

THE MYSTICS AND THE MODESTY CLOTH**By Harold B. Nelson, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA**

Editor's Note: In the interests of bringing information of every kind to readers we have, over the years, published several articles connected with the reportage of visions of various mystics. This is a further item in that debate and its connection with Shroud studies.

As sindonologists know, the study of the Holy Shroud is a continuous process. Interestingly enough, during a recent perusal of that great work: *The Mystical City of God* (The Divine History and life of the Virgin Mother of God), manifested to the 17th century contemplative, Sister Mary of Jesus (Agreda, Spain), this writer discovered a remarkable statement:

"668. To all these sufferings was added the confusion of being bereft of His garments in the presence of His most blessed Mother, of Her pious companions, and in full sight of the multitude gathered around (Calvary). By His Divine power He, however, reserved for Himself the nether garment which His Mother had wound around his loins in Egypt: for neither at the scourging, nor at the crucifixion could the executioners remove it, and He was laid in the sepulchre still covered with this cloth ..." (pp 645-646, Volume III, "The Transfixion")

This would confirm the previous reports of *Shroud News* (No 21, January 1984) on the Rev Fr Francis J. Filas, SJ's finding: "... A dark rectangular shape in the lower waist-to-knee area of the frontal image of the Shroud. Filas interprets this shadowy rectangle as evidence of a hitherto unsuspected 'modesty cloth' about 6 ½ inches wide and 9 inches long. It appears to rest on the inner thighs, covering the genital organs, and extends from the pubic bone at the base of the abdominal area to about 2 inches above the knees. A top corner of the 'modesty cloth' evidently touched the proximal joint of the little finger of the right hand and clearly left its imprint there as a right angle."

Then, in *Shroud News* (No 32, December 1985) there is a reprint of "The Holy Shroud" by Rev Fr Peter M. Rinaldi, SDB, published in June 1934 (*The Sign*, Passionist Missionaries, Union City, New Jersey, USA) containing the earlier discovery: "A cloth was quite certainly placed about the loins where the hands rested."

This affirmation of scientific and theological studies being in harmony is further proof of God's marvellous manifestations to all mankind.