

RELICS

Did you notice the
relic moment
in the story?



RELICS - a 3000 year fact

Can power from God really flow from the bone or article of some saint who has been dead for hundreds of years?

This is crazy!
Isn't it?



ELISHA

- **2 Ki 13:20-21** A dead man's corpse is thrown on the bones of Elisha, and the person is resurrected.

20 Elisha died and was buried. At the time, bands of Moabites used to raid the land each year.

21 Once some people were burying a man, when suddenly they spied such a raiding band. So they cast the dead man into the grave of Elisha, and everyone went off. But when the man came in contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and rose to his feet.

Relics

- Was the miracle a result of the faith of the dead person?
 - No, he was dead.
- Was it the result of the faith of those who threw his body in the cave?
 - No, they were simply seeking to flee the raiding band.
- ★ It was just something God chose to do, because God wanted to impart power to the relic bones of Elisha to resurrect the dead man.

Relics

- **Mk 5: 25-34** The cure of a woman who had been hemorrhaging for 12 years.

*27 She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak. 28 She said, "If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured." 29 Immediately her flow of blood dried up. She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. 30 Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, (Gk: *knowing in himself that power had come out...*) turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who has touched my clothes?"*

Relics

- Was the miracle a result of the faith of the woman?
 - Yes, the Gospel says she had faith in being cured.
- Does St. Mark tell us Jesus directed that the cure would occur?
 - No, Jesus notes that POWER came out of Him.
- Power flowed from Jesus' cloak and cured the woman. Matthew records it was the tassel on his cloak –probably his Tallit (*Tallis*) (Nu 15: 37-39).

Relics

- Was it a woman?
 - Yes
- Does it have power?
 - No
- Power of a woman's cloak



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his tallit (*Tallis*) (Nu 15: 37-39).

Relics

- **Acts 19:11-12** St. Paul in his travels finds the faithful touching his body for healing.

¹¹ So extraordinary were the mighty deeds God accomplished at the hands of Paul

¹² that when face cloths (Gk: soudarion) or aprons that touched his skin were applied to the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out (Gk: exerchomai – root of: exorcism) of them.

RELICS

- Does St. Luke tell us that God intended these miracles?
 - Yes, God worked extraordinary deeds through Paul.
- Were the miracles performed a result of the faith of the people?
 - Yes, they had faith to touch St Paul to cure their sick.
- Were the evil spirits responsive to the relic cloths that had touched Paul?
 - Yes, they were exorcized by the mere touching of the relic cloths to the sick.

RELIC CLASSES



- **FIRST CLASS** - a part of the saint (bone, hair etc...)
- **SECOND CLASS** - a piece of clothing or possession of the saint (coat, purse, girdle)
- **THIRD CLASS** - a cloth touched to a first or second class relic (white linen usually)

The interesting Non-Relic — or is it a Relic? —

- **Acts 5: 14-16** St. Peter's shadow passed over sick people, in order to cure them.

¹⁴ Yet more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them.

¹⁵ Thus they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and mats so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them.

RELICS



Yes, power from God can really flow from the bone or other relic of a saint who is alive or has been dead for hundreds of years.

