

Midtown Plaza Site for Shroud of Turin Exhibit

Rochester's Midtown Plaza will be the site for a photographic exhibit on the Shroud of Turin during Holy Week.

The display, on view April 16-18, will consist of photographic studies of the shroud, and will include hourly presentations of a sound and slide documentary on the phenomenon.

According to Redemptorist Father George Rosenkranz, himself an expert on the

shroud, "Once an insignificant relic, the Holy Shroud of Turin has truly become a 20th century phenomenon. Never before had the Catholic Church allowed an object of popular belief to be examined so thoroughly with neutral analytic tools of modern science.

"Quite understandably, this examination has produced a notable possibility. The more these scientists have discovered about the Holy Shroud, the more likely

it would seem to them that this relic is what it purports to be, namely, the burial sheet of Jesus Christ.

"For centuries, this sacred shroud which is imprinted with the likeness of a long-haired, bearded man has been revered by millions. Presently, it rests in a silver reliquary in the royal chapel of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Turin, Italy.

"Photographs have been taken of the precious cloth... The camera lens shows that

the linen which was draped lengthwise over the body in front and in back has the qualities of a photographic negative.

"Medical opinion agrees that the image on the shroud is genuinely the imprint of a human corpse which had been subjected to the treatment the Gospels reveal Jesus as suffering

"Computer photo-scanning of the cloth has corroborated previous evi-

dence that the image is three-dimensional and thereby rules out any suggestion that it was imposed by painting, printing or other mechanical process.

"Pollen tests on the burial cloth which came to Europe by way of Istanbul have revealed vestiges of plants which had grown in Palestine 2,000 years ago.

"The herringbone weave in the linen can be traced to early Egyptian times. It is

believed that the Jews learned the art of weaving this pattern from the Egyptians during the period of the Jewish captivity.

"Scientists are still puzzled as to how the image on the burial sheet was formed. Their current theory is that the imprint is basically dehydrated cellulose. This, they conjecture, occurred when something from the corpse contacted the shroud-linen, causing the image to oxidize greater than the non-image."

Groveland Readies 'Encounter Christ' Program

Groveland — The Residents Encounter Christ (REC) program, already well received in many New York State prisons, will be introduced to the residents at Groveland Correctional Facility the weekend of April 27-29.

The intensive, three-day experience is conducted by a team of 15 laypersons and three priests, recruited from

parishes throughout the diocese.

"Its goal is to confront the inmate with the core truth that Jesus died so that he might be free, and to cause the inmate to reexamine his relationship with Christ," according to Sister Elizabeth Conheady, Catholic chaplain at the prison.

"Our theme is 'proclaiming Good News to prison-

ers,'" said David Lortscher of Honeoye, rector of the weekend. "And it really is received as Good News; we've had prisoners tell us that after a REC, they've been at peace for the first time in years, or that they've begun to pray again.

"Some are moved to seek reconciliation with their parents and families, while others commit themselves to trying to emulate Christ out in the prison yard. REC is one of the most powerful tools of evangelization I've yet encountered, leading to real conversions."

One of the most memorable parts of the REC weekend, Lortscher said, is the "hootenany," an event in which members of the out-

side Christian community visit the prison to pray and sing with the prisoners. The hootenany is scheduled for Saturday, April 28, with a prayer service being held before hand, at 3:30 p.m.

"The fact that people on the outside love and care for them, and are willing to show it by coming to sing for them, really 'blows the inmates' minds,'" Lortscher said. "For many, this is the

turning point of the weekend, and perhaps even of their lives, as the walls around their hearts collapse and they open themselves up to the love of Christ."

Sister Elizabeth said, "We encourage as many visitors as possible to participate, including children. But, anyone planning to attend must be pre-registered before April 20."

Registration is made by

calling one of several numbers: (716) 223-5509 in Rochester; (716) 335-2754 in Dansville; (716) 367-3365 in Honeoye; (315) 252-0223 in Auburn; (607) 733-5193 in Elmira.

Registrants will then be contacted by mail with directions to the prison and other instructions.

The public is asked to pray and sacrifice for the success of the program at Groveland.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Our Last Day In Kenya

This account was written by Father Raymond G. Heisel, retired but active at Our Mother of Sorrows parish, Rochester.

Bishop Peter Kairo is one of the two bishops that hosted us during our recent visit to Kenya. He too, like Bishop Raphael, our host while in Nakuru, assisted Father Wohlrab at Our Lady of Good Counsel on weekends for two years while he attended St. John Fisher College some years ago.

Peter Kairo was ordained bishop for the diocese of Murang'a only a few months ago. On each Sunday the parishes and missions throughout his diocese had arranged a welcoming Mass. Timing was just right for us. We were in Murang'a on the Sunday scheduled for the welcoming Mass at the Cathedral parish. The church itself would not be large enough to accommodate the crowds that would come. Preparations had been made for an outdoor Mass in a large field near the church. For hours that Sunday morning people walked for miles and at 10 o'clock an estimated 4,000 had gathered in a huge semi-circle in the hot sun facing the altar under a canopy.

The procession formed in the church. The bishop, four native priests and the three of us were escorted by five well trained altar boys wearing white cassocks with green caps and in bare feet. The censer bearer was the busiest. In his thurible was a large chunk of real charcoal that he swung vigorously for hours. The Mass, during which 200 were confirmed, lasted a few minutes under three hours. And at the end the smoke was still billowing!

During those hours two vested choirs of young people sang almost non-stop with vigor accompanied by drums that beat out a lively rhythm. The Mass and the music was in Kekuian dialect. However, the bishop and the president of the parish council both made welcoming speeches to us in English which many understood. They asked us to take their warm greetings home to our people. Then we spoke commending them on the great expression of their faith as they stood crowded together with such patience and attention.

At the offertory several men and women worked their way through the packed crowd to gather coins in baskets and then people brought up gifts of food. One brought a live chicken which, to our delight, picked away at some of the cabbages that it could reach.

Extraordinary Eucharistic ministers, just where it seems they could use them, have not been introduced in the diocese, so the eight of us distributed Holy Communion (on the tongue only) for over 20 minutes.

We, the only white people among the 4,000, were warmly greeted with handshakes all along the procession route. We were impressed with the enthusiasm of these people who are poor according to our standards but happy to joyfully participate with their bishop and priests. For them, this was only the beginning. There followed a three-hour program of songs and dances to entertain their bishop.

As fatigued as Bishop Kairo was after the long day, he drove some 60 miles to be in Nairobi to join Bishop Raphael in seeing us off at the airport near midnight. Farewell to the Church in Kenya.

NEXT-TO-NEW SALE

Blessed Sacrament School Hall
Monroe Ave.
at Oxford St.
Thursday, Apr. 12
1-8
Friday, Apr. 13
10-8
Saturday, Apr. 14
10-2 (half price)
Come for lunch or supper

U.S. PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE VENERATED AT:



St. John's, Greece: Friday, April 13, 10:30 AM-12 PM
St. Augustine's Rochester: Friday, April 13, 1:30-8:00 PM
St. John's, Greece: Friday, April 13, 8:30-10:30 PM
St. John's, Spencerport: Saturday, April 14, Noon-5 PM
Abbey of the Genesee Piffard: Monday, April 16, 10:00 AM-1 PM
Mercy Motherhouse Rochester: Tuesday, April 17, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

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