

How to Read Reliquary Inscriptions

First Class Relic - A remnant of the body.

Examples: bone (*ex ossibus*), hair (*ex capillis*), skin/flesh (*ex carne*), or blood (*ex sanguinis*).

Second Class Relic - Item that belonged to them or from a location closely related to their life.

Examples: clothing (*ex indumentis*), piece of their coffin (*ex arca supulcrali*), from birthplace, etc.

Third Class Relic - Item that has had contact with a first or second class relic.

Example: A piece of cloth touched to their remains.

Did You Know?

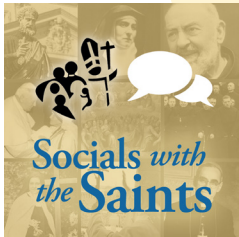
The sale of relics or other blessed objects is absolutely forbidden and is a sin called simony.

Relics are to be treated with great respect and honor. Some shrines may provide relics and request a donation to continue their mission.

Pilgrim Center of Hope's relics were entrusted to us by various friends and visitors who wanted them to serve as a sign of hope for you and others!

Meet the Saints

Socials with the Saints is a monthly event at Pilgrim Center of Hope every third Thursday, 2–3:30pm. Come learn, discuss, and pray with us!



Socials with the Saints Podcast introduces you to role models who can inspire and accompany you in daily life. *Monthly audio podcast, plus... printable pamphlet and saint quote 'trading card.'*



About

7680 Joe Newton, San Antonio, TX 78251

Monday-Friday (8:30am-5:30pm)

All are welcome!

Seven peaceful acres include:

- Gethsemane Chapel
- Reliquary
- Sacred art & iconography
- "Who Is the Man of the Shroud?" museum exhibition (*special hours*)
- Photographs of the Holy Land
- Outdoor Stations of the Cross
- Galilee Boat Prayer Garden

210-521-3377

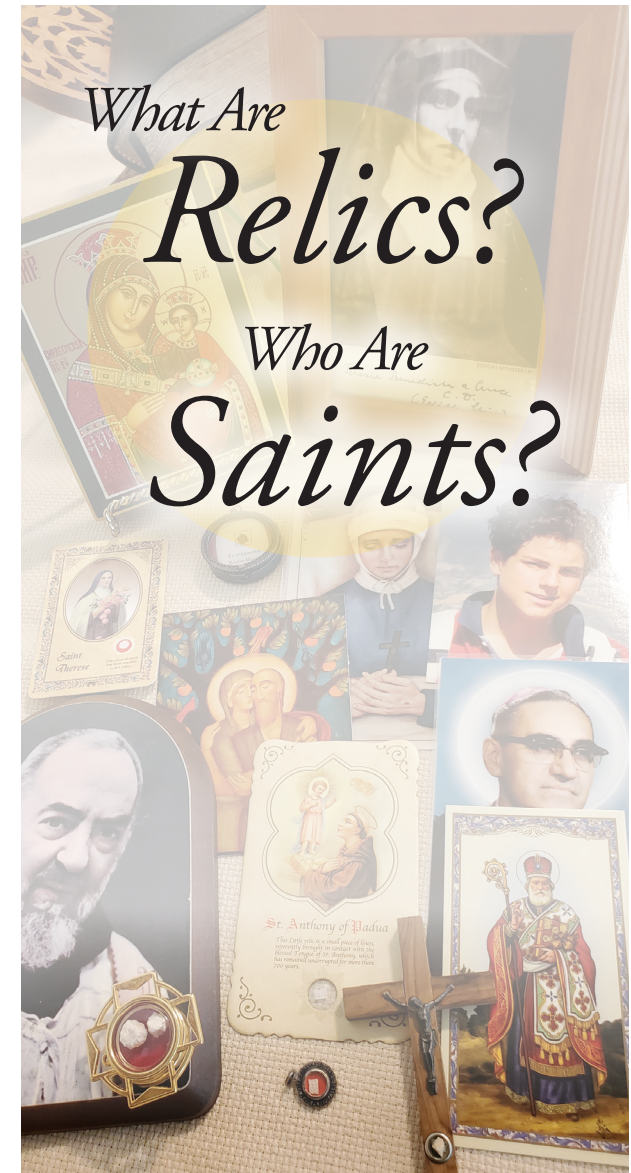
PilgrimCenterOfHope.org

Ministry@PilgrimCenterOfHope.org

Image of St. Kateri: National Shrine & Historic Site of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, NY, USA.

