



**For immediate release  
September 20, 1999**

**Scholars of the Shroud of Turin will assemble for  
a multinational conference officially titled in Orvieto, Italy in August 2000**

Scholars studying the Shroud of Turin, a linen cloth that bears the image of a crucified man, will assemble for an international congress to be held in Orvieto, Italy, in August 2000. The conference is Worldwide Congress "Sindone 2000". It will coincide with a public display of the Shroud of Turin in the Turin Cathedral scheduled to be on display for eight weeks beginning August 26, 2000.

The exhibition will commemorate the Jubilee anniversary of the birth of Jesus. This is an unusual event in the history of the Shroud because the cloth has rarely been displayed publicly more than one or two times each *century*. This will mark its fifth public exhibition since 1898.

Dr. Daniel C. Scavone, professor emeritus of history at University of Southern Indiana, has been invited to serve on the scientific committee for the congress. He and nine others will examine and value the 200 works expected to be submitted for presentation during the days of the congress. Dr. Scavone will read history topics. His research and expertise on the Shroud of Turin has resulted in over 600 talks and scholarly presentations. Dr. Scavone has appeared on educational television specials and has written numerous articles and a book for young adults on the topic of the Shroud.

The Shroud is a 14½ foot long, 3½ foot wide linen cloth that bears the ventral and dorsal image of a scourged, crucified man. Owned by the Dukes of Savoy (former ruling family of Italy) until the late 1980's and now the property of the Catholic Church, it has been permanently kept in Turin, Italy, since 1578. It is stored in a special reliquary in a chapel behind the altar in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist. The cathedral was erected specifically to house the Shroud and was built adjoining the Royal Palace (the King's former residence) in Turin.

The following article, titled "Exposition of the Holy Shroud During Jubilee Year," was released by the Vatican Information Service on June 3, 1998:

VATICAN CITY, June 3, 1998 (VIS) - According to a communique released by the Holy See Press Office, the Holy Shroud of Turin... will again go on display from Saturday, August 26, to Sunday, October 22, 2000.

The note says: "After the apostolic visit of His Holiness John Paul II to Turin, Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini, Pontifical Custodian of the Shroud, has set the dates for the next exposition, which will be held in Turin's Cathedral.

"Like the (recent) exposition, the one planned for the year 2000 will be part of the path of the Great Jubilee proclaimed by John Paul II for the millennium of the Redemption, and will have a clearly ecclesial nature, according to the orientations indicated on numerous occasions by the Holy Father."

For more information about his appointment, call Dr. Scavone at 812/425-1700. For information about the Shroud of Turin or the Worldwide Congress "SINDONE 2000", view the online site [www.shroud.com](http://www.shroud.com).