

International Crusade for Holy Relics USA



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THE GUARDIAN

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Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Novena:

Jesus, Who because of Your burning love for us willed to be crucified and to shed Your Most Precious Blood for the redemption and salvation of our souls, look down upon us and grant the petition we ask for ...**(mention here)** We trust completely in Your Mercy. Cleanse us from sin by Your Grace, sanctify our work, give us and all those who are dear to us our daily bread, lighten the burden of our sufferings, bless our families, and grant to the nations, so sorely afflicted, Your Peace, which is the only true peace, so that by obeying Your Commandments we may come at last to the glory of Heaven.

Relic Display to be conducted in Niagara Falls, New York

Rev. Dr. Michael H. Burzynski, Pastor of Saint Mary of the Cataract Parish in Niagara Falls, New York, U.S.A., has announced that his collection of sacred relics of the saints will be pre-

sented for public veneration, the week of October 30th through November 5th, 2001. The relics will be displayed in the side chapel of Saint Mary of the Cataract Church; this chapel itself is significant to those interested in the relics of saints, in that it is lined with the wood of the house where Saint John Neumann celebrated Mass when he was pastor of Niagara Falls in the years 1837-1839.

The collection of relics is rather significant. Father Burzynski has gathered these relics in travels throughout the



world. Among the most notable relics present are a portion of the veil of the Blessed Mother; relics of several Old Testament prophets, the apostles and evangelists, all the doctors of the church, and many of the canonized popes. More than 700 relics are included in the collection.

The church will be open from 7:30 am until 5:00 weekdays throughout the display period. Special veneration will include their presence during Eucharistic adoration on Tuesday afternoon, and a special choral vespers which will take place on All Saints Day, November

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Special points of interest:

- Official ICHRusa membership ring is now available. (see page 3 for image)
- Please visit the members forum at: www.ICHRusa.com and register for sign in privileges.

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1st, at 7:00 p.m. A social will follow the vespers program, and Father Burzynski will give an informal talk on the veneration of relics at this time.

Rev. Michael H. Burzynski, Ph.D.

Believe It or Not!

I recently was granted the privilege of guardianship of two incredible relics. The first theca is a piece of the veil of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the document is from 1730 and signed and sealed with the matching seal embossed in Spanish wax on the back of the theca. The second relic is the capillis (hair) of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the pallio of Saint Joseph. Date of authentication is the same; seal on the back is the same.

Now here's the amazing thing. Some believe it, some do not. Here is how I think of it. The whole faith issue aside. I seem to have a realistic and somewhat juvenile approach to the reality and validity of relics. Let's assume that my parents died when I was a mere infant, eight months old. At that age I would not have developed any significant memories of my parents, but yet an infused love

for my maternal parents would somehow still exist in me. A collection of pictures, and the desire that I could have got to know them would have always been a special wish in my heart. *This is a common psychological and emotional bond proven throughout history. This is a common emotion that has and continues to drive individuals that where separated at birth or put for adoption.*

Fifteen years later my aunt comes to me with items belonging to my parents. She tells that she wanted to wait until I was a little more mature before she gave me the items.

The items; my Mothers purse with lipstick, compact, hairbrush, etc. and my Father favorite sport coat. My Aunt leaves them with me so I can try to attach the items to the many stories I've heard told and retold by various family members at endless family events. Along with the items she leaves me a letter telling me how my Mom and Dad were not wealthy; they were young and just getting started, they were in love and had the dreams of all young people in love, to start a family. The purse was my Mothers favorite and the brush inside was a gift from my Dad, it has a pearl handle and he

used to sit at night and brush her long hair thirty times before going to bed. The sport coat is a tweed jacket with suede patches on the elbows; my Fathers favorite, he said it made him feel like one of those "English fellows". The letter concludes with the fact that my parents were just simple people who loved me with all of their hearts.

Being that I never had the privilege of knowing my Parents accept through stories told by family members; and not really knowing if my parents actually owned these items, accept for a letter from my Mothers sister that these were theirs, do I believe her?

Do I accept the authenticity of the items, do I accept the letter, do I accept the stories told to me throughout my life by people who loved my parents and love me? What would be the motive for my Family to lie, to destroy their fifteen years of loving support by producing items they found at a yard sale? Could they all be in on this conspiracy, could they all be lying? Does no one in my Family have the courage to come forward and tell me these items are bogus. What would the intention be, what would they have to gain? How would they profit?

Would I ever stop holding my Mothers brush, imagining my Father brushing her hair? Could I ever stop picturing my Father standing in front of a mirror speaking with a "British" accent while he admired his sport coat? NO! Simply No! Because the love has been infused into my heart, the items are not necessary for me to love my Parents. I didn't have them for the formative years and I don't need them to continue to love my Parents. The items are tactile reminders of a love, keepsakes that allow me to imagine, connecting the present with the past. **And most of all, confirmation of a love between a Husband and a Wife, and a Child and his Parents.**

Please remember in your daily prayers the victims and all those affected by the horrendous acts of terrorism. Our help is in the Name of the Lord!

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St. Therese of Lisieux: Canada

The pilgrim relics of the Little Flower will be going to Canada starting September 16th to December 14th. The itinerary for the visit can be accessed on the Internet at the following site:[http://](http://www.cccb.ca/therese/reliques1/Itinerary.htm)

www.cccb.ca/therese/reliques1/Itinerary.htm

(Chev. Thomas Serafin at a recent two hour radio program on relics. This is the second time has been asked to guest a two-hour call-in radio program. (St. Joseph Radio also broadcasted through EWTN)

Dear ICHRusa members,

I would like your help. I would like the International Crusade for Holy Relics listed in the Official Catholic Directory, I believe it to be called the "Kennedy Directory." Any Catholic Bishop anywhere can do this. I am trying to find a relic friendly Bishop to submit the International Crusade for Holy Relics for publication in the Official Catholic directory. Any help in the matter would be extremely appreciated. In Christ, Tom

The new ICHR Prayer Group is attached to the Monastery of Fr. Symeon.

Reporting Violations to eBay

(from the ICHRusa member board)

You may report sales of 1st Class relics to eBay as violations of their rules (and the LAW) for selling human remains. Go to this link and follow directions:

[http://pages.ebay.com/help/basics/select-RS.](http://pages.ebay.com/help/basics/select-RS)

html.

For example, in the current auctions by "rp7517@aol.com" on eBay I notified them and in the description of the violation stated: "the description and authenticating documents state "ex ossibus" = "from the bone" also, the description states "1st Class" relic, which by definition is from human remains." God be with you.

FrBill



NEXT ISSUE WILL BE IN DECEMBER!