Maybe its not so crazy

RELICS

In the Early
Church



RELICS

In the Early
Church



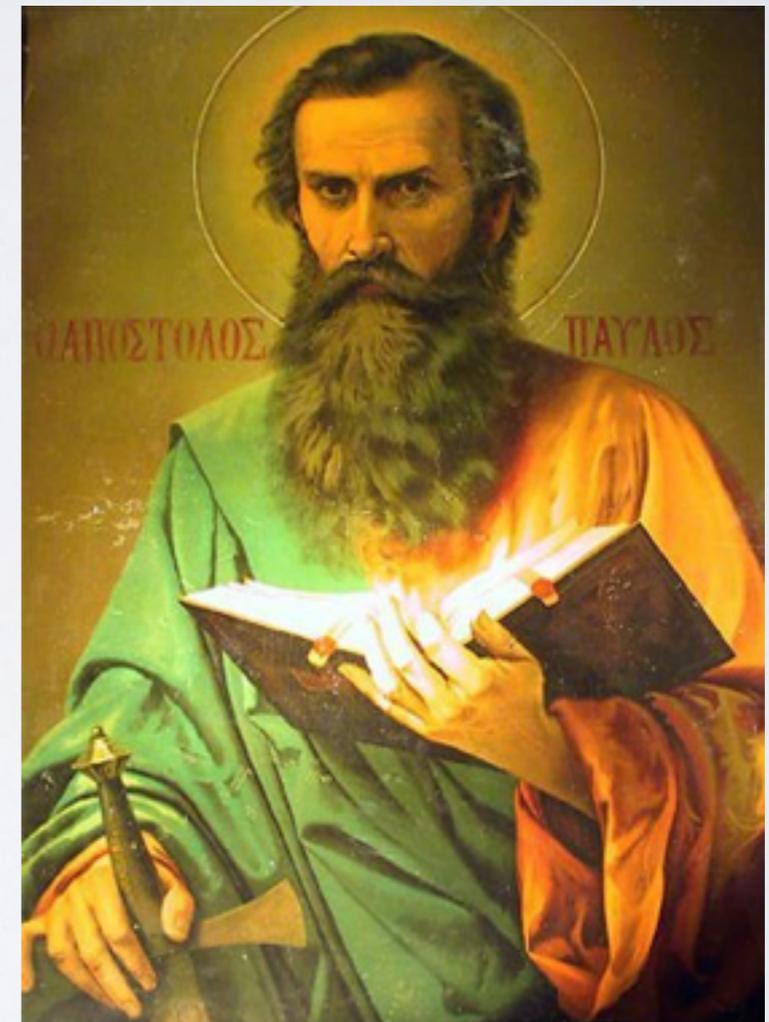
BASILICA OF ST PRAXEDES



- **Located in Rome** - a three minute walk from the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.
- A very ancient church built over the house of a **Roman Senator Pudens**
 - Senator Pudens is mentioned in St Paul's letter to Timothy.

SENATOR PUDENS

- **2 Timothy 4:21**
 - “Try to get here before winter. Eubulus sends you greetings, and so do **Pudens, Linus**, Claudia and all the brothers send greetings.”
 - **2 Tim 1:17** *indicates that St Paul wrote this letter from Rome.*



SENATOR PUDENS

- **Senator Pudens** was married and had two *daughters*:
 - **Pudentiana**
 - **Praxedes**
- His entire household was Christian.



MARTYRS' BLOOD

- **Pudentiana and Praxedes**
 - were sensitive to the deaths of the martyrs of their time.
- They collected the remains of the martyrs at the various martyrdom sites.
- They also sopped their blood with rags.





One of the columns of the Flagellation

During the Middle Ages, the church instituted the feast of the Holy Pillar, on the 4th Sunday in Lent

