

The Shroud of Turin Examined By British Historian

By LAURENCE MULLIN

New York (RNS)—"On the face of it," says British writer Ian Wilson, "the very idea that the linen cloth in which Jesus Christ was wrapped in the tomb should have survived to this day would seem incredible."

Still more incredible, he adds, is the assertion that the cloth bears a "photographic likeness which would seem to be that of Jesus as he lay in the tomb."

Mr. Wilson, a former newspaperman and history graduate of Oxford University, has written a book, painstakingly researched, presenting what he calls the evidence for "these two seemingly impossible facts."

The book, *The Shroud of Turin, the Burial Cloth of Jesus Christ*, was published

here by Doubleday on Good Friday, March 24.

The cloth in question, called the Holy Shroud, is preserved in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Turin, Italy. It was transferred there from Chambery, France in 1578.

Since it first appeared in Europe in the 1350s, it has been the subject of controversy, venerated by many Catholic faithful as an authentic relic, condemned by others as a pious, though ingenious, fraud.

Mr. Wilson's book, the latest in a stream of writings on the subject, has the unique distinction of being the first ever to attempt to trace, in minute detail, the history of the cloth from earliest times.

A major obstacle to acceptance of the authenticity of the Shroud

has been, as Mr. Wilson points out, the "thirteen hundred long years in which the Shroud's existence had not been accounted for."

"How could such a fascinating piece of cloth as the Shroud of Turin if genuine, have gone totally unrecorded over thirteen centuries, suddenly turn up in fourteenth century France?" he asks.

Mr. Wilson, who is acting chairman of the British Society for the Shroud of Turin, presents first a series of chapters summarizing in detail the findings of modern scientific analysis of the linen cloth that is 14 feet long and 3 feet wide.

Without minimizing any possible shortcomings or deficiencies in such analyses, Mr. Wilson shows that many experts are convinced that the cloth itself could well have been

woven in first-century Palestine; that the image on the cloth was not painted; that the body and the wounds it bears are anatomically perfect—beyond the ability of any 14th century artist to reproduce.

The major portion of Mr. Wilson's book is devoted to a meticulous effort to unravel the mystery of 1300 years of silence about the Shroud.

He proposes ingenious solutions to gaps in its history, hypothesizes that identify the Turin Shroud with the "Mandylin" or "Image of Edessa," lost from Constantinople in 1204.

The cloth "portrait" of

Christ, "not made by hands," as it is described in an Eastern Christian tradition, was, Mr. Wilson argues on the basis of his research, brought to Edessa from Palestine around 30 A.D.

It was brought to Constantinople in 944, where it remained, Mr. Wilson says, until the Crusaders' sack of the city in 1204 when it "disappeared" for a time. It then turned up, he says, in the possession of the powerful Knights Templar of Medieval Europe, and eventually, in the 1350s, came into the possession of Geoffrey de Charny in France.

In 1453, the revered cloth was given to the House of

Savoy and transferred to Turin in 1578. The ex-king of Italy, Umberto II of Savoy, is technically still the owner of the Shroud.

Mr. Wilson says he wrote his book not so much for those who already believe in Christ "as for those who do not," and all he asks is that the reader approach the subject "step by step" with an open mind.

"For," he notes, "if Jesus really did leave behind the cloth we now know as the Turin Shroud, it carries unique evidence for his existence, his Passion..."

"But equally it can scarcely be said that he made its authenticity obvious or the story it tells plain for all to see."

United Community Chest Campaign Begins Friday

The United Community Chest has set a goal of \$16,839,812 for the fund drive that begins this Friday, and while this is substantially higher than the total raised last year, it also

is substantially lower than the amount requested by chest agencies. Inflation is the problem.

Martin F. Birmingham, general chairman, said,

"Our challenge this year is to do our very best to counter the effects inflation is having upon our agencies."

"If we do not exceed this year's campaign goal, agency budgets may have to be reduced to the point where program operations would be jeopardized. We cannot allow that to happen."

Community Chest funds are divided among 145 human service agencies in four counties—Monroe, Wayne, Optario and eastern Orleans. The agencies already are subsisting on "bare bones" budgets, Birmingham said.

"Some of them have had to reduce staff; others have had hiring freezes for the past few years," he continued.

"Yet human service agencies are labor-intensive. You need people to help people. If you have to reduce staff, the amount of help you're able to provide will be reduced accordingly."

The 1978 goal is \$801,896 higher than the total collected last year, and \$851,600 lower than the total amount the agencies have asked for. The campaign, to be carried out by volunteers, ends May 4.

Ministers of the Eucharist Receive Special Document

A special ceremony took place at Blessed Sacrament Church during the Holy Thursday Liturgy. Twenty-two Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist were officially commissioned to serve the parish for a two-year period.

The ministers each received a document, prepared by the diocesan Department of Liturgy and signed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, which charged them to "strive more earnestly than ever to live the Christian life; to give good example, to take your faith more seriously and to be devoted to this great mystery which beautifully signifies the unity of the Church and wonderfully brings it about..."

Father John P. Norris, pastor of Blessed Sacrament, presented the documents. The commissioned Extraordinary Ministers include: John A. Caselli, Joan B. Dollinger, Priscilla Ruffin, Ann Marie Williams, (newly appointed).

Father Robert Kennedy, director of the Liturgy Department, said that the documents for Extraordinary Ministers are

Deaths

Sr. Joyce, RSM

Sister Joyce DiMora, 43, died unexpectedly March 23, 1978, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated March 27 in the Motherhouse chapel.

