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Patrick served in the Canadian Forces for 22 years before entering full-time ministry with The Salvation Army in Toronto. He was then seconded as a Salvation Army officer to the Canadian Armed Forces, this time as a military chaplain, where he served for an additional 12 years. He has had a keen interest in the Shroud of Turin since 1978 and believes that the Shroud is an important element of apologetic in defense of the Christian faith in a post-modern world.

ABSTRACT

The Shroud and the Holy Fire of Jerusalem

The Shroud of Turin and the Holy Fire of Jerusalem are two widely accepted wonders related to the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While the Roman Catholic Church and many Protestants accept the former, the latter is accepted by both Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches. In his book, Thomas Humber calls the Shroud, "The Miracle of the Holy Shroud". Similarly, in his book, Haris Skarlakidis calls the Holy Fire of Jerusalem, "The Miracle of the Light of the Resurrection at the Tomb of Jesus". The Shroud of Turin, a linen cloth bearing the image of a man, is believed by many to be the actual burial cloth of Christ. This cloth drew the attention of the scientific community in 1898 when its first photographs were taken. For the first time in its history, it was discovered that the image imprinted on it has negative properties. This was the beginning of serious scientific inquiries which are still ongoing today. According to the Orthodox Church, the descent of the Holy Fire at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, every Holy Saturday, is the only miraculous event in human history which has been repeated every year on the same day for more than 1,500 years. The phenomenon of the Holy Fire is virtually unknown in the West and deserves further study, particularly as it may relate to the formation of the image on the Shroud. Preliminary scientific studies on the Holy Fire give credible evidence of its authenticity and, as a result, its relationship to the Shroud of Turin. The phenomenon known as the Holy Fire of Jerusalem could have been the means by which the image on the Shroud was created. At this time, little scholarship is available that considers this relationship. However, this would be an important avenue for further theological reflections and scientific research.