



Biblical Literature

God Evidence: The Incorruptibles



The “Incorruptibles”

refer to the bodies of saints which have defied nature and science in their ability to remain incorrupt over many years and, in some cases, even centuries. □

some cases, even centuries. In class , we mentioned Saint Bernadette of Soubirous, to whom Our Blessed Mother appeared, but there are at least 100 such documented instances of Catholic saints whose body has remained intact - a witness to God’s power over death and their unique closeness to Him. Here are a few items to consider:

The preservation of their bodies cannot be attributed to the way they are buried nor to climate.

They have not been harmed by long delays between their death and burial. (Saints Bernardine, Angela Merici, Theresa Margaret, Antonius for example)

Although subject to the most corrupting influence of moisture, they remain unharmed while the materials they are buried with corrupt. (Saints Catherine of Genoa, Mary Magdalene de Pazzi, Madelaine Barat, Teresa of Avila, Charles Borromeo, Catherine Bolgna and Pacifico [both buried directly into the earth without benefit of coffin] , Catherine of Siena, St. Josophat, whose body was flung into the river where it remained for one week. Most remarkable is:

...Saint Charbel Maklouf whose body was found incorrupt, floating in the mud without benefit of a coffin four months after his death! “His body, which has remained perfectly lifelike and flexible for more than seventy years constantly emits a blood-like fluid...” and water.

They have not been affected by frequent transfers, rough handling or mutilation. Strong embalming techniques today would keep a normal body from dissolving for several years. Most embalmed bodies dissolve after a single year.

They often remain life-like, flexible and sweet scented for many years after their deaths. Some of the incorruptibles excrete a clear oil which is often fragrant, long after their deaths. (Saints Albert the Great [200 years later!] John of the Cross, Teresa Margaret, Teresa of Avila, Lucy of Narni and John of God.

In contrast, bodies which have been preserved accidentally or through human efforts appear stiff, discolored and skeletal.

The relics have undergone scientific and medical examination and many are exposed in public shrines and churches where they can be seen by all.

Source: Joan C. Cruz, *The Incorruptibles*