

## The Bones of St. Peter

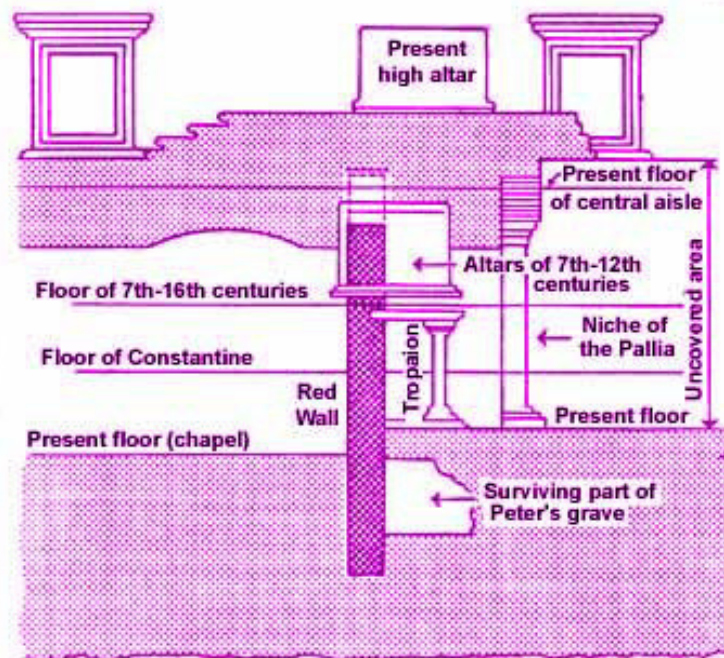
An ancient legend stated that St. Peter's Basilica had been built on top of St. Peter's grave and that his bones could be found under its High or Main Altar. However, outside of this legend there was almost no evidence to support this startling claim. That is, until the relatively recent excavations which were completed in 1968 AD.

Writer John Evangelist Walsh sparks your interest in the opening chapter and grips your attention all the way through his best-selling book on The Bones of St. Peter. It reads like a mystery novel.

In mystery novels you know someone was murdered, but the question is how and by whom. Here we know the conclusion. St. Peter's bones were discovered and positively identified. However, many questions seem impossible to answer with certitude. How could we know with certainty that we truly had uncovered St. Peter's grave and found his bones. How could it ever be possible to prove this legend? If I had not read this book, I have to confess, I would have been most skeptical that such a legend could ever have been proved.

Mr. Walsh presents the facts and makes a solid case. Bones were discovered in the excavation underneath the High Altar in

Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The bones had been undisturbed from the middle of the third century until the excavations that began in 1939 AD. But, how could their identity be proven? What facts were revealed in the excavations that enabled the Pope in 1968 to declare with certainty that St. Peter, the Apostle's bones had been discovered?



Mr. Walsh lays out the facts, the discoveries, and the brilliant analysis in a most interesting way.

You will have to read this book to get the answers to all these questions, but in this pamphlet I want give you a hint of the fascinating discoveries that you will find there.

Protestants will often claim that the bones found under St. Peter's were not his, but that of a woman.

The Holy Father realized that the validity of the Catholic faith would not rise or fall with this legend proven either way. So, prudently he instructed all concerned not to make any assertions until the excavations had been completed and all the data had been thoroughly analyzed in a professional way. Contrary to his wishes an enterprising Italian journalist presumptuously reported that some bones found near St. Peter's grave were indeed his. And the New York Times on August 22, 1949 ran a headline on page one stating that Peter's bones had been found. However, these were not St. Peter's. What had been found were bones belonging to a woman and two men, neither of whom were St. Peter. So, some focus exclusively on this blunder.

Actually St. Peter's grave turned out to be empty of bones except for that of a mouse. And most interestingly that mouse had a role in confirming the other data which provides an overabundant proof of the identity of St. Peter's bones. Not wanting to spoil the story, I will save the details for what will be a joyful experience in your reading the book.

One of the important details in the proof of the identity of the bones is the location of Saint Peter's Basilica. It was built on the side of a large hill. From an