

NEWS FROM ITALY

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We apologize to our readers for the long silence of this six-month period. It may seem strange, but it is true that when people undertake a very demanding task there is no news to give because everything is in a state of flux. The forthcoming Exposition of the Holy Shroud (10 April – 15 May 2010) is keeping us busy as regards the definition of the organizational and administrative structure (in cooperation with the Local Public Authorities), while the Diocesan Commission for the Holy Shroud and the Confraternity of the Holy Shroud (together with the International Center of Sindonology and the Diocesan Museum of the Shroud) seek to identify some means of evangelization able to exploit and justify an exterior work which is certainly not an end in itself.

Our Diocese is living a period of commitment for the “year of the Word (2008-2009) which will then give way to that of human suffering. Cardinal Archbishop Severino Poletto has orientated the year 2009-2010 under the motto “passio Christi passio hominis” and both subjects are attuned to the Shroud pastoral. The eternal Word of salvation is addressed to mankind who in the crisis of today is experiencing a moment of great hardship; from the image of the Shroud we can receive comfort in the adversity of an economic situation which does not offer much hope on the human level.

In the current situation Turin does not want to renounce the pleasure of giving a most hospitable welcome to the pilgrims who will come to revere the Holy Shroud, but at the same time it will be necessary to try and cut down on the expenses which are not strictly necessary for the perfect functioning of the event. In this edition of Sindone News we would like to quote the press releases on the work started by the Organizational Committee and we will update the news very soon.

The first “official” meeting of the Committee for the Exposition of the Shroud, which was set up last Tuesday in the Archbishop’s palace, was held this morning. The most pressing topics on the agenda are the access route, the budget and transport in the city.

Constitution of the Committee – Last Tuesday in the Archbishop’s palace Cardinal Severino Poletto, the mayor of Turin Sergio Chiamparino and the President of the Province, in the presence of the notary Benvenuto Gamba, signed the deed of incorporation of the Committee for the Exposition (after the provincial municipal council had passed the resolution, on September 29th and November 11th respectively). The Piedmont region will now join the Committee with its council resolution.

In accordance with the by-laws, the President of the Committee is Professor Fiorenzo Alfieri, the councilor responsible for the Cultural resources of the city of Turin. In the Committee each one of the four boards is represented by three members with the right to vote: two councilors and a technical manager for each authority, two priests and a consultant for the Diocese of Turin. The councilors are Fiorenzo Alfieri and Alessandro Altamura (Town council), Valter Giuliano and Francis Campia (Province), Gianni Oliva and Paolo Peveraro (Region); the executives are

Renato Cigliuti, Marco Orlando and Daniela Formento respectively. For the Archdiocese: Mons. Giuseppe Gilberto, Mons. Dario Burrito and Rocco La Russia. Engineer Maurizio Baradello, a municipal executive, is organizing manager.

Route to the Cathedral – The team of architects is the same as that of the previous expositions (Isola, Cavaglia, Carbone, Dellvecchia and Momo for the Cathedral). Unlike 1998 and 2000, the access of pilgrims to the Cathedral is complicated by numerous road works which now and in 2010 will occupy the site of the Gardens and of the Royal Palace (Guarini Chapel, Manica Nuova for the transfer of the Galleria Sabauda, etc.). Plans for access through the Giardini Reali Bassi (Lower Royal Gardens), the Museo of Antichita (Museum of Antiquities) and the area of the Teatro Romano (Roman Theatre) to the little square under the Cathedral bell tower are being considered. But these are expensive options because the access route would therefore involve a slope with over four meters of difference in level which would require the necessary facilities and need to be equipped with all the safety regulations. For this reason this morning the Committee requested the architects to consider every possible option, in particular those that provide for accessing the Cathedral from piazza Castello and Piazzetta Reale, where the issue of the slope and of facilities would definitely be smaller[...].

Budget – Also, on December 12 the Committee will meet the delegates of the Turin Bank Foundation with which they have been in contact for the sponsorship of a part of the organization costs. It is too early to be able to state the size of the financial commitment, especially because the options connected with the route chosen will weigh crucially on the total budget.

