

**Last month's meeting:****MAKING WHITE PRIVILEGE VISIBLE**
Nickolas Mrozinske

Americans (specifically whites) talk about all types of 'other' racial groups while possessing no clear concept of what a "white" person is.

Deviating from the traditional views of anthropological theory on race, this talk examined the basic processes through which notions of racial identity are formed. Because whiteness is formed through the process of creating the other racial categories, it becomes perceived to be the standard, normal form of existence within the United States. Whiteness is taken for granted. As such, people of other racial categories become anomalies that 'deviate' from 'acceptable white standards.'

The fact that whiteness is hidden also makes it more difficult for whites to realize the hardships that people of other races must face everyday or in other words, whites have difficulty in realizing their own white privileges, on a personal and social level, that are taken from racist oppression. This talk argued that an understanding of the hidden nature of whiteness and white privilege makes it easier to undo the burdens which racism has imposed on this country.

Slice of Old Pope for New Cathedral

Mutilating a corpse and discreetly packing a piece in your luggage before boarding a plane is the sort of thing that gets people arrested.

But not if you are the Pope. Lopping off a bit of the dead Pope John XXIII and donating it to Sofia's new cathedral was considered an honour to Bulgaria's Catholics.

Which part was cut off is not clear, because the gift was not part of the official programme of the Pope's four-day visit to Bulgaria, which ended on Sunday.

John's body was embalmed hours after his death in June 1963. When it was exhumed last year, it was found to be in almost perfect condition, a feat of preservation hailed by some as a miracle. The relic was removed from the corpse last July after it was put in a glass coffin and displayed in St Peter's square to thousands of pilgrims. Known as the Good Pope for his compassion, John is on a Vatican fast-track to canonisation, after which he will be known as St John. Probably the most popular pope of modern times, he is revered in Bulgaria because he served there as a priest from 1929 to 1934 and fell in love with the people and country.

Sofia's new cathedral was built to replace one destroyed by bombing in 1944. According to the Rome daily, *La Repubblica*, the relic, wrapped in a medieval cloth, will be kept in the cathedral as an object of veneration. The cathedral authorities were expecting a relic in order to make a shrine, but had no inkling they would receive such a spectacular present from the Vatican.

It has now emerged that the Pope chose to give them a relic.

It could have been any part of the body. The basilica in Padua in northern Italy displays St Anthony's tongue, jawbone and vocal chords. Other churches and cathedrals boast hanks of hair, bits of bone, heads, fingers and toes.

The practice has long been criticised as a medieval hangover. Pope John Paul is a traditionalist whose reverence for relics has reinvigorated the tradition.

- *The Guardian*

MEETING: 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 10, 2002**GROWTH PROMOTION****Mark Goldstein**

◆ This month's meeting will be held in the Board Room at SFCC Downtown Campus ◆



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Drugs for Pastors Suffering Burnout

A major pharmaceutical company is spending \$25,000,000 to find out how to help pastors maintain energy and enthusiasm in their jobs. The announcement that the E.I. Lilly Endowment is providing millions of dollars to study and prevent pastor burnout comes as statistics show that pastor burnout is becoming a growing problem.

For example, every month the pastoral ministries department at Focus on the Family receives 400 to 500 calls from troubled ministers and 70% to 80% of those pastors are either in burnout or on the very edge of burnout.

One Mississippi pastor, who wishes to remain anonymous, says many pastors feel alone, frustrated and unfulfilled. He says "It is a stressful situation because you receive phone calls everywhere you go. In a sense, you are on-duty. There is the pressure that people expect you to be "superman" -- to live above and beyond everybody else." There is also a lot of pressure on the pastor's family -- children and wife -- to be the type of people that would present a perfect picture of Christ. There are now several ministries focusing solely on pastor burnout. -Agape Press

Endowed by Whom?

I have always been puzzled by the assertion that freedom and rights are granted by deity. If so, why were they withheld from humanity for so long? If, as the Declaration of Independence states, inalienable rights are attributable to a

Creator, why was this not evident before 1776, and why were they enjoyed for a long time thereafter only by white males--and even then only imperfectly?

Isn't it better to recognize that freedom and rights exist only when people define them, assert them, and develop machinery to protect and defend them? Surely people of all theological persuasions could agree on that.

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