anatasia

Anatasius the Persian
Santi Vincenzo ed Anatasio

Andrew
Sant' Andrea al Quirinal Head in St. Peter's returned to Greece in 1964

Anterus (P)
San Sisto Vecchio

Aurelia of Rome
Santa Maria degli Angeli

Auxentius
Sant' Apollinare

Balbina
Santa Balbina, Santa Maria in Domnica

Barbara
Santa Maria in Campitelli

Bartholomew
San Bartolomeo all' Isola

Basilissa
Santa Maria della Pace, San Paolo fuori le Mura

Beatrice
San Nicola Carcere

Benedict Joseph Labre
Santa Maria dei Monte

Bibiana
Santa Bibiana

Boniface of Tarsus
Sant' Alessio

Bridget of Sweden
San Lorenzo in Panisperna

Caesarius
San Cesareo, The Lateran (arm)

Caesarius & Julian
Santa Croce in Gerusalemme

Caius (P)
Santa Susanna

Cajetan
Sant' Andrea della Valle

Calepodius

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Santa Maria in Trastevere

Calixtus I (P)

Santa Maria in Trastevere, Santa Maria in
Cosmedin, San Sebastiano

Camillo de Lellis

Santa Maria Maddalena

Carlo de Sezzo

San Francesco a Ripa

Carpophorus

Santi Quattro Incoronati

Castus

Santa Maria in Trastevere

Catherine of Siena

Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, Santi Domenico e
Sisto

Cecilia

St. Cecilia

Celsus & Julian

Santi Celso & Giuliano, San Paolo fuori le
Mura

Charles Borromeo

San Carlo al Corso

Christopher

San Pietro, San Pietro in Vincoli, Santa Maria
del Popolo

Chrysanthus & Daria

Sant' Apostoli

Chrysogonus

San Crisogono

Clement of Rome

San Clemente

Concordius

Santi Luca e Martino

Cornelius

Santa Maria in Trastevere

Corona

Santa Maria in Trastevere

Coronatus

Santa Maria in Cosmedin

Cosmas & Damian

Santi Cosma & Damiano

Crispin & Crispinian

San Lorenzo in Panisperna

Cyprian & Justina

The Lateran, San Pietro

Cyr & Julitta

Santa Maria in Campitelli

Cyriaca

Santa Maria in Domnica

Cyriacus & Company

Santa Maria in Via Lata

Cyril & Methodius

San Clemente

Cyrilla

Santa Maria in Cosmedin, San Martino dei
Monte

Dalmatius

Santa Maria in Trastevere

Damasus I (P)

San Lorenzo in Damaso

Daria & Chrysanthus

Sant' Apostoli

Demetria & Defrosa

Santa Bibiana

Dionysius

San Silvestro in Capite

Dominic

Santa Maria Maggiore

Domione

Baptistery of the Lateran

Dominanda & Paulina

Sant' Agata dei Goti

Domitilla

San Cesareo

Dorothea

Santa Dorothea, Santa Maria in Trastevere

Emerentiana

Sant' Agnese fuori le Mura

Epiphanius

Santa Luca e Martino

Eugenius III (P)

Sant' Apollinare

Eulalia

Santa Maria degli Angeli

Eusebius of Rome

San Lorenzo in Lucina, San Sebastiano

Eusebius of Vercelli

Sant' Eusebio

Eustace & Theophista

Sant' Eustachio

Eustrasius

Sant' Apollinare

Eutychius

San Lorenzo in Damaso, San Sebastiano

Eventius

Santa Sabina

Exuberantius

San Bartolomeo all' Isola

Fabian

San Martino ai Monti, Santa Prassede, San
Sebastiano

Faustinus & Jovita

San Nicola in Carcere, Santa Maria del Popolo

Felician & Primus

San Stefano Rotunda

Felicitas & Sons

Santa Susanna

Felicissimus

Santa Maria in Trastevere

Felicola (Felicula)

San Lorenzo in Lucina, Santa Prassede

Felix I (P)

San Sisto Vecchio

Felix II (P)

Santi Cosma e Damiano

Felix III (P)

San Paolo fuori le Mura

Felix of Cantalice

Santa Maria della Concezione

Flavius Clement (Cousul)

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(Continued from page 3)

