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**Rev. King Sr.
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Latin Bishops Support Liberation of Powerless

BY JAMES BPOCKMAN, SJ
RNS Correspondent

Puebla, Mexico — The Catholic bishops of Latin America have declared that the defense of human rights and commitment to the liberation struggle of the poor and powerless is an integral part of the Church's evangelical mission.

That was the principal thrust of the final documents adopted at the conclusion of the third Conference of Latin American Bishops (CELAM), convened here by Pope John Paul II to chart the future course of the Church in this region.

The crucial 18-day meeting brought together progressive bishops who have been in the forefront of the social justice struggle of their people and conservative prelates who considered the Church too deeply involved in politics after the historical CELAM conference in Medellin, Colombia, convened by Pope Paul VI in 1968.

The presence of Pope John Paul at the opening of the Puebla conference focused world attention on Latin America which has nearly half of the world's 750 million Catholics. The Pope's address sparked worldwide reaction on whether the pontiff had divorced the Catholic Church from social reform movements. The Puebla

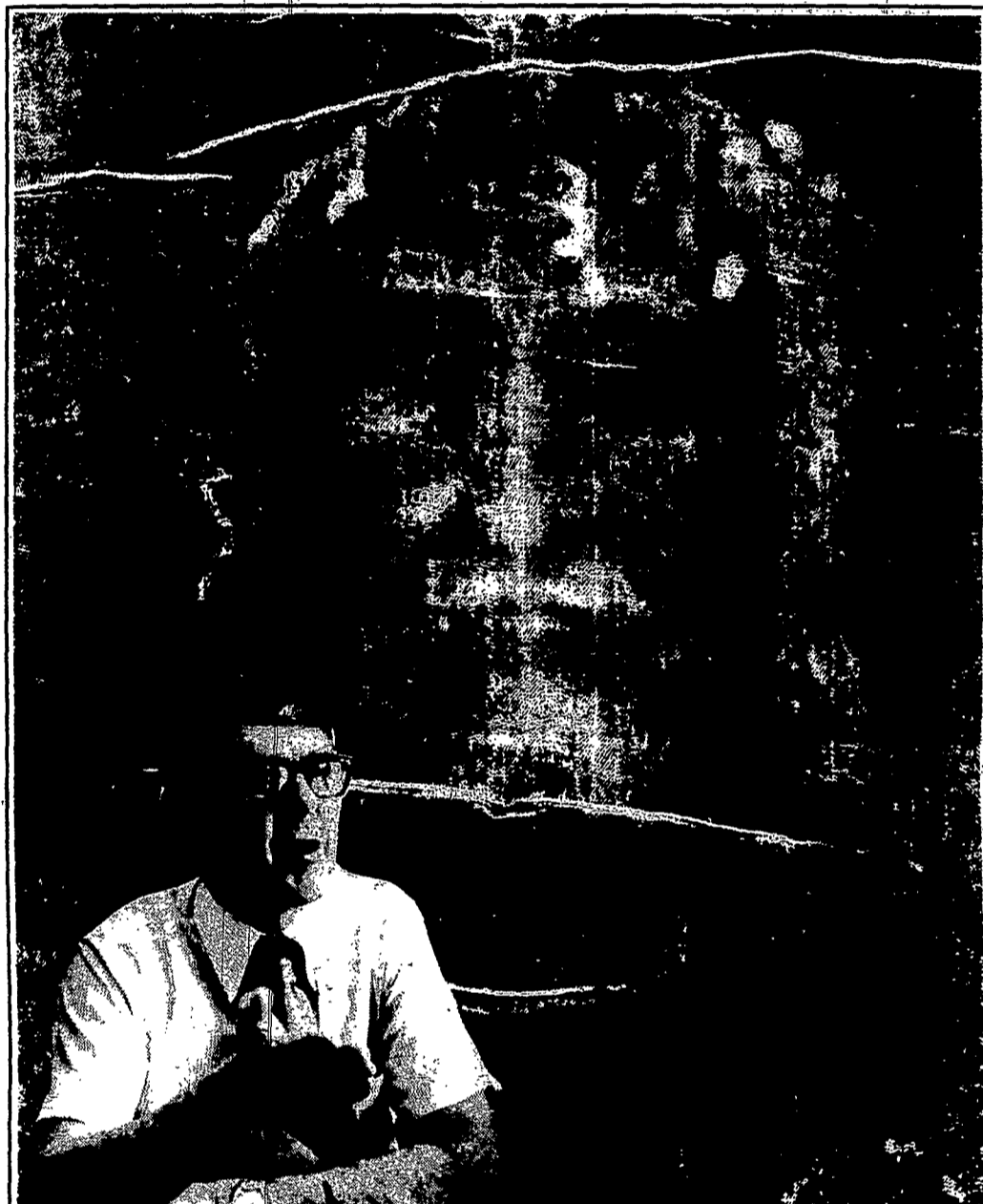
documents showed that the bishops of Latin America do not believe so.

