



FR. JEROME LAVIGNE

The Man of the Shroud Exhibition Reaches Thousands

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church hosted **The Man of the Shroud Exhibition** from April 9-15. The exhibit drew an estimated 7,000 visitors from around Alberta and as far away as Nova Scotia, California, Ireland, Columbia and Venezuela. The event's success was due to two solid months of intense planning and organizing by more than 200 volunteers who contributed 2,000 hours of their time and effort. Pastor, Fr. Jerome Lavigne reflected, "It was all about providing an opportunity for parishioners and visitors to encounter the love of God as was made evident through the suffering of His Son for our salvation..."

Many people were truly touched by the power of the exhibit and conferences. Besides the educational and interesting facts about the exhibit, many spoke of how the experience confirmed or strengthened their faith. This was especially demonstrated by the way science and reason came together to support the faith. As one person wrote, it was a "...beautiful combination of evidence and heart for Christ."

The exhibit was provided by the Vancouver Shroud Association and was overseen by Exhibit Director, **Mrs. Carolyn Wharton**. The event also featured two prominent speakers. **Dr. Phillip Weibe**, a recognized Shroud

expert and philosophy professor from Trinity Western University specializes in the weight of evidence. He lectured on theological aspects of the Shroud of Turin. **Fr. Andrew Dalton, LC**, of Rome, delivered a selection of evening conferences and provided several school and seniors' group tours during the day. "Bringing in experts who could offer us the latest in Shroud research took the exhibit to a whole other level," said Fr. Jerome.

"What a meaningful experience I had at St. Peter's during Holy Week" said Fr. Andrew. "For those three days, God's hand was unmistakably present as the Easter mysteries came to life. The enthusiastic reception of the parishioners only deepens my conviction that this burial Shroud is called to play a crucial role in evangelization today.... I am sincerely touched and humbled that God would use me to reach so many souls with the message of his divine love. I pray that what seeds were sown may continue to be nourished."

Live Internet streaming brought the presentations to another 3,000 visitors in a worldwide audience from across Canada and countries as far away as Australia, Barbados, El Salvador, Israel, Singapore, Oman and St. Lucia. As Fr. Jerome said, "With technology, the world has become the parish. We now have the opportunity



Fr. Andrew Dalton, LC, of Rome, delivered a selection of evening conferences at St. Peter's

to evangelize right in the palm of people's hands." Videos of the conference talks are available at stpeters.ca.

Editor's Note: The Man of the Shroud Exhibit will be on display at St. Anthony's Parish in Drumheller. Please see Diocesan Dates, July 20, on page 20 for details.