Image of Sts. Zélie & Louis Martin: Sanctuaire Louis et Zélie d'Alençon, France.

Image of St. Barbara Ch'oe Yeong-i: Dangogae Martyrs' Shrine, South Korea.



What Are Relics? Who Are Saints?



PILGRIM
Center of Hope

Guiding people to Christ

Saints

We know that the early Christians used the word 'saints' meaning 'holy ones,' because this terminology is used in the Letter to the Ephesians (4:12) as well as the Gospel According to Matthew (27:52).

A holy person is one who has set themselves apart to live a life of virtue, united with the will of the all-loving God.

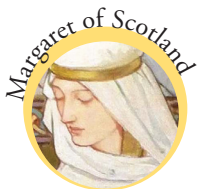
Jesus explained with great simplicity what it means to be holy when he gave us the Beatitudes (cf. Matthew 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-23). The Beatitudes are like a Christian's identity card. So if anyone asks: "What must one do to be a good Christian?", the answer is clear. We have to do, each in our own way, what Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount. In the Beatitudes, we find a portrait of the Master, which we are called to reflect in our daily lives.

The word "happy" or "blessed" thus becomes a synonym for "holy". It expresses the fact that those faithful to God and his word, by their self-giving, gain true happiness.

– Pope Francis, "Gaudete et Exsultate (Rejoice and Be Glad) pp. 63-64"

Catholics commonly use the word "saint" to refer to a person who has been canonized, or added to the **canon** (list) of saints; declared by the Church as role models of heroic virtue.

This does not mean that they were always perfect, but that we have evidence that they heroically strove to follow God's will in their lives.



After they die, we believe that such people are united with God in a way we cannot fully understand.

We also trust in Jesus' teaching that Heaven is a place of life, not of death (cf. Mark 12:27, Luke 20:38). This is why we ask the saints to pray for us—just as we would ask you to pray for us from earth. Because the saints are so close to God in Heaven, they can intercede for us in ways beyond our comprehension.

Saints are the ultimate heroes! They are members of our spiritual family and role models of Christian life from all ages, races, and backgrounds.



A person typically becomes canonized after a long process of research and investigation into their life. This occurs in various stages.

Servant of God - Initial stages of investigation

Venerable - The person is worthy of veneration (deep respect) by their local community

Blessed - The person has either been declared a martyr for their faith, and/or a miracle has been attributed to their heavenly prayers (after scientific investigation)

Saint - Additional miracle has been attributed to their intercession (after scientific investigation). Along with their witness of earthly life, miracles serve as signs that this person is truly united with God who desires them to serve as a role model for the entire Church.

Relics

The word originates in the Latin *reliquiae*, meaning "remains," and a form of the Latin verb *relinquere*, to "leave behind." The relics housed at Pilgrim Center of Hope are either from sacred places such as those relating to the life of Jesus Christ, or are relics of holy role models called saints.

Relics of the saints have been treasured by Christians for centuries. When their faith was outlawed in the Roman Empire, Christians would often meet to pray in underground cemeteries or catacombs. Martyred Christians' bodies were also treated with great respect by surviving members. At times, only parts of their bodies remained after torturous martyrdom. These precious relics were held in great respect.



The remains of St. Cecilia, an early Christian martyr, were found incorrupt in this position upon exhumation in the sixteenth century. Her remains were transferred from the underground Catacombs of St. Calixtus to the Church of St. Cecilia in Trastevere. She is remembered by name in Eucharistic Prayer I of the Roman Catholic Mass.

Today, Catholic churches continue to remember these early days by embedding relics into their altars; like the Christians who celebrated Mass over the bones of the martyrs.

Similar to how you might treasure a lock of hair or an item that belonged to one of your family members, Catholics venerate relics. They remind us of the closeness of these spiritual family members, and encourage us in our faith journey.