

## *What we do know is that God can do anything.*

If we believe God raised His Son from the dead and gave Him a glorified body, why would God not do the same for His Beloved Mother? As we pray the Glorious Mysteries and ponder Jesus's Ascension into Heaven, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, and the Assumption and Crowning of Our Lady as Queen, let us also believe the rest of the Apostles' Creed:

*He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God  
the Father almighty;  
from there he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.*

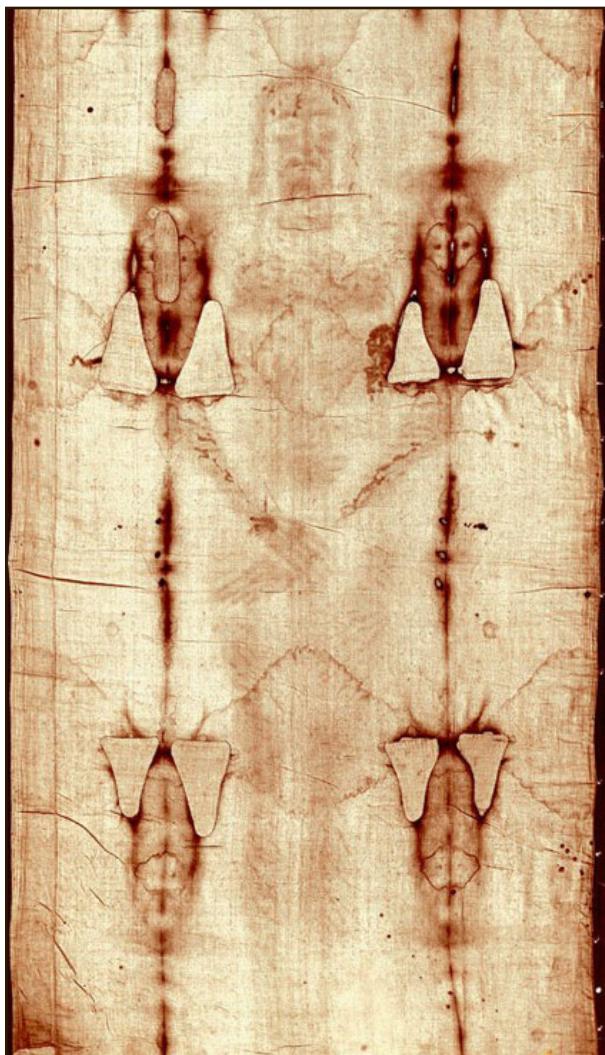
*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
he holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.*

Imagine entering the tomb which had held the body of Jesus and seeing the linen cloth still laid out on the stone with the image of His body burned into it. See and believe!

**+JMJ+**



## *The Shroud of Turin*



Produced by:  
Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Czestochowa  
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Christ the King Parish  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Sources:  
Castle, T. (Ed.). (2013). *The Catholic Prayer Book*.  
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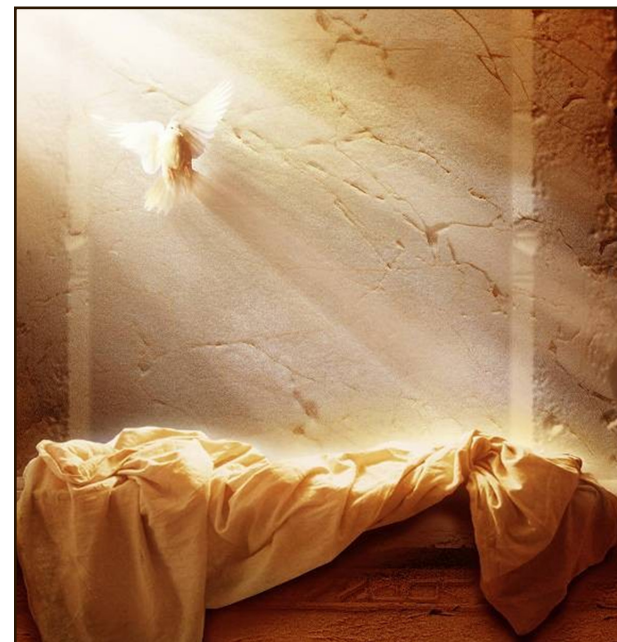
Catholic Church. (2013). *The Resurrection as Transcendent Event*. In 2nd ed., *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

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## *The First Glorious Mystery*

## *The Resurrection*



When we pray the Rosary, we start with the Apostles' Creed, which begins:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again  
from the dead . . .*

Jesus rising from the dead is a startling claim. In fact, it is so startling, that even those alive at the time it happened had difficulty comprehending this reality. The Gospel reading from Easter tells of Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved racing to the empty tomb after the incredulous report from Mary Magdalene. The two disciples entered the tomb and found only the burial cloths in which Jesus had been wrapped. However, the beloved disciple “saw and believed” (John 20:8 New American Bible).

What was so compelling about the burial shroud to make the beloved disciple believe?



