

Relics of Souls In Rome Museum

Rome — (RNS) — Of all the days in the year, November 2, the Feast of All Souls, is probably the most appropriate for a visit to the church of the Chiesa del Suffragio, on the Lungotevere Prati here.

At first glance the church appears no different from a multitude of other scattered throughout Rome. But when its walls are probed, vestiges of extraordinary interest are found.

THE RELICS are kept in

what is known as the Museum of Beyond the Grave.

The church, whose columns and piers hardly distinguish it from most of the Roman shrines, was built some hundreds of years ago. But the history of the museum dates back to the early part of the present century.

"Leleu's" shirt was examined, tested and shown to several experts. Their report agreed that it was an authentic piece of material of the period. But chemical analysis failed to account for the flaming hand that had scorched the material.

Another case was that of Jean Le Senechal, a Frenchman. It occurred in January, 1875, when his deceased wife appeared to him and asked that 200 Masses be offered to release her soul from Purgatory. She told Jean where he could find the money for the Mass stipend. But the husband, an inveterate drinker, spent all the money on liquor. Again, his dead wife appeared to him. This time she impressed him with her presence by smacking his cotton night cap from his head. The cap was found afterwards to bear a fiery imprint.

Several attempts were made to remove the strange marking, but without success. Nor could Vatican experts who were consulted in the matter offer any explanation.

Walker Jones, however, described the shadow as an "apparition of a soul in Purgatory," spurred by his sincerity. He began a systematic investigation into reports of apparitions from beyond the grave. In all, he studied and classified 200 such alleged cases. His studies took him all over Europe, and he brought back 22 relics of the dead, all with their histories carefully recorded.

One of the cases was that

of a Belgian, Joseph Leleux to whom his deceased mother appeared at midnight on June 21, 1790. Standing at the foot of her son's bed, the mother

asked him to give him last

year for all the missions of the world, would you not be embarrassed?

Remember the Society for the Propagation of the Faith is not one of many mission organizations; it is the ONE principal Society which helps all the missions here in America, Latin America, and the Mission lands everywhere. That is why the Holy Father has said that he "is to be first and principally loved."

Let not the sinner stamp out in love of the Lord!

GOD LOVE YOU to J.M. for \$10 "I have been wanting to send you a donation for some time, but I did not have that much to spare. Now I am going to do without something so that you can use that money for whatever purpose is most needed." . . . to R.C. and friends for \$5 "United, parking fifteen cents a cup for coffee on coffee breaks, our small office staff decided to buy our own coffee. This is the difference for a month." . . . to R.T. for \$10 "This is for the poor. I promised to send you this amount for haven't received." . . . to Mrs. T. "My husband was burned this morning in a boiler explosion and won't be able to work for some time. I decided to send this \$5 in the hopes that God will make his recovery fast."

Would you like to keep up to date with the activities of the missionary Church — to learn what the Holy Father's emissaries are doing all over the globe? Why not subscribe to WORLDMISSION, a quarterly, scholarly review edited by Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen. A year's subscription is \$5.00. The address is WORLDMISSION, 386 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 386 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 40 Crescent Street, Rochester 4, New York.

THE MOST REVOLTING DISEASES

Misfortunes may be seen in Catholic hospitals at MANGANAM in INDIA, conducted by the MEDICAL MISSION SISTERS of PHILADELPHIA; there, too, as in all our Catholic hospitals, may be seen the most tender and dedicated care being given to all the suffering patients. These sisters, like the members of every Religious Community, are keeping the words of Saint Paul, the beloved Apostle, "My dear children, let me tell you in word, neither with like tongue, but in word and in truth." In the five years since this hospital has been operating the sisters have admitted over themselves and in their daily ministrations to the sick. But frusomage has the daily workload because that native nurses must be trained if the hospital is to continue in operation. The administration and the inspiration arrived by the work of the native sisters has led to a great part of many native girls to become nuns. In order to take the girls here must be a place to receive them. An endowment of \$50,000 has been given for the creation of a Nurses Home. It is a great gift, but still though it is possible, it is terribly primitive, that our benefactors could supply it all. The answer to be realized, however, by an aggregate of small gifts. Could you send me something to start a fund for this Nurses Home?

HAVE YOU RENEVED YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IN OUR ASSOCIATION?

GEORGE THRAMAECHEM AND PETER THRAMAECHEM, THIRL are students at SAINT JOSEPH'S SEMINARY IN INDIA.

They will spend six years there in prayer and study before their ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Coming from poor families, neither of these boys is able to supply any of the money necessary for his support during these years of preparation. \$100 will finance the education of one of them. You could pay for the education of either George or Peter the money may be paid all at once or in installments of \$100 a year.

TEN DOLLARS

makes a substantial gift in any country. A gift of this amount to the Refugees of Palestine will supply an entire family with food for a whole month. Thus \$100 given to these Refugees is truly a colossal gift. Can you send such a donation for these poor people? If you send it now we will be able to give it to them for Christmas. If you are able to help them with a gift of \$10.00 we will send you an Olive Wood Rosary from the Holy Land as a token of appreciation.

The services of the SISTERS OF CHARITY in LEBANON numbers among the services given to all over the world — girls who are anxious to spend their lives as Nuns. In the Holy Land here are three young girls in intensive training for their life. Sister LOUISE and Sister JOSEPHINE are two of the novices here. It will cost \$300 to support them during their two years of training. Could you pay for one of them? You may pay the entire amount at once or pay in installments of \$10 a year.

CHURCH MILITANT — CHURCH SUFFERING

Mails (writings sent to us bring material help to the Church Militant (Missionaries) and spiritual help to the Church Suffering (Souls in Purgatory). Please you send Masses offered this month for your deceased relatives and friends.

Near East Missions

FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President
Most Rev. Peter F. Leahy, Hon. Secy.
and all communications to:
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
480 Lexington Ave., 44th St., New York 17, N.Y.

reproached him for leading a life of dissipation. To further convince him she approached and grasped his arm. The man sensed an impression of living fire, and when the vision disappeared he found imprinted on his right hand a flaming hand.

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Still more exhibits brought back from Italy, Germany and Holland, have been added to the Museum of Beyond the Grave.

Although visitors to this obscure museum are few during most of the year, attendance picks up somewhat on All Souls Day. The shortage of visitors stems most likely from the fact that few persons know the museum exists.

Do the dead come back? These "relics" are reported to be evidence they do. A museum in Rome displays items said to bear the marks of souls from purgatory. Custodian of the museum is Alessandro Riccio who claims all items have been carefully authenticated — and include a 17th century nun's garment touched by a "soul" who died 70 years earlier and a German missal with purgatory fingerprints scorched on it in 1835.

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