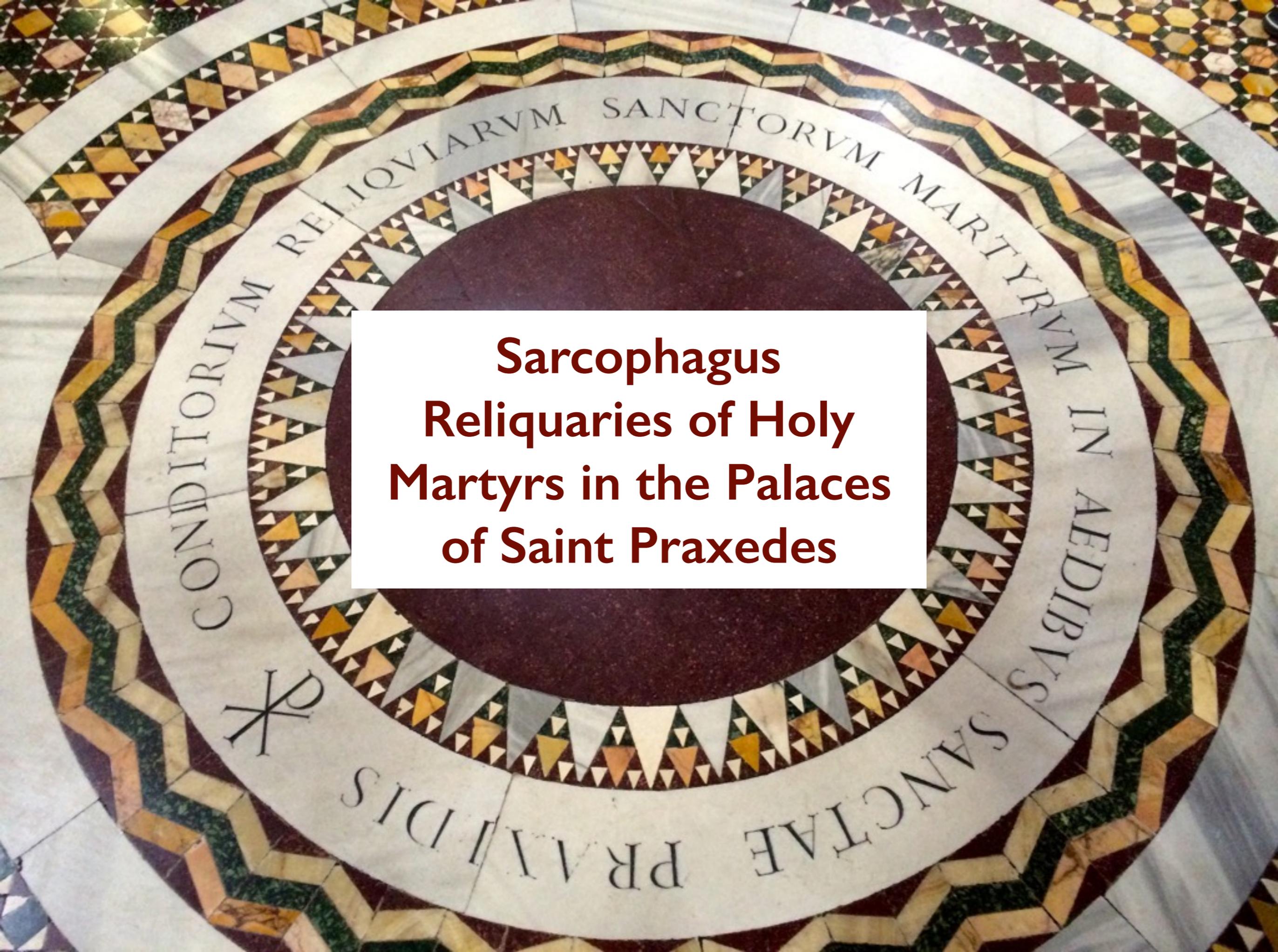
MARTYRS' REMAINS

The Bone fragments,
Blood Rags and other
effects of the Martyrs,

were carefully put by
Saints Pudentiana and
Praxedes in a “well”
on their property.