The Committee is well aware that, in this period, all expenditure must be carefully calculated to cover the works and the indispensable services; that said, the Exposition is a Church event and it is at the same time a great opportunity to make known all over the world the cultural heritage of the region of Turin and Piedmont[...].

Transport – The pilgrim routes and itineraries are under examination by the experts of the Transport sector of the Turin Municipal Authorities. The main criterion remains, as during the previous Expositions, which is to ensure the normal functioning of public and private transport traffic by directing the flow of pilgrims towards the Cathedral and subsequently to the most interesting places in the city.

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Dear Friends,

Our News is becoming rarer and rarer owing to the task required by the organization of the Exposition scheduled for the next year. Nevertheless we wish to give you an abstract of the press releases issued after the official meeting of the Exposition Committee. And anyway we want to explain in few words how the organization of the Exposition itself works. As far as one can, we are trying to exploit the recollection and everything is still available of the last two Exhibitions (1998 and 2000). The most remarkable news is represented by the fact that the two branches of the former organization, which shared the spaces inside and out of the Cathedral, are now united and are supported by the “Committee for the 2010 Solemn Exposition”. But different fields of tasks are necessarily still present, such as reception (above all of sick, disabled

and old people), communication, route, booking, refreshment and accommodation, Cathedral arrangement, security, volunteers... In particular the pastoral and liturgical aspect is completely placed in the care of the Diocesan Commission, which is also obviously involved in all the other sectors. Besides the Diocese – the Three Public Authorities (Town Council, Province and Region) sit on the Committee, with the external support of the principal Sponsors and of the Monuments and Fine Arts Office. The Committee meets regularly, and the Sub-commissions are organized by a technical Office, which makes the carrying out of the resolved task proceed.

You may guess that we are not short of difficulties, but this is the destiny of the beautiful things. And the Exposition will be a very beautiful thing insofar as we will make it all together an occasion for Evangelization. We rely on your prayers, so that we will be able to achieve a warm welcome in a style of sobriety as it requested by the hard time we are living.

MIKE MINOR HAS LEFT US

American friends do not need us to describe them Lawyer Michael Minor; the friends of other countries have probably met him sometimes in Turin, a little hampered in his movements because of the illness which plagued him for a long time and all the same he was always present with his lively intelligence and his great love for the Shroud. He was the soul of the association which was the spiritual heir of STURP that is AMSTAR, and kept alive the legacy of Father Rinaldi and the Shroud organization he had built.

He felt tender affection for the Turin Commission, for the International Centre of Sindonology, and for all the members of the Confraternity.

Some of us attended the 2005 Dallas Congress, he had organized with great care, and then they had worked together on a media means that had aroused a great deal of interest in the USA.

Now unfortunately he has not been anymore with us since the day before Christmas Eve, but we hope he is now near our Lord, and may he stay always with him.

We want to quote the curriculum the Friends of AMSTAR sent us.

Michael Minor died 23 December after a brief illness. He was born 21 April 1946 in Bowie, Texas where he spent most of his boyhood. After attending Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth, Texas, and Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, Texas, he put himself through law school at South Texas College of Law in Houston, Texas.

He was a practicing lawyer for thirty-eight (38) years, and he was also a partner in a rare document business, Lone Star Autographs. He was a successful jurist, a brilliant historian, prolific writer and a wonderful man of God.

He authored or co-authored three books and was currently working on a fourth. He was a co-author of several articles in professional and educational journals dealing with historically

significant documents of Presidents' First Ladies. He was a contributing author or co-author to chapters in several editions of the Sander's Price Guide to Autographs.

Mike became interested in the Shroud of Turin about 38 years ago while still in Law school. In 1984 he was retained as legal council for the Shroud of Turin Research Project, Inc. (STURP), and later the American Shroud of Turin Association for Research (AMSTAR).

In 2006, Amstar was approached by Grizzly Adams Productions, Inc. to make a documentary on new evidence in Shroud research presented at the 2006 International Symposium on the Shroud of Turin. He also co-authored the "Case for Christ's Resurrection." Michael will forever inspire his colleagues left behind, to continue working for the Lord of the Shroud, just as he did, humbly and faithfully.