

## IN MEMORIAM

On 15 February 1985, without previous warning, death came peaceably to Fr. Francis J. Filas, S.J., Professor of Theology at Chicago's Loyola University. For his identification of characters on the eyelid of the Man of the Shroud with a Pontius Pilate coin, Fr. Filas was known not only to sindonologists but also to the general public around the world. In July 1980, his monograph, *The Dating of the Shroud of Turin from Coins of Pontius Pilate*, initiated continuing research and collaboration with Drs. Alan and Mary Whanger and Robert Haralick, who confirmed his findings. The monograph was reviewed in *Sindon* 31, 1982, and in 1983 his study on the subject, amply illustrated, was published in *Sindon* 32.

Fr. Filas' interest in the Shroud began in 1947. On Good Friday 1951, he gave his first television presentation of the Shroud, and this became a tradition as every Good Friday for 32 years thereafter, he appeared on television to talk about the Shroud. An original member of the Holy Shroud Guild, Fr. Filas served as Executive Vice President on the Board of Directors; he was also on the Advisory Council of The Apostolate for Family Consecration.

He attended the II International Congress of Sindonology held in Turin on the occasion of the 1978 Exposition. His calendar for 1985, with a beautiful picture of the Shroud for each month, sold over 900,000 copies.

Voyages to the Holy Land resulted in filmstrips of Biblical archeology, narrated and for the most part photographed by Fr. Filas.

Besides lectures and articles and seven books on the theology of St. Joseph, Fr. Filas was influential in the insertion of St. Joseph's name into the Communicantes of the Roman Canon of the Mass.

Born in Cicero, Illinois on 4 June 1915, he joined the Society of Jesus in 1932 and was ordained a priest in 1945. Five years later he became a member of the Faculty of Loyola University, where he served as Chairman of the Department of Theology for eight years.

A man of intense zeal, of unswerving conviction, of humor and sensitivity, Fr. Filas lived the fullness of his mission in his love for Christ and his Church.

DOROTHY CRISPINO