

Stephen and Nancy Bolettieri

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Steve, a native of New York City, spent most of his career as a journalist and editor. While working at the Los Angeles Herald Examiner in the 1980s, he had the privilege of interviewing Dr. John Heller, which sparked a renewed interest in the Shroud. Nancy, a native of Low, Canada, graduated from Cal State Long Beach. She forged a career in public relations, eventually meeting Steve at Boeing Aerospace. After working on numerous military and civilian projects, both have since retired from the company. In 1996 Nancy became the first volunteer at Dr. August Accetta's Shroud Center of Southern California. Steve joined her and together they hosted renowned Sindonologists and gave presentations on the cloth there until 2002. As a result of also hosting a nationwide weekly radio program, the couple led a pilgrimage in 2000 to venerate the Shroud during the Great Jubilee exhibition. In 2005, the grand dame of Sindonology, Dorothy Crispino, approved their paper for presentation at the 3rd International Dallas Conference on the Shroud. They continue their research and presentations on the Shroud focusing on the spiritual message of the cloth with the goal of challenging the Doubting Thomas and bolstering the faith of the faithful.

POSTER ABSTRACT

A Peculiar Number and Sign or 13 13s

When we documented that the Shroud is surrounded by Saints (First Photographic Revelation of the Shroud: Accidental Discovery or Divine Providence? presented at the 3rd International Dallas Conference on the Shroud), we realized it was an important way the Creator of the cloth was speaking to His creation. In reviewing these interactions with the Saints, it became obvious that a Hand was directing events toward the first photograph of the Shroud and that the event was not an accident but occurred through Divine Providence. In this spiritual Light, we began to question what other ways the Creator of the Shroud may have spoken in the course of the cloth's history. That is when we discovered an intricate connection between dates and events that surround the Shroud; events that make the use of the word "coincidence" nothing more than a skeptic's way to say they can't see the Big Picture. These dates involve popes, Saints, miraculous apparitions, and prophecies. Most peculiar, these dates revolve around the same number recurring for more than a century. That peculiar number is 13, a number many believe is "unlucky"; an occult number. But do we not believe that God is 1 Being in 3 Persons? Perhaps humankind has been misled and 13 is a holy number. While God is not a numerologist, He does speak in symbolic ways, such as in the well-known number 666. If then humankind has been misled about the number 13 by someone God Himself calls His "enemy," has the Creator used the Shroud as a centerpiece with this number to reveal the future? We believe the answer is yes and when we review that history with the number 13 as a sign, we can verify prophecies that have come to pass.