San Clemente	San Clemente	Marcellinus & Peter Santi Marcellino e Pietro, San Nicola in Carcere
Flavia Domitilla	Ignatius Loyola	
Santi Nereo e Achilleo	Il Gesu	Marcellus, P. San Bartolomeo, San Marcello
Florentius	Imperia	Marius Santa Maria in Vallicella
Santa Maria in Trastevere	Santa Francesca Romana	Mark, P. San Marco
Francesca Romana	James the Lesser	Martin I, P. San Martino ai Monti
Santa Francesca Romana	Sant' Apostoli, San Crisogono	Martina Santi Luca e Martino
Francis Borgia	Jerome	Mary of Egypt San Pietro, San Pietro in Vincloa, San Paulo, San Giorgio, Santa Cecilia, Santa Sabina
Il Gesu	somewhere in Santa Maria Maggiore	Matthias Santa Maria Maggiore
Francis Caracciolo	John the Baptist	Maurus Santa Maria in Vallicella
San Lorenzo in Lucina	San Silvestro in Capite	Maximus Santa Cecilia
Francis Xavier	John Baptist de Rossi	Methodius San Clemente Monica Sant' Agostino
Il Gesu	Santa Trinita dei Pellegrini	Nemesius Santa Francesca Romano
Gabinus	John Berchmans	Neone Sant' Agata dei Goti
Santa Susanna	Sant' Ignazio	Nereus Santi Nereo e Achilleo (Via Appia)
Galla	John the Calybite	Nicola Sant' Onofrio
Santa Maria in Campitelli	San Giovanni Calybite, San Lorenzo in Damaso	Novatus Santa Pudenziana
Gaspere del Bufalo	John & Paul	Nymphas Sant' Agostino
Santa Maria in Trivio	Santi Giovana e Paulo	Olympias Santa Francesca Romano
Gaudentius	Joseph Calasanctus	Orestes
Santi Luca e Martino	San Pantleo	
Genesius	Jude	
Santa Susanna	San Pietro	
George	Julius I, P.	
San Giorgio in Velabro	Santa Maria in Trastvere (unsubstantiated)	
Getulus	Lawrence of Rome	
Sant' Angelo in Percheria	San Lorenzo fuori le Muri	
Gregory the Great, P.	Leo II, P.	
San Gregorio Magno, San Pietro	San Pietro	
Gregory of Nazianzus	Leo III, P.	
Santa Maria in Campitelli	San Pietro	
Helena	Leonard of Port Maurice	
Santa Maria in Aracoeli(questionable)	San Buonaventura	
Hilary, P.	Lucilla	
San Lorenzo fuori le Muri	Santa Francesca Romano	
Hippolytus of Rome	Lucius, P.	
Sant' Agata dei Goti, San Lorenzo in Damaso	San Sisto Vecchio	
Hyacinth of Rome	Marcellian & Mark	
San Giovanni dei Fiorentini	Santi Cosma & Damiano, San Nicolo, Santa Prassede	
Ignatius of Antioch		

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Sant' Apollinare

Oroceus, Orocius

Sant' Eusabio

Onofrius, Onuphrius

Sant' Onofrio

Pammachius

Santi Giovanni e Paulo

Pancras

San Pancrazio, The Lateran

Papias

Santa Maria in Vallicella

Patrick

San Marco (reputed)

Paul (Ap)

San Paolo fuori le Mura, The Lateran, San Bartolomeo

Paul of the Cross

Santi Giovanni e Paulo

Paulinus of Nola

San Bartolomeo all' Isola

Paulinus

Sant' Eusebio

Pelligrinus of Falerone

San Lorenzo in Lucina

Peter (Ap)

San Pietro, The Lateran, Sant' Andrea al Quirinale

Peter Faber

Il Gesu

Philip (Ap)

Sant' Apostoli

Philip Neri

Santa Maria in Vallicella

Philomena

Santa Prassede

Pius V (P)

Santa Maria Maggiore

Pius X (P)

San Pietro

Pontian (P)

San Lorenzo in Lucina

Praxedes

Santa Prassede

Primus & Felician

San Stefano Rotunda

Prisca

Santa Prisca

Pricus

Santa Maria del Popolo

Prosper

Santa Maria degli Angeli

Protus & Hyacinth

San Giovanni dei Fiorentini

Pudens

Santa Pudentiana

Pudentiana

Santa Prassede

Quattro Incoronati (Four Crowned Martyrs)

Santi Quattro Incoronati

Quirinus, the Tribune

Santa Balbina, Santa Maria in Trastevere

Respicius

Sant' Agostini

Robert Bellarmine

Sant' Ignazio

Rufina & Secunda

Sante Rufina e Secunda

Sabina

Santa Sabina

Saturninus

Santi Giovanni e Paolo

Schloastica

Monte Cassino

Sebastian

San Sebastian, Santi Quattro Incoronati

Sennen

San Marco

Seraphia

Santa Sabina

Sergius I (P)

San Martino ai Monti

Severianus

Santi Quattro Incoronati

Severus

Santi Quattro Incoronati

Servulus

San Clemente

Simplicius (P)

San Nicola in Carcere, San Pietro

Siricius (P)

Santa Pudentiana, Santa Prassede

Smargdus

Santa Maria in Via Lata

Soter (P)