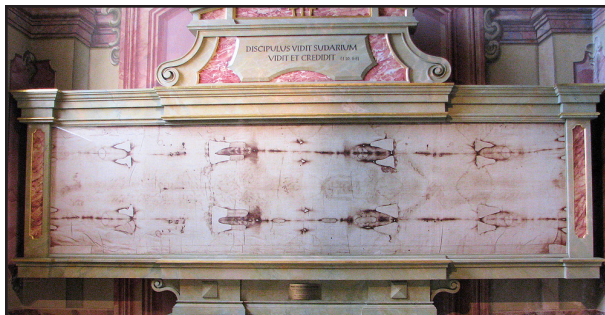
Fr. Francis Peffley offers some astounding evidence as to why this shroud would cause the disciple to believe in the Resurrection. In his presentation *The Passion of Christ in Light of the Holy Shroud of Turin*, Fr. Peffley gives scientific evidence regarding

the Shroud of Turin—a linen cloth which reveals a graphic image of a man who has been whipped, beaten, and crucified—and why it may very well be the burial cloth of Jesus.

Although the origin of the Shroud is clouded in mystery, it is likely from the Holy Land. Fr. Peffley explains that 45 of the 58 species of pollen found in the linen fabric come from Jerusalem and its surrounding area. Furthermore, most of these pollens exist in the springtime, which is the same time as the Jewish Passover, the same time of year when Jesus was crucified. Images of flowers and leaves that blossom in the spring in Jerusalem are visible as well.

Also, scientists have found no evidence of pigments, paints, or brushstrokes on the Shroud. The Shroud has been through fires, which, Fr. Peffley ex-

plains, would cause any paints to smear due to being exposed to the extreme heat and water. Instead, the image appears to be a “scorch,” as if a burst of light or energy burned the image into the fabric.



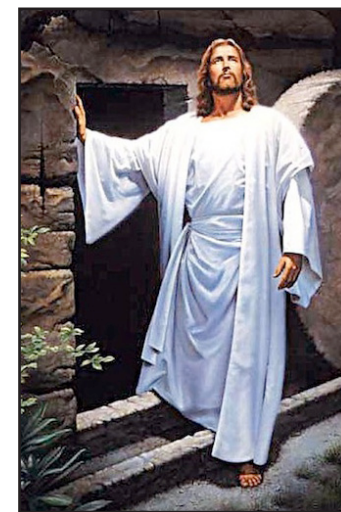
Interestingly, the Shroud is a photographic negative, like an x-ray. And, like an x-ray, it reveals internal bodily structures, such as ribs and bones in the man’s hands, which would not be seen by the naked eye. It also does not show any broken bones, which the Scriptures state that Jesus would not have (Ps 34:21). It shows information on the surface of the man’s body as well: a scraped nose and knees (possibly caused by the man, exhausted from blood loss after a scourging, collapsing under the weight of the wood he was forced to carry to his crucifixion), and a bruised cheek (possibly from being struck by a temple guard). It reveals a number of punctures on the man’s head (possibly from a crown of thorns) and a pierced side (possibly from a spear being thrust into the man’s chest).

Also, the wounds from the body left blood on the Shroud. Testing proves that it is human blood and that the blood was transferred to the cloth within an hour-and-a-half of the man’s death. The Gospel of John explains that Jesus was buried quickly because it was the day of preparation (19:42), or the day before the sabbath.

Something that the Shroud of Turin does not show is decomposition of the body. Fr. Peffley explains that decomposition begins after a body has been dead for 4 days but that “whatever caused this image, happened while the body was in rigor mortis

but before decomposition set in.” All the Gospels state that the Resurrection was discovered on the day after the sabbath, or the first day of the week. Since Jesus was crucified on the day before the sabbath, this fits with the Gospel accounts.

Finally, Fr. Peffley discusses the importance of no blood smears on the cloth. If the Shroud was a fake and a bloody man had been wrapped in it, the blood would have smeared when taken off of the man. On the contrary, the blood is not smeared; in fact, the Shroud shows pooling of blood on the underside of the man as if he laid there for some time. He explains that it is as though the man in the Shroud “disappeared.” He calls this the “Collapse Theory.” It is as though, assuming that the Shroud was wrapped around the body of Jesus, that at the moment of his Resurrection, the Shroud “just fell through Our Lord’s glorified body.” This is certainly possible, as Jesus appeared to His disciples the evening of the Resurrection even though they were gathered together behind locked doors (John 20:19). Jesus is raised from the dead and glorified. The laws that govern human bodies no longer apply to Him.



So, is the Shroud of Turin the burial cloth of Jesus? This cannot be definitively proven. Is there intriguing evidence to suggest that it is the burial Shroud of Our Lord? Many believe so. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that “. . . no one was an eyewitness to Christ’s Resurrection and no evangelist describes it. No one can say how it came about physically” (647). It is ultimately a mystery of faith.