In regard to Church commitment to the poor, the bishops said, "The Gospel should teach us that . . . it is impossible today in Latin America to love one's brother truly, and thereby to love God, without committing oneself personally, and in many cases structurally, to the service and advancement of those groups of people and levels of society that are the most destitute and depressed."

Echoing the Pope, the bishops warned Christians not to "ideologize or disfigure" the person of Jesus Christ by making him a political leader or revolutionary. But the prelates also made it clear that religion was not to be relegated to the sacristy by declaring it was wrong to restrict Christ's teaching "to the private sphere, because he is the Lord of history."

The document on evangelization described two complementary aspects of liberation — liberation from all forms of servitude — personal and social sin, all that fragments the person and society — and, secondly, liberation through progressive growth in being through that communion with God

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Dr. Gove will shortly examine the fabric of the shroud.

St. Joseph's Faces Suit Over CT Scanner

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—The dispute between St. Joseph's Hospital and the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency (FLHSA) concerning CT scanner installation has been escalated further by the FLHSA's filing of a lawsuit against St. Joseph's Feb. 8.

In a release Feb. 12, FLHSA stated that a court order was issued by state Supreme Court Justice DeForest Pitt in Albany ordering St. Joseph's to "show why it should not be enjoined from engaging in construction or acquisition of a CT scanner without having obtained the necessary review and approvals."

The FLHSA stated that there will be a hearing March 9 in Judge Pitt's chambers, at which time St. Joseph's will be able to answer the complaint. The FLHSA also is suing the state Health Department to "show why it should not be directed to enforce the applicable provisions of the state

and federal laws" against St. Joseph's.

The CT scanner is a sophisticated diagnostic tool which incorporates X-ray technology and a computer. It is a common subject of health planning, as each "whole-body" scanner costs in excess of a half million dollars.

St. Joseph's announced Aug. 31, 1978, that it would be adding space to the Elmira Medical Arts Building, which is adjacent to and owned by the hospital, and that the space would be leased to an as-yet-unnamed private corporation for the purpose of operating a CT scanner.

That announcement caused neighboring Arnot Ogdan Hospital to apply to the state and to the FLHSA review process for permission to purchase a scanner.

At issue in the lawsuit is the interpretation of section 2802 of the state's Public Health Law. As Anthony Mott, FLHSA executive director, described it, "Our attorneys

believe they're violating the law, their attorneys believe they're not."

St. Joseph's has declined to answer questions from the FLHSA concerning the scanner agreement, or about the members of the corporation purchasing the scanner. The hospital believes that according to state law, only hospitals are required to have such purchases approved, and as the hospital is not purchasing a scanner, planning approval is not required.

But FLHSA statements seem to indicate that the agency doesn't believe St. Joseph's. The FLHSA Feb. 12 release states that the lawsuit is to force St. Joseph's to "show why it should not be enjoined from engaging in construction and acquisition of a CT scanner," although the hospital has repeatedly stated that it is not acquiring a scanner.

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Will He Unveil The Mystery?

By JOHN DASH

A University of Rochester scientist has devised a method that may shortly answer one of the great puzzles of the religious world, the age of the Shroud of Turin.

Dr. Harry E. Gove, chief of the university's Nuclear Structure Research Laboratory, has developed a way of dating an object that uses only a milligram of carbon from it. In the case of the shroud, that means a single thread about eight inches long.

Each of the Gospels state that after Jesus died, his corpse was wrapped in a linen cloth. In the opinion of not a few people, that cloth now lies in a silver casket in Turin, Italy. On the cloth are markings which form the front and back view of a

man with his hands crossed. The linen has been an object of piety since the 1300s. Prior to that time, there are no records of its existence.

Back in 1898, at a time when the Catholic Encyclopedia says, most of the intellectuals in the Church had dismissed the authenticity of the shroud as the burial cloth of Jesus, a photograph was taken of the linen; and in the photographic negative the markings offered a more recognizable picture than the cloth itself or a photographic positive.

Three years later, Dr. Paul Vigon of the Academie des Sciences presented the scientific world with a paper in which he maintained that the picture on the shroud was a "vaporigraph," a picture made by ammonia

fumes from Christ's body.

In the ensuing years scientists have claimed a number of things about the shroud. One has discovered the presence of Egyptian cotton in the linen fibers. Another has found pollen from plants indigenous to the Middle East.

Most recently, a team of scientists last year examined the shroud and subjected it to a number of tests. Their results are not yet published.

However there is one test still to be performed.

That is dating the shroud by the amount of radioactive Carbon 14 that is in it. Dr. Gove, who is also the chairman of the university's Department of Physics and Astronomy, is

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