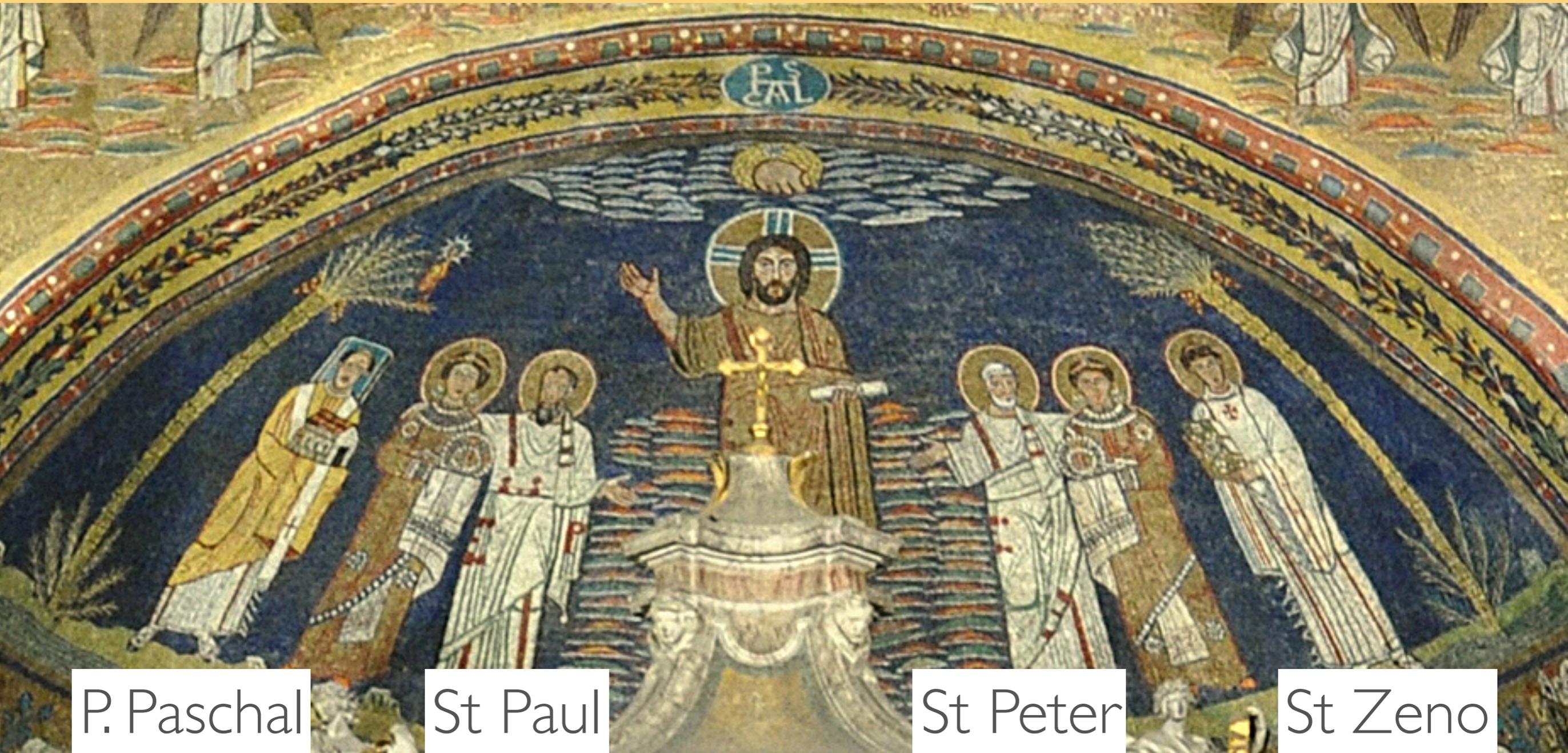
MARTYRS' WELL

A circular mosaic floor with a central dark red circle. The mosaic is composed of concentric rings of geometric patterns, including triangles and zig-zags, in shades of yellow, orange, and green. A wide white band contains Latin text in capital letters. The text is arranged in a circular path around the center. At the bottom left, there is a monogram consisting of a cross and the letter 'P'.