Sister Joyce was a daughter of Vincent and Barbara Gabello DiMora of Furlong Street. She entered the Mercy congregation in 1953 as Sister Mary Pauline. She was a graduate of St. Andrew's parish school, Mercy High School, the former Catherine McAuley Junior College and the College of St. Rose in Albany.

Her grammar school assignments were at St. Mary's, Corning; St. Patrick's, Owego; St. Cecilia's, St. Salome's, St. Andrew's and Holy Cross, Rochester; St. Rita's, West Webster, and Good Shepherd, Henrietta. From 1966 to 1968 she was business teacher at Notre Dame High School, Elmira.

Surviving besides her parents are a brother, Francis, and a sister and brother-in-law, Jean and Frank Berritella, Webster.

Ruth Hyland

Ruth E. Hyland of Garfield Street, a teacher in

available to every parish in the diocese. Interested parishes may call the Liturgy Department at (716) 328-3210.

parish schools for more than 25 years, died unexpectedly March 12, 1978, at St. Ann's Home. Her daughter, Karen Copley, said Mrs. Hyland had seemed to be recovering after a stroke.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Augustine's Church by the pastor, Father Elmer McDonald, and Father Edwin Metzger, a longtime friend.

Mrs. Hyland, who was 73 years old, retired from Holy Ghost School, but afterward did substitute teaching at St. Augustine's. "She loved teaching, and many of her students said it was a privilege just to know her," Mrs. Copley said. At St. Augustine's, she became involved in the Catholic Charismatic movement, and that was "the greatest joy of her life," her daughter added.

Mrs. Hyland's husband was the late Walter Hyland. Her mother is Helen Moulton, 96, whose conversion to the Catholic faith at the age of 93 was reported in the Jan. 14, 1976, issue of the Courier-Journal.

Surviving Mrs. Hyland besides her mother and her daughter are eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Refugees

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The interim policy probably means that about 25,000 Asians would be permitted entry in the next year while new long-term refugee legislation is pending approval, administration spokesmen said.

Among others urgently in need of American sponsorship, Mrs. Finucane said, is a young Vietnamese

refugee who has been denied entry into virtually every country he has applied. He is now in Athens, under the aegis of the Red Cross. "It's just amazing what these people will go through to be free," she said.

Diocesan interested in the details of sponsorship are invited to call Cullen at the OHD, 328-6400, or Mrs. Kowalski, at 599-3898.

Abortion

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the Assembly's rejection of the amendment, which came despite the efforts of Rochester Assemblyman Roger Robach.

Many in favor of Medicaid abortion payments feel that cutting of the funds would be discrimination against the poor who could not afford abortions otherwise.

Robach, however, said that "many feel it (abortion) is an immoral act and they

become part of the act when it is their tax money that is financing it."

Before the debate, Robach told the Courier-Journal that his intention "isn't solely to delay the budget's passage." He said that the entire issue of abortion is "of such great importance that it warrants an airing."

Donovan criticized Assembly Speaker Stanley Steingut for refusing to force an abortion cutoff bill out of Assembly committee.

Fr. Schrader

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Master of Divinity degree and his Master of Arts degree in Theology.

As part of his seminary field education, he has taught CCD at Blessed Sacrament in Rochester, St. Vincent De Paul in Churchville, St. Theodore's in Gates and St. Margaret Mary's in Irondequoit. He also had field placements with the Rochester Area Multiple Sclerosis agency at the Al Sig Center and Monroe Community Hospital, and with the Office of Human Development.

He has worked at Camp Stella Maris and has par-

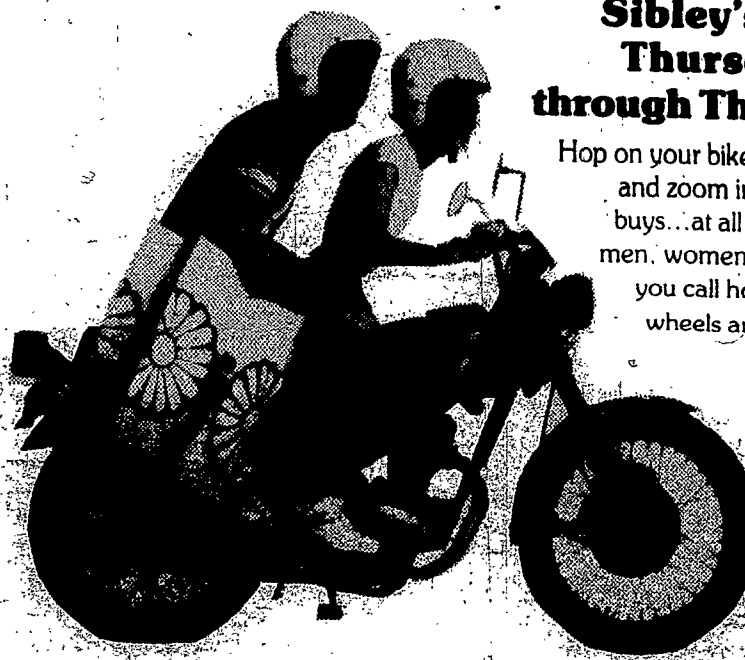
ticipated in programs of the American Red Cross and the American Recorder Society.

He presently serves on the diocesan Priests' Spirituality Committee and on the Social Mission Committee of the Priests Council, and has been active in ecumenical activities of the local "Ministerium" in the Holy Family area.

Father Schrader will celebrate his First Celebrated Masses of Thanksgiving at Blessed Sacrament Church on Saturday, April 8, at 5:15 p.m.; on Sunday, April 9, at Monroe Community Hospital, at 3:30 p.m. and at Holy Family Church on Sunday, April 16 at noon.

SIBLEY'S DAISY SALE

Sibley's Daisy Sale
Thursday April 6
through Thursday April 13



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