

The Inauguration of the Exposition of the Shroud of Turin in Panama **By Peter Soons**

On Sunday, March 3, 2013, we had the inauguration of the exposition of the Shroud of Turin here in Panama. Dalys and I have been working on this project since September 2011 and it has been realized finally.

The location is a brand new chapel that was donated to the Catholic Church by Sr. Aleman, the owner of the biggest shopping mall here in Panama and dedicated to Pope John Paul II in memory of his visit 30 years ago to Panama and is located in front of this mall. We got permission to use the chapel for a year to house the exposition of the Shroud of Turin and after that year the exhibit will be put up as a permanent exposition in another location.

On Friday, March 1, 2013, we had a very successful Press Conference and a lot of coverage on the radio, TV and all the magazines. On Sunday, March 3, 2013, we started with an open air Eucharist celebration for 3000 people in memory of the visit of Pope John Paul II 30 years ago and after that we went with a group of invited people to the chapel.



The official ceremony was done by His Excellency Mons. ANDRES CARRASCOSA, the Apostolic Nuntius of the Holy See, by His Excellency Metropolitan Archbishop JOSE DOMINGO ULLOA, and His Excellency Mons. JOSE LUIS LACUNZA, Bishop of the diocese of David. We first had speeches by the Archbishop, by Dalys and by me explaining the purpose and the meaning of the exposition.



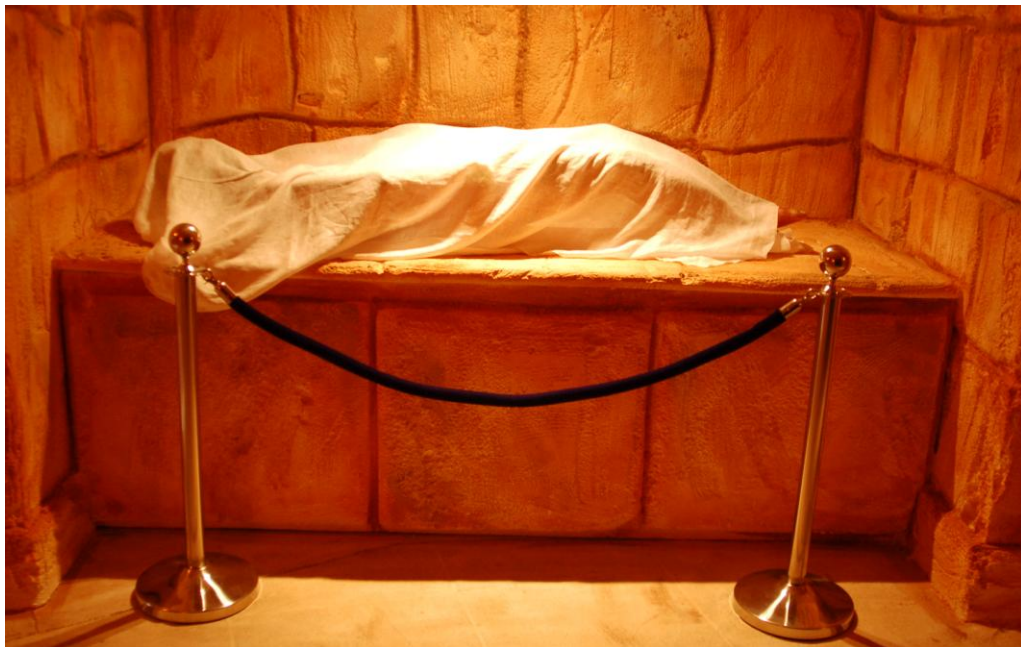
The exposition has 31 posters divided into chapters: HISTORY, SCIENCE AND THE SHROUD, THE GOSPELS AND THE SHROUD and one wall with posters with lots of indications of the authenticity of the Shroud.



The central part has a facsimile of the Shroud hanging on a wall and under it a sculpture of Jesus Christ that I made two years ago based on the 3D investigations that we did. On the right side of this is a set of 3D lenticulars showing the lifesize front and back of the body (see next page).



Opposite of this set is a lifesize lenticular of the Virgen de Guadalupe in 3D that we produced last year and we have here the two "ACHEIROPOITA"--- not made by (human) hands together.



On the left side there are a couple of steps going down where we built a kind of a replica (with some fantasy) of a Jerusalem tomb and in a niche we have a sculpture of the body covered by the Shroud and opposite of that is a set of the lifesize holograms of the front and the back of the body in 3D and that is very impressive.



The inauguration was a great success and this week we had already lots of visitors. I have been training 5 guides and they are doing a great job.

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