**Sarcophagus
Reliquaries of Holy
Martyrs in the Palaces
of Saint Praxedes**

CONDITORIVM RELIQVIARVM SANCTORVM MARTYRVM IN AEDIBVS
SANCCTAE PRAXEDIS

APSE OF THE BASILICA



P. Paschal

St Paul

St Peter

St Zeno

St Praxedes

St Pudentiana



**SAINTS
PUDENTIANA
&
PRAXEDES**

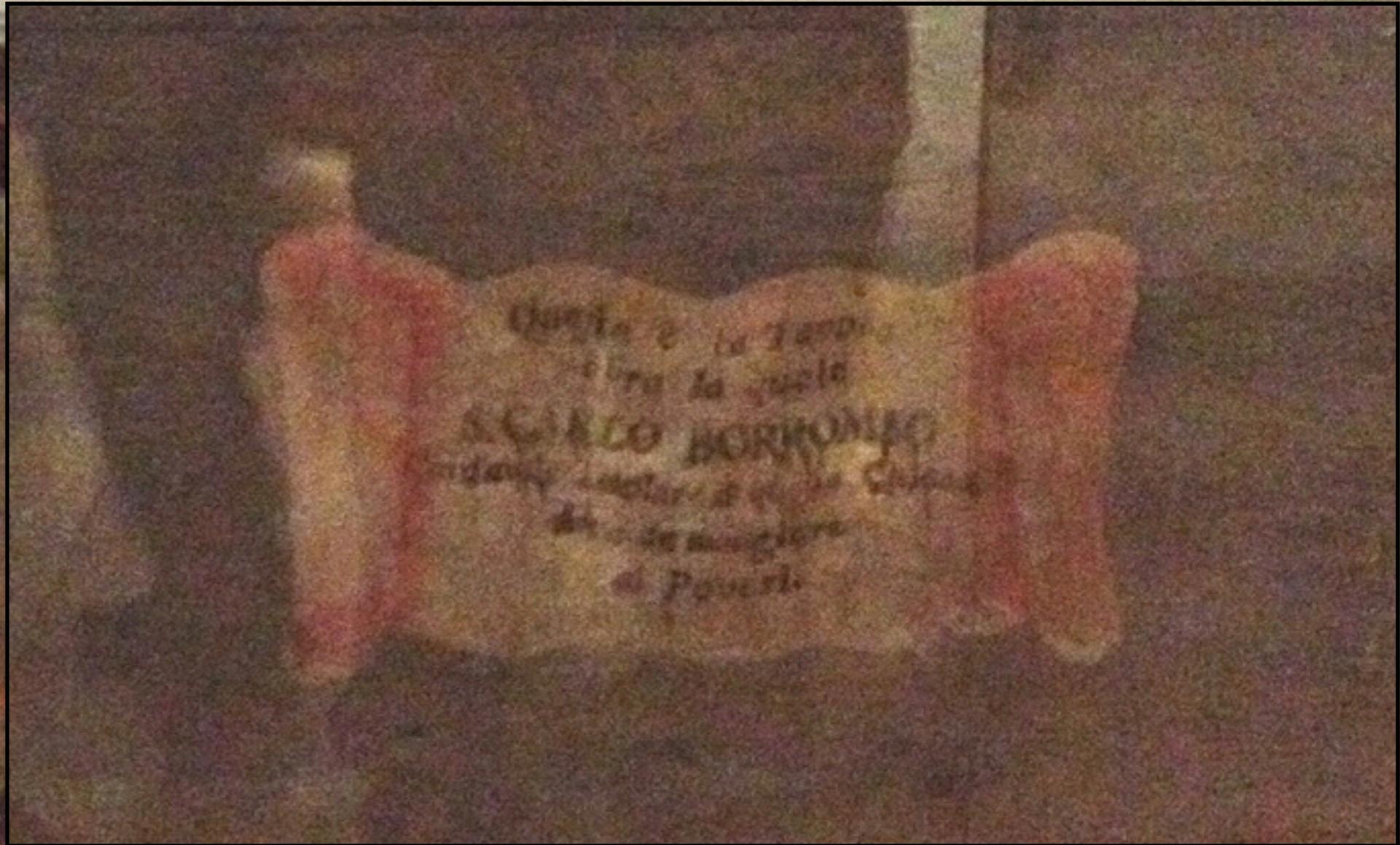
TRADITION / LEGEND ?

- An interesting ancient story / possibility:
 - Cornelius of Acts 11 - The Roman Centurion who converted to Christianity at the hands of St Peter
 - Introduced St Peter to Senator Pudens when the apostle first arrived in Rome.
 - Pudens's wife was St Peter's first Roman Convert, followed by the two daughter saints - St Peter stayed as a guest of the Senator in a room in his house, for about a month.

VISALIA CONNECTION

- **St Charles of Borromeo** - when he became a Cardinal on 17 November 1564, was given St Praxedes as his Titular Church.
- He ministered from this church feeding the poor and helping the marginalized.
- Here are some of the *preserved* effects of St Charles.





Questa è la Tarda
che fu la quale
GIACCO BORTONICO
indagò l'antichità di la Chiesa
di la migliore
di Poveri



THE GOSPELS

A Scholarly Biblical Study