San Silvestro in Capite

Soteris, Soteris

San Martino ai Monti

Stanislas Kosta

Sant' Andrea al Quirinale

Stephen (Deacon)

San Sebastiano

Susanna

Santa Susanna

Sylvester I (P)

San Martino ai Monti, San Silvestro in Capite

Sylvia

San Gregorio Magno

Symphorosa

Sant' Angelo in Pescheria

Tarcissus

San Silvestro in Capite

Telesphorus

San Pietro

Teresa of Avila

Santa Maria della Scala

Theodolus

Santa Francesca Romano, Santa Sabina

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Theophista
Sant' Eustachio

Thomas, Ap.
Santa Croce in Gerusalemme

Thomas of Canterbury
Sant' Alessio, Santa Maria Maggiore,
San Tommaso degli Inglesi

Tiburtius
Sant' Apollinare, Santa Cecilia

Timothy
San Paolo fuori le Mura

Tranquillianus
Santi Cosma e Damiano

Tryphon
Sant' Agostino

Urban I (P)
Santa Maria in Trastevere, San Pancrazio

Valentine (P)
Santa Prassede, San Sebastiano

Valerian
Santa Cecilia

Venantius
Baptistry of the Lateran

Victor I (P)
Santa Maria in Trastevere, San Pancrazio

Victoria
Santa Maria in Campitelli

Victorinus
Santi Quattro Incononati

Vincentius
San Lorenzo in Lucina

Zachary (P)
San Lorenzo in Damaso, San Pietro

Zeno

Santa Prassede, Sant' Andrea al Quirinale, Santa Maria Coeli, Santa Maria degli Angeli

Zephyrinus
San Silvestro in Capite, San Sisto Vecchio

A Personal Testimony

Kyla Herber
(ICHR member)

The saints and their sacred relics have changed my life and brought me closer to God. Some years ago, faced with difficult and seemingly unsolvable problems in my life, I began praying to the saints and asking for their intercession. The difficult problems began to be solved and I became fascinated with the lives of the saints. I came to think of the saints as my friends in heaven.

On a pilgrimage to Betania Venezuela, an approved apparition site of The Blessed Mother, I was shown a relic of St. Philomena by one of the other pilgrims. Knowing nothing about relics, I was in total awe. As time went on, I became guardian of relics of many of the saints that I had been praying to. A friend told me about The International Crusade For Holy relics and I began to see relic guardianship as a mission in my life.

I began to promote the veneration of relics and devotion to the saints. I brought relics to my prayer group and to the sick for veneration. Eventually, I obtained a tabletop display case and I asked my pastor if I could have a relic display in the sacristy on a

Sunday night. I belong to All Saints Parish and this exhibit happened to take place on the old Feast of The Holy Relics. I had a second exhibit in the sacristy and the third exhibit was on All Saints Day. For the All Saints Day exhibit, the relics were invited into the main church. Our priests took an interest, announced the exhibit and assisted in setting up the display. The relics were on display after five Masses, including the vigil. The local paper even did an article.

Now that the exhibit part was under control, the Holy Spirit gave another nudge. People began to suggest that I add a short talk. I was invited to give a display and talk to our CCD children and a local parish Lady's Guild. About thirty-five fourth, fifth and sixth grade children attended. They all venerated a relic of St. Catherine Laboure' and were given a miraculous medal that had touched the relic.

My traveling exhibit has 50 first class relics and 20 second class relics in the display case. Also, I bring several relics in reliquaries for veneration. I add pictures of saints, flowers, and the necessary candles. Through my displays, I often meet other relic guardians and I continually try to mention the need for putting relics in a will.

In addition to relic displays, I bring relics to four elderly rosary groups, our monthly first Saturday devotion and a monthly 15 decade rosary in my parish.

The veneration is usually coordinated with the feast days of the saints. *(Continued on page 7)*

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The elderly rosary groups have been very successful and I feel much of that is due to the intercession of the saints. In fact, it seems providential that our parish was named All Saints in 1997, having been formed from the merger of four parishes.

I always feel spiritually uplifted when I promote the veneration of sacred relics. For many people, these exhibits have been their first exposure to relics and they know little or nothing about them. I am touched by the new friends I make and the spiritual stories that they share. It is especially heartwarming to experience the interest of children and the questions that they ask. Also, the elderly are a source of inspiration by the love and reverence they show when venerating sacred relics. Often the elderly ask that a relic be placed on a body part in need of healing and we pray for the saint's intercession. In a world gone crazy, people are hungering for the supernatural connection of the saints and their sacred relics.

I have received much more than I have given. I feel blessed, honored, and grateful to be part of this wonderful and exciting crusade.



The next issue of
The Guardian
will be in
September

**The ICHRusa Prayer
Group is attached to the
Monastery of Fr. Symeon
(ICHR member)**